federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). This species is restricted to a single cave stream in Tumbling Creek Cave in Taney County, southwestern Missouri. Actions identified for recovery of the Tumbling Creek cavesnail include stabilizing and augmenting the existing population, properly managing and protecting surface habitat in the cave's recharge area, and ensuring long-term good water quality in Tumbling Creek.

ADDRESSES: This approved recovery plan is available from the following addresses:

1. Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 (the fee for the plan varies depending on the number of pages).

2. Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 608 E. Cherry St., Room 200, Columbia, Missouri 65201–7712.

3. The World Wide Web at *http://endangered.fws.gov/RECOVERY/index.html#plans*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Paul McKenzie, Columbia, Missouri, Ecological Services Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section No. 2 above), telephone (573) 876–1911, ext. 107. The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service may be reached at (301) 492–6403 or (800) 582–3421. TTY users may contact Dr. McKenzie and the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals or plants is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. A species is considered recovered when the species' ecosystem is restored and threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of the species can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for reclassification to threatened status or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires that recovery plans be developed for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that during recovery plan development, we provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. Information presented during the comment period has been considered in the preparation of the approved recovery plan, and is summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan.

The Tumbling Creek cavesnail was listed as endangered on August 14, 2002. The number of cavesnails has significantly decreased over the past few decades, to the point where only one individual was found within survey areas between January 11, 2001, and April 22, 2003. A population containing approximately 40 individuals exists in a small area upstream of the area that is regularly surveyed. This species lives on the underside of rocks in areas of Tumbling Creek that have little or no silt. Little is known about the species and its life history, but it is believed to feed on microscopic animals in the stream. Although the exact reason for this species' precipitous decline is unknown, it is believed to be linked to diminished water quality due to habitat degradation in upstream locations within the cave's delineated recharge zone.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the Tumbling Creek cavesnail so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. As recovery criteria are met the status of the species will be reviewed and it will be considered for removal from the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (50 CFR part 17). The Tumbling Creek cavesnail will be considered for reclassification from endangered to threatened when the following criteria have been met: (1) The population is stable or increasing for 10 consecutive years with at least 1,500 individuals; (2) a minimum of 80% of the surface habitat within the recharge area of Tumbling Creek Cave, including a minimum of 75% of all riparian corridors, sinkholes and losing streams, is appropriately managed; and (3) water quality monitoring fails to detect levels of any water pollutant that exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommended water quality or exceed known toxicity thresholds for the species for 10 consecutive years. The Tumbling Creek cavesnail will be considered for delisting when the above reclassification criteria have been met and the following additional criteria have been achieved: (1) The population is stable or increasing for 10 consecutive years with at least 5,000 individuals; (2) a minimum of 90% of the surface habitat within the recharge area of Tumbling Creek Cave, including a minimum of 85% of all riparian corridors, sinkholes and losing streams, is appropriately managed; and (3) water quality monitoring fails to detect levels of any water pollutant that exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommended water quality or exceed known toxicity thresholds for this species for 10 consecutive years.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533 (f).

Dated: August 21, 2003.

Charles M. Wooley,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 03–24073 Filed 9–18–03; 12:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Approved Recovery Plan for the Mead's Milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*).

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of the approved recovery plan for the Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*), a species that is federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). This species occurs primarily in tallgrass prairie, but also occurs in hay meadows and in thin soil glades or barrens. Actions needed for recovery of the Mead's milkweed include protecting and managing extant populations and potential recovery habitat.

ADDRESSES: This recovery plan is available from the following addresses:

1. Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 (the fee for the plan varies depending on the number of pages).

2. Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Ecological Services Field Office, 1250 S. Grove Avenue, Suite 103, Barrington, Illinois 60010.

3. The World Wide Web at *http://endangered.fws.gov/RECOVERY/index.html#plans*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kristopher Lah, Chicago Ecological Services Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section No. 2 above), telephone (847) 381–2253 ext. 215. The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service may be reached at (301) 492–6403 or (800) 582–3421. TTY users may contact Mr. Lah and the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals or plants is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. A species is considered recovered when the species' ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of the species can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires that recovery plans be developed for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that during recovery plan development, we provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. Information presented during the comment period has been considered in the preparation of the approved recovery plan, and is summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal agencies and other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The Mead's milkweed was listed as a threatened species under the Act on September 1, 1988 (53 FR 33982). The Mead's milkweed is currently known to persist in eastern Kansas, Missouri, south-central Iowa, and southern Illinois. Populations no longer occur in Wisconsin and Indiana. Seventy-five percent of the Mead's milkweed populations are in the Osage Plains Physiographic Region in Kansas and Missouri. The remainder of the populations occur in the Shawnee Hills of Illinois; the Southern Iowa Drift Plain in Iowa; the Glaciated Plains, Ozark Border, Ozark Springfield Plateau, the Ozark-St. Francois Mountains, Missouri; and the Glaciated Physiographic Region of Kansas. Mead's milkweed populations have been eliminated by wide-scale agriculture in the eastern part of the species' range. Many large populations occur in private hay meadows where a century of annual mowing has severely reduced genetic diversity by preventing sexual reproduction. Among the surviving populations in eastern Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa, most consist of a few genetically invariant clones that are incapable of reproduction. Population restoration efforts are being made in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin by introducing Mead's milkweed into suitable habitat.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the Mead's milkweed so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. As recovery criteria are met, the status of the species will be reviewed and it will be considered for removal from the list of Endangered and Threatened Plants (50 CFR part 17). The Mead's milkweed will be considered for delisting when 21 populations are distributed across plant communities and physiographic regions within the historic range of the species, each of these 21 populations is highly viable, and monitoring indicates that these populations have had a stable or increasing trend for 15 years. A highly viable population has the following characteristics: more than 50 mature plants; seed production; increase in size and maturity; genetically diverse with more than 50 genotypes; 125 acres (50 hectares) or more of late-successional habitat; habitat protection through long-term conservation easements, legal dedication as a nature preserve, or other means; and habitat management by fire in order to maintain a late-successional graminoid vegetation structure that is free of woody vegetation.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533 (f).

Dated: August 21, 2003.

Charles M. Wooley,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 03–24075 Filed 9–18–03; 12:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigations Nos. 731–TA–1048–1053 (Preliminary)]

Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide from Australia, China, Greece, Ireland, Japan, and South Africa

Determinations

On the basis of the record [1] developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission (Commission) determines, pursuant to section 733(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1673b(a)) (the Act), that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from Australia, Greece, Ireland, Japan, and South Africa of electrolytic manganese dioxide, provided for in subheading 2820.10.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The Commission has determined that U.S. imports from China are negligible.

Commencement of Final Phase Investigations

Pursuant to § 207.18 of the Commission's rules, the Commission also gives notice of the commencement of the final phase of its investigations. The Commission will issue a final phase notice of scheduling, which will be published in the **Federal Register** as provided in § 207.21 of the Commission's rules, upon notice from the Department of Commerce (Commerce) of affirmative preliminary determinations in the investigations under section 733(b) of the Act, or, if the preliminary determinations are negative, upon notice of affirmative final determinations in those investigations under section 735(a) of the Act. Parties that filed entries of appearance in the preliminary phase of the investigations need not enter a separate appearance for the final phase of the investigations. Industrial users, and, if the merchandise under investigation is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations have the right to appear as parties in Commission antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. The Secretary will prepare a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the investigations.

Background

On July 31, 2003, a petition was filed with the Commission and Commerce by Kerr-McGee Chemical, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK, alleging that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of LTFV imports of electrolytic manganese dioxide from Australia, China, Greece, Ireland, Japan, and South Africa. Accordingly, effective July 31, 2003, the Commission instituted antidumping duty investigations Nos. 731–TA–1048–1053 (Preliminary).

Notice of the institution of the Commission's investigations and of a public conference to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International

[1] The record is defined in § 207.2(f) of the Commission's rules of practice and procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).