

safety relevance of mining equipment design features using scientific and engineering techniques, and analyses of reported case-studies of mining incidents that lead to traumatic injuries or fatalities; (3) designs and conducts epidemiological research studies to identify and classify risk factors that cause, or may cause, traumatic injuries to miners; (4) designs, builds, and tests proposed interventions, including demonstrations of proposed technologies using laboratory mock-ups, full-scale demonstrations at the laboratory's experimental mines, or through field evaluation in operating mines; (5) evaluates and recommends implementation strategies for injury prevention and control technologies developed by the Laboratory.

**Disaster Prevention and Response Branch (CC27).** (1) Conducts laboratory and field investigations of catastrophic events such as explosions and catastrophic structural or ground failures to better understand cause and effect relationships that initiate such events; (2) designs and implements appropriate intervention strategies; (3) develops, tests, and promotes the use of disaster prediction and risk evaluation systems for control or reduction of risk; (4) develops criteria and tests for explosives to determine their suitability for mine use and transportation; (5) evaluates and recommends implementation strategies for disaster prevention; (6) assists in the development and evaluation of curricula for mine rescue, firefighting, and the use of life support (self-rescuer) equipment, in conjunction with other health education, health communication, and other information and education activities of the Institute.

Following the functional statement for the *Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies (CC5)*, insert the following:

**Spokane Research Laboratory (CC6).** (1) Provides leadership for prevention of work-related illness, injury, and death in the extractive industries in the Western United States; (2) conducts surveillance and tracks trends of fatal and non-fatal traumatic injuries, occupational diseases, health and safety hazards, and the use of control technology in the extractive industries, with a focus on unique Western issues such as those associated with deep metal mines, Western coal mines, and precious metal deposits; (3) conducts field investigations, health hazard evaluations, and laboratory studies of occupational diseases, injuries, and fatalities with focus on western-area mineral-extractive industries; (4) conducts laboratory and field

investigations to better understand the causes of catastrophic events that may lead to multiple injuries and fatalities, such as collapse of underground workings, massive slope failures, and the collapse of mining facilities; (5) develops, tests, and demonstrates sensors, predictive models, and engineering control technologies to reduce miners risk for injury or death; (6) develops and recommends appropriate criteria for new standards, NIOSH policy, documents, or testimony related to health and safety in the extractive industries.

**Extramural Coordination and Information Dissemination Activity (CC62).** (1) Coordinates with other education and information dissemination activities within the Institute to assure that coordinated and comprehensive mining research information is effectively integrated into the NIOSH dissemination and intervention strategies; (2) serves as the laboratory focal point for partnerships with labor, industry and academia involved with Western extractive industries; (3) assists in the development of mission-relevant CRADAs and patents; (4) coordinates mission-relevant technical assistance and response activities for the western United States.

**Mining Surveillance and Statistics Support Activity (CC63).** (1) Describes trends in incidence of mining-related fatalities, morbidity, and traumatic injury; (2) conducts surveillance on the use of new technology and the use of engineering controls; (3) coordinates the surveillance activities with other Institute-wide surveillance initiatives; (4) provides statistical support for all surveillance and research activities of the Laboratory; (5) assists in the development of research protocols; (6) communicates the results of surveillance activities to researchers to assist in the planning and prioritization of future studies.

**Mining Injury and Disease Prevention Branch (CC64).** (1) Designs and conducts field and laboratory research studies to identify and classify risk factors that cause, or may cause, traumatic injuries or illness to miners; (2) designs, builds, and tests proposed interventions to reduce risk of injury or disease, and conducts demonstrations of proposed control technologies; (3) assesses the health and safety implications of mining equipment design features using scientific and engineering techniques; (4) evaluates and recommends implementation strategies for injury and disease prevention and the effective utilization

of control technologies developed by the laboratory.

**Catastrophic Failure Detection and Prevention Branch (CC65).** (1) Conducts laboratory and field investigations of catastrophic events such as collapse of underground workings, massive slope failures, collapse of mine facilities, or other events that lead to traumatic injuries or fatalities; (2) develops computer visualization models to simulate mine conditions and test alternative mining methods and approaches for risk reduction and catastrophic failure prevention; (3) develops, tests, and promotes the use of catastrophic failure prediction and risk evaluation systems; (4) evaluates and recommends implementation strategies for catastrophic failure prevention.

Dated: September 4, 1997.

**David Satcher,**

*Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Notice of Availability of a Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail (*Novisuccinea Chittengoensis*) for Review and Comment**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft revised Recovery Plan for the Chittenango ovate amber snail (*Novisuccinea Chittengoensis*). The Chittenango ovate amber snail is a terrestrial species with only one known population, which is located in the Chittenango Falls State Park in Madison County, New York. It was listed as a threatened species in July 1978, and the initial recovery plan was completed in March 1983. This species was listed due to its rarity and population decline; since listing, habitat protection and captive propagation activities have been implemented, but the species' status remains exceedingly precarious. The primary threat to the Chittenango ovate amber snail is considered to be over-competition by an introduced snail, *Succinea* sp B. Additionally, potential threats persist from habitat changes and inadvertent human disturbance. The revised recovery objective for this species is to stabilize it by maintaining, to the extent possible, the extant Chittenango ovate

amber snail population in its Chittenango Falls habitat while establishing or verifying five additional discrete populations in protected habitats. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft Plan revision.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft Recovery Plan must be received December 1, 1997, to receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft Recovery Plan can obtain a copy from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region Endangered Species Program, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035, telephone 413-253-8628. Comments should be sent to this address, to the attention of Mary Parkin.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Parkin (see **ADDRESSES**).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare Recovery Plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery Plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of Recovery Plans 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 public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during Recovery Plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised Recovery Plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing Recovery Plans.

The document submitted for review is the draft Chittenango Ovale Amber Snail (*Novisuccinea chittenangoensis*) Revised Recovery Plan. Since its discovery in 1905, only one extant Chittenango ovate amber snail population has been verified, from a site

within the Chittenango Falls State Park in New York.

This terrestrial snail requires the cool, mild-temperature, moist conditions provided by the spray and mist in its environment. Its habitat lies within a ravine at the base of a 167-foot waterfall, and the ledges it occupies comprise an early successional sere that is periodically rejuvenated to a bare substrate by floodwaters. This snail is found on green vegetation such as various mosses, liverworts, and other low herbaceous vegetation within the spray zone of the falls.

The Chittenango ovate amber snail was listed as a threatened species in July 1978 based on its rarity and a decline in its population, and the initial recovery plan for the species was completed in March 1983. Since then, full protection of the snail's habitat has been achieved and a captive propagation program is underway, but the species' status remains exceedingly precarious. The primary threat to the sole wild population of this snail is considered to be over-competition by an introduced snail, *Succinea* sp. B. Additionally, potential threats persist from habitat changes and inadvertent human disturbance.

Due to the pervasive threat posed by the competitor *Succinea* sp. B, delisting of the Chittenango ovate amber snail is not deemed achievable at this time. The revised recovery objective for this species, therefore, is to stabilize, to the extent possible, the extant population at Chittenango Falls while establishing or verifying five additional, discrete Chittenango ovate amber snail colonies in protected habitats free from the competition of *Succinea* sp. B. To achieve this objective, four major actions need to be implemented: (1) continued protection of the species and its habitat and Chittenango Falls; (2) acquiring more data on the biological and environmental requirements of *N. chittenangoensis*; (3) enhancing the snail's habitat at Chittenango Falls as feasible or appropriate; and (4) as feasible, broadening the distribution of the Chittenango ovate amber snail.

The draft Recovery Plan revision is being submitted for agency review. After consideration of comments received during the review period, the revised Plan will be submitted for final approval.

**Public Comments Solicited**

The Service solicits written comments on the Recovery Plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the Plan.

**Authority**

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

Dated: September 25, 1997.

**Ronald E. Lambertson,**

*Regional Director, Region 5.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Comprehensive Management Plan**

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare comprehensive management plans and associated environmental documents.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare comprehensive management plans (CMPs) and environmental assessments for units within Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio. Readers should note that pending legislation may change the names of CMPs to comprehensive conservation plans. The CMPs will be prepared for the Illinois River Refuges and Mark Twain, DeSoto, Shiawassee, Minnesota Valley, Squaw Creek, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuges and the Wetland Management Districts in Minnesota. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CMP policy and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations:

- (1) To advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
- (2) To obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental document.

**DATES:** Inquire at the address below for due dates for comments regarding specific projects.

**ADDRESSES:** Address comments and requests for more information or to be put on a mailing list to: Chief, Branch of Ascertainment and Planning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111, (612) 725-3306, *E-mail:* R3PLANNING@fws.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Service will solicit information from the public via open houses and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and radio announcements in the areas near each unit will inform people of the time and place of open houses to be held in 1997 and 1998 related to the CMP and NEPA documentation.