

	Number of respond- ents	×	Frequency of re- sponse	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
HUD-2457	750		2		.5		750

Total Estimated Burden Hours: 750.
Status: Reinstatement, with changes.
Contact: Ben J. Jacinto, HUD, (202)
 708-2866, x2533; Joseph F. Lackey, Jr.,
 OMB, (202) 395-7316.

Dated: January 15, 1998.

[FR Doc. 98-1435 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4315-N-01]

Mortgage and Loan Insurance Programs Under the National Housing Act—Debenture Interest Rates

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant
Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing
Commissioner, (HUD).

ACTION: Notice of change in debenture
interest rates.

SUMMARY: This notice announces
changes in the interest rates to be paid
on debentures issued with respect to a
loan or mortgage insured by the Federal
Housing Commissioner under the
provisions of the National Housing Act
(the "Act"). The interest rate for
debentures issued under Section
221(g)(4) of the Act during the six-
month period beginning January 1,
1998, is 6¼ percent. The interest rate
for debentures issued under any other
provision of the Act is the rate in effect
on the date that the commitment to

insure the loan or mortgage was issued,
or the date that the loan or mortgage was
endorsed (or initially endorsed if there
are two or more endorsements) for
insurance, whichever rate is higher. The
interest rate for debentures issued under
these other provisions with respect to a
loan or mortgage committed or endorsed
during the six-month period beginning
January 1, 1998, is 6¾ percent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James B. Mitchell, Department of
Housing and Urban Development, 451
7th Street, S.W., Room 6164,
Washington, D.C. 20010. Telephone
(202) 708-1220 ext. 2612, or TDD (202)
708-4594 for hearing- or speech-
impaired callers. These are not toll-free
numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section
224 of the National Housing Act (24
U.S.C. 1715o) provides that debentures
issued under the Act with respect to an
insured loan or mortgage (except for
debentures issued pursuant to Section
221(g)(4) of the Act) will bear interest at
the rate in effect on the date the
commitment to insure the loan or
mortgage was issued, or the date the
loan or mortgage was endorsed (or
initially endorsed if there are two or
more endorsements) for insurance,
whichever rate is higher. This provision
is implemented in HUD's regulations at
24 CFR 203.405, 203.479, 207.259(e)(6),
and 220.830. Each of these regulatory
provisions states that the applicable

rates of interest will be published twice
each year as a notice in the **Federal
Register**.

Section 224 further provides that the
interest rate on these debentures will be
set from time to time by the Secretary
of HUD, with the approval of the
secretary of the Treasury, in an amount
not in excess of the annual interest rate
determined by the Secretary of the
Treasury pursuant to a statutory formula
based on the average yield of all
outstanding marketable Treasury
obligations of maturities of 15 or more
years.

The Secretary of the Treasury (1) has
determined, in accordance with the
provisions of Section 224, that the
statutory maximum interest rate for the
period beginning January 1, 1998, is 6¾
percent and (2) has approved the
establishment of the debenture interest
rate by the Secretary of HUD at 6¾
percent for the six-month period
beginning January 1, 1998. This interest
rate will be the rate borne by debentures
issued with respect to any insured loan
or mortgage (except for debentures
issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4))
with an insurance commitment or
endorsement date (as applicable) within
the first six months of 1998.

For convenience of reference, HUD is
publishing the following chart of
debenture interest rates applicable to
mortgages committed or endorsed since
January 1, 1980:

Effective interest rate	On or after	Prior to
9½	Jan. 1, 1980	July 1, 1980.
9⅞	July 1, 1980	Jan. 1, 1981.
11¾	Jan. 1, 1981	July 1, 1981.
12⅞	July 1, 1981	Jan. 1, 1982.
12¾	Jan. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1983.
10¼	Jan. 1, 1983	July 1, 1983.
10¾	July 1, 1983	Jan. 1, 1984.
11½	Jan. 1, 1984	July 1, 1984.
13¾	July 1, 1984	Jan. 1, 1985.
11⅝	Jan. 1, 1985	July 1, 1985.
11⅞	July 1, 1985	Jan. 1, 1986.
10¼	Jan. 1, 1986	July 1, 1986.
8¼	July 1, 1986	Jan. 1, 1987.
8	Jan. 1, 1987	July 1, 1987.
9	July 1, 1987	Jan. 1, 1988.
9⅞	Jan. 1, 1988	July 1, 1988.
9¾	July 1, 1988	Jan. 1, 1989.
9¼	Jan. 1, 1989	July 1, 1989.
9	July 1, 1989	Jan. 1, 1990.
8⅞	Jan. 1, 1990	July 1, 1990.
9	July 1, 1990	Jan. 1, 1991.
8¾	Jan. 1, 1991	July 1, 1991.
8½	July 1, 1991	Jan. 1, 1992.

Effective interest rate	On or after	Prior to
8	Jan. 1, 1992	July 1, 1992.
8	July 1, 1992	Jan. 1, 1993.
7 ³ / ₄	Jan. 1, 1993	July 1, 1993.
7	July 1, 1993	Jan. 1, 1994.
6 ⁵ / ₈	Jan. 1, 1994	July 1, 1994.
7 ³ / ₄	July 1, 1994	Jan. 1, 1995.
8 ³ / ₈	Jan. 1, 1995	July 1, 1995.
7 ¹ / ₄	July 1, 1995	Jan. 1, 1996.
6 ¹ / ₂	Jan. 1, 1996	July 1, 1996.
7 ¹ / ₄	July 1, 1996	Jan. 1, 1997.
6 ³ / ₄	Jan. 1, 1997	July 1, 1997.
7 ¹ / ₈	July 1, 1997	Jan. 1, 1998.
6 ³ / ₈	Jan. 1, 1998	July 1, 1998.

Section 221(g)(4) of the Act provides that debentures issued pursuant to that paragraph (with respect to the assignment of an insured mortgage to the Secretary) will bear interest at the "going Federal rate" of interest in effect at the time the debentures are issued. The term "going Federal rate" is defined to mean the interest rate that the Secretary of the Treasury determines, pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield on all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of eight- to twelve-year maturities, for the six-month periods of January through June and July through December of each year. Section 221(g)(4) is implemented in the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 221.790.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the interest rate to be borne by debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4) during the six-month period beginning January 1, 1998, is 6¹/₄ percent.

HUD expects to publish its next notice to change in debenture interest rates in July 1998.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exclusion from HUD's environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.20(1). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.

(Secs. 211, 221, 224, National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1715b, 17151, 1715o; sec. 7(d), Department of HUD Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d))

Dated: January 15, 1998.

Sarah Rosen,

Associate General Deputy, Assistant Secretary for Housing.

[FR Doc. 98-1434 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-27-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent to Prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

SUMMARY: This notice advises that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and associated environmental documents for the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County in southwestern South Dakota.

The Notice of Intent is in compliance with the Service's CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of its intentions. The Service plans to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

DATES: Written comments should be received by February 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for more information should be referred to Jon Kauffeld, Planning Team Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 203 W. 2nd, Federal Building, Grand Island, NE 68801.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service has initiated Comprehensive Conservation Planning for the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge. Each National Wildlife Refuge has specific purposes for which it was established and for which legislation was enacted. Those purposes are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses occur on the Refuge. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat, while

providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each national wildlife refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge (16,410 acres) was established as "* * *" a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife "* * *" by Executive Order No. 7160, on August 26, 1935. The Refuge is located in the Lake Creek Valley, southern Bennett County, on the northern edge of the Nebraska sandhills. The Refuge provides breeding and migration habitat for Central Flyway waterfowl, other migratory birds, and is home to a significant portion of the high plains trumpeter swan populations.

The Refuge administers the Little White River Recreation Area which was donated to and accepted by the Service on May 20, 1980, under authority of the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460K-K4) for public recreation. Public use opportunities include wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and hunting and fishing on the refuge, and on the Little White River Recreation Area boating, waterskiing, swimming, and camping are also permitted.

The Service will conduct a comprehensive conservation planning process that will provide opportunity for Tribal, State and local governments, agencies, organizations, and the public to participate in scoping issues and comment. The Service is requesting input for issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for future management of Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge. Anyone interested in providing input is invited to respond to the following three questions.

(1) What makes the Lacreek Refuge (or any specific unit) special or unique for you?

(2) What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan?