

Meeting Date: July 28, 2022

Agenda Item No. 5. I.

Agenda Item: Approval of the Bonneville Cutthroat Management **Bureau Chief Approval:** LH (ACTION) Plan Final

Prepared by: Martin Koenig, Fisheries Coordinator

Background:

Staff will present the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan and recommend Commission approval of the plan. The plan is an update to the 2007 document and was first presented during the March 2022 Commission meeting. The public comment process has been completed, and staff will summarize comments received, Department responses, and associated changes to the draft plan to reflect relevant comments. The updated plan describes major factors affecting Bonneville Cutthroat Trout and will guide the Department in annual work plan development, program prioritization, and development of regulatory recommendations.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through supervision and management of the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species management plans are guiding documents to manage wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department's Strategic Plan. The Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan will function as the action plan for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

Public input on the draft Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan was collected during the 30-day public comment period in May 2022. The comment period was announced via press release and email newsletter. In addition to the general public, agency partners including the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, UT Division of Wildlife Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, County Commissioners, and Trout Unlimited. Staff have reviewed the comments received and considered them in developing this final draft of the plan. A summary of the comments and associated changes to the draft plan to reflect relevant comments will be presented.

Justification:

This agenda item presents the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan. The Commission sets policy and provides direction, considers input from the public, and has the authority to adopt, amend, or reject Department-recommended plans.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff seeks Commission approval of this final Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan to set the conservation direction for this species.

Suggested motion: That the Commission approve the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan as presented with the provision that if Bonneville Cutthroat Trout are identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the final State Wildlife Action Plan, the Bonneville Cutthroat Plan will be updated to reflect the change in status.