

**Meeting Date:** March 24, 2022

**Agenda Item No. 7.**

**Agenda Item:** Draft Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan

**Bureau Chief Approval:** LH

**Prepared by:** Martin Koenig, Sportfishing Program Coordinator

**Background:**

Staff will present an overview of the Draft Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan and seek Commission approval to release the draft for public comment. This is a revision to the 2007 Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan to use current information to guide efforts of the Department and partners in implementing management actions for conservation and management of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout in Idaho and guide harvest season recommendations. We identify major factors affecting Bonneville Cutthroat Trout and the plan will set overall direction for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout management for the foreseeable future. This plan 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:**

After the draft Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan is approved for release, the Department will seek further input from the public, interested groups, and affected agencies. Public input will be sought during May 2022 and a final plan will be developed with consideration of input.

**Justification:**

This agenda item is for Commission information on the current status of the update of 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 concurrence to release the Draft Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Management Plan to the public, agency partners, and interested organizations for further comments. Staff will revise the draft based on input received with intent to complete a final plan to present to the Commission for approval and adoption in July 2022.