

**Meeting Date: May 14, 2009**

**Agenda Item No. 11**

**Agenda Item: Bear Lake Fisheries  
Management Plan**

**Bureau Chief Approval: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Prepared by: Bill Horton**

**Background:**

The Department in cooperation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has developed the "Bear Lake Fisheries Management Plan" and wishes to seek Commission approval to take it to the public for review before eventually seeking passage of this plan.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

None

**Public Involvement Process:**

Management goals in this plan have been presented to interested anglers in localities close to Bear Lake to seek guidance on general direction of the plan. The Department wishes to formalize this process by going back to the public with the "Bear Lake Fisheries Management Plan" before seeking formal approval by the Commission.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The Fisheries Bureau is seeking approval from the Commission to go to the public with this draft plan.

**Justification:**

Bear Lake has four endemic fish species (Bear Lake whitefish, Bonneville whitefish, Bonneville cisco and Bear Lake sculpin) that should have defined management programs and goals. This plan lays out a cooperative approach between the states to manage these species, and the primary sport fish of the lake, the Bonneville cutthroat trout.