during the term of the plan—with particular emphasis on projects to be implemented early in the planning cycle,

(4) A description of the relationship between the projects to be included in the plan and the Commission’s mitigation obligations,

(5) A preliminary determination regarding environmental review requirements for each project,

(6) A preliminary determination of management and operation requirements and how these will be met,

(7) A budget, both for the next fiscal year and for the entire five-year period,

(8) A project phasing plan spanning the term of the plan, and

(9) A strategy for monitoring progress and evaluating accomplishments, and

(b) Potential additions. At the Commission’s discretion, the plan may also include:

(1) A discussion of the relationship of the plan to other activities affecting fish, wildlife, and recreation resources within the State of Utah, and/or

(2) Discussions of, or information on, other topics that the Commission determines to be relevant. For example, the Commission may wish to identify mitigation and/or conservation measures that the Commission may wish to consider in later years of the five-year plan or in subsequent five-year plans.

§ 10005.17 Plan development process.

Following adoption of the planning rule, the Commission will proceed with the preparation of the plan, in adherence with the following procedures and in the order stated:

(a) A formal request for recommendations regarding potential projects will be made to Federal and State resource agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested parties. An appropriate announcement will also be made in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Those choosing to participate will have 90 days to submit project proposals. The project solicitation process is discussed in detail in §10005.18.

(b) The Commission will compile all recommendations and make these available for public review at the Commission’s office. The Commission will also provide copies upon request for a reasonable cost.

(c) The Commission will evaluate each project proposal according to the decision factors, standards, and evaluation procedures described in §10005.19 and prepare a preliminary list of priority projects.

(d) One or more public meetings will be scheduled in which Commission staff will present the Commission’s analysis and preliminary conclusions.

(e) The Commission will prepare a final list of projects proposed for implementation during the term of the plan.

(f) A draft plan will be prepared, approved by the Commission, and released for public review. Availability of the document will be announced in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The public will be given a minimum of thirty days to review the draft and submit written comments.

(g) The Commission will make necessary revisions and formally adopt a final version of the plan. Completion of the plan will be announced in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Act requires that the initial final plan be completed by March 31, 1996 and be revised at least every five years thereafter.

§ 10005.18 Project solicitation procedures.

As provided for in Section 301 of the Act, the Commission will make a formal invitation to Federal and State resource agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested parties to prepare recommendations concerning projects that will be considered for funding. This invitation will take the form of a “project solicitation packet.” The packet will contain a cover letter, this planning rule or a reference as to where it may be obtained, a format for preparing applications, and other materials that the Commission concludes will assist in the preparation of recommendations. Appropriate announcement will also be made in the Utah media and in the FEDERAL REGISTER in order that other interested parties might be made aware of the opportunity to participate. To assist applicants, the format for preparing application may be made available in electronic form upon request. As warranted, the Commission may propose specific projects and/or assist others in
the preparation of recommendations in
order to fully execute its obligations as
described in §10005.8. The following in-
formation will be requested of appli-
cants:
(a) An abstract of the proposed
project,
(b) Information on the applicant, in-
cluding the name of the person pre-
paring the recommendation, the offi-
cial authorizing the recommendation,
and partners to the application, if any,
(c) The location of the proposed
project,
(d) The overall goal for the project
and the specific fish, wildlife, or recre-
ation objective(s) that the project’s
proponent seeks to achieve,
(e) The relationship, if any, of the
proposed project to Federal reclama-
tion mitigation and, especially, to
measures delineated in Title II, Sec-
tion 304, or Section 315,
(f) A description of the project, in-
cluding tasks to be undertaken, prod-
ucts to be produced, and the expected
results,
(g) A proposed budget, including,
where applicable, a description of con-
tributions to be provided by project
implementors or other sources,
(h) A proposed time schedule,
(i) The identification of the entity
(ies) to be involved with the project
(project implementation and post-
project operation and management),
including their qualifications for un-
dertaking this type of work,
(j) A description of any consultation
with landowners, agencies, or other af-
acted entities, to include documenta-
tion where appropriate,
(k) An evaluation of the project in re-
lation to the Commission’s first
five decision factors identified in
§10005.19,
(l) An evaluation of the anticipated
need for NEPA documentation and
compliance with the ESA, the Clean
Water Act, and other applicable envi-
rmental laws, and
(m) At the option of the applicant,
other information that might assist
the Commission in evaluating the rec-
ommendation.

§ 10005.19 Decision factors.

This section identifies the principle
decision factors that the Commission
will use to evaluate the relative merit
of proposed projects and the way that
the Commission will apply these deci-
sion factors. The Commission has se-
lected six general decision factors that
will be used to evaluate the relative
priority of proposed projects. “Stand-
ards” related to each decision factor
provide a means for measuring the ex-
tent to which each proposed project re-
sponds to the decision factors. The
Commission’s decision factors and
standards are as follows:
(a) Decision Factor 1: Benefits to fish,
wildlife, and recreation resources. The
following three standards apply:
(1) Biological integrity. Projects will
contribute to the productivity, integ-
rity, and diversity of fish and wildlife
resources within the State of Utah. To
meet the Biological Integrity standard,
projects should accomplish one or more
of the following:
(i) Protect, restore, or enhance the
ecological functions, values, and integ-
rity of natural ecosystems supporting
fish and wildlife resources,
(ii) Provide conservation benefits to
both species and their habitats,
(iii) Provide benefits to multiple spe-
cies,
(iv) Promote biodiversity and/or ge-
netic conservation,
(v) Aid long-term survival/recovery
of species, or groups of species, that are
of special concern, including:
(A) Species on the Federal List of En-
derangered or Threatened Wildlife and
Plants,
(B) Federal category 1 or 2 candidates
for listing,
(C) Species identified by the UDWR
as wildlife species of special concern,
(D) UDWR Natural Heritage Program
G1 and G2 plant and animal species,
(E) On lands managed by the U.S.
Forest Service or the Bureau of Land
Management, species of special concern
as recognized by the appropriate agen-
cy, and
(F) The sensitive species conservation
list developed by the Utah Interagency
Conservation Committee,
(vi) Provide protection to important
aquatic, riparian, or upland habitats,
especially those that are either critical
to a sensitive indigenous species or
useful to a variety of species over a