

(b) *Priority projects.* In recognition of its responsibility to mitigate for Federal reclamation projects, the Commission will give special consideration to projects that:

(1) Address fish, wildlife, and recreation resources affected by the development of the Central Utah Project, including projects authorized in Title II, section 304, or section 315 of the Act, as described in § 10005.8,

(2) Address fish, wildlife, and recreation resources affected by the development of other features of the Colorado River Storage Project in Utah, or

(3) Address fish, wildlife, and recreation resources affected by the development of other Federal reclamation projects in Utah.

(c) *Specific objectives for five-year plans.* Each five-year plan will contain a set of specific objectives derived from the above elements. Objectives will be based on the Commission's determinations of the issues and resources that are in most need of attention, and the potential for making a substantial contribution to fish, wildlife, and recreation resources. Objectives may include the targeting of certain watersheds and/or basins for priority attention based on these same two factors.

§ 10005.13 Geographic and ecological context for the plan.

In accordance with the Act, the Commission has the authority to implement projects throughout the State of Utah. The Commission believes that, to be effective, the plan must be prepared, and evaluated, from a state-wide perspective and that, within the state, an ecosystem-based approach is appropriate. There is no one correct way to define an ecosystem or to approach ecosystem planning. The Commission concludes that, for its planning purposes, the watershed provides the appropriate geographic and ecological reference within which to evaluate proposed projects and otherwise plan its activities. In delineating watersheds, the Commission will be consistent with the best ecological and hydrological science and, to the extent possible, with the ecological and hydrological units currently used by the State of Utah, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other applicable Federal agen-

cies. The Commission recognizes that mitigation and conservation projects may vary in scale and that, therefore, one standard set of watersheds is not necessarily appropriate for all projects. For example, a more localized project may best be analyzed from a "watershed within a watershed" perspective. Alternatively, a large-scaled project may need to be visualized from the perspective of a major river basin consisting of several watersheds. The Commission will prepare, and have available for public use, a list or map that identifies major basins, watersheds, and, where appropriate, hydrologic units within watersheds, that the Commission will use to organize its mitigation and conservation activities. This list or map may be revised from time to time as circumstances change.

§ 10005.14 Resource features applicable to the plan.

In accordance with the Act, projects selected for funding must make substantial contributions to fish, wildlife and/or recreation resources. Biological projects may focus on the protection or restoration of an individual species, a group of inter-related species, or the habitats upon which these species depend. Projects that target sensitive plant species may also be included in the plan, particularly if they contribute to the overall health of the ecosystem. Recreation projects should be targeted at increasing the quality of and/or access to outdoor recreation opportunities that rely on the natural environment or at providing opportunities that have been reduced through Federal reclamation projects. Following is a representative list of the types of resources that projects may target, along with examples of possible activities that might be undertaken for each. The following list is not intended to limit the scope of projects that may qualify for inclusion in the Commission's plan:

(a) Fish and Wildlife Production, including:

- (1) Enhancement of natural production,
- (2) Restoration of indigenous species,
- (3) Scientific studies,
- (4) Development of new or upgraded culture facilities.

§ 10005.15

43 CFR Ch. III (10-1-02 Edition)

- (b) Plant Propagation, including:
 - (1) Protection of critical habitat for sensitive species or communities,
 - (2) Reintroduction of native plants in conjunction with habitat restoration projects,
 - (3) Vegetation manipulation to achieve desired ecological conditions.
- (c) Stream Habitat, including:
 - (1) Protection or enhancement of instream flow,
 - (2) Restoration of natural flow regimes,
 - (3) Improvement to water quality,
 - (4) Restoration of natural channel, bank, and riparian conditions,
 - (5) Restoration of natural instream and bank cover conditions.
- (d) Lake Habitat, including:
 - (1) Stabilization of water level,
 - (2) Water quality protection or improvement,
 - (3) Restoration of natural lakebed conditions,
 - (4) Riparian area maintenance,
 - (5) Outlet flow maintenance.
- (e) Wetlands Habitat, including:
 - (1) Protection of existing wetlands,
 - (2) Restoration of drained or otherwise degraded wetlands,
 - (3) Enhancement of wetland habitat.
- (f) Upland Habitat, including:
 - (1) Protection or restoration of migration corridors,
 - (2) Re-connection of fragmented habitats,
 - (3) Protection of critical habitats,
 - (4) Habitat condition improvement.
- (g) Outdoor Recreation, including:
 - (1) Establishment of fishing and boating access,
 - (2) Establishment of greenways and low impact trails,
 - (3) Providing opportunities for wildlife related recreation, including hunting and observation,
 - (4) Providing opportunities for passive recreation and sightseeing,
 - (5) Stocking waters with fish (where not incompatible with biological objectives),
 - (6) Education and interpretation related to fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

§ 10005.15 Planning and management techniques applicable to the plan.

The Commission recognizes that there are a wide range of techniques

that may be employed to protect or restore natural resources. The Commission will consider projects that make use of techniques that either have previously been proven to be effective at meeting stated objectives or represent new and innovative approaches that hold promise for being effective and establishing positive precedents for future activities. Following is a representative list of techniques that the Commission may choose to fund. This list is not exhaustive. Other appropriate techniques may exist or be developed in the future.

- (a) Acquisition of property (land or water), or an interest in property, for fish, wildlife, or recreation purposes.
- (b) Physical restoration of ecological functions and habitat values of lands or water courses.
- (c) Construction and reconstruction of facilities, such as trails, fish culture facilities, instream spawning facilities, water control structures, and fencing that aid in the conservation of fish and wildlife resources, and/or provide recreation opportunities.
- (d) Regional planning aimed at conserving fish and wildlife, and/or providing recreation opportunities.
- (e) Management and operations agreements, strategies, and other institutional arrangements aimed at conserving fish and wildlife and their habitats, and/or providing recreation opportunities.
- (f) Inventory and assessment of biological resources.
- (g) Applied research that targets specific biological information or management needs.
- (h) Development of educational materials and programs aimed at increasing public enjoyment and awareness of fish and wildlife resources and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

§ 10005.16 Plan content.

- (a) *Minimum requirements.* At a minimum, the plan will include:
 - (1) A summary of basic information from the planning rule, including project evaluation procedures and plan amendment procedures,
 - (2) The identification of measurable objectives for the term of the plan,
 - (3) A list, and description, of the projects selected for implementation