

BLM Study Review of Hells Canyon Studies

E.3.2-18 Peregrine Falcon Surveys in Hells Canyon

1. INTRODUCTION

This study reported on a survey for peregrine falcons on a 10 mile by 3 mile section of Hells Canyon along the Oregon side of the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam. Survey site was selected because peregrines had been observed in the Steamboat Creek vicinity on multiple occasions in the last several years.

2. CONCLUSION

Peregrine falcons historically nested in the Hells Canyon Creek drainage where cliff nesting habitat is readily available. One nest site was found by watching breeding behavior of a pair of falcons. One peregrine falcon chick was produced and fledged. Prey fragments were gathered from nest scrape and ledge and later identified to species.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

BLM agrees that survey was adequate for the limited size of the search area. Study objective of survey was a success. The study was done in 1996, but no follow up information was provided for fate of peregrine falcons and use of nest site for time period of 1997-2002.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS: The study provided additional baseline information on the peregrine falcon a rare species on the HCC area.

RECOMMENDATIONS: IPC should continue annual monitoring of this eyrie and document productivity. Additional surveys of other sections of Hells Canyon should be conducted when peregrine falcon sightings are made during the breeding season.