

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

An Investigation of Avian Communities and Avian Habitat Relationships in the Hells Canyon Study Area

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study was to determine the abundance and relative densities during spring, summer, fall and winter during the 4 years of study. Nesting habitats were documented.

2. CONCLUSION

Bird densities are highest in the spring and fall. Bird densities are higher in the cottonwood- willow associations than sites dominated by hackberry. Diverse cover types produce to most diverse avian communities. Riparian is the most important habitat for a neotropical migrant land bird. Flooding has been a major disturbance altering riparian and bird populations using riparian. Tree and shrub density is the most important structural variable influencing bird communities. There are 223 bird species with lazuli bunting and western meadowlark most common.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

A very good documentation of the avian community for the Hells Canon area. Bird occurrence is organized by habitat types. This report points out that the lack of riparian (willow and cottonwood) may limit neotropical bird numbers.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

A good well organized paper that identifies what is present; habitats used by species and importance of habitat quality. It is interesting that hackberry and alder had the fewest avian species and total numbers and therefore may not be the best riparian tree to encourage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Encourage expansion of willow and cottonwood communities. This may require altering flooded areas and controlling grazing in areas with potential to grow willow or cottonwood. To get the control necessary, land leases or purchases may be necessary.