

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

Summer Survey of Waterfowl Broods in
Hells Canyon

3.2-11

Jack Melland
Wildlife Biologist
Baker Resource Area

September 25, 2002

1. INTRODUCTION

This is a summer inventory of nesting waterfowl from Weiser to Hells Canyon Dam. The most successful production area is from Weiser to Farewell Bend.

2. CONCLUSION

"The two most important waterfowl production areas are: The Weiser-Farewell Bend reach of the Snake River and the West end of the Powder River Arm." This is a obvious conclusion. The pool areas with steep slopes have poor waterfowl habitat.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

This study is complete, but doesn't point out the habitat components necessary for successful waterfowl nesting. Tall herbaceous and riparian growth is necessary to hide nests and wetlands with sub-mergent and emergent vegetation is needed for maximum insect production for waterfowl brood rearing.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

The only value I see is that the areas important for wintering waterfowl are also the most important for nesting waterfowl.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improvement or enhancement of riparian and island habitats would improve nesting success. This paper makes no suggestions for PM&E. Entrapment of water at high reservoir levels would provide water for resting water-fowl and provide areas important riparian vegetation. Islands created in entrapped water areas would provide nesting areas for water-fowl and nesting for shore-birds. This could be done at the west end of the Powder River arm.