

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

Distribution and Abundance of Wintering Bald Eagles in Hells Canyon

3.2-16

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1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter documents wintering Bald eagle activity along the Snake River from river mile 351 to river mile 188. Discussion included roost areas, food sources and population changes.

2. CONCLUSION

“ The study concluded that wintering Bald eagles use the study area as key habitat elements exist: 1) abundant food, 2) perch sites, 3) night roosts, 4) low human disturbance.” The recommendations did not include habitat enhancement which could be planting trees for future perch areas. I agree with recommendation to evaluate potential impacts of recreational areas on foraging and perching areas.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

The study is fairly complete describing habitat needs and how well those needs are met. Future habitat components are not discussed; ie. Perching an roosting trees, infringement of recreation areas and roads.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

The study provides good information on wintering Bald eagle numbers and why they use this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although a few recommendations were made, PM&E's could have been developed concerning habitat protection an development.
Planting trees, both pine and cottonwood, for future roost trees is necessary.
Evaluation of potential impacts of recreation areas upon foraging and perching areas, needs to be completed for existing recreation and future recreation areas.