

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

A Description of State and Federal Species of Special Concern in
Hells Canyon

3.2- 38

Jack Melland
Wildlife Biologist
Baker Resource Area

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1. INTRODUCTION

One hundred six species potentially occurring in the study area are classified as endangered, threatened, candidate, species of special concern, or sensitive species by Federal or State agencies. Objectives of this study were to determine the status of species of special concern in Hells Canyon.

2. CONCLUSION

"The Hells Canyon Complex would have no impacts on special status species except for two, white pelican and common loon that the project benefits."
"Riparian habitat is not impacted and acreage would remain the same on Brownlee pool." Riparian acreage has been impacted on all three reservoirs as roads have infringed on riparian areas and reduced effectiveness of existing riparian vegetation. "Negative effects of Hells Canyon Complex proposed operations on wildlife are found primary along the Brownlee Reservoir shoreline." What negative effects? The summary just said there are no negative effects. The report states "No negative effects of HCC operations, current or proposed are expected for nesting or wintering Bald Eagles." If IPC removes trees along the Oxbow Reservoir, negative effects can be expected.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

This is a composite of ten other papers that addressed listed species, their abundance, location within HCC, and potential impact of the HCC. The summary doesn't acknowledge impacts on wildlife, but in the text riparian is recognized as being impacted under current operations. This is a fair description of species of special concern and their limiting factors along HCC.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

This repeats work done in other studies and offers little new data. The report doesn't recognize the impacts of HCC operations on riparian, the riparian lost to roads and the degrading of riparian adjacent to roads.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As trees are limited along the three reservoirs, removal of any tree would be a negative effect. No trees should be removed. Riparian is limited along the reservoirs, no new roads should be added. Widening and surface improvements would reduce effectiveness of existing riparian.