

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

Shoreline Erosion in Hells Canyon

3.2-42

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study conducted a literature review of shoreline erodability and factors that potentially cause shoreline erosion.

2. CONCLUSION

"This study suggests that rather than trying to stabilize or restore erosion sites that efforts be made to limit activities that precipitated erosion. Boat generated waves affect all shoreline erosion sites along the free flowing river."

As this is a literature review it did not make conclusions but listed factors that cause erosion. Recreation and boating were emphasized and fluctuating pool levels briefly mentioned as causing erosion.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

The report has identified most erosive influences, but places nearly equal emphasis on each. In one citation it places higher responsibility on water-level fluctuations and wave erosion. I find the whole article lacking when it couldn't find the prime contributor. A lack of conclusions also detracts from article.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

A good riparian area exists along Oxbow and Hells Canyon reservoirs due to small fluctuations of pool levels. Very little erosion occurs on these reservoirs. Brownlee pool has excessive shoreline erosion due to very little riparian wave action, large pool level fluctuations and grazing. The primary difference between the reservoirs is Brownlee has very large pool fluctuations and the other two do not.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Minimizing erosion factors need to be addressed but stabilizing erosion sites is necessary to establish riparian plants and prevent the spread of undesirable plants.