

BLM Study Review of Hells Canyon Studies

E.2.2-2 Pollutant Transport and Processing in the Hells Canyon Complex

1. INTRODUCTION

The study characterizes the trophic state of Hells Canyon Complex reservoirs, compared conditions with water quality standards, quantifies metal and agricultural chemical accumulation in fish or other indicator organisms. The study quantified the amount of metals and chemicals in sediment.

2. CONCLUSION

Health warnings and limitations on consumption of fish by humans are still recommended due to mercury accumulation in fish tissue.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

BLM believes the study to be inadequate due to small sample size and the lack of sampling of mammals and birds for chemical and heavy metal accumulation. One of the questions which needs to be answered is as follows: Are animals higher on the food chain such as bald eagles impacted by accumulations of heavy metals and chemicals such as DDT?

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS:

RECOMMENDATIONS: Additional studies are needed to examine roll and impact of metals and chemicals in the animal food chain