

BLM Study Review of Hells Canyon Studies

E.3.2-13 Nesting Colonial Waterbirds of Hells Canyon Complex

1. INTRODUCTION

Inventory by IPC to identify colonial waterbird nests.

2. CONCLUSION

Two colonial waterbird nesting areas were identified.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

BLM believes that the study is not adequate because it fails to answer the question of whether or not recreational activities impact the two colonial nesting areas. On page 13 the following claim is made: "Recreational activities appear to be low near the two rookeries during the nesting season; in fact, no human disturbances were recorded during our surveys." The study results provide no indication of regular monitoring to assess recreational impacts to the rookeries. Were the rookeries surveyed on weekends during the spring fishing season? How many times were the sites visited? What are the dates of the visits? What are the times of the visits? Have the location of these rookeries been documented prior to IPC visits and if so has the density of nesting birds remained stable?

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS:

RECOMMENDATIONS: IPC needs to provide all pertinent data for this study.