

## **BLM Study Review of Hells Canyon Complex Studies**

From Hells Canyon to the Salmon River: Archaeological Survey of Hells Canyon  
*Technical Report Appendix E.4-1*

Dean C. Shaw - Archaeologist, Four Rivers Field Office,  
Lower Snake River District, Boise, Idaho  
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### **1.INTRODUCTION**

Idaho Power Company contracted Applied Paleoscience, Rain Shadow Research and Intermountain Archaeology to conduct a cultural resource survey along the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam to identify any cultural resources, to make an initial evaluation of those resources for the National Register of Historic Places, and to assess possible impacts to those cultural resources.

### **2.CONCLUSION**

The contractors completed a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the river corridor. They discussed known nearby sites and newly discovered resources. They made preliminary evaluations about site significance and discussed possible impacts related to relicensing the Hells Canyon Complex.

### **3.STUDY ADEQUACY**

The study area has few BLM acres so my review was mostly to gain context information for the other studies that focused on BLM lands.

Initial review indicates that the study meets BLM and State Historic Preservation Office standards, but follow-up work on evaluations, impact assessments and possible mitigations has not been accomplished at this time. Smithsonian numbers have not been assigned to newly discovered resources yet.

The report addresses goals set in *Study Plan 8.4.3*.

### **4.BLM CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

The survey was adequate, but minor typographical errors could be corrected. Additional coordination between BLM, USFS, SHPO and Idaho Power Company will be required to evaluate sites, assess impacts and consider possible mitigation.

The report was very well done with extensive background research, detailed analyses and discussions. The impacts assessments were in-depth and well organized. The line drawings were neat and informative. The tables were useful methods to display an array

of information to aid in understanding the issues. The bibliography was extensive. The document could stand as an updated overview of the Hells Canyon Area.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The BLM, SHPO and IPC need to discuss the significance, impacts and possible mitigation.