

## BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

### Migrant Shorebird Use of Mudflats Along Brownlee Reservoir

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This study describes the shorebird community and investigates temporal trends in shorebird use of the draw down zone of Brownlee Reservoir.

#### 2. CONCLUSIONS

*"Twenty species and up to 3000 individual birds were observed along Brownlee Reservoir during the survey period 1996 through 1998. Mudflats are important habitat that is limited by rising pool levels."* Brownlee Pool is the only Reservoir with mudflats or potential mudflats.

#### 3. STUDY ADEQUACY

The study is complete as far as inventory and that amount of mudflats are dependant upon pool or water levels. What is not addressed is, if more mudflats were exposed would shorebird use increase?

#### 4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

##### CONCLUSIONS

If more mudflats were exposed during the peak of shorebird migration, more birds would find resting habitats. A pool level of 2060 ft. would provide adequate mudflats for migrating shorebirds.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

Providing mudflats for shorebirds would detract from waterfowl habitat. A pool level of 2060 ft would provide mudflats for migrating shorebirds and if a dike system that trapped water at the west end of the Powder River arm were installed, water could be provided for waterfowl.