

## **BLM Study Of Hells Canyon Complex Studies**

### Wintering Waterfowl in the Hells Canyon Study Area

3.2-12

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#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This is a inventory of wintering waterfowl from Weiser to Hells Canyon Dam. It discusses inventory techniques and waterfowl numbers by species and also historical waterfowl inventory data. This project was initiated in 1994 and completed in 1999.

#### **2. CONCLUSIONS**

This data could be useful for baseline inventory when used with IDFG & ODFW historical data. The study area boundaries are limited, but the importance of river islands for resting waterfowl is documented. The study identifies habitat limitations and also identifies PME opportunities. A good paper.

#### **3. STUDY ADEQUACY**

The project parameters are limited and well defined. Areas most used by waterfowl and why they use these areas are identified. Waterfowl needs are described, PM&E's can be developed within and outside the study area.

#### **4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **CONCLUSIONS:**

This identifies opportunities to develop better habitat and the need for more wetlands to be developed or purchased. The island habitats are most important as they also provide good nesting habitat.

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Use this to aid in developing PM&E's. The report shows the lack of waterfowl use in the pool area. Improvement may be made in the Powder River Arm or south of Farewell Bend by riparian enhancement or shoreline protection from grazing. Create islands at the west end of the Powder River Arm for both wintering and nesting waterfowl.