

BLM Study Of Hells Canyon Complex Studies

A Survey of Nesting Colonial Water-birds in the Hells Canyon Study Area

3.2-13

Jack Melland
Wildlife Biologist
Baker Resource Area

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study determined if colonial water-birds nest along the Snake River from Weiser to the Hells Canyon Dam. Two colonies were found with three bird species successfully nesting. Great Blue Heron, Black Crowned Night Heron and Double Crested Cormorant.

2. CONCLUSIONS

Three water-bird species and two colonies were identified in the study area. Habitat limits expansion of colony nesting by the three water-birds identified. Islands or shoreline trees are needed to expand colony bird nesting opportunities.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

Research of historical information must have been limited to literature. The Powder River Great Blue Heron colony has been documented for at least 15 years by ODFW. Habitat limitations were identified. Creation of better riparian may expand nesting areas increasing changes of nesting success. In Complete research of historical information.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS:

This report could be helpful when identifying lands for mitigation of colony bird nesting habitat.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This report would be more complete if historical use was updated by communications with State agencies and private citizens. The document is very usable. Recommendations or actions need to be combined with water-fowl actions. Planting of cottonwood, large growing willow and other taller trees is necessary for future nest and perch sites.