

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

A Description of the Raptor Nesting Community
In the Hells Canyon Area

3.2-15

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1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter is an inventory of all raptors and the habitats they use for nesting. The study area was from Hells Canyon Dam to Weiser. The area from Hells Canyon Dam to the Salmon River confluence was excluded due to high spring flows in the Snake River.

2. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the study area has a lower density of raptors than elsewhere along the Snake River, but has a very diverse nesting raptor community. Twelve species of raptors are present. Peregrine falcons, Bald eagles and special status species nest in Hells Canyon Complex.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

This paper is complete and could give guidance to future management and PM&E. Two limiting factors were identified that restrict nesting and successful rearing of young. They are; few large nest trees on Brownlee Reservoir and limited prey species along Oxbow and Hells Canyon Reservoir.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

This is a good project and very complete. The habitats used by nesting raptors have been described to allow PM&E's to develop. The only criticism is too many studies are taking place in the same space. Interagency coordination needs to take place to reduce wildlife disturbance. USFS, BLM, IPC, ODFW and all the research projects are doing surveys.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Please coordinate all raptor inventories in Hells Canyon Complex to reduce human disturbance to nesting, perching and roosting raptors. Bald eagles, Peregrine falcons and special status species should have special consideration. planting trees that will produce future nest trees is necessary to maintain tree nesting raptors over time.

