

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

An Evaluation of Avian Collision at Transmission Lines
Associated with the Hells Canyon Hydroelectric Complex

3.2-20

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to evaluate potential problems of avian collisions with transmission lines in the study area.

2. CONCLUSION

“Thirty-one bird species, 18 are species of concern in Oregon and Idaho, using the study area may be at medium or high risk of collision.” Some birds listed as medium or high risk should be listed high risk as their total numbers are low, i.e. Trumpeter Swan.

Other conclusions are so vague I'm not sure they are conclusions.

“Risk classification is perceived risk levels and should not be considered fact.”

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

Most information was gathered from people who had made incidental sightings or recordings of bird power-line collisions. No known formal search has been made to verify risk hazards. To many unknowns exist to determine real or potential hazards.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

Eighteen species of special concern and one threatened, the Bald Eagle, are listed as medium or high risk of collision. As these are special species with low population numbers they should be listed “high risk “. Extensive search should be made in a high risk area for dead birds to verify risks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Extensive search should be made in a high medium and low risk area to verify risk assumptions.