

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

Evaluation of Wildlife Contaminants at Brownlee Reservoir

3.2-22

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study was search for organochlorine compounds and trace elements in fish tissue and bed sediments in Brownlee Reservoir.

2. CONCLUSION

"The Reservoir is low to non-existent for all chemicals of potential concern except total DDT/DDE."

"Sediment remediation program must be done in conjunction with source reduction or removal." "Source elimination on a regional scale is currently deemed infeasible and ineffective, particularly for pesticides and other persistent organizes."

I agree that sediment remediation be done with source reduction, but it is infeasible only because someone made a fiscal decision. The remediation was necessary. There has to be more the low levels of mercury as warnings for eating fish having been posted many years.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

This study made little mention of heavy metals. Mercury contamination is a concern for those eating fish from the reservoir. Fertilizers such as nitrates and phosphates were not considered. DDT accumulations in Bald Eagles were not discussed.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

This study is limited and gives a false impression of human health risks. Humans have been advised for numerous years to eat limited fish from Brownlee Reservoir.

If more precise costs were affixed and total impacts of chemical and heavy metal identified, then maybe remediation would be justified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Determine if DDT/DDE accumulations in Bald Eagles are detrimental to eagle reproduction. Determine more accurate levels of mercury in fish and publish the results.