

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

A Habitat Survey for the Idaho Ground Squirrel

3.2-26

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September 25, 2002

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to determine the presence and location of Idaho ground squirrels.

2. CONCLUSION

“Only one northern Idaho ground squirrel was found while 6 colonies of Southern Idaho ground squirrels were found. The populations are declining, the northern variety due to trees invading mountain meadows and the Southern variety due to invading medusahead rye”.

It appears that habitat changes may be necessary to save the Northern Idaho ground squirrel, but that could cause other problems.

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

The study appears complete, but no search was done on the Oregon shore.

Good comments of habitat needs and habitat changes.

The Northern Idaho ground squirrel is listed as threatened. No habitat changes were suggested for the northern Idaho squirrel.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

Good aggressive weed (medusahead) control may help the southern Idaho ground squirrel.

This info applies to Idaho. It's not known if this squirrel resides in Oregon.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Try some habitat alterations for the northern Idaho ground squirrel.

Do aggressive weed (medusahed) control around the southern Idaho ground squirrel colonies.