

BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

Influences of Roads in the Hells Canyon Complex Area on
Wildlife and Botanical Species of concern

3.2-43

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on the effect of roads upon raptors, noxious weeds and small mammals.

2. CONCLUSION

"Numerous vertebrates are killed from vehicle collisions; One million per day on U.S. roads. Road construction impacts are thought to cover a larger footprint. Road lanes in the U.S occupy over 10 million acres. Roads add significant amounts of heavy metals, exhaust emissions, tire particles, chemical spills, de-icing salts and other chemicals. Most target species populations decreased next to roads including amphibians and reptiles. Roads have little effect on most raptors except certain owls that are susceptible to collisions with vehicles."
"Roads have caused the spread of weeds. Vehicles spread seed and bare soil is a good medium for seeds to sprout."

3. STUDY ADEQUACY

This is one of the more complete studies with conclusions and recommendations. The recommendations on pages 44 & 45 are very good and should be developed for roads on USFS and BLM lands.

4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

A good paper with very good recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Use this papers recommendation and also apply these recommendations on adjoining public lands.

Implementation of the following recommendations are suggested:

- 1) Close selected IPC access roads that are not needed for maintenance needs.
- 2) Review gated roads to determine effectiveness and if timing of the closure meets goals of wildlife protection.
- 3) Adopt a set of BMP's for road construction, which addresses procedures for minimizing erosion, habitat loss, wildlife harassment and noxious weed spread.