

BLM Study Review of Hells Canyon Complex Studies

INVENTORY OF RARE PLANTS AND NOXIOUS WEEDS ALONG THE SNAKE RIVER CORRIDOR IN HELLS CANYON

- Weiser, Idaho, to the Salmon River

Technical Report Appendix E.3.3-2

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1.INTRODUCTION

This report was an inventory of rare plants and Idaho and Oregon state listed noxious weeds. My review focused on the noxious weeds portion.

2.CONCLUSION

This was strictly an inventory with no real definitive conclusions as such. There is a short section entitled *Interpretation of Results* at 2.2.7, page 25; and a following section *Summary of Findings* at 2.2.8 on page 26. The BLM agrees with the basic observations stated in these two sections.

Some statements describing the weed situation included:

“This range of habitats provides opportunities for the occurrence of a wide variety of plant species.”

“Another contributing factor would be the higher general levels of disturbance, from a number of different factors, along rivers and reservoirs.”

“Weed concentrations within the study area are also likely high due to the effect that the river corridor can have on the transport and dispersal of plant seeds and parts.”

3.STUDY ADEQUACY

This inventory was limited to the shoreline and was done during late summer of 1998 and the spring of 1999. An attempt was made to make some subjective assessment of disturbance type and level that influenced each site. There were no PME's discussed as such since this was an inventory and not a management action plan and analysis.

4.BLM CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS:

This inventory appeared to be pretty thorough for the limited area covered which was essentially only the shoreline along the reservoirs and the rivers' edge below

Hell's Canyon Dam. While of value, limiting this inventory only to the shoreline reflects Idaho Power Co.'s flat earth perspective of the influences of the three dams and reservoirs on resource issues within the canyon and larger watershed. It is a mistake to ignore the noxious weed situation within the rest of the canyon environment and to think there is no connection to activities occurring in or along the reservoirs and river.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None, other than the recommendation that Idaho Power Co. can/should work with the various land management agencies and state and county noxious weed program coordinators in conducting an expanded weed inventory within the canyon. BLM is currently working with Tri-County Weed Management Area on an inventory on public lands in portions of the canyon.