

LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District is the Federal land manager of East Sand Island, and is currently considering management alternatives to reduce the double-crested cormorant predation on Columbia River basin juvenile salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act. The management alternatives will be studied in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act.

At the April 2013 meeting, Project Manager, Ms. Sondra Ruckwardt, provided an informational briefing on the proposed action to the Salmon Advisory Subpanel. Ms. Ruckwardt indicated that the project was scheduled to provide a draft EIS in the summer of 2013 with a public comment period that would likely span the Council's September meeting in Boise. As of the briefing book deadline, the draft EIS has not been released and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers now anticipates that the draft EIS will be available for review and comment in the winter of 2013-14.

Although the draft EIS is not available for comment at the September Council meeting, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has published a brief summary of the 2012 scoping effort (Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 1) and a 2011 Draft Benefits Analysis (Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 2). Additional background material on the project can be found at the following web page: <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Currentprojects/CormorantEIS.aspx>.

Council Action:

1. **Provide Comments to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 1: Cormorant EIS e-Newsletter.
2. Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 2: *Draft Report: Benefits to Columbia River Anadromous Salmonids from Potential Reductions in Predation by Double-Crested Cormorants Nesting at the East Sand Island Colony.*

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Provide Comments to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mike Burner