



Monthly Report by WS for
John Day Dam
April 2023

**Piscivorous Bird Hazing at John Day
Dam:
April 2023 Monthly Report to
USACE**



**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services**

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Introduction:

An interagency agreement U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (WS) was established at John Day Dam (JD) for the purposes of reducing predation on juvenile salmonids through vigorous hazing of piscivorous birds.

Through that agreement, WS is to provide a monthly work activities statement to USACE detailing date and hours of piscivorous bird hazing, non-lethal dispersal numbers, and a summary of activities.

Wildlife Services Decision Model:

When identifying wildlife damage and evaluating management methods, each damage issue is afforded a systematic approach to decision making referred to as the WS Decision Model (WS Directive 2.105). The WS Decision Model contains the following steps:

- I. Assess the Problem
- II. Evaluate management methods.
- III. Formulate a management strategy.
- IV. Provide assistance.
- V. Monitor and evaluate results.

April 2023 Summary:

WS Specialists at JD worked 8-hour per day boat-hazing shifts, 7 days a week during April. As of April 16, 2023, WS employees worked (crew of two people) 72 hours for 9 days during the month. Employees were challenged with many adverse weather days (April 18, 28, 30th) as well as staffing issues (April 22, 23, 24th), and were not able to work all 15 days. WS requires a minimum of 2 people per boat per safety protocol.

A variety of different hazing techniques were used in order to avoid habituation—exposing animals to the same non-lethal methods (i.e., using the same pyrotechnics) over time will eventually lead to ineffectiveness. Pyrotechnics used at JD include: 15mm rounds (an assortment of bangers, screamers, silver comets, and comet bangers), cracker shells, and rockets. During the month of April, WS fired 229 rounds of pyrotechnics, hazing a total of 186 California gulls and 11 double-crested cormorants.

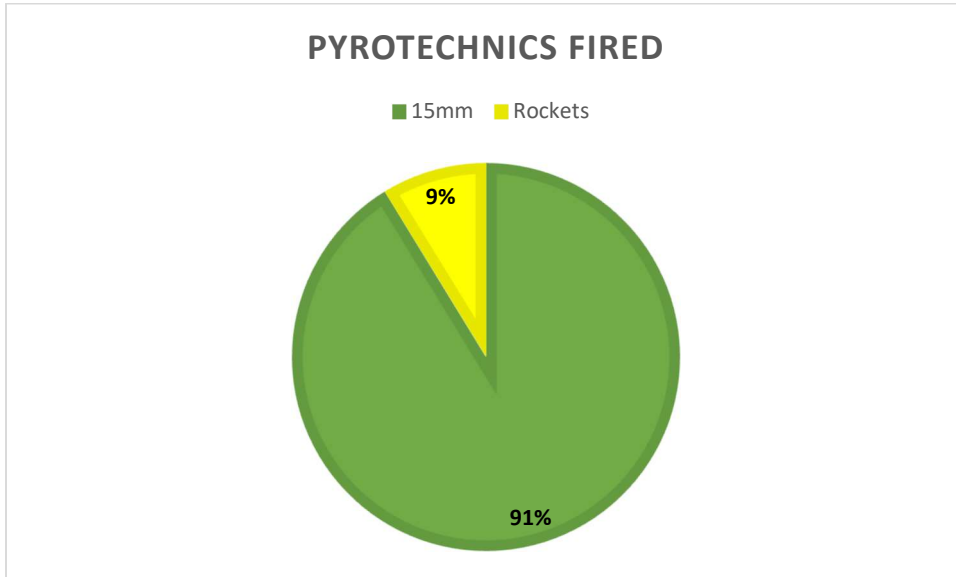


FIGURE 1. PYROTECHNICS USED BY TYPE.

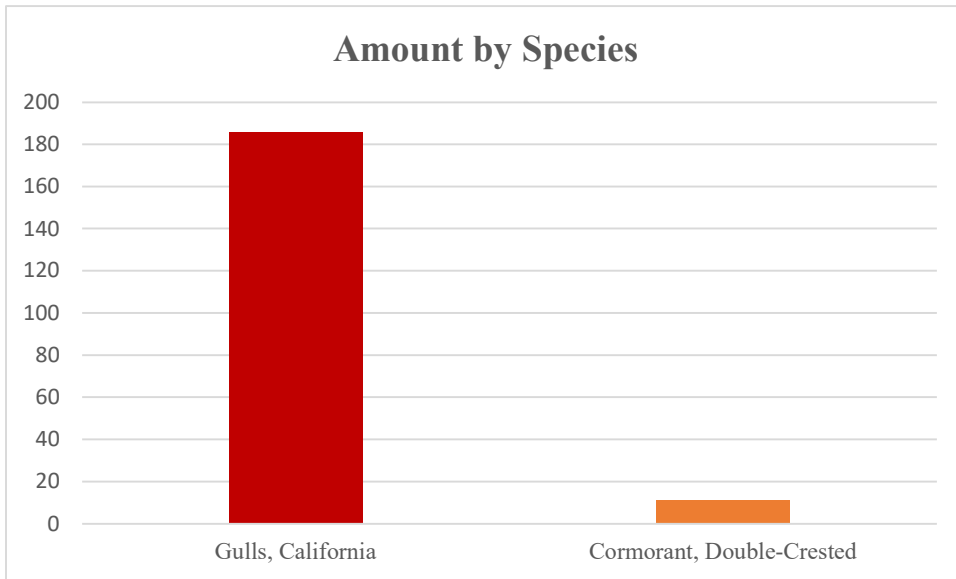


FIGURE 2. AMOUNT OF NON-LETHAL DISPERSALS BY SPECIES.

Observations.

WS observed that gulls appeared to be non-foraging, flying from downstream to upstream. Overall, gull numbers remained low, making the weekly trend percentage difficult to analyze.



Incident Reports.

There are no incident reports for the month of April.



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