



Monthly Report by WS for
The Dalles Dam
April 2023

**Piscivorous Bird Hazing at The Dalles
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 The Dalles Dam (TD) 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 seasonal employees at TD are currently working 8-hour boat-hazing shifts, 7 days a week. As of April 16, 2023, WS employees have worked (crew of two people) 112 hours for 14 days during the month of April. Employees were able to work everyday except for one day (April 26th) due to staffing issues, and a half day (April 30th) due to a high wind event.

A variety of different hazing techniques are 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 TD include: 15mm rounds (an assortment of bangers, screamers, silver comets, and comet screamers), cracker shells, and rockets. During the month of April, WS fired 1,573 rounds of pyrotechnics, hazing a total of 3,930 California gulls and 208 Double-Crested Cormorants.

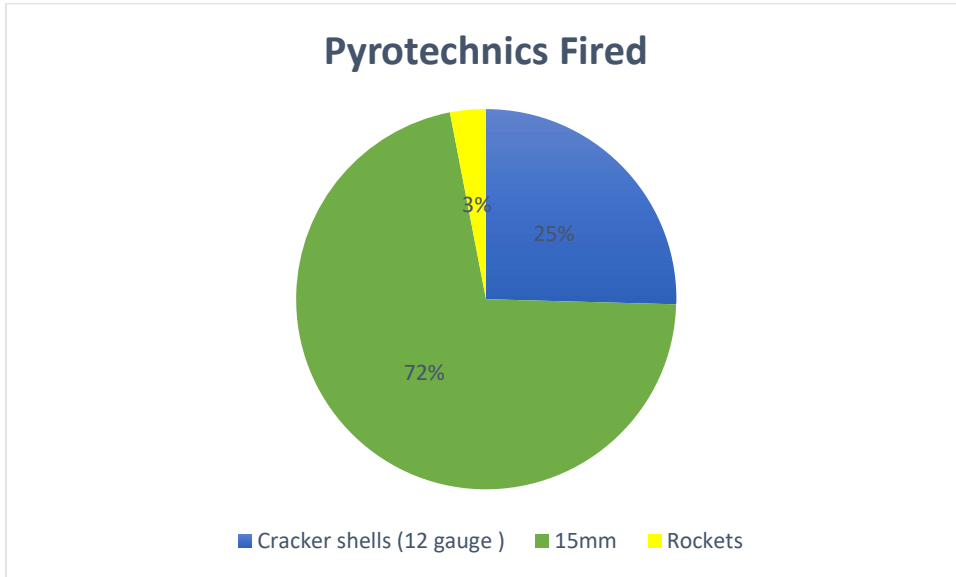


FIGURE 1. PYROTECHNICS USED BY TYPE.

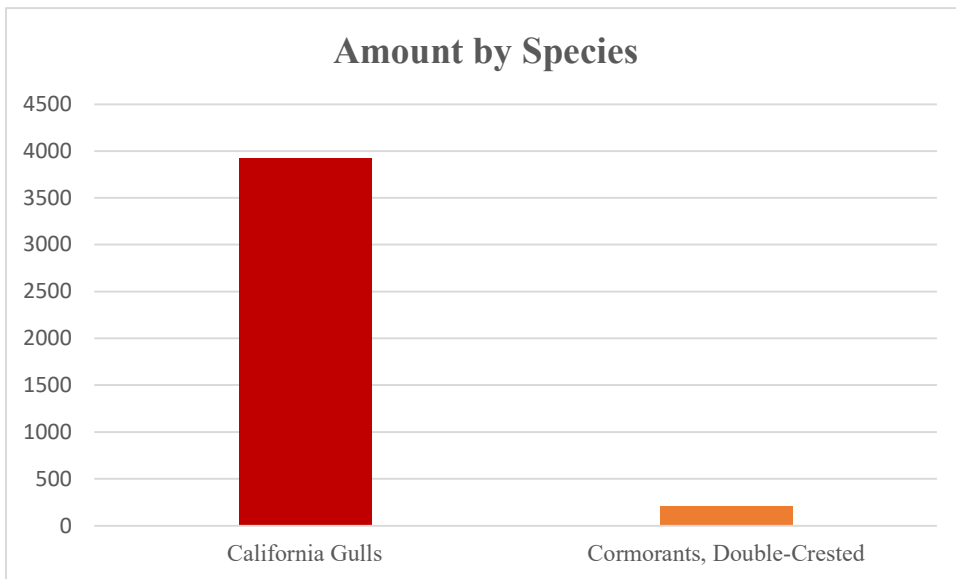


FIGURE 2. AMOUNT OF NON-LETHAL DISPERSALS BY SPECIES.

Observations.

Gull activity dramatically increased from the first week (1,310) to the second (2,211)—showing a 51% difference in dispersal numbers, respectively. Most hazing events occurred in SW3 and SW4 regions, with most gulls foraging along highway 197 bridge at the edge of the Boat Restricted Zone (BRZ). The majority of WS hazing efforts are concentrated in these regions.



Incident Reports.

There are no incident reports for the month of April.



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