

Avian Predation The Dalles

Bob Cordie

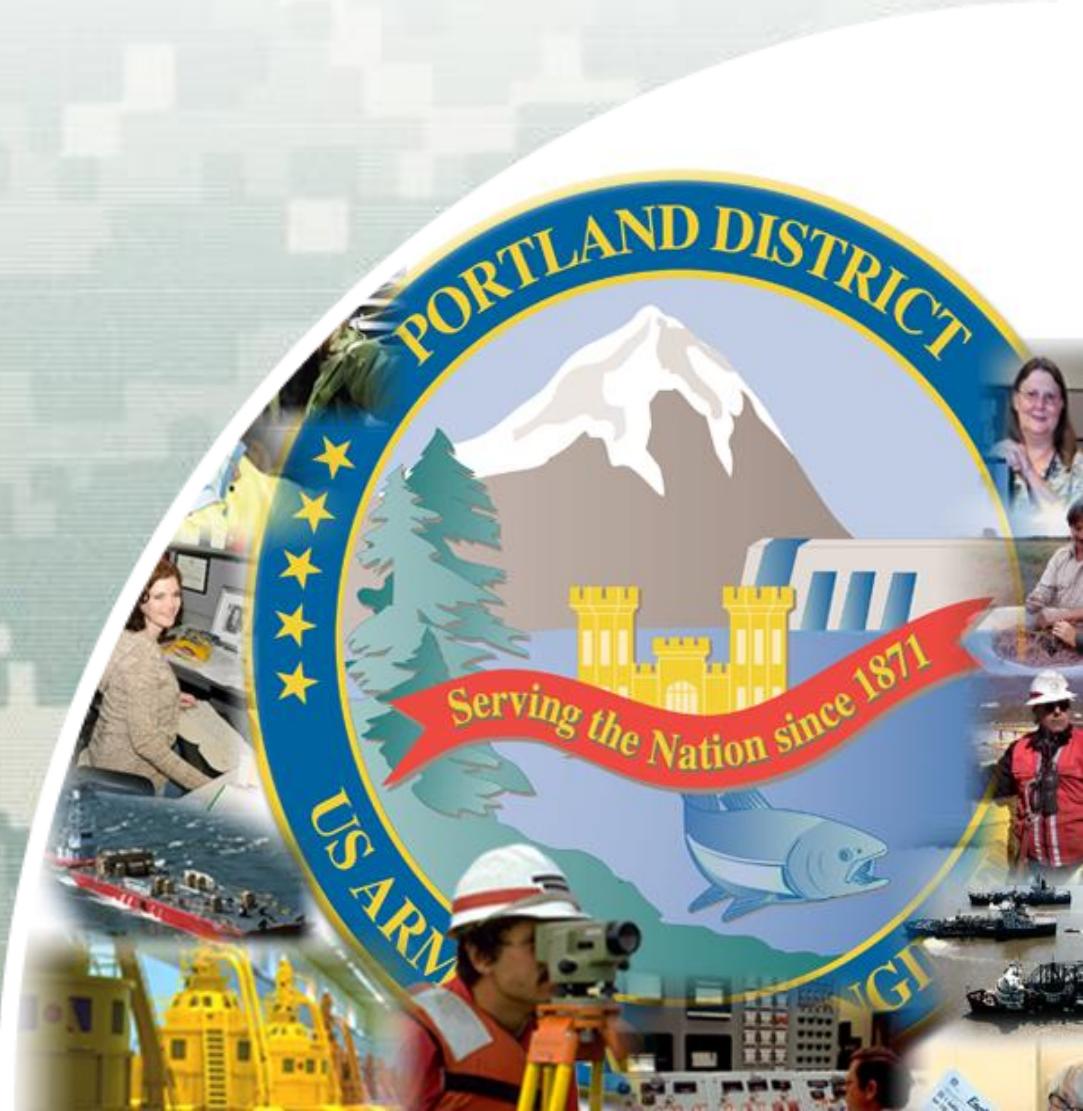
Biologist

The Dalles Lock and Dam

Jan, 2021



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®

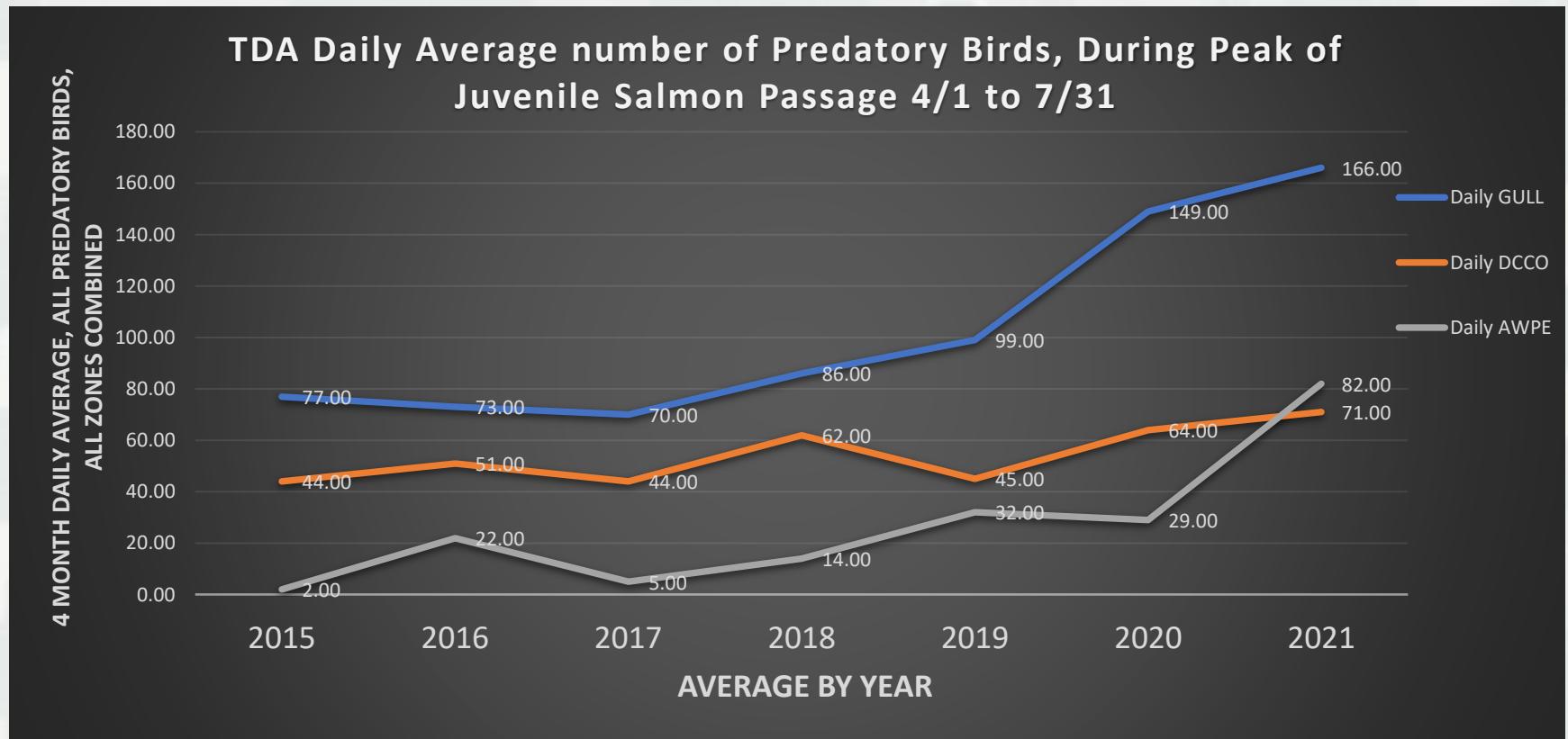


The Dalles Piscivorous Birds



DISTRICT
BUILDING STRONG®

7 Year Trend and 2021



Miller Gull PITs - First Red Flag

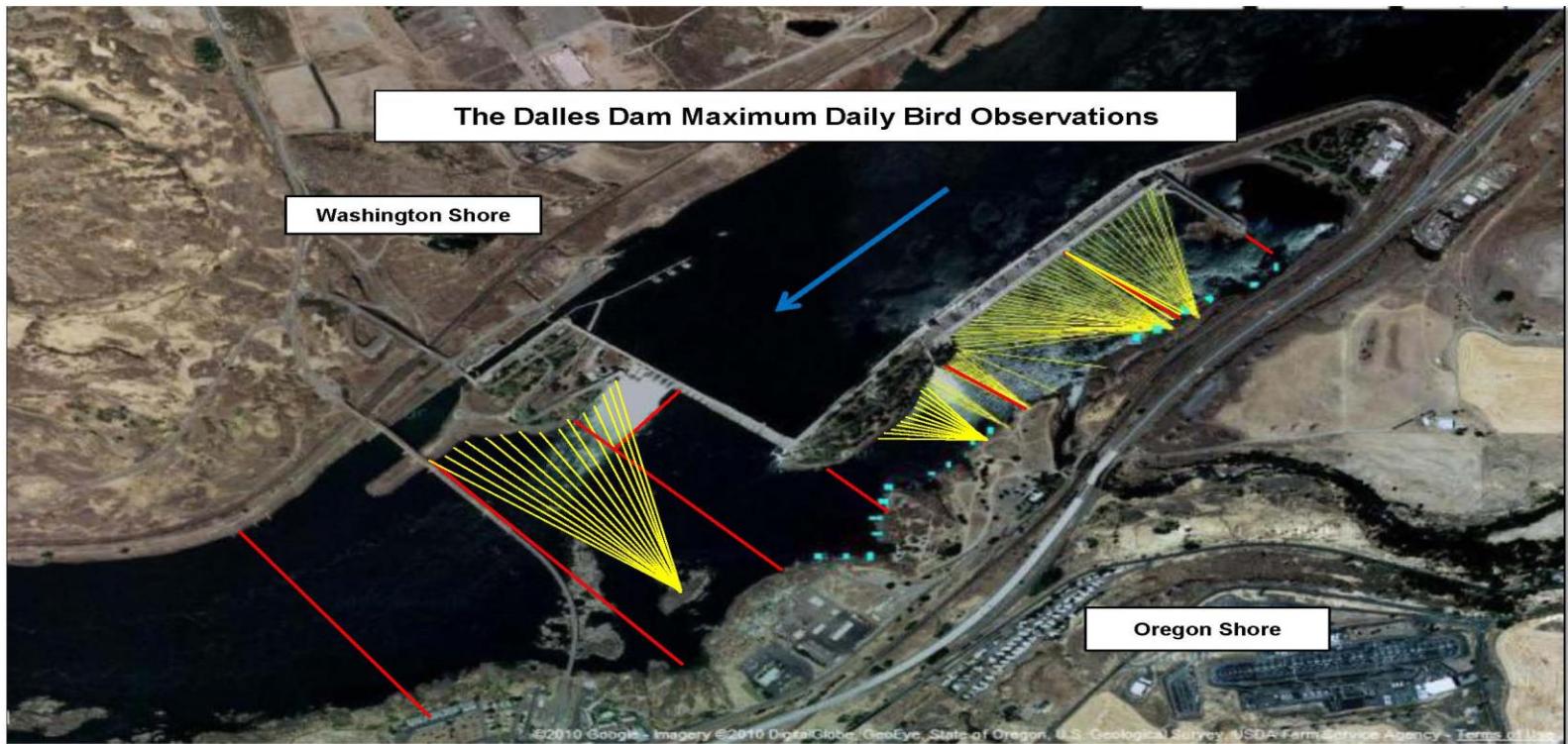
- ▶ USGS, OSU and RTR survey nest colonies
- ▶ 2015 consumption estimate **7.4% SR sockeye, 9.7% SR steelhead, 13.2% UCR steelhead (8.3-21.1)**
- ▶ 2016 consumption listed species estimate **6.4% SR sockeye, 6.7% SR steelhead and 10.1% UCR steelhead**
- ▶ RTR report recommends managing Miller gulls to achieve IAPMP goal
- ▶ “Predation rates by Miller rocks gulls were particularly alarming”



TDA PIT Tag Recoveries 2021



The Dalles



Tools

- Used with limited effectiveness
 - ▶ Pyro hazing
 - Frustrates neighbors
 - Gulls habituate
 - ▶ Avian lines
 - Dependent on flow and whitewater
 - ▶ Lasers
 - Low light and roosting birds only
 - ▶ Lethal removal (waiting for approval again)
 - ▶ Yelling curses from dam deck (not effective)



Annual cost

- USDA hazing 157K/year
- USDA lines ~1K per line
- Falconry this year 27K
- Lethal approval cost for EA - no added implementation cost



Things Tried

- Scare balloons
- Scare raptor decoys
- Drone (RC helicopter)
- French fry feeding station
- Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)
- Propane cannons
- Mylar tape and old CDs



John Day Avian Lines



Dam Comparisons

Dam	Hazing Dates	Hazing Type	Hazing hours/day	COE haze
Bonneville	Apr 1 - July 31	Shore	12hr Apr - Jul	N
The Dalles	Apr 15 - Jul 31	Boat/shore	16hr Apr/May/Jun, 14 Jul	N
John Day	Apr 15 - Jul 31	Boat	8hr Apr-Jul	N
McNary	Apr 16 - Jul 29	Boat/shore	8hr Apr, 16hr May/Jun, 8hr Jul	N
Ice Harbor	Apr 1 - Jun 30	Boat/shore	8hr Apr, 16hr May, 8hr Jun	Y
Lower Mon	Apr 1 - Jun 2 (Jul 1 if needed)	Shore	8hr Apr, 16hr May, 8hr Jun	Y
Little Goose	Apr 3 - Jun 25	Boat/shore	8hr Apr, 16hr May/Jun	N
Lower Gran	Apr 1 - Jun 30	Shore	8hr Apr, 16hr May, 8hr Jun	Y

Dam	Avian Lines	Toolbox	Lethal	Trigger for Increased Action
Bonneville	Yes/wire	water cannon, propane	N	150 single zone non-lethal
The Dalles	Yes/wire	none	N	250 but no actions available
John Day	Yes/rope/high OM	none	N	N/A
McNary	Yes/wire	alarm, water cannon	Y	100-200 total - lethal
Ice Harbor	Yes/wire	laser,spikes,water cannon	Y	2-3x avg, hazing not work - lethal
Lower Mon	Yes/wire	spikes, water cannon	Y	86 gull/43 tern/15 corm - lethal
Little Goose	Yes/wire	alarm, water cannon, visual	Y	100 gull/50 corm - lethal
Lower Gran	Yes/wire	propane, water, sound	Y	95 gull - lethal



Miller Island Gull Colony



Forebay Cormorant Tower



Parting Thoughts

- Attention managers; Corps of Engineers does not manage fish and wildlife populations
- Manage both prey and predator
- Manage one predator then manage all
- Lethal removal of predators at the dam will NOT fix the problem



