



Inland Avian Predation Management Plan

Crescent Island Caspian Tern Colony

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

Planting Native Vegetation at Crescent Island to Dissuade Caspian Tern Nesting

As part of implementing the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan (plan, or IAPMP) to discourage Caspian terns from nesting at Crescent Island, on the Columbia River near Burbank, Washington, the Corps will plant native plant species and remove Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) on the island during January and February 2016.

Plant species for this project include coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*), golden current (*Ribes aureum*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus ceuralea*), and chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*).

Willows will be planted throughout the island, primarily within areas which are marked by temporary rope and flagging material. Other native species will be planted towards the interior of the island to replace Russian olive. The cut Russian olive material will be retained on the island to act as a long-term dissuasion material after the temporary rope and flagging material is removed from the island once these new plants reach sufficient size.

For safety, visitors to Crescent Island should avoid areas where the Corps and their contractor(s) are using heavy equipment to conduct these vegetation-removal and planting activities. Crescent Island is closed to public access at all times except during Washington State authorized waterfowl hunting seasons, available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>.



What is the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan?

Caspian terns at seasonal nesting sites in the mid-Columbia region, prey on Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed juvenile salmon and steelhead.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (Corps), and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) developed the IAPMP in 2014 to reduce the effects Caspian terns nesting at Crescent Island and Goose Island (Potholes Reservoir) have on ESA-listed salmon and steelhead. The plan aims to redistribute Caspian terns from Goose and Crescent islands nesting colonies to other nesting sites in the Western U.S.

The plan includes dissuasion measures to deter Caspian terns from nesting at the islands and Caspian tern attraction measures at nesting habitat areas outside of the Columbia River Basin. Passive dissuasion measures include installing rope and flagging, and planting native vegetation. Active dissuasion measures, including bird-hazing efforts, may occur during nesting seasons through 2018.

More information

The Inland Avian Predation Management Plan is available on the Corps' Walla Walla District website at <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/InlandAvianPredationManagementPlan.aspx>.

Questions about the Corps' Caspian tern-management activities at Crescent Island should be directed to the Walla Walla District at 509-527-7020.

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