



Inland Avian Predation Management Plan

Crescent Island Caspian Tern Colony

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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What is the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan?

Caspian terns are major contributors to avian predation on juvenile Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead, listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the mid-Columbia River.

As part of implementing the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Walla Walla District, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) developed the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan (IAPMP) to reduce the effects Caspian terns have on ESA-listed salmon and steelhead while nesting at Crescent Island, on the Columbia River near Burbank, Washington, and Goose Island, in Potholes Reservoir near Othello, Washington. The plan aims to redistribute Caspian terns from nesting at Goose and Crescent islands to other sites in the Western U.S.

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

Planting Native Vegetation at Crescent Island to Dissuade Caspian Tern Nesting

As part of implementing the IAPMP to discourage Caspian terns from nesting at Crescent Island, the Corps has planted a variety of native plant species, removed Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), and installed temporary rope, flagging, and fencing materials.

Approximately 12,000 willows were planted throughout the island in early 2016, primarily within the historically open areas where Caspian terns have previously nested. Other native species were planted towards the interior of the island to replace the cut Russian olive. The cut Russian olive material has been retained on the island to act as an additional long-term dissuasion material upon removal of the rope and fencing. Temporary fencing, rope, and flagging materials have been placed across the island where Caspian terns historically have or may attempt to nest during management implementation. Once the recently planted vegetation reaches sufficient size to act as Caspian tern dissuasion, currently anticipated by fall 2018, all temporary dissuasion materials will be removed from the island including fencing, rope, and flagging materials.

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/>. Visitors to the island are encouraged to utilize established trails and access routes for ease of access through fencing materials and to avoid damaging recently planted vegetation and tern dissuasion materials.

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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