From:	McDowell, Michelle
To:	Harris, Anna
Subject:	Re: DCCO webpage comments
Date:	Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:11:20 AM
Attachments:	3.3.15 DCCO Webpage Text_mm.docx

Let's talk on the phone after you've had a chance to take a peek at my notes.

Michelle McDowell
Wildlife Biologist, Waterbird Conservation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs
911 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97232
503-231-2024
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On Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 3:03 PM, Harris, Anna <anna_harris@fws.gov> wrote:

> Michelle,
>
> Trying to keep things simple and stick with existing language-- please see attached for the DCCO page (I try hard to keep acronyms off our webpages, which is why it's spelled out in the text)
>
> Please feel free to edit. We can use our existing FAQs but I was thinking those might need to be modified before we issue the ROD,
>
> I'd like to have Ben start on this page soon. And while he's doing that, I can focus on our Communications Plan,
>
> thanks.
> Anna
>
> On Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 11:03 AM, McDowell, Michelle <michelle_mcdowell@fws.gov> wrote:
>
>> See attached. I think simplifying, stick with link to Corps DCCO page, sticking with language already developed through the talking points.
>>
>> Michelle McDowell
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Double-crested Cormorants

[New page – This page needs to go live ca. March 27. We would like it to be linked directly from the Home Page, front right side between 'What's a Migratory Bird?' and 'Contact', and from the NEPA page]

[Banner picture: Double-c-Crested Cormorant—attached]

Link 1 = Pacific Flyway Management Framework= http://www.pacificflyway.gov/Documents/Dcc_plan.pdf

Link 2 = Pacific Flyway Monitoring Strategy = http://www.pacificflyway.gov/Documents/Dcc_strategy.pdf

[Right Side:]

I have a bird emergency!

What is a Migratory Bird?

Contact Us

[Suggested Text Under Header]

The double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus)* is a long-lived, colonial-nesting waterbird native to North America. One of 38 species of cormorants worldwide, and one of six species in North America, it is usually found in flocks, and is sometimes confused with geese or loons when on the water. The mission of the USFWS is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The USFWS has statutory authority and responsibility for enforcing the MBTA (16 U.S.C. 703–711). Under the MBTA, the USFWS implements conventions between the United States and four neighboring countries (Canada, Mexico, Russia, and Japan) for the protection of our shared migratory birds, and maintains the list of species protected under the MBTA (50 C.F.R. § 10.13). USFWS responsibilities include the conservation and management of DCCOs, which are included on the list of protected migratory birds. The role of USFWS in this EIS is to provide technical assistance in developing alternatives to minimize impacts to DCCO and other migratory birds. The USFWS developed the population model (Appendix E-1) to assess the effects of different levels of individual and egg take on the East Sand Island DCCO colony and the western population of DCCOs. The USFWS will use the FEIS to support their permit decision-making upon receipt of an application for a federal Migratory Bird Permit (50 C.F.R. § 21) from the Corps for the take of migratory bird adults, eggs, or both, depending on which alternative the Corps selects. The Service's primary role in double-crested cormorant management is to oversee, coordinate, and authorize ~~control~~ management activities conducted by individuals and agencies. We authorize the take of cormorants either through the issuance of depredation permits or under the authority of

depredation orders. Permits allow the permittee to take cormorants, their eggs, and nests in order to alleviate specific damages.

The Western Population- East Sand Island, Lower Columbia River, Oregon

Since 1990, the growth of the double-crested cormorant western population has been primarily associated with the growth of the East Sand Island colony. The nesting colony of double-crested cormorants on East Sand Island has increased nearly 100-fold since the colony was first recorded in 1989. The colony at East Sand Island has remained relatively stable since 2004, averaging approximately 12,900 breeding pairs. The largest breeding colony of double-crested cormorants in western North America, and likely all of North America, resides on East Sand Island

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

In 2015, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement and management plan to reduce predation of juvenile salmon and steelhead by double-crested cormorants in the Columbia River Estuary. For more information please visit: http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Current/CormorantEIS.aspx

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Record of Decision

Implementation of ~~T~~the Army Corps Final Environmental Impact Statement will require a Depredation Permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. [ADD ROD LANGUAGE ONCE WE HAVE IT—March 27th]

Monitoring the Western Population

The Pacific Flyway Monitoring Strategy calls for west-wide monitoring of double-crested cormorants to be implemented every 3 years, 4 times from 2014 to 2024. To minimize impacts to the western population of double-crested cormorant, the Corps will follow the protocol outlined in the Pacific Flyway Council Monitoring Strategy. Each year under Phase I, the Corps will monitor all specified locations of the monitoring strategy, where and when there are not already established monitoring efforts and secure funding sources, supplement data processing of aerial photography, and assist in preparing an annual summary report of the Pacific Flyway Council and other collected monitoring data.

The objective of this monitoring strategy is to detect a 5 percent annual change in the number of breeding pairs in the western population of DCCOs. Monitoring will be used to evaluate and adjust future management activities which will allow time for annual evaluation, adaptive management changes, and increases the ability for the western population to respond from a potential catastrophic event.

Resources

- **Frequently Asked Questions [Still in Development- will link when we have them]**
- **Documents on national double-crested cormorant management published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Comment [MM1]: "We" in this case is nationally, but we do not authorize take under depredation orders for the Pacific Flyway populations. This will be confusing for folks.

Is "We" Region 1?

Comment [MM2]: I'm not jiving with this simplified view. I pulled in some language to pare down instead.

Comment [MM3]: This links to the HQ office.....not sure we want to point folks there due to confusion between take authorized under depredation permits vs. PRDO.

Link broken due to additional wording....sorry