

50-11. MORTON SLOUGH (IBA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: West – Pend Oreille River, South/East (roughly) – Lakeshore Drive and shoreline of Morton Slough, North - shoreline

Ownership: Army Corps of Engineers and managed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Private

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Large numbers of migratory waterfowl (>2000; Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Mallard, Gadwall, Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Canada Goose), Great Blue Herons, and Double-crested cormorants. Also supports many breeding waterfowl. Bald Eagle nest nearby.

Location of type 1 and 2 habitat within the site:

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
waterbirds	open water & emergent vegetation	none
large waders	emergent vegetation	rest of shoreline
waterfowl	open water, edges during breeding season	none

Access to the type 1 and 2 habitat and visibility of the birds:

Foot, motor boat, and canoe access is available to the public. The entire slough may be viewed from three observation points, using a spotting scope (**observation points will be added to topomap in final draft**).

Conservation issues:

- Subdivisions and homebuilding taking place adjacent to slough
- Dam operation alters natural hydrology resulting in degraded habitat quality

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Covered by the Pend Oreille WMA long-range management plan
- Albeni Falls mitigation program is being funded by BPA

Past and current surveys:

- Used as a waterfowl banding site in the past
- Canada goose nesting pair surveys

Potential survey methods

Description

- a. Census for waterfowl and waterbirds on the open water from shoreline. Concentrate on migration period, as waterfowl may be the only species present during the breeding season.

Selection bias: Private ownership may limit access to some sites.

Measurement error and bias: N/A

Needed pilot studies: None needed.

Contact:

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