

50-6. HEYBURN STATE PARK (IBA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: Boundaries clearly marked

Ownership: Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Nesting Red-necked Grebes, Wood Ducks, Canada Geese, Soras, and Osprey. Large flocks of waterfowl (5,000-10,000; mostly Mallards, Geese, and American Wigeon) from October to freeze-up, as well as Bald Eagles. Canada Geese and Great Blue Herons present during winter when there is open water.

Colonies: Great Blue Heron (35-59 pairs; Benowah Lake)

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	breeding colonies (Benowah Lake), emergent vegetation	rest of shoreline
secretive marshbirds	Plummer Creek Marsh and east end of Benowah Lake	none
waterfowl	open water, edges during breeding season	none
gulls and terns	all areas	none

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

Multiple pull-outs along ID 5 and a boardwalk to scope for waterfowl/waterbirds in open water. Boat would be useful for accessing opposite shores and Benewah Lake. Marshbirds may be surveyed from the bridge along Plummer Creek Marsh. Most areas are accessible to the public, although there are a few private cabins within the park. Visibility of birds is unknown, and would therefore need a pilot study to assess.

Conservation issues:

- Western White Pine, particularly old growth W. white pine, has been affected by introduced white pine blister rust
- Recreational power boating in summer, and waterfowl hunting in fall, results in months of constant disruption of waterbird activities
- Loss of bank habitat on the St. Joe is a concern, as the bank appears to be washing away

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Prescribed burning proposed to maintain Ponderosa Pine
- The University of Idaho is drafting a Natural Resource Management Plan for the park
- The park is currently attempting to plant Black Cottonwoods, but with marginal success

Past and current surveys:

- Wood Duck, Canada Goose artificial nest structures monitored annually for 10-25 years
- Christmas Bird Counts by Coeur d'Alene Audubon
- Area searches will occur once every season as part of IBA monitoring

Potential survey methods

Description:

- a. Nest searches for grebes nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies. Canoe likely will be necessary, but extreme care should be taken not to disturb the birds.
- b. Colony counts for nesting Great Blue Herons.
- c. Census for waterfowl and other waterbirds (particularly Common Loons) on the open water from shoreline. Late summer or fall counts may be better than breeding season counts, as waterfowl are more easily detected during this period.
- d. Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for Soras from the boardwalk.
- e. Continuation of artificial nest structure monitoring.

Selection bias: N/A – unless some areas prove to be too shallow for a boat

Measurement error and bias: None known at this time

Needed pilot studies: Survey methods and sites should be further explored at this site. Because of complete lack of previous work on waterbirds, a pilot study focused on determining the best places to survey birds would be helpful.

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