

## 50-8B. LAKE PEND OREILLE (DENTON SLOUGH IBA)

### Boundaries and ownership:

*Boundaries:* East – ID 200, South - Lake Pend Oreille

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

### Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Supports large nesting colony of Western Grebes (30+ nests). Summer waterbirds also include: Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, and Black Terns. Thousands of waterfowl (American Wigeon, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Tundra Swan, Canada Goose) use Denton Slough during migration.

### 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, emergent vegetation	rest of shoreline
secretive marshbirds	water's edge	none
waterfowl	open water, edges during breeding season	none
shorebirds	exposed mudflats during spring/fall migration	rest of shoreline
gulls and terns	all areas	none

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

Access by car, boat, or foot. The majority of the area can be seen from two IDFG Sportsman's Access points along ID 200. Larger species can be observed from one or two shoreline stations with the aid of a spotting scope.

### Conservation issues:

- Dam operation alters natural hydrology resulting in degraded habitat quality.
- Easy public access has potential for disturbing breeding birds although the birds seem fairly habituated to the disturbance. However, Western Grebes are nesting within several meters of a boat access point, which could be a serious problem.
- Most, if not all, grebe nests failed in 2003 for reasons unknown.

### 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:

- Counts in 1996 and 2000 to present for nesting grebes
- Annual waterfowl breeding pair and brood counts starting in 2000
- Triennial point counts planned as part of BPA monitoring obligation

### Potential survey methods

#### *Description*

- Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies.
- Colony counts for nesting large waders.
- Census for waterfowl on the open water from land.

- d. Area searches for migrating shorebirds from observation points near Type 1 habitat.
- e. Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for secretive marshbirds.
- f. Census for gulls and terns during waterfowl counts.

*Selection bias:* N/A

*Measurement error and bias:* N/A

**Needed pilot studies:** None needed.

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