

## 51-24. MARKET LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA/IBA)

### Boundaries and ownership:

*Boundaries:* Boundaries are clearly marked

*Ownership:* Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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

During summer, many waterfowl (Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Mallard, American Wigeon), waterbirds (American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, Caspian Tern, American Coot, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, California Gull) and shorebirds (Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Willet) are present. Also has nesting Northern Harriers, Long-billed Curlews, Black Terns and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Spring staging area for 50,000-150,000 ducks, 400 Canada Geese, 40,000 Snow Geese, 1,000 Tundra Swans, and 150 shorebirds (Red-necked Phalarope; Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan lists Market Lake WMA as a shorebird site). There is a Peregrine Falcon hack/nesting tower on the WMA. Fall staging area for 50 American White Pelicans and shorebirds (Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-plover).

*Colonies:* Eared Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron (25 birds), Snowy Egret (30 birds), Great Egret, Cattle Egret, White-faced Ibis (500-1000 birds), Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull (800-1200 birds), Forster's Tern

### Location of type 1 and 2 habitat within the site:

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
waterbirds	breeding colonies, 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	breeding colonies, all areas	none

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

Quite a few roads traverse the WMA, so have good vantage points from the roads. Some are open to the public year-round, while others would require permission from the WMA manager during the nesting season. Colonial species, such as Franklin's Gull and White-faced Ibis, are not very visible from the roads. Would need a boat to access the colony areas.

### Conservation issues:

- Noxious weed species are present, including Canada thistle, Musk thistle, Russian knapweed, field bindweed, and whitetop.
- The water output of springs is 25% that of the output in the 1970's.
- Potential predator problems
- Recurring deaths of waterfowl and gulls during breeding season in one marsh impoundment. Cause has yet to be determined.

### Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Biological, mechanical, and chemical methods are used to control and eliminate noxious weeds.
- Currently investigating the potential to purchase water in reservoir system for use in the marshes.
- Predator control measures have been taken in the past.

**Past and current surveys:**

- No standard surveys since 1993 when colonial waterbird survey was conducted by Chuck Trost.
- Waterfowl nesting surveys are conducted when feasible.

**Potential survey methods***Description:*

- a. Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies from a canoe if water levels are high. Could also be done with chest waders.
- b. Colony counts for nesting herons, egrets, ibis, gulls, and terns. Canoe or airboat is necessary for access. Airboat creates a lot of disturbance and therefore may not be an ideal method. Canoe should work well.
- c. Census for waterfowl on the open water by aerial surveys. Difficult to census from land, as area is flat with little elevated observation points. If hack tower is not being used by birds, observations could potentially be made from there.
- 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. Points may be established along dike access roads quite easily.
- f. Census for gulls and terns during waterfowl counts

*Selection bias:* Access to some areas may be a problem because of varying water levels, as well as emergent vegetation

*Measurement error and bias:* Emergent vegetation may be an issue.

**Needed pilot studies:** None may be needed.

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