

51-3. BILLINGSLEY CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: Boundaries are clearly marked.

Ownership: Idaho Department of Fish & Game

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Primarily waterfowl during breeding and wintering (particularly Mallards and Canada Geese) seasons. Other waterbirds, such as herons and rails, are present during the breeding season as well. Shorebirds are present during migration.

Location of type 1 and 2 habitat within the site:

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
waterbirds	open water of creek and larger spring channels	none
large waders	open waters of creek and emergent vegetation	rest of shoreline
secretive marshbirds	along creek in cattails and along spring channels	none
waterfowl	open water, edges during breeding season, and larger spring channels	none
shorebirds	on creek edge somewhat, but not a lot of exposed earth along shoreline	none
gulls and terns	all areas, although not much use by these species	none

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

This site is highly accessible to the public. The best way to view birds would be by canoe, although larger species could be visible by scope from the basalt rim. There is a canoe/small boat take-out at the lower end of the site, and the current is mild enough to allow upstream paddling of a canoe. Visibility from the creek itself can get difficult later in the growing season.

Conservation issues:

- There is residential development nearby, although there is a "buffer" so to speak, in the form of Billingsley Ck State Park, which is adjacent to this site on the west side.
- Invasion by purple loosestrife.
- Large number of Russian olives.

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- IDFG has initiated a bio-control program (beetles) to reduce the loosestrife. These beetles are also used on Ft. Boise WMA, and have done wonders there.
- Try to not allow increases of Russian olives. However, many birds do use these trees.

Past and current surveys:

None known at this time.

Potential survey methods

Description

- a. Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies.
- b. Census for waterfowl on the open water using a boat.
- c. Area searches for migrating shorebirds from observation points near Type 1 habitat.

- d. Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for secretive marshbirds, using a canoe for access.
- f. Census for gulls and terns during waterfowl counts.

Selection bias: N/A

Measurement error and bias: It would be best to use a skilled birder or birders. The density of the wetlands/cattail areas would most likely be difficult to assess especially for secretive species such as rails.

Needed pilot studies: None may be needed, although would be helpful to determine best places and times to survey this area.

Contact:

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