

## 51-37B. TETON COUNTY (FOSTER'S SLOUGH/UPPER TETON RIVER)

### Boundaries and ownership:

*Boundaries:* Foster's slough watershed including Upper Teton River (details available from Teton Regional Land Trust)

*Ownership:* Private – under conservation easement

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

Breeding species include waterfowl, shorebirds (Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's phalarope), waterbirds (Sora, Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane, American Coot), and meadow and wetland/riparian nesting passerines including Savannah Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Black Terns and gulls are present during migration, and Trumpeter Swans use the area during migration and winter.

### 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, meadows/grasslands	rest of shoreline
gulls and terns	all areas	none

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

Full access is available to Teton Regional Land Trust personnel. Access by canoe is good and shoreline observation points exist. Visibility of birds is good along shoreline and in open water. Emergent vegetation can be a problem.

### Conservation issues:

- Invasive weeds are a problem

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

- Area is under conservation easement, and therefore protected for wildlife

### Past and current surveys:

- Waterfowl surveys
- Brood counts and nest drags for waterfowl
- Surveys for Long-billed Curlew and Willets during breeding season
- Sandhill Crane roost counts

### Potential survey methods

#### *Description*

- Nest searches for waterfowl and waterbirds nesting in emergent vegetation. Canoe is necessary on the river and lower Foster Slough, while a scope from the shoreline may be used for ponds.
- Nest searches for ground-nesting curlews, snipe, and phalaropes in surrounding wet meadows and grasslands.
- Area searches for migrating shorebirds along the upper Teton River using a canoe for access.
- Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for secretive marshbirds.

*Selection bias:* N/A

*Measurement error and bias:* Emergent vegetation is a real problem in some areas. Ability to detect birds is an issue.

**Needed pilot studies:** None needed

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