

51-7. BOISE RIVER (IBA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: River from Lucky Peak Dam to Glenwood Bridge, Boise

Ownership: Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, municipal, private

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Osprey can be seen on the river throughout the spring and summer months, as well as waterfowl (Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser), waterbirds (Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Double-crested Cormorant) and shorebirds (Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper). Bald Eagles winter in area. Large flocks of waterfowl (particularly Canada Goose, Mallard, and American Wigeon, but also Wood Duck, Common and Barrow's Goldeneye), and gulls (California and Ring-billed) also use the river during the winter months.

Colonies: Great Blue Heron

Location of type 1 and 2 habitat within the site:

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
waterbirds	open water, emergent vegetation	shoreline
large waders	breeding colonies, emergent vegetation	rest of shoreline
waterfowl	open water, shoreline during breeding season	shoreline
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:

The river is easily accessible to the public, as a paved greenbelt follows the river for the majority of the IBA. A few sections of the site are not accessible via the greenbelt, and may not be accessible at all because of private land ownership. Some of these areas may be reached by boat, but this needs to be checked. Birds are very visible from the greenbelt.

Conservation issues:

- Water pollution and water diversion/channelization is a potential problem
- Residential and commercial development, as well as recreational development and overuse are all serious issues.
- Recreation and development results in serious disturbance to birds in the area.
- Drought

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

Past and current surveys:

- Christmas Bird Counts
- Annual Bald Eagle count

Potential survey methods

Description

- a. Colony counts for nesting Great Blue Herons.
- b. Census for waterfowl and other waterbirds on the open water from shoreline along greenbelt, or using a boat.

c. Census for migrating shorebirds from shoreline along greenbelt, or using a boat.

Selection bias: Shouldn't be any provided areas not accessible by the greenbelt are accessible by boat

Measurement error and bias: May not be any

Needed pilot studies: None may be needed, other than determining how to survey sections of river not accessible by the greenbelt.

Contact:

NAME: Jon Curd - Golden Eagle Audubon Society/BLM

ADDRESS: 1503 Clear Creek, Boise, ID 83709

PHONE: 208-378-8504 (w)

208/ 378-8504 (h)

FAX:

EMAIL: jon_curd@blm.gov