

51-9. CAMAS PRAIRIE CENTENNIAL MARSH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA/IBA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries (roughly): General location – South of US highway 20, 14 miles west of Fairfield. The main portion of Centennial Marsh is bordered by Stokes Road to the south, Swamp Rd. to the West, Trader Lane to the North, and Wolf Lane to the East. The Rice portion starts 1 mile south of Hill City on Swamp Rd., then 2 and ½ miles west, 1 mile south and back east 2 ½ miles east to Swamp Rd.

Ownership: Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Camas Creek is filled bank to bank from April through June and is dry by mid-July. During this time, thousands of waterfowl (Canada Goose, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, and Blue-winged Teal), shorebirds (Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher), and other waterbirds (Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Sora, American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Snowy Egret, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull) use the area.

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 migration	rest of shoreline
gulls	all areas	none

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

Large open water areas of the area are accessible to the public, but access to expansive marsh habitat would need to be cleared through the WMA manager. All of the area can be surveyed either by vehicle (ATV or truck) or on foot. Visibility is an issue as the breeding season progresses and vegetation gets higher. Flush counts of some areas may be necessary, particularly for small waterbirds/waterfowl (e.g., teal) that hide in the vegetation.

Conservation issues:

- Drought
- Predation

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Brood rearing ponds supplied by wells
- On going predator trapping program

Past and current surveys:

- Annual Canada Goose nesting count
- Occasional waterfowl brood counts

- Species list developed over sixteen years of casual observation by area manager

Potential survey methods

Description:

- a. Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies. Can be accomplished with waders or hip boots.
- b. Census for waterfowl and other waterbirds on the open water from shoreline. The entire interior portion of the marsh is accessible by foot, and is probably the best way to survey.
- c. Area searches for migrating shorebirds from observation points near Type 1 habitat. Suitable habitat occurs throughout the marsh, and are probably best surveyed on foot.
- d. Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for secretive marshbirds from shoreline and within the interior of the marsh.
- e. Census for gulls during waterfowl counts

Selection bias: Surveying the entire marsh may not be feasible, although all Type 1 areas may be surveyed sufficiently. Stratified sampling may be necessary at this site.

Measurement error and bias: Emergent vegetation may be a problem as the season progresses. Flush counts may alleviate some of this problem.

Needed pilot studies: None may be needed.

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