

12. Wildhorse Reservoir



Boundaries and Ownership

West: Humboldt National Forest.

South: North Fork Humboldt River Canyon Road

East: State HWY 225

North: Poorman Creek

Landownership is divided among BLM, Paiute/Shoshone Tribes, State of NV, and private landowners.

Focal Species

Greater Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Phalarope, Clark's Grebe, Western Grebe, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, American White Pelican, Osprey, Long-billed Curlew, Common Loon

Location of Type I Habitat

Wildhorse Reservoir

Location of Type II Habitat

Poorman Creek, Riffe Creek, Clear Creek, Deep Creek, Crooked Creek, Jack's Creek, Chicken Creek, Delaware Creek, Owyhee River

Access and Visibility

The site is about 1 hour north of Elko, and about 5 hours from the Reno/Carson area. Access varies with land ownership. Wildhorse Reservoir is too big to see all birds from the perimeter. **Visibility?**

Past and Current Surveys

Sandhill Crane surveys since 1976, on 5-year intervals (by NDOW?). Intermittent nesting and migrant shorebird surveys over the years.

Potential Survey Methods

Description

All three survey methods (aerial, boat, ground) feasible and at least two needed. Ground surveys only feasible for part of the site, but may be needed for secretive species. Boat surveys would be helpful to cover center of reservoir and hard-to-reach shore areas.

Selection bias

Access may not be complete due to mixed landownership.

Measurement error and bias

Large reservoir with concentrations of shorebirds sometimes at great distances. Observer variability (high bird abundances and species richness). Some error may be associated with emergent vegetation and the species that use it.

Pilot Studies Needed

None.

Contact with Local Knowledge: Pete Bradley, NDOW.