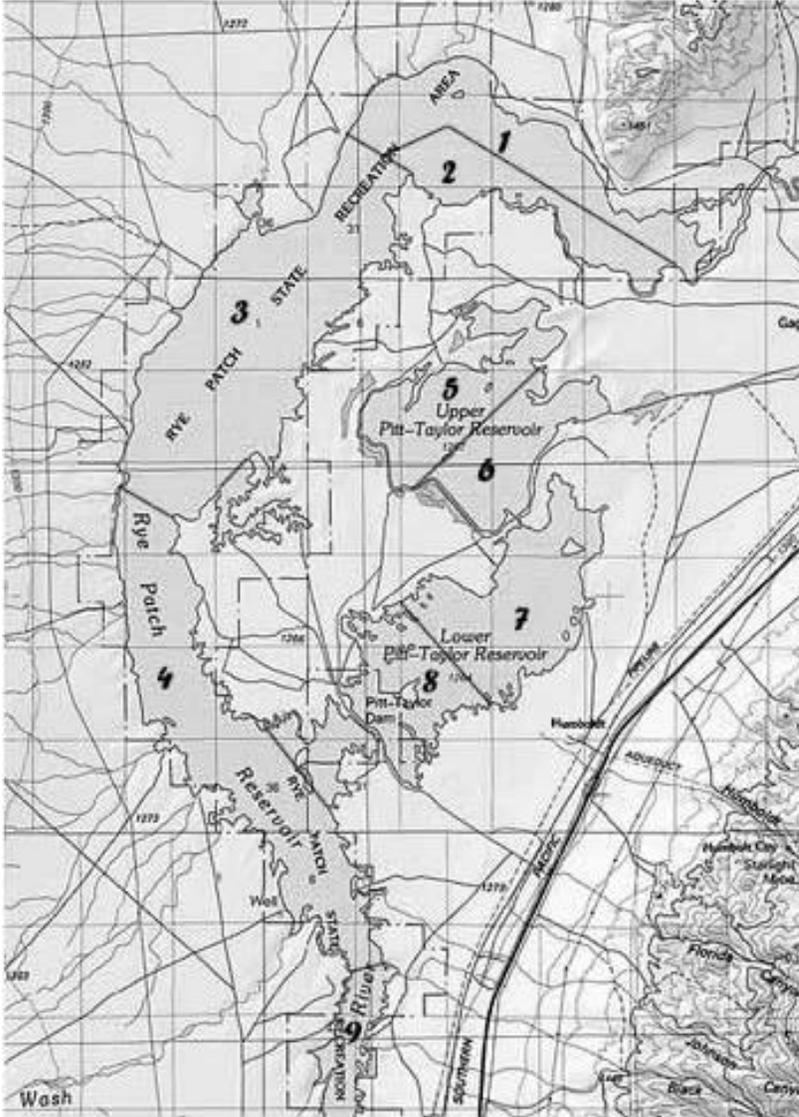


Contacts with Local Knowledge: Larry Neel and Jenny Jeffers of NDOW.

16. Rye Patch Reservoir



Boundaries and Ownership

West: R.32E from T.30N to T.33N

South: T.30N

East: R.33E in T.33N

North: T.33N, R. 32-33E

Lands under the reservoir are owned by the Pershing County Water Irrigation District; shoreline lands above high water mark are owned by State of Nevada (Nevada State Parks); Pitt-Taylor Arm – ownership split between Pershing County Water Irrigation District and USDI (either BOR or BLM).

Focal Species

White-faced Ibis (Humboldt River Delta)
Snowy Egret (Humboldt River Delta)
Great Egret (Humboldt River Delta)
Clark's Grebe
Western Grebe
Snowy Plover
American Avocet
Black-necked Stilt

Location of Type I Habitat

Rye Patch Reservoir under regular operating criteria

Location of Type II Habitat

Humboldt River Delta – when emergent wetland appears
Pitt-Taylor Arm – when flooded or wet

Access and Visibility

The site is 1 ½ hours east of Reno. Access is permitted to all areas. Roads exist all around the reservoir, but some may not be immediately at the shore. Visibility is good for most of the reservoir. The site is big enough and access road sparse enough that not all places can be viewed from the perimeter. Humboldt River delta may have emergent vegetation that affects bird visibility.

Past and Current Surveys

All sites have been included aerial waterfowl surveys since 1966.
Aerial surveys for colonial-nesting birds in 1994-95 (Humboldt River Delta)

Potential Survey Methods

Description

All three methods (aerial, boat, ground) feasible. Aerial and boat surveys may be the most efficient and effective methods of getting a full count. Emergent marshes near the delta may need to be done from the ground.

Selection Bias

None

Measurement Error and Bias

Visibility obstructed by emergent vegetation at the Humboldt River Delta.
Variability in operation of the dam introduces huge variation in bird numbers.
Therefore, observer variability may be an issue depending on habitat availability and bird abundance.

Pilot Studies Needed

None.

Contacts with Local Knowledge: Larry Neel and Pete Bradley of NDOW.