

50-10. MCARTHUR LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA/IBA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: South/West – West Elmira Rd.; East – U.S. 95; North – County Rd A-4; boundaries are clearly marked

Ownership: Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Waterfowl (Canada Goose, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Redhead, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon), waterbirds (Pied-billed Grebe, Sora, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Great Blue Heron), shorebirds (Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Spotted Sandpiper), Bald Eagles, Osprey, and Belted Kingfishers are present during the summer; majority of which are breeding here. American White Pelicans occur here in late summer. Large waterfowl migration in fall and spring (>2,000; American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Canada Goose, others) and shorebird migration in August (>100; Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper).

Colonies: Great Blue Heron (12 nests), Black Terns (4-6 nests?)

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 on western shore	rest of shoreline
terns	breeding colonies, all areas	none

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

Motor boat, canoe, and foot access is available to the public. Visibility is good from the water, and entire lake may be surveyed by canoe in a couple of hours. Foot access is pretty limited, and wouldn't provide a good view of the area.

Conservation issues:

- Introduced plants (tansy and knapweed)
- Predation of waterfowl nests by Common Ravens
- Marsh succession appears advanced

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Drawdowns have been executed to control succession
- Field conversion to seeded grassland
- Use of selective pesticides for raven control (carefully conducted using artificial nests)
- Covered by the McArthur Lake WMA long-range management plan.

Past and current surveys:

- Annual Canada Goose banding (1986 – 1994)
- Pre-hunting season duck banding (since 1993 – present)

Potential survey methods

Description

- a. Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies. Canoe is necessary for access
- b. Colony counts for nesting Great Blue Herons and Black Terns.
- c. Census for waterfowl and other waterbirds on the open water by boat/canoe.
- d. Area searches for migrating shorebirds from shoreline or by boat.
- e. Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for secretive marshbirds. Canoe is necessary for access.

Selection bias: N/A

Measurement error and bias: N/A

Needed pilot studies: None needed, other than determining location of heron and tern colonies.

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