

50-8C. LAKE PEND OREILLE (FISHERMAN ISLAND/ODEN BAY IBA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: Southwest - Lake Pend Oreille, Northwest Sunnyside Rd.

Ownership: Army Corps of Engineers

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

This site supports over 5,000 waterfowl (Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser, American Coot) in migration and winter. Waterfowl concentrate in large rafts offshore and into Oden Bay to the north. Common Loons are also present during migration. Bald Eagles nest on Fisherman Island, and Western Grebes, Red-necked Grebes, and Common Mergansers are present during the summer.

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 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:

Roadside viewing is good on the east side along Sunnyside Road, although not many places to stop (traffic is low). One public access point is available along the east side, where a trail leads to the bay. Good visibility at this point. West and North side is mostly private property, with very little, if any, access available. Boat access may be necessary to survey this side of the bay.

Conservation issues:

- Dam operation alters natural hydrology resulting in degraded habitat quality

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Covered by the Pend Oreille WMA long-range management plan
- Albeni Falls mitigation program is being funded by BPA

Past and current surveys:

- Mid-winter aerial waterfowl counts
- Bald Eagle nest monitoring

Potential survey methods

Description

- a. Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies.
- b. Census for waterfowl on the open water from boat.
- d. Area searches for migrating shorebirds from observation points near Type 1 habitat.
- e. Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for secretive marshbirds.
- f. Census for gulls and terns during waterfowl counts.

Selection bias: N/A

Measurement error and bias: N/A

Needed pilot studies: None needed.

Contact:

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