

51-29. NIAGARA SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: Boundaries are clearly marked.

Ownership: Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Primarily waterfowl, both during breeding and wintering seasons. Wintering species include waterbirds (Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant) and waterfowl (Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Redhead, Common and Barrow's Goldeneye). Other waterbirds (American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Crane, American White Pelican, Virginia Rail, Sora, and Caspian Tern) and shorebirds (Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Wilson's Snipe) can also be found here during the breeding season. Waterfowl and shorebirds (Marbled Godwit, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and others) are found here during migration.

Location of type 1 and 2 habitat within the site: Some ponds on the west end are seasonal. They are dependent upon irrigation runoff, which generally occurs from about mid April to mid October.

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
waterbirds	open water & emergent vegetation, irrigation ditch, and 4 miles of Snake River shoreline	none
large waders	open water/emergent vegetation	rest of shoreline
secretive marshbirds	water's edge along creek and ponds	none
waterfowl	open water, edges during breeding season	none
shorebirds	pond shorelines and shallow portions of ponds	rest of shoreline
gulls and terns	along Snake River	none

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

This site is open to the public and easily accessed. Ponds can be surveyed from shoreline, but Snake River portions may be better surveyed by boat.

Conservation issues:

- Invasion by purple loosestrife.

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- IDFG has initiated a bio-control program (beetles) to reduce the loosestrife.

Past and current surveys:

- Waterfowl surveys (USFWS-style) have been conducted here for many years
- Have an unofficial species list which includes additional species not listed in "focal species" section of this description.

Potential survey methods

Description:

- a. Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies. Canoe may be necessary.
- b. Census for waterfowl on the open water using a boat for Snake River portions, and view from shoreline for ponds.
- c. 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: It would be best to use a skilled birder or birders. Waterbird density along the Snake would most likely be difficult to assess.

Needed pilot studies: None needed

Contact:

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