

51-37D. TETON COUNTY (SUNDOWN RANCH)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: Boundary information available from Teton Regional Land Trust; includes two ponds and river corridor/sloughs

Ownership: Private - under conservation easements

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Shorebirds (Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Wilson's Snipe), waterfowl, waterbirds (Sandhill Crane, herons) are found here during the summer and likely breeding. Sandhill Cranes are also here during migration. Trumpeter Swans use the area during winter.

Location of type 1 and 2 habitat within the site:

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
waterbirds	breeding colonies, open water & emergent vegetation	none
secretive marshbirds	water's edge	none
waterfowl	open water, edges during breeding season	none
shorebirds	exposed mudflats, wet meadows/grasslands	rest of shoreline

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

Fully accessible to Teton Regional Land Trust personnel. Visibility moderate to good on created open water, and difficult along river.

Conservation issues:

- Home site development
- Invasive weeds are a problem

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- This property is under conservation easement, and TRLT is working on starting management for wildlife
- Edges of Trumpeter Pond will be re-vegetated in spring 2004. Presence of waterbirds is anticipated to change (i.e., increase) as a result.

Past and current surveys:

- Passerine surveys

Potential survey methods

Description

- a. Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies. A canoe is necessary for the river portion, whereas ponds may be surveyed by walking edges.
- b. Census for waterfowl on the open water by canoe on the river and from shoreline of ponds.
- c. Nest searches for ground-nesting curlews, snipe, and phalaropes in surrounding wet meadows and grasslands.
- d. Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for secretive marshbirds.

Selection bias: N/A

Measurement error and bias: Emergent vegetation is a problem, particularly on Curlew Pond.

Needed pilot studies: None needed.

Contact:

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