

51-37E. TETON COUNTY (TETON CREEK/SIX SPRINGS COMPLEX)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: Boundary information available from Teton Regional Land Trust

Ownership: Private – under conservation easements

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Breeding species include waterfowl, shorebirds (Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's phalarope), waterbirds (Sora, Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane, American Coot), and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Sandhill Cranes are also found here during migration.

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 | emergent vegetation, wet meadows | shoreline |
| secretive marshbirds | cattail marshes, flooded wetlands | none |
| waterfowl | open water, flooded wetlands and marshes during breeding season | none |
| shorebirds | wet meadows, flooded wetlands | shoreline |

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

Fully accessible to Teton Regional Land Trust personnel. Spring (June) flooding makes access difficult. Visibility of birds is good along river, but more difficult within sloughs because of emergent vegetation.

Conservation issues:

- Invasive weeds are a problem
- Cattle grazing on part of the property, although it is controlled
- Presence of individuals fishing in the area may lead to disturbance of birds

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Under conservation easement, and managed for wildlife
- Area is closed to fishing during spawning season (open in July) to reduce disturbance
- TRLT is working on creating brooding habitat

Past and current surveys:

- Sandhill Crane roost counts
- Waterfowl brood counts
- Waterbird surveys

Potential survey methods

Description:

- a. Nest searches for waterfowl and waterbirds nesting in emergent vegetation and flooded wetlands.
- b. Census for waterfowl and other waterbirds on open water of creek in late summer. Creek cannot be efficiently navigated by canoe, so walking the creek may be only alternative for surveying.
- 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: Not applicable if counts are done in late summer along creek

Measurement error and bias: Emergent vegetation and access limitations during flooding (June) are issues.

Needed pilot studies: None may be needed, although a pilot study to determine appropriate survey timing may be helpful.

Contact:

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