

## 51-8. CAMAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (IBA)

### Boundaries and ownership:

*Boundaries:* East – I-15; South – Oram Road;

*Ownership:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Numerous nesting waterfowl (Redhead, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Lesser Scaup, Canada Goose, and others), waterbirds (Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, American White Pelican, American Bittern, Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane), shorebirds (Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Wilson's Snipe, and Wilson's Phalarope) and at least one pair of Trumpeter Swans. A pair of Peregrine Falcons use the hack tower annually. The area is a fall staging area for Sandhill Cranes, migration site for shorebirds (Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper), and a wintering area for Bald Eagles.

*Colonies:* Eared Grebe, Western and Clark's Grebe (10-15 nests), Great Blue Heron (20-25 nests), Black-crowned Night Heron (15-25 nests), Snowy Egret, Great Egret (10 nests), Cattle Egret (15 nests), White-faced Ibis (20-30 nests), Franklin's Gull, Black Tern (5-10 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	none
secretive marshbirds	emergent vegetation	none
waterfowl	open water, edges during breeding season	none
shorebirds	exposed mudflats during spring/fall migration, as well as summer	none
gulls and terns	breeding colonies, all areas	none

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

Some areas of the refuge are accessible to the public. Other areas can be accessed with permission from the refuge manager. All water areas are accessible by roads through refuge. Visibility is good for most areas. Canoe may be necessary for some areas for marshbird and colony surveys. Much of the refuge is currently dry because of drought, so colonies are mostly inactive at this time

### Conservation issues:

- Introduced noxious weeds especially Russian knapweed are serious problems.
- Upstream channelization has increased sediment flow onto the refuge.
- Increased ground water pumping in agricultural lands upslope from refuge have lowered the water table, drying up some marsh units and if continued could have drastic effects.

### Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Chemical and biological weed control.
- Legal proceedings and cooperative agreements to repair banks damaged by channelization to reduce sediment transport onto refuge.
- Legal proceedings to reduce, stop, or mitigate upslope ground water pumping.
- Water level manipulation and pumping.
- Cessation of livestock grazing.

**Past and current surveys:**

- Waterfowl surveys are conducted when possible
- Colony counts for white-faced Ibis have been conducted in the past
- Fall counts of Sandhill Cranes

*check with Mgr. for details*

**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 colonial species (herons, egrets, cormorants, terns, gulls) during wet years. Colonial birds not present during dry years.
- c. Census for waterfowl on the open water from vehicle. Only a few areas are difficult to see, but a step ladder in the back of a pick-up may be sufficient to survey most areas. Late summer or winter counts may be better than breeding season counts, as waterfowl are more easily detected during this period.
- 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 using from from shoreline along access roads. Canoe may be necessary for some areas.
- f. Census for gulls and terns during waterfowl counts

*Selection bias:* N/A

*Measurement error and bias:* N/A

**Needed pilot studies:** None for foraging birds; work on colonies may be needed.

**Contact:**

NAME: Rob Larranaga - USFWS  
ADDRESS: Camas National Wildlife Refuge  
2150 E. 2350 N., Hamer, ID 83425  
PHONE: 208/662-5423  
FAX: 208/662-5525  
EMAIL: [rob\\_larranaga@fws.gov](mailto:rob_larranaga@fws.gov)