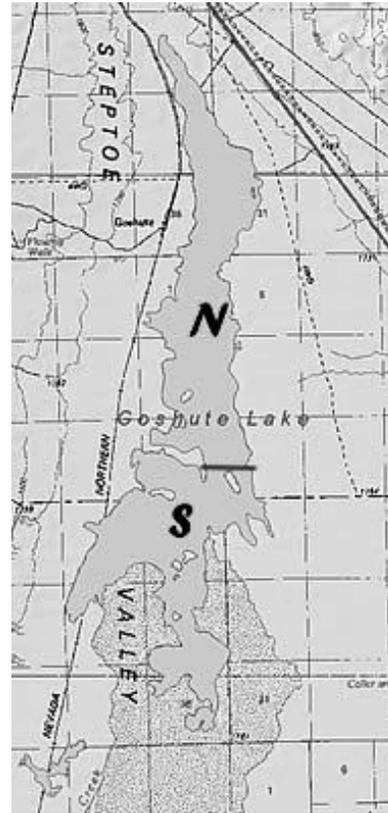
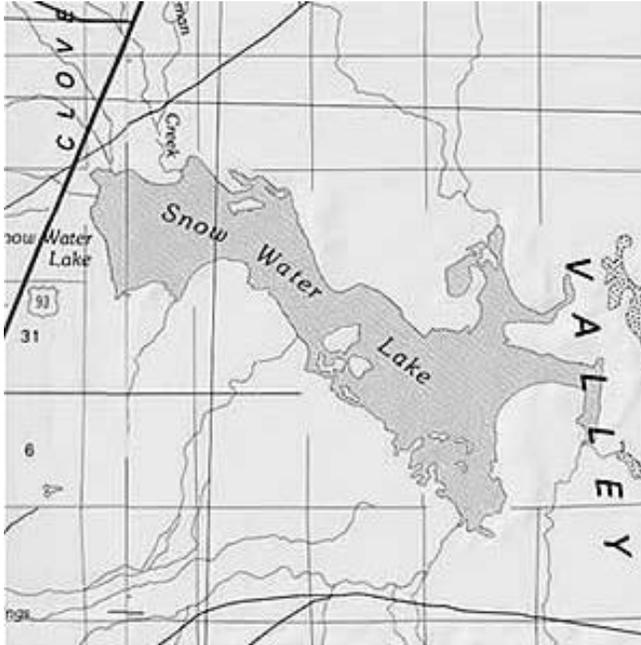


10. Snow Water and Goshute Lakes



Boundaries and Ownership

Snow Water Lake: (Roughly) West boundary: T34N R62E S30; North boundary: T34N R62E S20 and 21,22,25,26,27,28; East boundary: T34N R63E S30,36; South boundary T33N R62E S1,2,3 and T34N R62E S33,34

Goshute Lake: (Roughly) West boundary: T26N R64E S1,12,13,23; North boundary: T27N R64E S35,36; East boundary: T26N R65E S4,9,16; South boundary: T26N R65E S28,29,30 and T26N R64E S30

The lakes are on public lands administered by the BLM.

Focal Species

White-faced Ibis

All dabbling duck species listed in BMR 93 except for wood duck

American coot

All shorebird species listed in BMR 93 except for common snipe

California gull

Type I and Type II Habitats

Playa lakes flooded only during years with above-average mountain snow pack.

Reconnaissance flights recommended to determine whether or not Type I habitat exists in any given year. Type II habitat may occur in the same areas in years of moderate water availability, and in some years, no wetlands may exist (Type III habitat).

Access and Visibility

The sites are located about 5-6 hours from the Reno/Carson area and about 1 – 1 ½ hours from Elko. Sites are all accessible, but 4x4 vehicles may be needed to get around to all shores. Due to ephemeral nature of these sites, little emergent vegetation exists that would impact bird visibility. Ground surveys should be done with spotting scopes.

Past and Current Surveys

Snow Water Lake: Ground surveys conducted 1993 and 1995

Goshute Lake: Ground survey conducted 1993

Potential Survey Methods

Description

Reconnaissance flights recommended to determine availability of aquatic habitats and to count large species. Ground surveys are feasible and probably necessary to count smaller species.

Selection Bias

None

Measurement Error and Bias

No unusual sources of error and bias. In high water years, though, there may be a concern about observer bias due to increased survey area, bird abundance, and species richness. The fluctuating size of the site and observer effort needed for counts also needs to be addressed in the survey plan.

Pilot Studies Needed

None

Contacts with Local Knowledge: Larry Neel and Pete Bradley of NDOW.