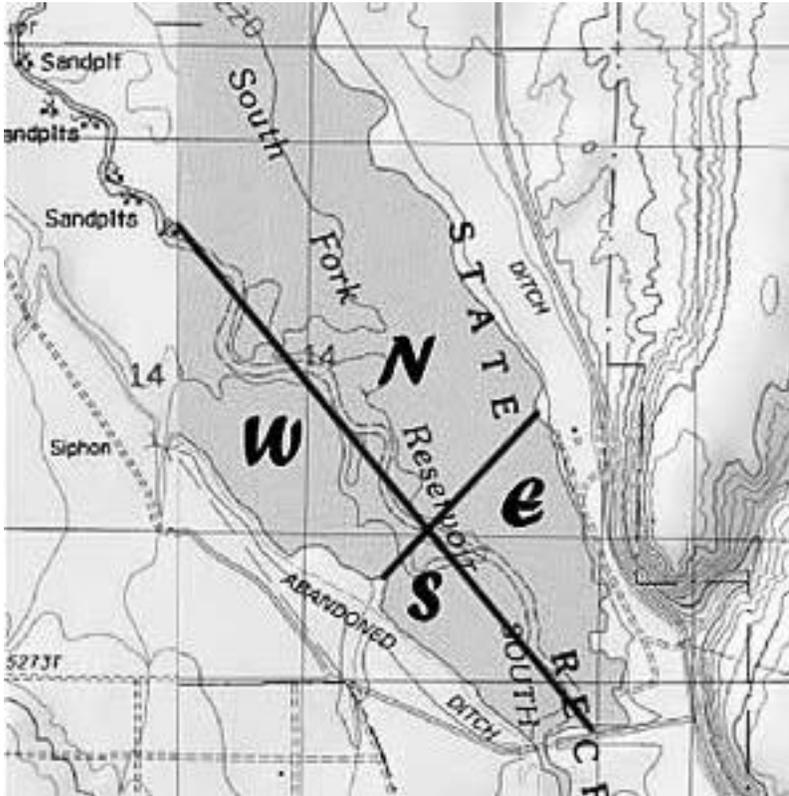


## 11. South Fork Reservoir



### **Boundaries and Ownership**

West: Dam

South: South Fork Humboldt River and south shore of reservoir

East: State HWY 228

North: Tenmile Creek

Landownership is divided among BLM, Paiute/Shoshone Tribes, State of NV, and private landowners.

### **Focal Species**

Greater Sandhill Crane, White-faced Ibis, Wilson's Phalarope, Clark's Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, American White Pelican, Osprey, Common Loon.

### **Type I Habitat**

South Fork Reservoir

### **Type II Habitat**

Tenmile Creek, South Fork Humboldt River

**Access and Visibility**

The site is about ½ hour south of Elko, and about 4 ½ hours from the Reno/Carson area. Access varies with land ownership. Roads exist around the perimeter, but may not always get one close enough to the wetlands. South Fork Reservoir is also too big to see all birds from the perimeter. Emergent vegetation may also affect visibility of some species in some areas.

**Past and Current Surveys**

Sandhill Crane surveys since 1976, on 5-year intervals (by NDOW?). Intermittent nesting and migrant shorebird surveys over the years. Christmas Bird Counts.

**Potential Survey Methods***Description*

All three survey methods (aerial, boat, ground) feasible and at least two needed. Ground surveys only feasible for part of the site, but may be needed for secretive species. Boat surveys would be helpful to cover center of reservoir and hard-to-reach shore areas.

*Selection bias*

Access may not be complete due to mixed landownership.

*Measurement error and bias*

Large reservoir with concentrations of shorebirds sometimes at great distances. Observer variability (high bird abundances and species richness). Some error may be associated with emergent vegetation and the species that use it.

**Pilot Studies Needed**

None, but logistics may need some planning.

**Contact with Local Knowledge:** Pete Bradley, NDOW.