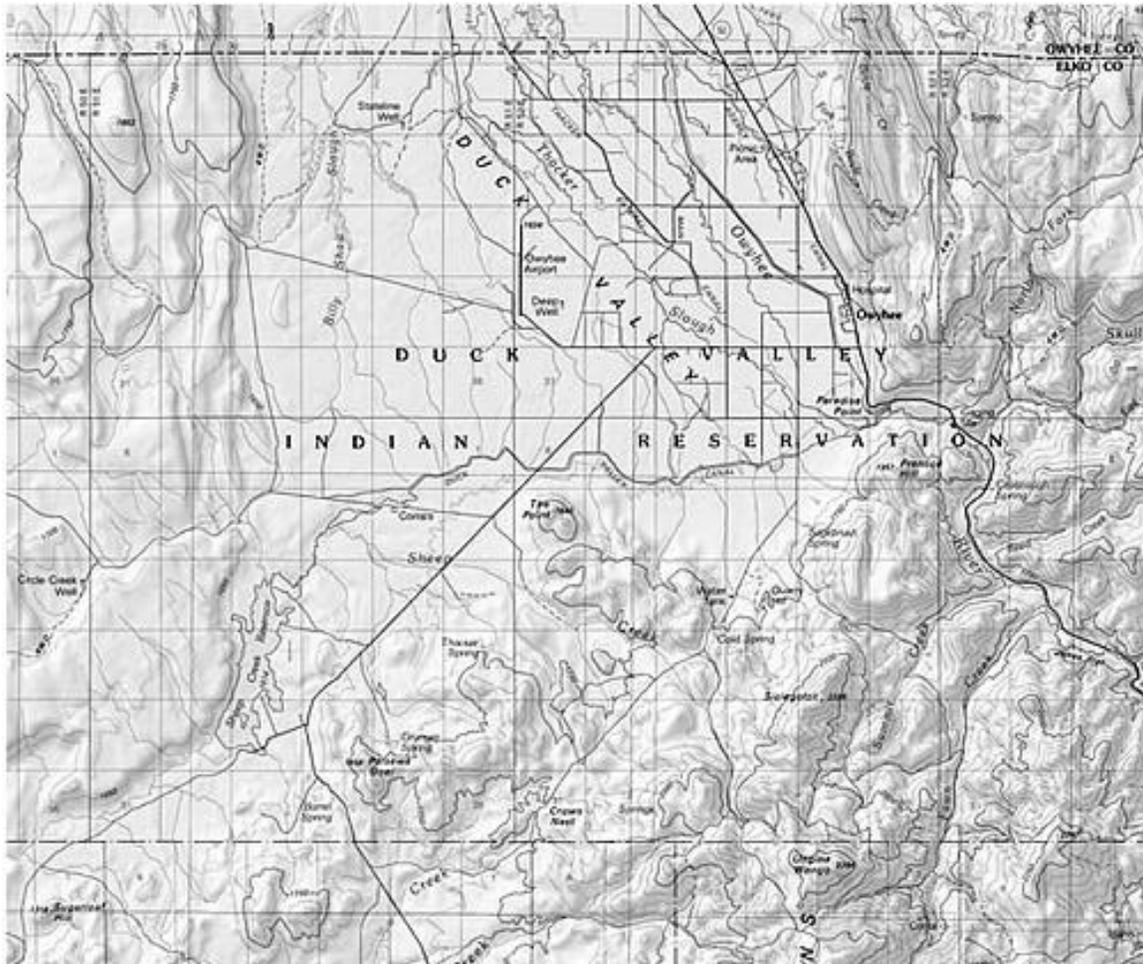


13. Duck Valley Wetlands



Boundaries and Ownership

Wetlands associated with the Sheep Creek drainage (including Sheep Creek Reservoir), Duck Valley Canal, Billy Shaw Reservoir and Slough, Circle Creek drainage (including Circle Creek and Groundhog Reservoirs), Thacker Slough, Owyhee River drainage, Blue Creek drainage, Payne Creek drainage, and Mountain View Lake.

Wetlands exist in both Nevada and Idaho in a portion of T 46N, all of T 47N and 48N, and a portion of 49N; and in a portion of R 50E and all of R 51E and R 52E. The sites are owned by Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and, in Idaho, by private landowners.

Focal Species

All focal waterbird species for BMR 93, except Common Loon, Virginia Rail (but could be present), Common Moorhen, Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern (but could be present).

Type I Habitat

All open-water lakes (e.g., Sheep Creek, Billy Shaw, Circle Creek and Groundhog reservoirs), permanent emergent marsh areas, seasonal emergent marsh areas, and meadows adjacent to permanent and seasonal marsh. Exact locations of Type I habitat may need to be delineated in a pilot study.

Type II Habitat

Riparian areas of the streams and Owyhee River.

Access and Visibility

About 1 ½ hours north of Elko, about 2 hours south of Boise, and about 5 ½ hours from the Reno/Carson area. Access to interior areas of emergent marshes and some riparian areas is limited. Lakes, meadows, margins of emergent marshes, and riparian area near roads are generally accessible. Visibility of birds in emergent marsh and some riparian areas is limited, but birds on lakes and reservoirs are generally visible.

Past and Current Surveys

Some data on waterbird presence available from 2001. No systematic surveys in the past or currently.

Potential Survey Methods

Description

Aerial surveys should be used at least for reconnaissance to determine Type I habitat areas and seasonal water availability. They may also be the primary survey method for areas that are difficult to access from the ground. Boat surveys may be of limited use, because most remote sections are marshy areas. Probably a combination of ground subsampling and aerial surveys are the most promising approach.

Selection bias

Access to Tribal lands by non-Tribal members, and access to private lands, is subject to permitting. Remote sites may pose logistical issues and may be biased against in ground surveys.

Measurement error and bias

The biggest challenge of this site is bird visibility in emergent vegetation. The site is also fairly dispersed and poses logistical problems that may be a source of error or bias.

Pilot Studies Needed

Pilot studies needed urgently for baseline inventory of species and populations, to delineate Type I habitat, and to document use periods.

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