

Access and Visibility

This area is 0 – 1 ½ hours from Elko and about 2 ½ to 4 hours from the Reno/Carson area. Access varies with land ownership. Visibility is a problem in many areas due to site's complexity and dense vegetation. Canoe survey requires a minimum of 10 days.

Past and Current Surveys

Breeding bird survey done on a 15-year interval by canoe (by NDOW?). Aerial surveys of Sandhill Cranes have been done in 5-year intervals since 1976, and also of ardeids in 5-year intervals since 1989. Intermittent shorebird surveys have also been done over the years. Christmas Bird Counts in Elko and Battle Mountain areas.

Potential Survey Methods*Description*

Aerial and canoe surveys may be the best way to survey this area. Access from land is often complicated by road access problems and private lands.

Alternatively, ground based surveys may be used to sample the area, rather than attempting a complete count.

Selection bias

Canoe surveys may carry the bias of leaving out secluded wetland sections and may only provide limited access during low water years. If ground surveys are chosen, private lands may introduce selection bias.

Measurement error and bias

Dense vegetation is a factor in this site, particularly for secretive species. If canoe surveys are done, observers need to be skilled enough to identify species quickly and on the wing.

Pilot Studies Needed

Not necessary if careful planning of surveys is done with the available information.

Contact with Local Knowledge: Pete Bradley, NDOW.