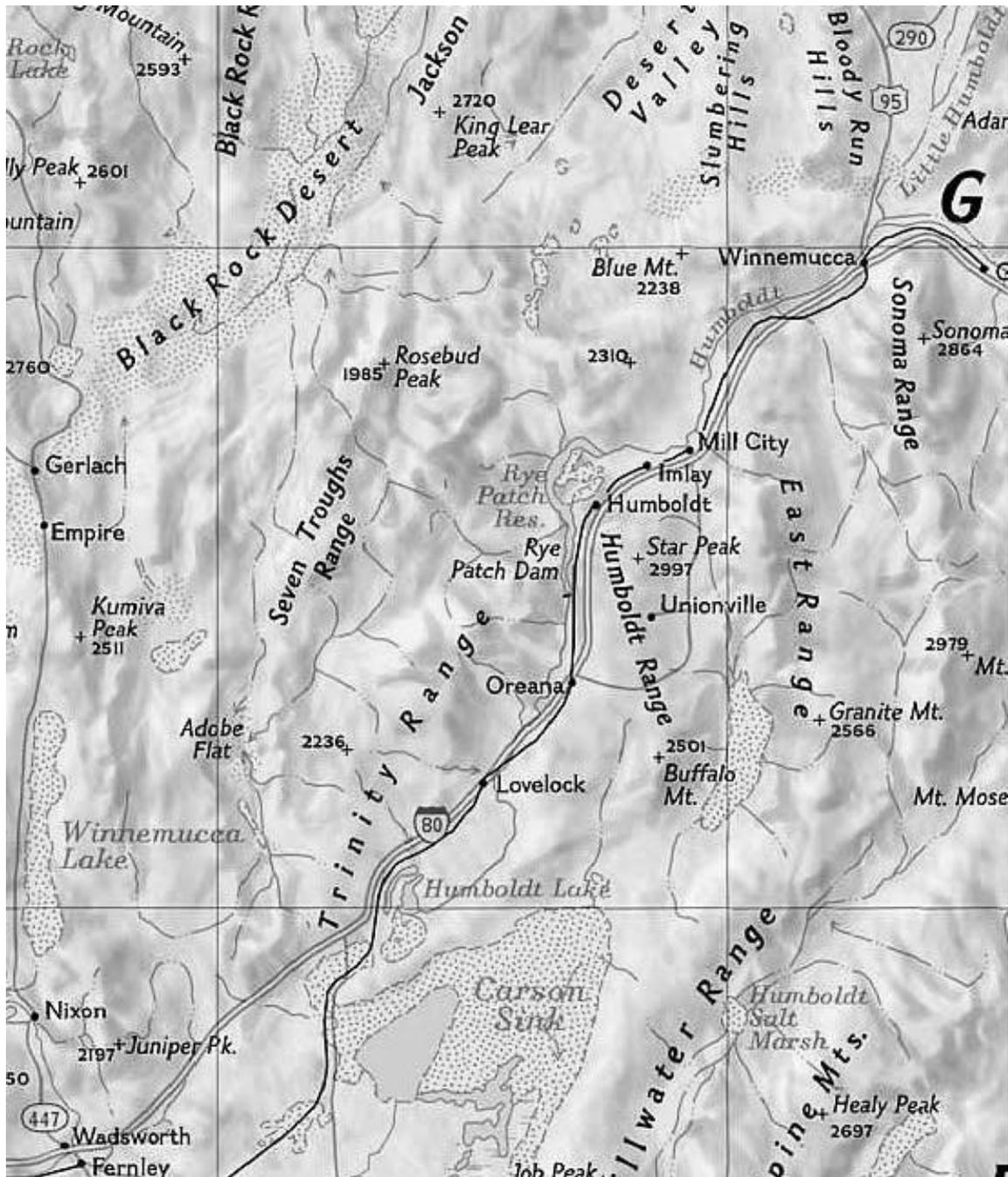


15. Lower Humboldt River



Boundaries and Ownership

North: UTM N 4437096, E 365700 South: UTM N 4417563

E 356673, West: N 4418347, E 354629 East: N 4425856, E 367576

NDOW manages the Humboldt WMA; the Humboldt Sink is partly BLM-administered and partly in private hands.

Focal Species

All shorebirds and a large breeding population of White-faced Ibis when water is present in the Humboldt Sink.

Type I and Type II Habitat

This site is largely ephemeral and only has significant wetlands during high-water years. In such years, Type I habitat is present and consists of open water, some emergent vegetation and adjacent mudflats. Type II habitat is unclear and its distribution varies depending on water year.

Access and Visibility

The site is about 1 hour east of Reno and about ½ hour from Fallon. If an airboat or aircraft is used for surveys, then all areas are accessible and visible. Ground access is possible from east shore and, in years when habitat extends south, from south shore. Visibility is generally very good due to relative lack of emergent vegetation.

Past & Current Surveys

Aerial surveys sporadic since 1977; other surveys conducted opportunistically since 1980's (by NDOW? Larry?).

Potential Survey Methods

Description

In high-water years, aerial boat surveys are probably best method for surveying the Humboldt Sink and the WMA. Wetlands are shallow, so airboat might be the only option for boating. The area is quite extensive when inundated, so canoes are probably not efficient. However, the Humboldt River may lend itself to canoe surveys. Ground surveys may be an efficient method for low water years in the Humboldt Sink area and for the Type II habitat along the Humboldt River. This site will likely need to be subsampled because complete counts may be unachievable.

Selection Bias

Private lands at Humboldt Sink and along lower Humboldt River may be a source of selection bias.

Measurement Error and Bias

During high-water years, bird abundance, species richness, and site complexity may all contribute to measurement error due to observer variability. Visibility not a substantial problem for the most part, except in some areas that have permanent marshes.

Needed Pilot Studies

None needed except to work out survey logistics and issues with fluctuating stage of wetlands.