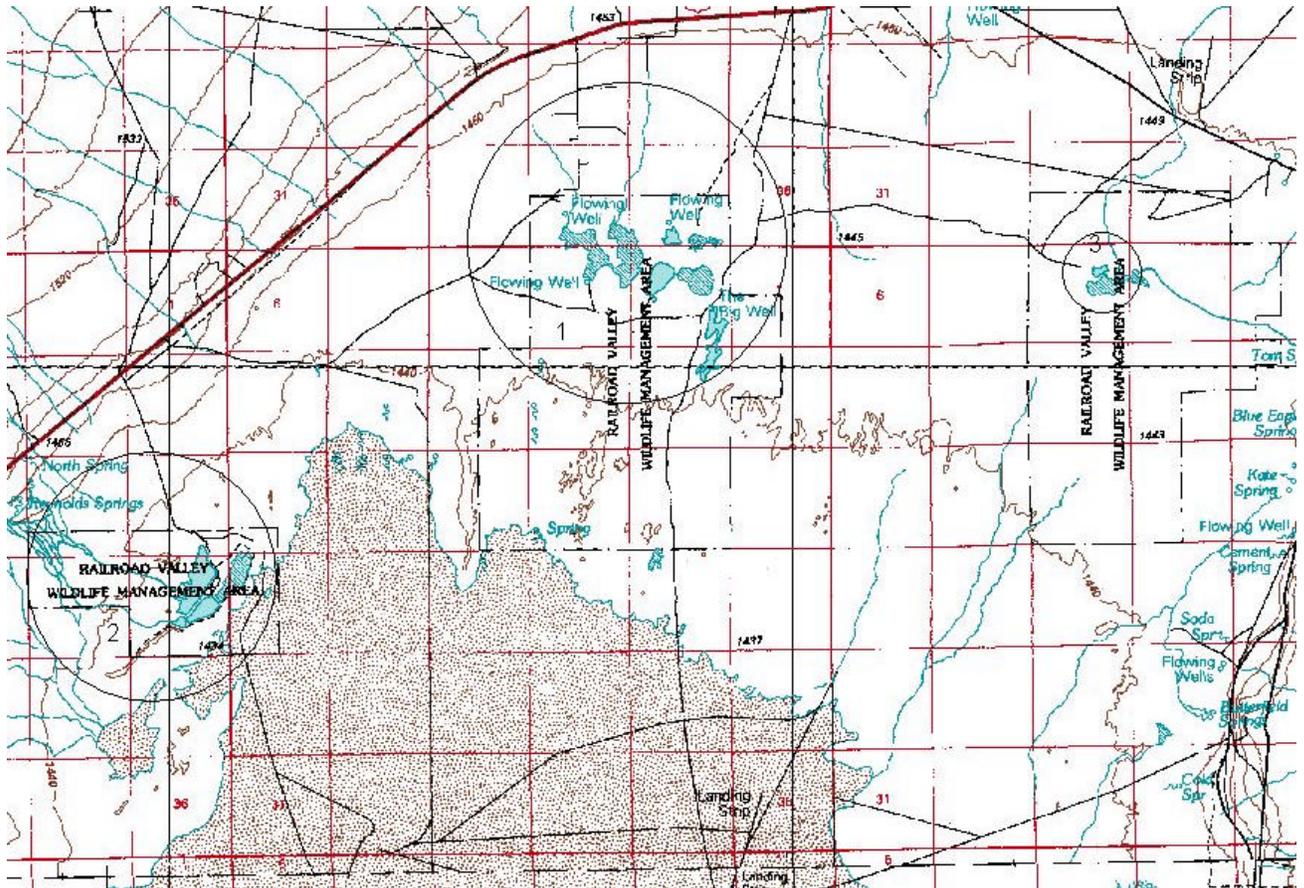


19. Railroad Valley



Boundaries and Ownership

Railroad Valley WNA is under BLM ownership and is managed cooperatively through NDOW and the BLM. Railroad Valley WMA is divided into several sections in Railroad Valley. The west most section is comprised of two ponds (Lockes pond #1 and #2) about 2 miles southeast of Lockes. The Big Well area is about 4 miles northeast of Lockes pond. Blue Eagle pond is about 4 miles to the east of Big Well, and is the eastern boundary.

Focal Species

Snowy Plover	White-faced Ibis
Least Sandpiper	Mallard
Western Sandpiper	Canada Geese
Wilson Phalarope	Green-winged Teal
American Avocet	Cinnamon Teal
Black-neck Stilt	Northern Pintail
Dunlin	Eared Grebe
Forester's Tern	

Location of Type I Habitat

Lockes Pond #1 and # 2

Location of Type II Habitat

Big Well Area

Blue Eagle Pond

Access and Visibility

These sites are about a 1-hour southwest of Ely. Access in Railroad Valley to these sites will vary with how much spring moisture there has been. On very wet years dirt access road will be extremely muddy and caution should be taken to avoid getting a vehicle stuck. On dry years access should no be a problem.

Visibility on all of these sights is good to excellent visibility and surveys can be conducted using a spotting scope from an access road.

Past and Current Surveys

A NDOW shorebird survey was conducted in 2003. NDOW has conducted snow plover surveys in Railroad Valley in 1988, 1994, 1997, 2001, and 2003, and plan to continue yearly snowy plover surveys. Lance Brown who now is a USFS Biologist in Tonopah did waterfowl and shorebird use assessment in Railroad Valley in 1995 as part of a senior thesis.

Potential Survey Methods***Description***

All areas can be viewed from the shorelines using a spotting scope.

Selection bias

None.

Measurement error and bias

No unusual sources of error and bias.

Pilot Studies Needed

None, except distribution of Type I and II habitats may need to be more precisely delineated.

Contact with Local Knowledge: Brad Bauman and Cris Tomlinson of NDOW. Lance Brown of USFS.