



Oregon Coordinated Aquatic Bird Monitoring:
Description of Important Aquatic Bird Site

Coquille River Estuary

BCS number: 47-8

****NOTE: We were unable to determine all necessary information for this site description. If you would like to contribute the needed information to this description, please contact the Klamath Bird Observatory at kbo@klamathbird.org.*

Author of this site description

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Primary contact for this site

N/A

Site location (UTM)

Datum: NAD 83, Zone: 10, Easting: 385334, Northing: 4777327

General description

“The Coquille River estuary is located on the Oregon coast at Bandon, Coquille and Myrtle Point. The estuary is approximately 1082 acres in area and has a watershed of approximately 1058 square miles. The Coquille River estuary is designated as a Shallow Draft Development estuary under the Oregon Estuary Classification system. The geomorphology of the area is that of a Drowned River Mouth estuary. The Coquille River estuary is located in Coos County. Timber and fishing are the foundation of the county's economy.” (Oregon Coast Atlas n.d.)

“Although the watershed is large, the estuary of the Coquille is one of the smaller in the state. The lower bay of the Coquille is long and narrow, measuring about 763 acres. The estuary contains over 380 acres of tidelands, and 383 acres of permanently submerged land. Eelgrass beds, wetlands, and tidal flats provide feeding, spawning, breeding, nesting, and nursery areas for many species of terrestrial and aquatic life.” (Coquille Watershed Association 2009)

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

The Coquille River runs from Coquille, Oregon winding west toward Bandon, Oregon and the Pacific Coast. The Coquille River flows from Coquille to Bandon by staying to the south of N. Bank Rd and north of Hwy 42S – Coquille-Bandon Hwy. The Coquille River Estuary is located north of Bandon, Oregon and opens to the Pacific Ocean at Bandon Beach. The estuary is located in the northwest section of intersection at Hwy 42S and Hwy 101 – Oregon Coastal Hwy.

Another Oregon Coordinated aquatic Bird Monitoring site borders the estuary to the north and to the east – Band Marsh NWR. See the site description for more information on habitat and species present.

Ownership:

“Land uses in this area are predominantly residential and industrial sites commercial and service business, crop and pasture lands, and gravel extraction. Pastureland does extend into the hills above the flood planes in some areas. The steep slopes above the valley areas are very sparsely populated. Timber production, agriculture, and some mining are the predominant land uses. Approximately 70% of the watershed is forested. The upper reaches of all four forks of the river and most tidewater streams are commercial forests.” (Coquille Watershed Association 2009)

See Figure 1 for BLM Coos Bay District ownership map.

Water levels

Unknown

Focal species use and timing

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present	Unknown	Present
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
American Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
American White Pelican	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Barrow's Goldeneye	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-crowned Night Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-necked Stilt	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Bufflehead	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
California Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dusky Canada Goose	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Eared Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Forster's Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Franklin's Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Great Blue Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Greater Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Green Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Least Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lesser Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Long-billed Curlew	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Pied-billed Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Red-necked Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Snowy Egret	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Sora	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Western Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Western Snowy Plover	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
White-faced Ibis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Unknown	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Unknown	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Emergent riparian vegetation	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Unknown	Unknown

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

Briefly describe challenging aspects of accessing bird habitat., e.g. the road to aspen lake has not been graded for many years, 4WD is recommended. Or access by boat only
Unknown

Audibility/visibility of focal species

Describe any issues that would diminish the detectability of birds. e.g Secretive marsh birds are difficult to detect due to hwy noise
Unknown

Conservation issues

According to the Coquille Watershed Association (2009), historic diking and filling of many acres of wetlands, creek, and slough environments of the lower river area has drastically altered the landscape of the river and estuary compared to historical conditions. This may impact to some extent the natural processes which occur at this site.

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

“As of February, 2002 over 130 miles of fencing have been constructed along with riparian planting within the fenced areas. Twenty three culverts have been replaced and /or retrofitted to improve fish passage. Over 180 structures have been placed within streams to create pools, catch spawning gravel, increase stream complexity and create juvenile rearing habitat. The CWAQ has worked with over 210 private landowners to implement these various projects on their land.” (Coquille Watershed Association 2009)

Other projects for conservation efforts throughout the river and estuary include wildlife enhancement, slowing the water flow by implanting large boulders in the river, re-introduction of Oregon ash, and snag creation.

Past and current surveys

Briefly describe past and or current surveys, and how completed. Refer to certain protocols/other documents or persons (list contact info) if survey specifics are unknown
Unknown

Potential survey methods

Description: (describe survey methods that are appropriate for your site and recommend the best means in which to complete them considering the limitations and history above. Include information on suggested standardized or specialized protocols)
Unknown

Selection bias: (Discuss the potential for selection bias when designing a survey in the future, especially when sub-sample of the site will be studied. Point out how bias could be introduced and recommend ways to prevent this)

Unknown

Measurement error and bias:

Unknown

Potential pilot studies

Unknown

Literature cited

Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District ownership map.

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/images/CoosBayDetailedMap.jpg>

Accessed January 20, 2010.

Coquille Watershed Association. 2009. Introduction to the Coquille Watershed webpage.

http://www.coquillewatershed.org/Coquille_Facts.html. Accessed January 20, 2010.

Google, Inc. 2010. Coquille River Estuary. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731)

[Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed January 20, 2010.

Google Map. 2010. Map of Coquille River Estuary, Oregon. <http://maps.google.com/>.

Accessed January 20, 2010.

Oregon Coastal Atlas. n.d. Coquille River Estuary webpage.

http://www.coastalatlantlas.net/index.php?option=com_custompages&e=15&Itemid=68. Accessed January 20, 2010.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2010. National Wetlands Inventory website.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>. Accessed January 20, 2010.

Figure 1: BLM Coos Bay District ownership map. The red box indicates the Coquille River Estuary (BLM 2010).

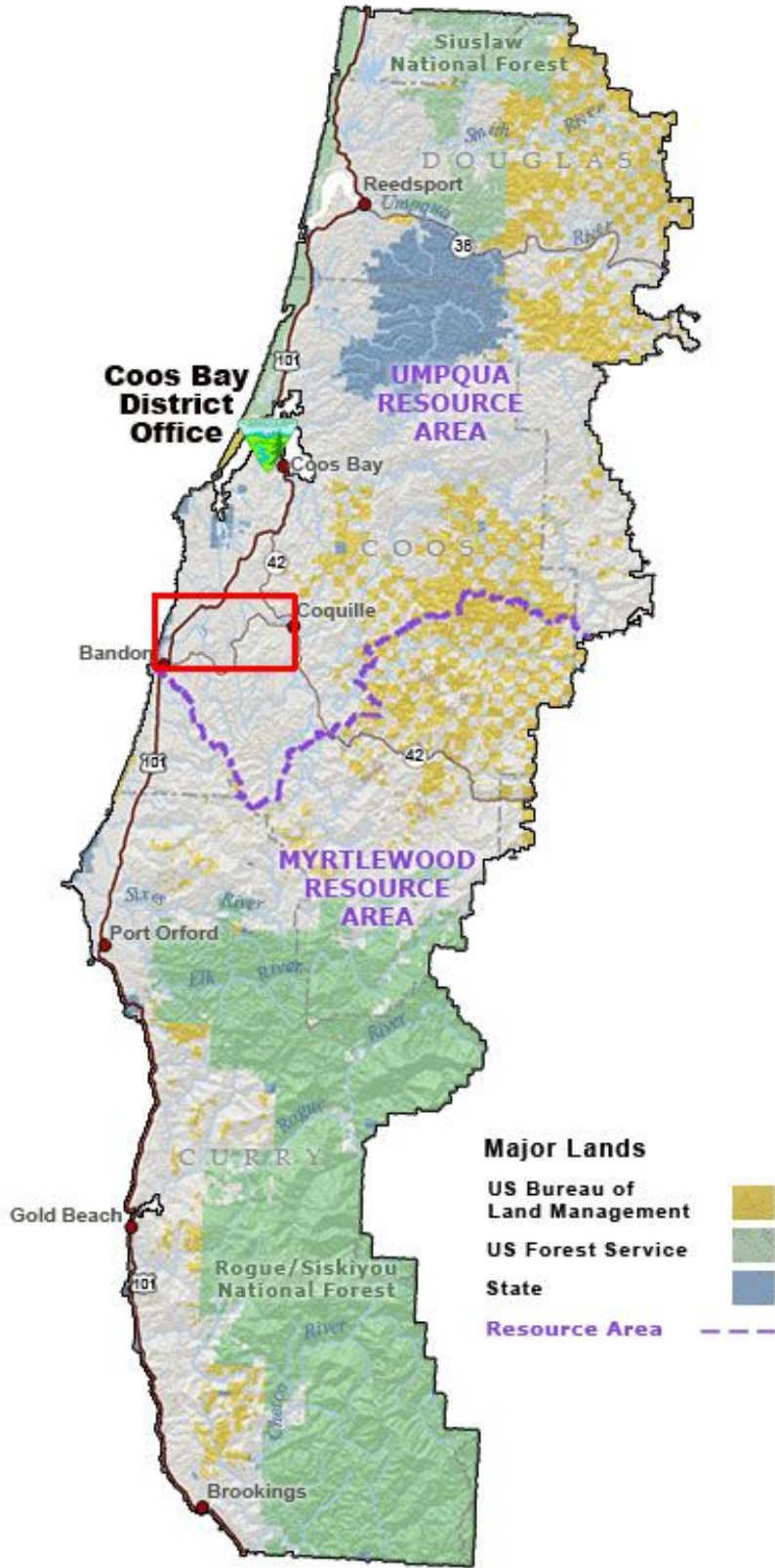


Figure 2: Google Earth (2010) map of Coquille River Estuary with the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2010) layer.

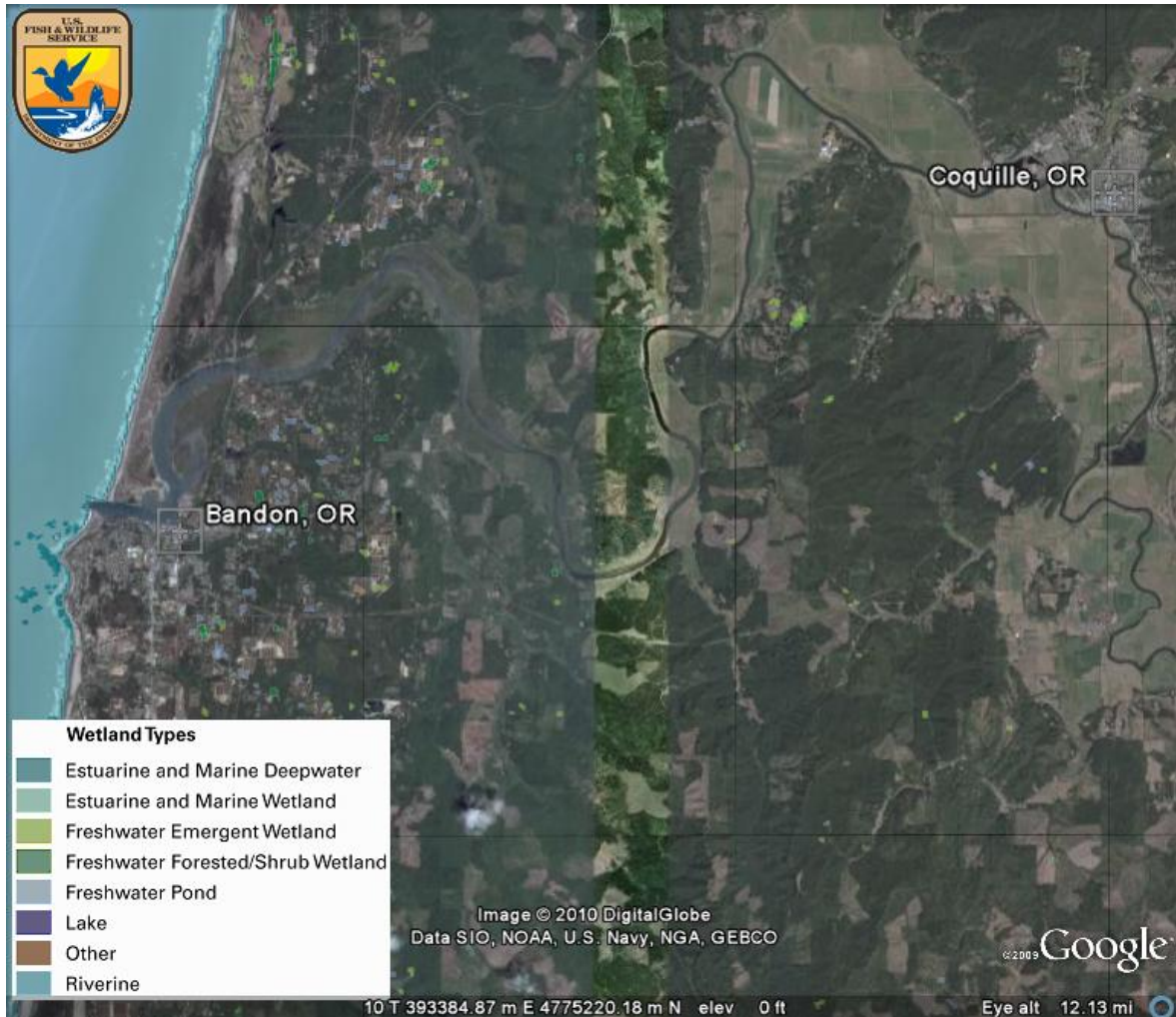


Figure 3: Google Map (2010) road view of Coquille River.

