



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

## Denman Wildlife Area

BCS number: 47-10

*\*\*\*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](mailto:kbo@klamathbird.org)*

### Site description author(s)

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### Primary contact for this site

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### Site location (UTM)

Datum: NAD83, Zone: 10, Easting: 511032, Northing: 4698655

### General description

“In southwest Oregon, approximately 5 miles north of Medford, just south of White City, Jackson County. Denman is a 1,780-acre wildlife area managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. It consists of both native and cultivated/planted grasslands, woodlands, and wetlands.” (National Audubon Society, 2010) Major water ways running through this site include the Rogue River and one of its tributaries, Little Butte Creek, in the northern portion, while Whetstone Creek runs through the southern portion. There are many ponds, some vernal and some remaining year-round. This site is a popular hunting spot for game birds from September 23-October 13.

### Boundaries and ownership

#### *Boundaries:*

The Denman Wildlife Area is found between Medford and White City, north of Hwy 62. Local roads border the area and it is dissected by the Rogue River as it runs across the northwest corner. The northern subsection is broken into distinct units consisting of Modoc Unit, Little Butte Creek Unit, and Military Slough Unit while the southern subsection is comprised of the Hall Tract Unit. The entire site is bordered by Table Rock Rd. on the west edge, E. Gregory Rd at the south edge, Agate Rd. at the majority of the east edge (though a small section of the wildlife area runs over and past Agate Rd in the northeast corner), and Nick Young Rd along part of the north edge. The division between the north and south subsections occurs between Avenue G and Antelope Rd.

#### *Ownership:*

The Denman Wildlife Area is managed and owned by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with surrounding areas being private property or areas managed and owned by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department as well as the Bureau of Land Management.

**Water levels**

Many of the cattail marshes and smaller isolated ponds tend to be vernal where they fill up over the winter and dry up by mid summer. The riparian areas along the Rogue River in the northwest corner and mud flats created from drying vernal pools provide good foraging areas for aquatic birds.

### Focal species use and timing

| <b>Focal Group/Species</b>          | <b>Wintering</b> | <b>Breeding</b> | <b>Migration</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Secretive Marsh Bird Group</b>   | Unknown          | Present         | Unknown          |
| <b>Colonial Nesting Bird Group</b>  | Present          | Unknown         | Unknown          |
| <b>Migrating Shorebird Group</b>    | Unknown          | Unknown         | Present          |
| <b>Ground-based Waterbird Group</b> | Present          | 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           | Present          | Unknown         | Unknown          |
| Black-necked Stilt                  | Unknown          | Present         | 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                    | Present          | 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          | Present         | Unknown          |
| Upland Sandpiper                    | Unknown          | Unknown         | Unknown          |
| Virginia Rail                       | Unknown          | Present         | 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 | Riparian/ wetland                                  | Grasslands     |
| Secretive Marsh Birds      | Cattail marshes/ emergent vegetation               | Unknown        |
| Colonial Nesters           | Emergent vegetation/<br>Riparian and wetland areas | Unknown        |
| Migrating Shorebirds       | Riparian areas                                     | Unknown        |

### Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

The entire site is bordered by rural roads with a few public roads running through the site. There are multiple walking and horseback-riding trails through the north subsection and the Rogue River is a popular rafting and kayaking route. A few of the larger ponds are accessible by boat and there is a boat launch at the nearby Touvelle State Park. Popular activities permitted in the area include fishing and game bird hunting.

### Audibility/visibility of focal species

Unknown, but this is a very popular birding site in Jackson County, suggesting there should not be many problems with audibility or visibility. The surrounding roads are low traffic and there is a designated viewing area in the south subsection off of Gregory Rd.

### Conservation issues

“This area preserves remnants of the wetlands that were once more extensive in the Rogue Valley, but are now quite rare, as well as other habitats of concern, the grasslands and oak woodlands.” (National Audubon Society, 2010)

### Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

“As part of two wetland restoration projects, a total of 37 acres of degraded vernal pool habitat was burned in early June 2003. Prescribed fire is one of the strategies used to assist in the recovery of native plant communities in and around vernal pool wetlands. The use of fire increases the functional value of these wetland areas by removing accumulated thatch and encouraging more diversity in plants.

One 12-acre restoration site is located on the Denman Wildlife Management Area just north of Medford, Oregon. The area was traditionally used to store cut logs and is now managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The site is being re-established as compensatory mitigation for the recent runway extensions and safety upgrades at Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport expansion project.” (USFWS, 2009)

### 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

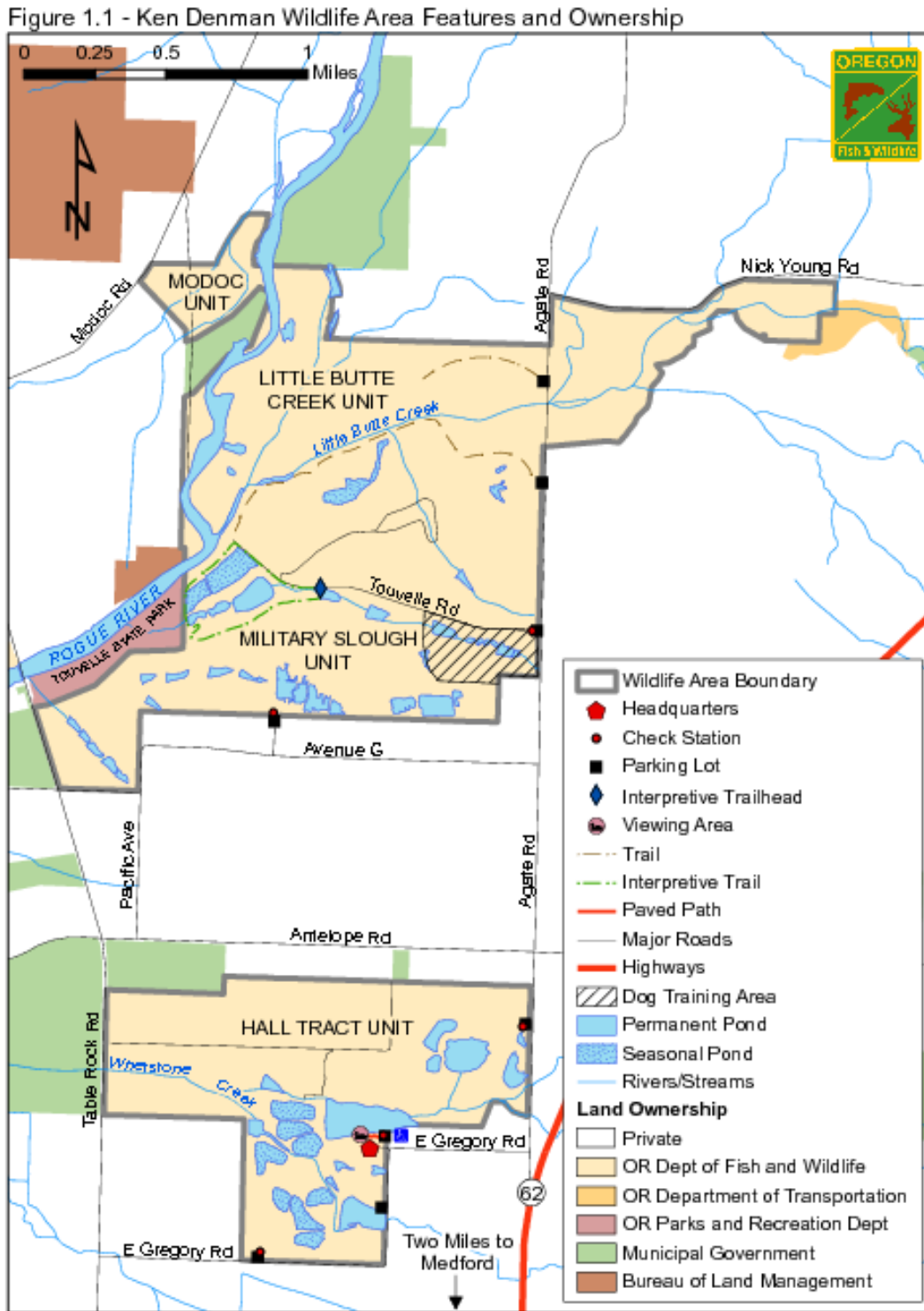
**Potential pilot studies**

Unknown

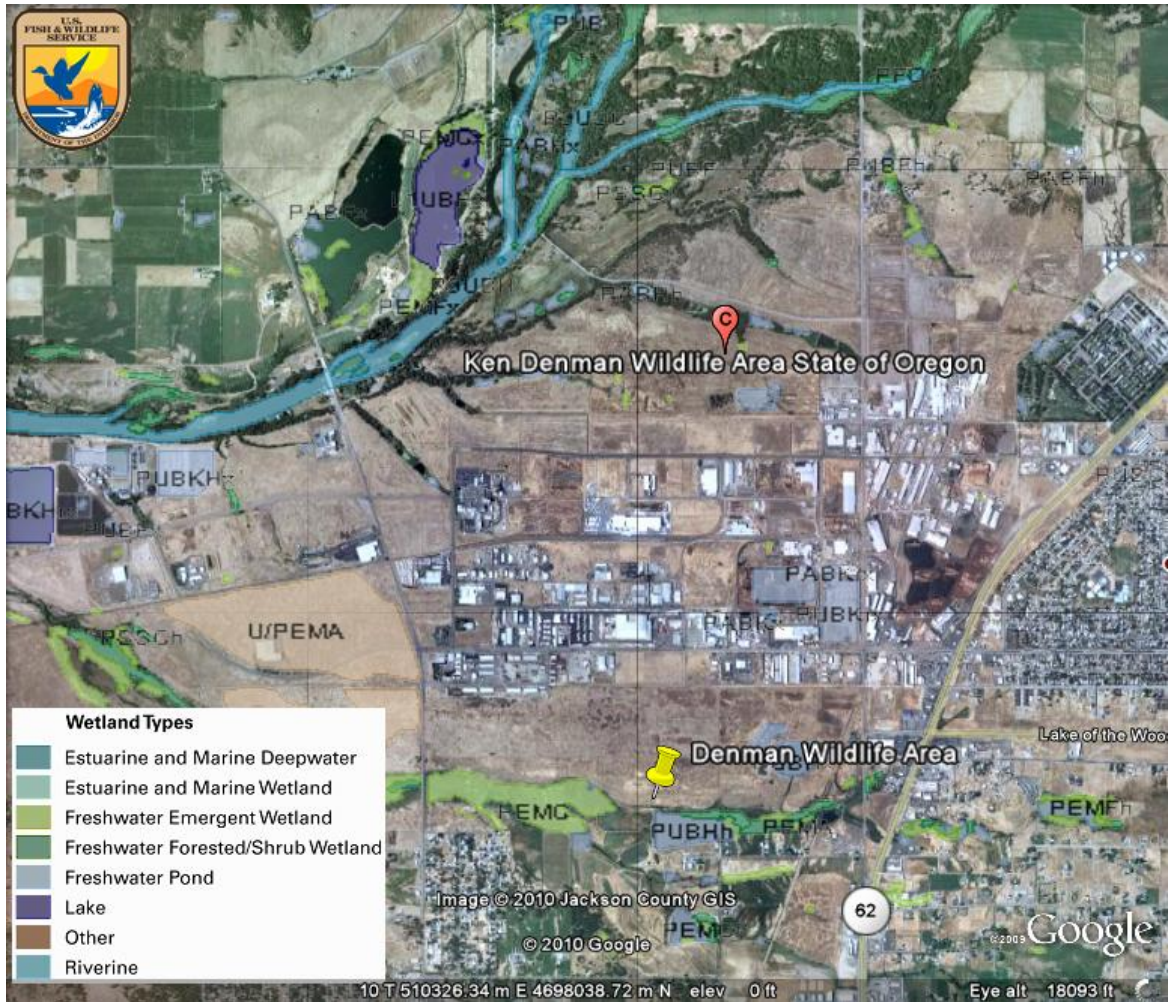
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**Figure 1: Ken Denman Wildlife Area Features and Ownership Map (ODFWS 2006).**



**Figure 2:** Google Earth (2010) map of Denman Wildlife Area with the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2010) layer.





**Figure 3:** Google Map (2009) road view of Denman Wildlife Area.

