



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

**Humboldt Lagoons State Park**  
BCS number: 86-5

*\*\*\*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**

N/A

**Site location (UTM)**

Datum: NAD83, Zone: 10, Easting: 408910, Northing: 4564185

**General description**

Humboldt Lagoons State Park is located on the Pacific coast in Northern California. It includes three lagoons, Big Lagoon, Stone Lagoon, and Freshwater Lagoon (listed in order from the southern most to the northern most lagoon). “In the early 1900’s Dry Lagoon was drained by early farmers and several types of crops were attempted but none proved economical. Several dairy ranches were established along the shores of Stone Lagoon. [...] Today the marshland habitat has returned and supports a rich variety of marsh plants, birds and other animals.” (California State Parks 2009)

**Boundaries and ownership**

*Boundaries:*

40 miles north of Eureka and 55 miles south of Crescent City, California on Highway 101 (California State Parks 2009)

“Encompassing the coastal lowlands from the southern portion of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park south to Patrick's Point, this is an area of large coastal lagoons surrounded by redwood forest.” (National Audubon Society 2010)

*Ownership:*

“Most of the land is protected as state and federal parks (incl. Humboldt Lagoons State Park, Redwood National Park) with scattered parcels of private lands.” (National Audubon Society 2010)

**Water levels**

*Briefly outline historical water levels, since being managed. What causes water level fluctuations? How does water level fluctuate throughout the year?*

Unknown

### Focal species use and timing

Please indicate Presence/Absence/Unknown for each species and section of annual cycle. If you feel like adding another guild or species that is important to the area and warrants more interest, indicate it in the blank spaces at the bottom.

<b>Focal Group/Species</b>	<b>Wintering</b>	<b>Breeding</b>	<b>Migration</b>
<b>Secretive Marsh Bird Group</b>	Present	Unknown	Present
<b>Colonial Nesting Bird Group</b>	Present	Unknown	Present
<b>Migrating Shorebird Group</b>	Present	Unknown	Present
<b>Ground-based Waterbird Group</b>	Present	Unknown	Present
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	Present	Unknown	Present
California Gull	Present	Unknown	Present
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Present
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Present	Unknown	Present
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	Present
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	Present	Unknown	Present
Red-necked Grebe	Present	Unknown	Present
Snowy Egret	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Sora	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Western Grebe	Present	Unknown	Present
Western Snowy Plover	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
White-faced Ibis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Focal Species information collected from eBird species checklist data (2008-2010)

## 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	Marshland Habitat	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Herbaceous Vegetation	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Marsh Flats	Unknown

### Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

The Lagoons can be surveyed by boat, while the Big Lagoon Beach Trail offers viewing points of Big Lagoon.

### 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

“Though this site is fairly secure from development, chronic management concerns include trampling of sensitive nesting and roosting habitat by dogs and beach-goers.” (National Audubon Society 2010)

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

Unknown

### 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

California State Parks. 2009. Humboldt Lagoons SP.

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=416](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=416). Accessed May 16, 2010.

Google, Inc. 2010. Humboldt Lagoons State Park. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731) [Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed May 16, 2010.

Google Map. 2010. Map of Humboldt Lagoons State Park. <http://maps.google.com/>. Accessed May 16, 2010.

National Audubon Society. 2010. Important Bird Areas in the U.S.

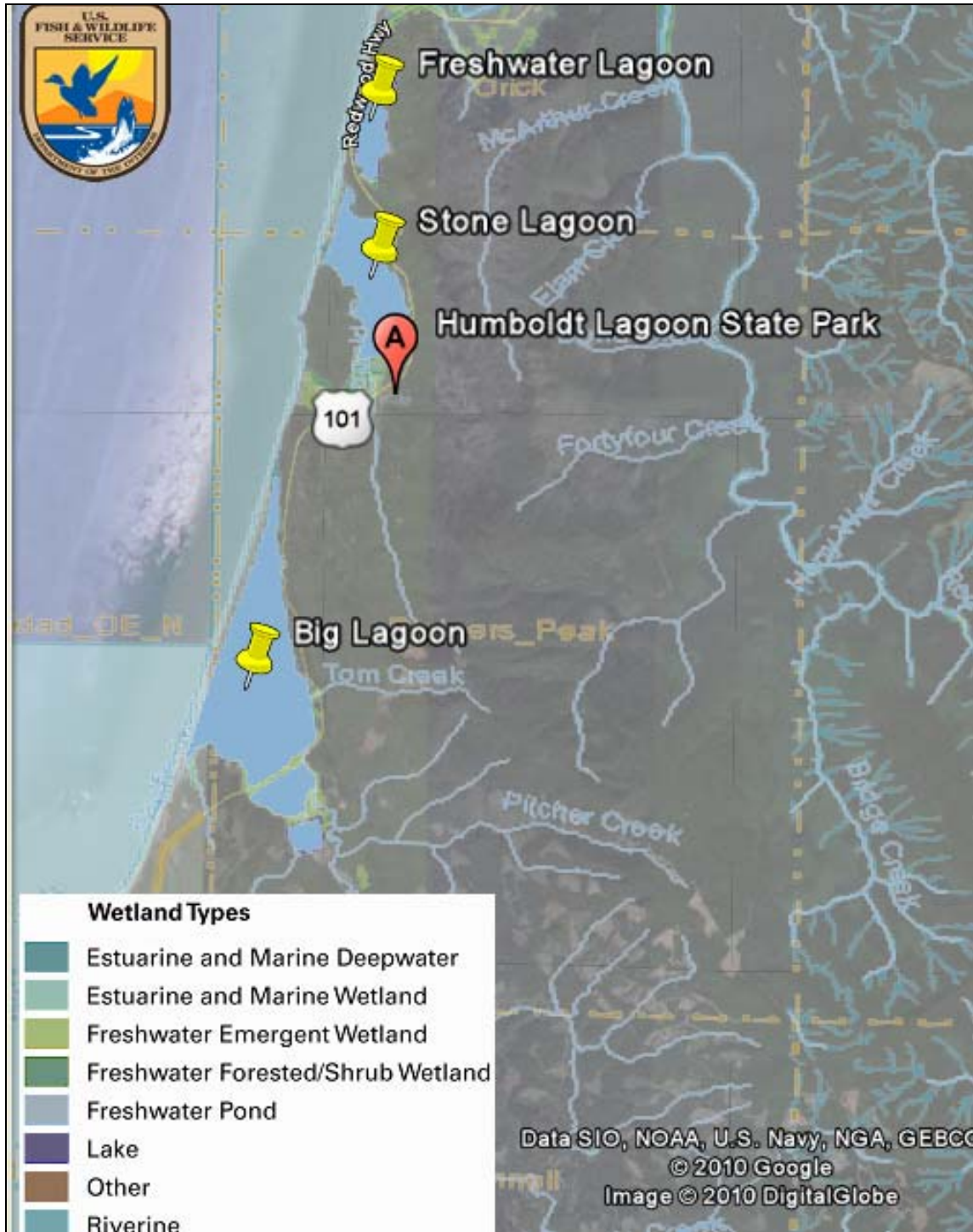
<http://iba.audubon.org/iba/viewSiteProfile.do?siteId=44&navSite=state>. Accessed May 16, 2010.

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/>. May 16, 2010.

**Figure 1:** Google Earth (2010) map of Humboldt Lagoons State Park with the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2010) layer.



**Figure 2:** Google Map (2010) road view of Humboldt Lagoons State Park.

