



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

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area

BCS Number: 47-5

****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.*

Site description author(s)

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Primary contact for this site

N/A

Site Location (UTM)

Datum: NAD 83, Zone: 10, Easting: 404935, Northing: 4840341

General description

“The Oregon Dunes NRA occupies a [...] 31,500 acre [...] strip of central Oregon coastline approximately 40 miles long and averaging 1.5 miles wide between Coos Bay-North Bend in the south and Florence in the north [...] It is comprised primarily of sand dunes, but also contains extensive areas of wetland, as well as upland coniferous forest along its eastern boundary. [...] A variety of unique geologic features occur here including tree islands, huge parabola dunes, and oblique dunes, a formation found nowhere else in the world” (USFS 2008).

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

“The dunes are found south of Florence and north of the neighboring communities of Coos Bay, Charleston and North Bend. The Siuslaw River marks the northern boundary of the dunes, at Florence” (Crowley Offroad 2008).

Ownership:

“The Forest Service manages 28,900 acres; 27,540 acres of federally-owned lands” (USFS 2008).

Water levels

Lakes and ponds contain water year round and seasonal fluctuations in water levels are small (USFS 2008). The coast side of Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area experiences two daily high (and two low) tides.

Focal species use and timing

The area provides critical habitat for the Snowy Plover, a threatened shorebird (USFS 2008).

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Unknown	Present ²	Present ²
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Present ²	Present ²	Present ²
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present ²	Present ^{1,2}	Present ²
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Present ²	Present ²	Present ²
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	Present ²	Present ²
California Gull	Unknown	Present ²	Present ²
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Present ²	Present ²
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Present ²	Unknown
Common Loon	Present ²	Present ²	Present ²
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 ²	Present ²	Present ²
Greater Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Green Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Present ²
Least Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lesser Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Long-billed Curlew	Unknown	Present ²	Unknown
Pied-billed Grebe	Unknown	Present ²	Present ²
Red-necked Grebe	Present ²	Present ²	Unknown
Snowy Egret	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Sora	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Unknown	Present ²	Unknown
Western Grebe	Unknown	Present ²	Present ²
Western Snowy Plover	Present ²	Present ^{1,2}	Present ²
White-faced Ibis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

1. Wilson (1980).

2. eBird (2009). Based on observations from Siltcoos River estuary, Oregon Dunes overlook, Tahkenitch Creek and Umpqua River south jetty.

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	Unknown	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Estuary	Unknown

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

- See Figure 1 for general road access.

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

“The area is predominately covered with vegetation. There is little evidence of human use, disturbance or management” (USFS 2008). The spread of European beachgrass is a concern for native vegetative species and for maintaining Snowy Plover nesting habitat (USFS 2008).

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

The area is managed by the US Forest Service under the Oregon Dunes NRA management plan. “This Plan designates three management areas [...] within the NRA that primarily emphasize maintenance and enhancement of habitat for plants, fish or wildlife. The three areas total approximately 7,000 acres. They include habitat for threatened snowy plover, globally significant plant communities, warmwater and anadromous fish species; and a variety of special habitats that are of limited extent on the NRA, such as upland forest and meadows, or are important contributors to regional biodiversity, such as wetlands and beach strand” (USFS 2008). See Figure 2 for designated management areas within the site.

Past and current surveys

See ORPD (2008) for a list of references that include various studies on the western snowy plover in the Oregon Dunes NRA.

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

- Crowley Offroad, LLC. 2008. Oregon Dunes, Oregon.
http://www.duneguide.com/sand_dune_guide_oregon_dunes.htm. Accessed February 06, 2010.
- eBird. 2009. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. Version 2. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available at
<http://www.ebird.org>. Accessed March 01, 2010.
- Google Map. 2010. Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. <http://maps.google.com/>. Accessed February 07, 2010.
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). 2008. Habitat Conservation Plan for the Western Snowy Plover.
http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/docs/masterplans/osmp_hcp/2008_09_References.pdf. Accessed February 07, 2010.
- USDA Forest Service (USFS). 2008. Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Management Plan. Siuslaw National Forest.
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw/projects/dunesplan1994>. Accessed February 07, 2010.
- Wilson, R.A. 1980. Snowy Plover Nesting Ecology on the Oregon Coast. Master's Thesis. Oregon State University, Corvallis. 41pp.

Figure 1: Google Map (2010) road view map of Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

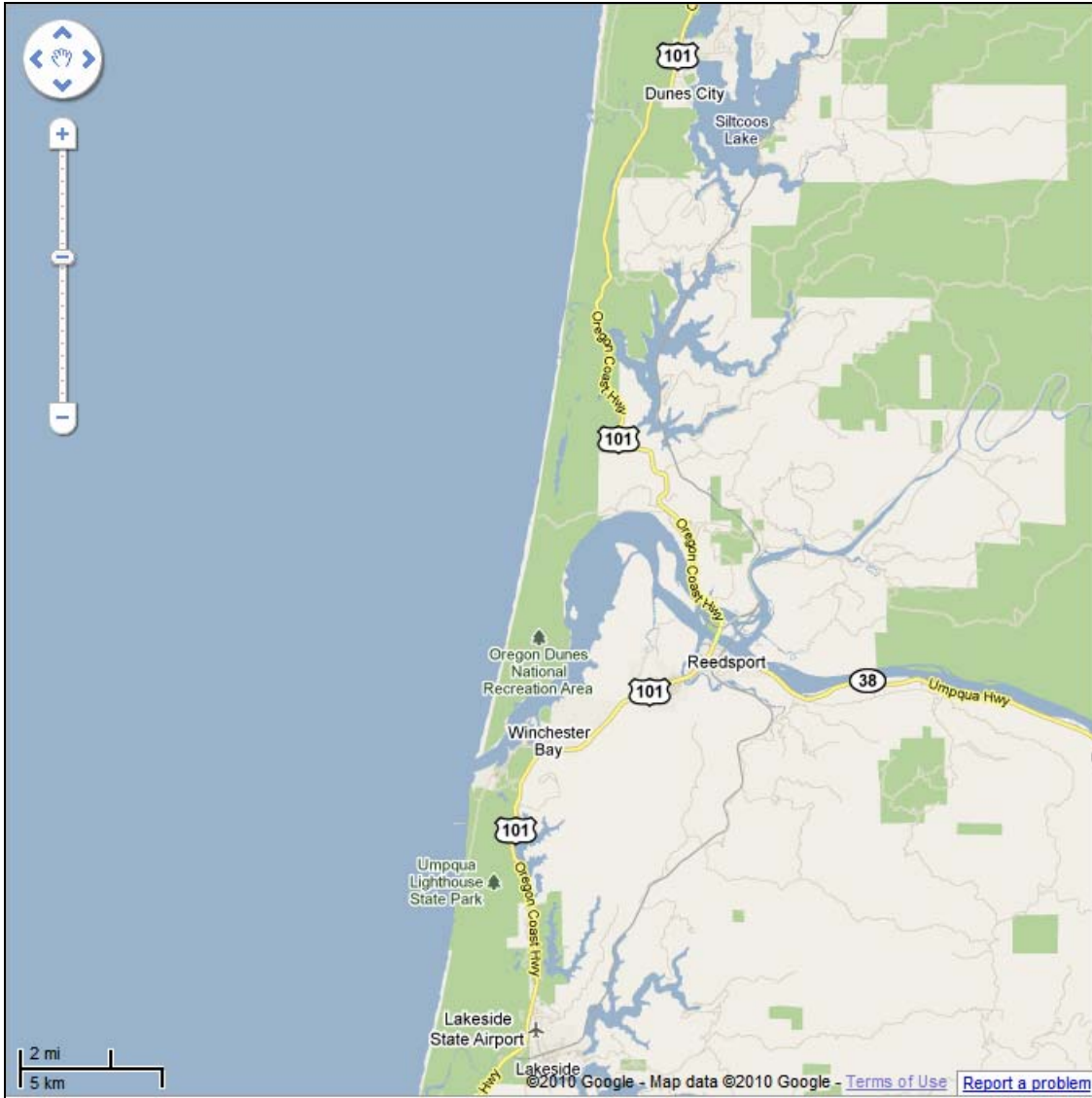


Figure 2: USFS (2008) map of designated management areas in Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

