



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

## Siltcoos River Estuary

BCS number: 47-30

*\*\*\*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: NAD 83, Zone: 10, Easting: 407598, Northing: 4858077

### General description

The Siltcoos River estuary is wide, open, and flat with the Siltcoos River meandering throughout (ORPD 2009). The estuary is 45 acres and because of its low development and lack of maintained jetties or channels, it is classified as a natural estuary (OSU 2003).

### Boundaries and ownership

#### *Boundaries:*

The Siltcoos River estuary is located on the central Oregon coast, at the outlet of the Siltcoos River to the Pacific Ocean, about 8 miles south of Florence, in southern Lane County (National Audubon Society 2010). See Figure 1 for boundaries.

#### *Ownership:*

Federal/USDA Forest Service (National Forest), State, State Park (National Audubon Society 2010).

### Water levels

Mean high tides generally do not cut into the foredune (ORPD 2009). The elevation of Mean High Tide corresponds to a tide state of about 6.5 feet (Mean Lower Low Water Datum). The location of Head of Tide in the Siltcoos River estuary is approximately River Mile 3, at the Siltcoos Lake Outlet (DSL 2010).

### Focal species use and timing

The Siltcoos Estuary is an important wintering and breeding site for snowy plovers (ORPD 2009).

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

1. Birdnotes (n.d.).

2. eBird (2010).

### Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

National Audubon Society (2010) classifies the habitat types of this site as barren/bare rock/sand/clay/coastal beach, barren/bare rock/sand/clay/coastal dune, barren/bare rock/sand/clay/sandbars, barren/bare rock/sand/clay/sandflat, water/open water/estuaries, water/open water/mudflat or littoral, water/open water/river and wetlands/emergent herbaceous wetlands/tidal marshes. See Figure 1 for distribution of habitat types at the site.

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Wetlands / Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	Water/Open Water
Secretive Marsh Birds	Tidal Marshes	Water/Open Water
Colonial Nesters	Wetlands / Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	Water/Open Water
Migrating Shorebirds	Mudflat or Littoral	Water/Open Water

### Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

- “Seasonal dry sand restrictions, including a prohibition on dogs have been imposed at [Siltcoos estuary] and on adjacent federally owned land since 1995” (ORPD 2009).
- “All submerged and submersible land under the jurisdiction of the Department below Head of Tide within the Siltcoos River estuary is closed to any and all use by motor vehicles” (DSL 2010).
- See Figure 2 for trail map of the area.

### Audibility/visibility of focal species

*Visibility: 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

- Disturbance to birds from foot traffic (National Audubon Society 2010).
- The upper beach area has been modified by the coast-wide introduction and spread of European beachgrass (ORPD 2009).

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

“Approximately 35 acres of habitat have been restored since 1995, all of which will likely need to be maintained in the future” (ORPD 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

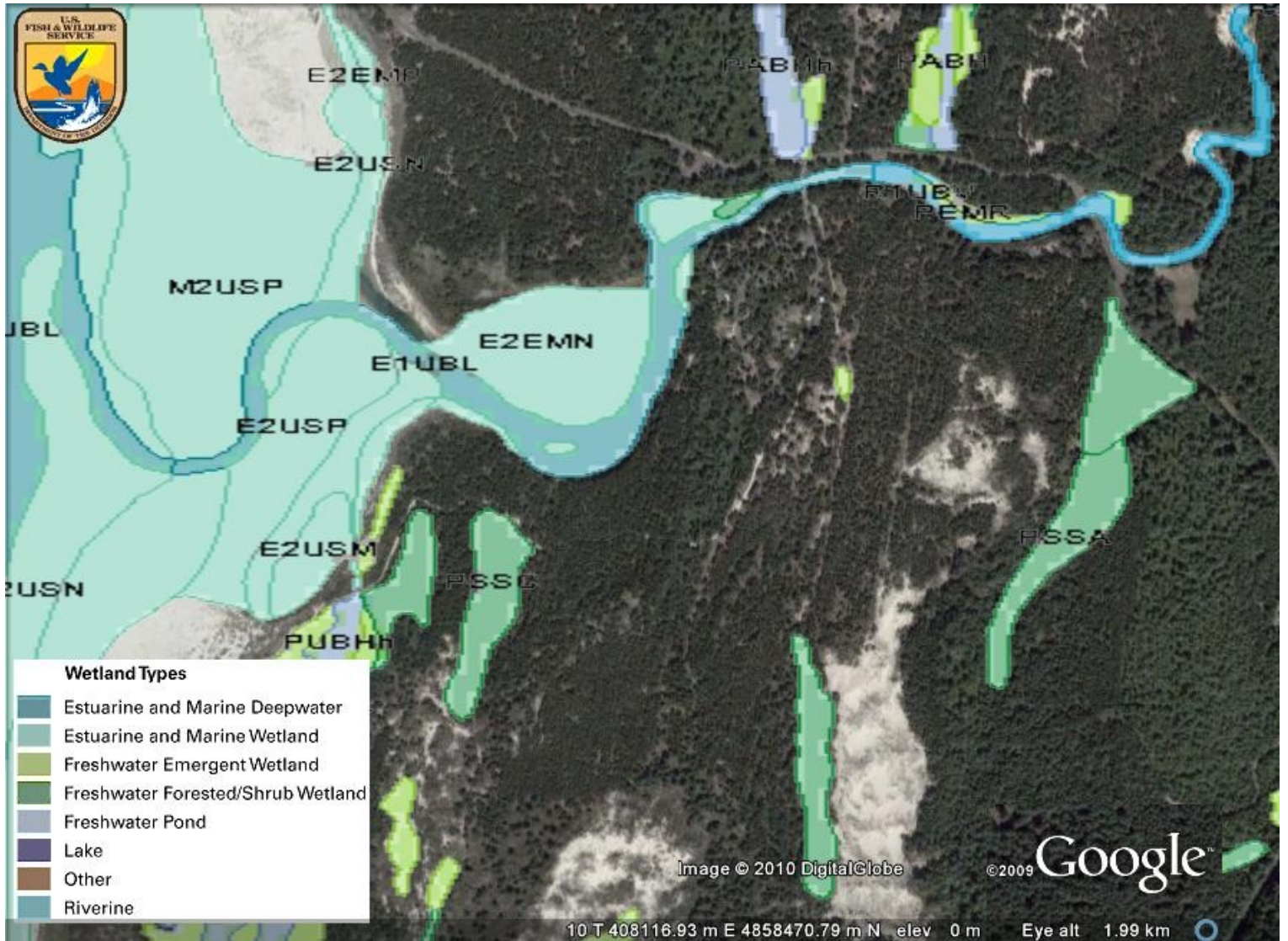
**Potential pilot studies**

Unknown

## Literature cited

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**Figure 1:** Google Earth (2010) map of Siltcoos Estuary with the USFWS (2010) National Wetlands Inventory layer.



**Figure 2:** USFS (2004) map of Waxmyrtle Trail, bordering the Siltcoos River estuary.

