



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



Goose Lake Basin

BCS number: 48-12

Site description author(s)

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Site location (UTM)

Datum: NAD 83, Zone: 10, Easting: 721995, Northing: 4652141

General description of site

Goose Lake Basin includes Goose Lake Proper and surrounding habitat for aquatic birds. Goose Lake is split by the Oregon-California border. The lake is a large, shallow freshwater lake. The shoreline is sculpted by heavy wave action, keeping vegetation shorter than about six inches. There are no more than approximately 300 acres of tall emergent vegetation in the valley. As the water in the lake can be less than 2 inches deep for miles, an air boat is essential to accessing the aquatic habitat.

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries: Goose Lake proper and surrounding upland habitat which aquatic birds might use.

Ownership: All upland habitats are privately owned. Major landowners include Bud Garrett and Mike McFarland. Open water area is owned by the State of Oregon and administered by the Department of State Lands. See Figure 1 for BLM Lakeview District ownership map.

Water levels

The water supply is perennial, and fluctuates substantially depending on annual precipitation.

Focal species use and timing

Focal Guild/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Birds*	Absent	Present (small pop)	Absent
Colonial Nesting Waterbirds	Absent	Present	Present
Ground-based Aquatic Birds	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Unknown	Present	Present
American White Pelican	Absent	Unknown	Present
Barrow's Goldeneye	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-necked Stilt	Absent	Present	Present
Bufflehead	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dusky Canada Goose	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Franklin's Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Greater Sandhill Crane	Absent	Present	Present
Long-billed Curlew	Absent	Present	Present
Snowy Egret	Absent	Present	Unknown
Red-Necked Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Western Snowy Plover	Unknown	Present	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

*The focal species for Oregon's aquatic secretive marsh bird monitoring are PBGR, LEBI, AMBI, VIRA, SORA, YERA.

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site*

Guild	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Secretive Marsh Birds	Tall emergent (Garrett and McFarland properties)	None
Ground-based Aquatic Birds	Shoreline of lake and short vegetation near it	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Shoreline of lake and short vegetation near it, open water for food gathering	None
Colonial Nesters	Tall emergent (Garrett and McFarland properties)	Unknown

*See Figure 2 for USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2008) layer in Google Earth (2008). No wetland polygons were available for the Oregon side of Goose Lake.

Access to Type 1 and 2 habitat and visibility/audibility of birds

Access to almost entire aquatic habitats is reliant on an airboat or hovercraft. Put-in point is at Goose Lake State Park. See Figure 3 for general road access to the area (Google Map 2009).

Past and current surveys

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) research focusing on American Avocet and Willet habitat use, movements and wetland connectivity was conducted in mid to late 1990's within this and other (Abert Lake and Summer Lake) sites (Haig et al. 1998).

The Klamath Bird Observatory conducted Snowy Plover surveys at Goose Lake during the summer of 2008. These surveys augmented surveys completed in 2007 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the USGS as part of the International Breeding Survey for Snowy Plovers. After two visits, the average number of birds per site per visit for Goose Lake was determined to be 41 (± 4).

Other surveys include:

- Colonial waterbird survey
- Mid-winter waterfowl aerial survey
- Breeding pair aerial survey (BPOP)
- Shoreline of lake and short grass near it
- Mid-winter Bald Eagle count

Conservation issues

The water supply at Goose Lake is ephemeral. The use of water from above the lake in the drainage system has a large influence on lake water levels. Also, perennial water supply fluctuates substantially depending on annual precipitation.

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

Fish and riparian habitat work is prolific in the valley. Also Goose Lake is Zoned A-1, and therefore there is very little chance of development.

Potential survey methods

According to Manning and Hartley (2006), a migrating shorebird survey and a survey of breeding colony would be valuable, and would probably need to be done by staff.

Potential pilot studies

To determine what species are using the lakeshore area, such as grebes and ground-based waterbirds. Goose Lake basin is a large area which has had very little study. Pilot studies would be necessary before suggesting potential surveys for species whose presence is unknown.

Literature cited

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Figure 3: Google Map (2009) road view of Goose Lake.

