



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

Eel River Wildlife Area

BCS number: 86-3

*****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: NAD83, Zone: 10, Easting: 389228, Northing: 4499620

General description

The Eel River Wildlife Area is an estuarine and salt marsh habitat on northern California's Pacific coast. "This 2,131 acre Wildlife Area contains one of the largest riparian forests remaining on California's north coast." (Department of Fish and Game n.d.). The wildlife area is made up of many islands and sloughs with multiple sources of water routes converging into this primarily large delta and out to the ocean.

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

The Eel River Wildlife Area, located in Humboldt County, California, runs out to the coast just south of Humboldt Bay. It is located west of Hwy 101, northwest of Hwy 211, straight west of Loleta, California, and north of Port Kenyon, California.

Ownership:

California Department of Fish and Game

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.

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Present	Present	Present
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Present	Present	Present
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present	Present	Present
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Present	Present	Present
American Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Present
American White Pelican	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Barrow's Goldeneye	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-crowned Night Heron	Unknown	Present	Present
Black-necked Stilt	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Bufflehead	Present	Unknown	Present
California Gull	Present	Present	Present
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Present	Present
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Present	Unknown	Present
Dusky Canada Goose	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Eared Grebe	Present	Unknown	Present
Forster's Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Franklin's Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Great Blue Heron	Present	Present	Present
Greater Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Present
Green Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Least Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lesser Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Present
Long-billed Curlew	Present	Unknown	Present
Pied-billed Grebe	Present	Unknown	Present
Red-necked Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Snowy Egret	Present	Present	Present
Sora	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Western Grebe	Present	Present	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	Estuarian Habitat	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Emergent wetlands and estuarian habitat	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Riparian habitat, estuaries	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Estuarian and marine wetlands, open waters	Unknown

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

There are many roads running to the wildlife area and a few roads connecting some of the islands within the area. The majority of the wildlife area near the coast, however, is not accessible by road but may be able to be accessed by kayak or canoe and by foot.

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

Unknown

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 Department of Fish and Game (DFG). n.d. Lake Earl Wildlife Area – Del Norte County. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region1/eelriver.html>. Accessed April 23, 2010.

eBird. 2010. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. Version 2. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. Accessed April 23, 2010.

Google, Inc. 2010. Eel River Wildlife Area. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731) [Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed April 23, 2010.

Google Map. 2010. Map of Eel River Wildlife Area, California. <http://maps.google.com/>. Accessed April 21, 2010.

National Audubon Society. 2010. Important Bird Areas in the U.S. Available at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba>. Accessed April 21, 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/>. Accessed April 21, 2010.

Figure 1: Google Earth (2010) map of Eel River Wildlife Area with the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2010) layer.

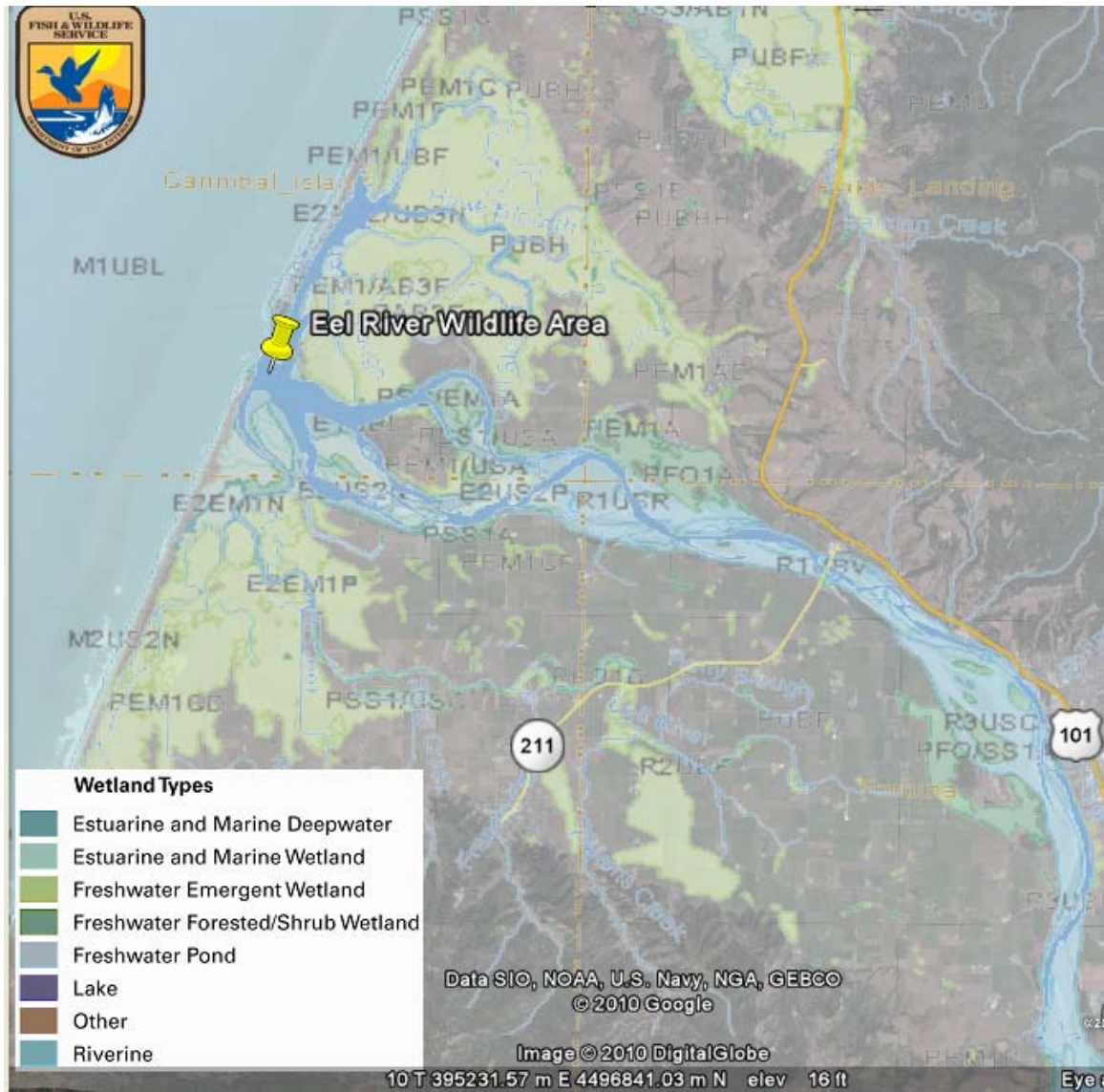


Figure 2: Google Map (2010) road view of Eel River Wildlife Area.

