



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

**Fernhill Wetlands**  
BCS number: 47-13

*\*\*\*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)**

Danielle Morris, Research and Monitoring Team, Klamath Bird Observatory

**Primary contact for this site**

N/A

**Site location (UTM)**

Datum: NAD83, Zone: 10, Easting: 493144, Northing: 5039315

**General description**

“This site is 243 acres, composed largely of wetland and moist soil habitats.” (National Audubon Society 2010)

**Boundaries and ownership**

*Boundaries:*

In the northwest Willamette Valley, just south of the town of Forest Grove, Washington County. The wetlands are bordered by Highway 47 bypass, Fernhill Road and Geiger Road on property owned by the Unified Sewerage Agency.

*Ownership:*

Clean Water Services

**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	Present	Present
<b>Colonial Nesting Bird Group</b>	Present	Present	Present
<b>Migrating Shorebird Group</b>	Present	Present	Present
<b>Ground-based Waterbird Group</b>	Present	Present	Present
American Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
American White Pelican	Unknown	Present	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	Present	Unknown
California Gull	Present	Present	Present
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Present
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dusky Canada Goose	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Eared Grebe	Present	Unknown	Unknown
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	Present	Present
Least Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lesser Sandhill Crane*	Unknown	Unknown	Present
Long-billed Curlew	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Pied-billed Grebe	Present	Present	Unknown
Red-necked Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Snowy Egret	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Sora	Present	Present	Present
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Western Grebe	Present	Unknown	Unknown
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)

\*The presence of the Sandhill Crane has not been identified as either Lesser or Greater.

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

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Wetland	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Cattails	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Emergent vegetation	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Wetland	Unknown

### Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

The wetlands are restricted to passive recreation and educational opportunities accessible by foot only.

### 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

“[Clean Water Services] purchased the property just south of the city on Southwest Fern Hill Road from Forest Grove in 2006 and uses the largest ponds to handle treated wastewater. Two years ago, the agency developed a plan for its entire 748-acre holdings in the area that calls for expanding the sewage treatment plant while preserving the fragile ecosystem next door.

Other plan recommendations include expanding the trail system to connect with Metro's regional trails, removing some of the earthen dikes to create a buffer between the wildlife and human activity, replanting much of the area with native species and adding an interpretive kiosk and field station for research.” (Fitzgibbon 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

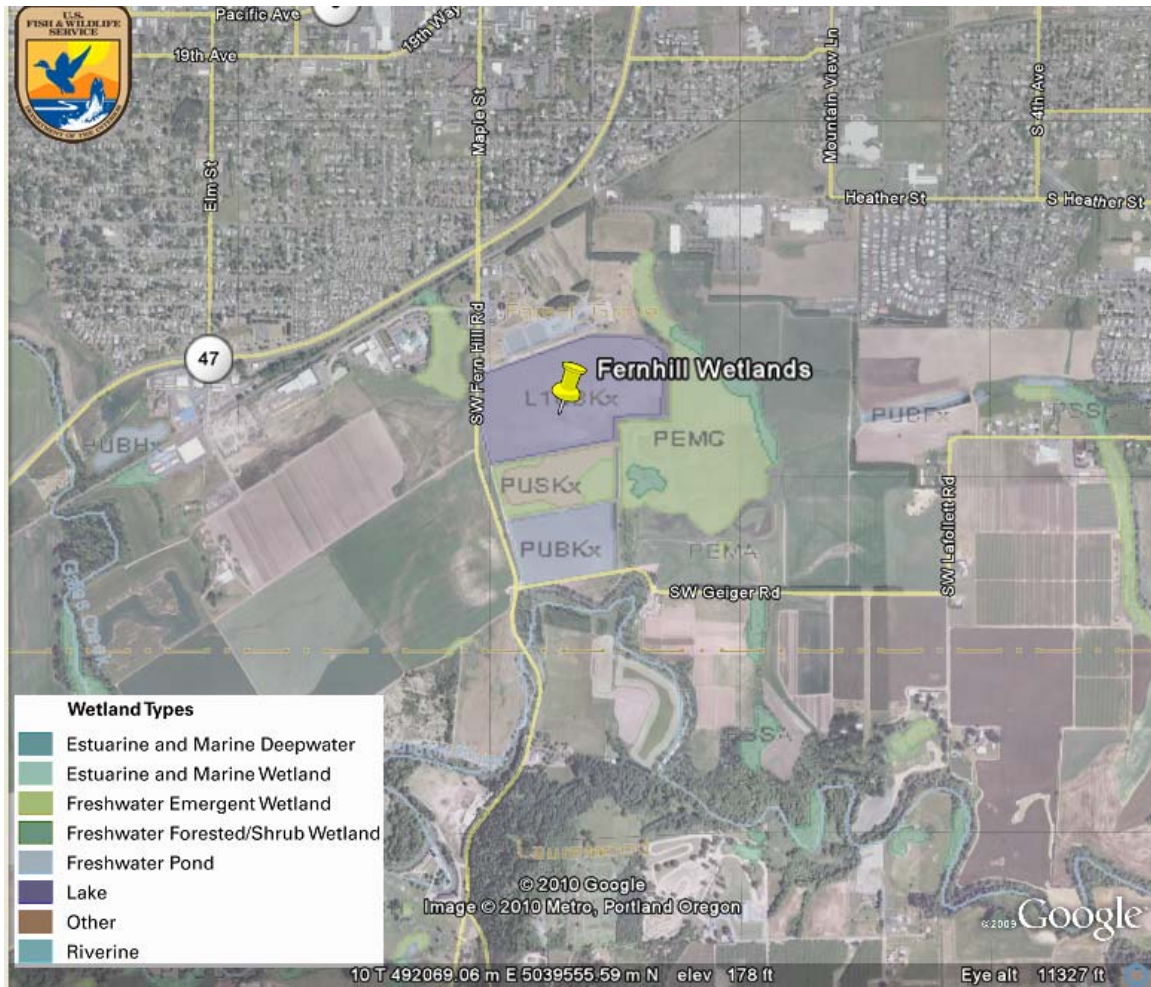
**Potential pilot studies**

Unknown

## Literature cited

- 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 May 14, 2010.
- Fitzgibbon, J. 2009. Changes afoot at Fernhill Wetlands, but when remains a matter of money. Washington County News, Special to the Oregonian. Nov 19. [http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2009/11/changes\\_afoot\\_at\\_fernhill\\_wetl.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2009/11/changes_afoot_at_fernhill_wetl.html). Accessed May 14, 2010.
- Google, Inc. 2010. Fernhill Wetlands. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731) [Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed May 14, 2010.
- Google Map. 2010. Map of Fernhill Wetlands, Oregon. <http://maps.google.com/>. Accessed May 14, 2010.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. Important Bird Areas in the U.S. Available at <http://audubonportland.org/local-birding/iba/iba-map/fernhill>. Accessed May 14, 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 May 14, 2010.

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



**Figure 2:** Google Map (2010) road view of Fernhill Wetlands.

