



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

Lewis and Clark NWR and Julia B. Hansen NWR
BCS number: 47-17

****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: 451227, Northing: 5118443

General description

“This 38,000-acre refuge encompasses more than 40% of the Columbia River estuary and includes numerous islands and bars and extensive mudflats, tidal marshes, and tidal swamps. The refuge encloses part of the largest marsh in western Oregon.” (Audubon Society 2010)

“Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge includes approximately 20 islands stretching over 27 miles of the Columbia River, from the mouth upstream nearly to Skamakowa, WA. The Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1972 to preserve the vital fish and wildlife habitat of the Columbia River estuary. Riverine islands there range from tidal sand flats and marshes to forested swamps and upland pasture. This combination supports large numbers of waterfowl, gulls, terns, wading birds, shorebirds, and a surprising variety of raptors and songbirds. The Lewis and Clark islands are only accessible by boat.” (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services)

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

The Lewis and Clark NWR and the Julia B. Hansen NWR are located in Clatsop County of Oregon, on the Columbia River between Portland and Astoria. The many islands of these two sites are scattered near the south edge of the river, just south of the Oregon-Washington border and north of E. Columbia River Hwy (Hwy. 30).

Ownership:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains these two National Refuges out of the Julia B. Hansen NWR office.

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 | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Colonial Nesting Bird Group | Present | Present | Present |
| Migrating Shorebird Group | Unknown | Present | Present |
| Ground-based Waterbird Group | Present | Present | Present |
| 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 | Unknown | Unknown |
| California Gull | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Caspian Tern | Unknown | Present | Present |
| Clark's Grebe | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Common Loon | Unknown | Unknown | Present |
| 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 | Present | Present |
| Greater Sandhill Crane | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Green Heron | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Least Bittern | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Lesser Sandhill Crane | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Long-billed Curlew | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Red-necked Grebe | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Snowy Egret | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Sora | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Upland Sandpiper | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Virginia Rail | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Western Grebe | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Western Snowy Plover | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| White-faced Ibis | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Yellow Rail | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

| Functional Group | Type 1 Habitat | Type 2 Habitat |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ground Based Aquatic Birds | Sandbars and mud flats | Unknown |
| Secretive Marsh Birds | Unknown | Unknown |
| Colonial Nesters | Sandbars, mud flats, and willows/cottonwoods | Unknown |
| Migrating Shorebirds | Sandbars and mud flats | Unknown |

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

Due to the number of islands throughout the Lewis and Clark NWR, the farther stretches are only accessible by boat.

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

Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge

The refuge was established to preserve wetland habitats of the Columbia River estuary as a wintering area and migratory stopover for birds, primarily waterfowl and shorebirds. Refuge management programs include monitoring key wildlife populations, improving habitat on islands created by disposal of material dredged from the ship channel, regulating waterfowl hunting, and coordinating with local, state, and other federal agencies relative to human activities in the estuary. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services 2010)

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

- Google, Inc. 2010. Siltcoos River. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731) [Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed Aril 20 2010.
- Google Map. 2010. Map of Lewis and Clark NWR and Julia B. Hansen NWR, Oregon. <http://maps.google.com/>. Accessed April 20, 2010.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. Important Bird Areas in the U.S. Available at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba>. Accessed April 20, 2010.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2010a. Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge. <http://www.fws.gov/lc/>. Accessed April 20, 2010.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2010b. National Wetlands Inventory website. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>. Accessed April 20, 2010.

Figure 1: Google Earth (2010) map of Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge and Julia B. Hansen National Wildlife Refuge using the USFWS (2010) National Wetlands Inventory layer.



Figure 2: Google Map (2010) road view of Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge and Julia B. Hansen National Wildlife Refuge.

