



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

Smith River Mouth BCS number: 86-6

*****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: 400494, Northing: 4641590

General description

“At the mouth of the Smith River is the Smith River Plain, a 10,000-acre expanse of rich bottomland surrounding the Smith River Estuary [....] The Smith River is California’s wildest watershed, the last remaining undammed major river in the state. The Smith is the fourth-largest coastal river in California, it’s among the world’s cleanest rivers, and it contains more miles of federally designated “Wild and Scenic River” area than any other U.S. watershed. The Smith River is therefore, not surprisingly, home to the state’s healthiest salmon and steelhead populations, possibly the healthiest in the lower United States. The Smith River is so biologically significant that the Institute for River Ecosystems at Humboldt State University has identified the watershed as a “re-colonization” source for Endangered Species in impaired watersheds up and down the California-Oregon coast[.]” (King 2002).

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

“The Smith River enters the Pacific Ocean four miles south of the Oregon border. Lake Earl, California's largest coastal lagoon, is [to the south].” (Smith River Project 2002)

Ownership:

Unknown

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	Unknown	Unknown
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Present	Present	Present
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Present	Unknown	Present
American Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
American White Pelican	Unknown	Unknown	Present
Barrow's Goldeneye	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-crowned Night Heron	Present	Unknown	Unknown
Black-necked Stilt	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Bufflehead	Present	Unknown	Unknown
California Gull	Present	Present	Present
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Present	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	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	Present	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

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	Mudflats, estuary and riparian areas	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Estuary marshes	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Emergent vegetation and estuary/riparian areas	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Saltflats	Unknown

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

Briefly describe challenging aspects of accessing bird habitat., e.g. the road to aspen lake has not been graded for many years, 4WD is recommended. Or access by boat only
Unknown

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

“[P]rotect the Smith River Estuary from the intensive chemical spraying and habitat destruction that has threatened its health over the past half-century.” (Smith River Project 2002)

“[T]he Smith River Project will test surface waters, soil, air quality, estuary muds, fish, and plants in and around the Smith River Estuary. In addition, the Project will conduct a human-health assessment to determine the risks posed by lily-field pesticides to humans[.]” (King 2002).

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

- 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 27, 2010.
- Google, Inc. 2010. Smith River Mouth. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731) [Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed April 27, 2010.
- Google Map. 2010. Map of Smith River Mouth, California. <http://maps.google.com/>. Accessed April 27, 2010.
- King, Greg. 2002. Threats to California's wildest watershed. Forest and River News – Fall newsletter. <http://treesfoundation.org/publications/article-108>. Accessed April 27, 2010.
- The Smith River Project. 2002. Smith River Estuary Enhancement Program. <http://www.bardicmedia.com/smith/estuary.shtml>. Accessed April 27, 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 27, 2010.

Figure 1: Google Earth (2010) map of Smith River Mouth Lake with the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2010) layer.



Figure 2: Google Map (2010) road view of Smith River Mouth.

