



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

Tahkenitch Creek Estuary

BCS number: 47-35

***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: 406163, Northing: 4850648

General description

This is a small beach area and small estuary at the mouth of Tahkenitch Creek (Portland Audubon Society 2010).

As presented in the Oregon Estuary Plan Book, compiled by Cortright, Weber, and Bailey (1987), the largest 17 estuaries in Oregon are assessed in detail as far as their conservation status is concerned while, “[f]our smaller "major" estuaries and seventeen "minor" estuaries are not covered because detailed mapping and habitat information is not available for them.”

Tahkenitch Creek Estuary is one of the 17 “minor” estuaries in Oregon and is classified by the Oregon Estuary Plan Book as “Natural” with a size of 25 acres. The term “Natural” is defined by the plan book as, “Estuaries lacking maintained jetties or channels, and which are usually little developed for residential, commercial, or industrial uses. They may have altered shorelines, provided that these altered shorelines are not adjacent to an urban area. Shorelands around natural estuaries are generally used for agriculture, forestry, recreation, and other rural uses. Natural estuaries have only natural management units” (Cortright, Weber, and Bailey 1987).

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

“On the south-central Oregon coast where Tahkenitch Creek enters the Pacific Ocean, about 8 miles NNW of Reedsport, Douglas County.” (Portland Audubon Society 2010)

Ownership:

The estuary is in the periphery of part of the Siuslaw National Forest, which is managed by the US Forest Service

Water levels

Briefly outline historical water levels, since being managed. What causes water level fluctuations? How does water level fluctuate throughout the year?

As with any estuary, the water level is affected by tidal changes but there is no documentation of the depth nor change in depth of water in the estuary.

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	Unknown	Present	Present
Migrating Shorebird Group	Unknown	Present	Present
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Unknown	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	Present	Present
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Present	Unknown
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Unknown	Present	Unknown
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	Unknown	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	Present	Unknown
Western Snowy Plover	Unknown	Present	Present
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	Estuarine wetlands/ Emergent vegetation	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Unknown	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Emergent vegetation	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Estuarine wetlands	Unknown

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

The Tahkenitch Creek Trail is a trail which runs through the Siuslaw National Forest following the creek from the north bend to the south, where it leads east of the estuary. This trail can be used for access to the northern bend of the creek, but the trail does not give direct access the estuarine region of the creek. There are no roads, so the only access would be by foot off of the trail. It is unclear whether or not a boat could be taken to the estuary from the ocean, but it has been suggested that this is not possible most days out of the year.

Audibility/visibility of focal species

There are little roads or disturbance factors near the estuary. The ocean is very near to this site, so high winds or noisy waves may compromise an otherwise good listening spot.

Conservation issues

The beaches near the estuary are an important breeding ground for the threatened Western Snowy Plover and have been recognized as a critical habitat for them. Also, coastal coho salmon use the estuary, the creek, and its tributaries for spawning.

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

Cortright, R., J. Weber & R. Bailey. 1987. The Oregon estuary plan book. Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. Oregon State Printer, Salem.
<http://www.inforain.org/mapsatwork/oregonestuary/>

Google, Inc. 2010. Tahkenitch Creek Estuary. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731) [Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed April 20, 2010.

Google Map. 2010. Map of Tahkenitch Creek Estuary, 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). 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 20, 2010.

Figure 1: Google Earth (2010) map of Tahkenitch Creek Estuary with the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2010) layer.



Figure 2: Google Map (2010) road view of Tahkenitch Creek Estuary.

