



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

Tualatin River NWR and Wapato Lake
BCS number: 47-37

****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)

Danielle Morris, Research and Monitoring Team, Klamath Bird Observatory

Primary contact for this site

N/A

Site location (UTM)

Datum: NAD83, Zone: 10, Easting: 512870, Northing: 5024927

General description

“Established in 1992, the Refuge is located within the floodplain of the Tualatin River basin near Sherwood, Oregon. Refuge habitats are varied and include rivers and streams, seasonal and forested wetlands, riparian areas, grasslands, and forested uplands. An important breeding area for neotropical migratory songbirds, the Refuge also supports a significant breeding population of wood ducks and hooded mergansers. There is something to experience in every season. From thousands of waterfowl in the winter to breeding songbirds in summer, the Refuge is ever changing.” (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006)

“[In 2006,] The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [was] in the process of studying an area of land approximately 6,400 acres in size for consideration of establishing a new National Wildlife Refuge in the historic Wapato Lake area. The study area is located east of the town of Gaston and south of the town of Forest Grove, located in the upper Tualatin River watershed, which encompasses the historic Wapato Lake bed. The area holds remnant rare native habitat of the Tualatin River Floodplain such as scrub-shrub wetlands, Oregon ash riparian hardwood forests, and seasonal wetlands that provide important habitat for migratory birds and wintering waterfowl.” (Friends of the Tualatin Refuge n.d.) In 2007 Wapato Lake was added as an additional 4,000 acre unit to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, expanding the area of the refuge to more than 7,000 acres.

Boundaries and ownership*Boundaries:*

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is located within the floodplain of the Tualatin River basin near Sherwood, Oregon, at the northern end of the Willamette Valley (US Fish and Wildlife Services).

Wapato Lake is a unit of the refuge located approximately 15 miles west of the main refuge complex near Gaston, Oregon, east of Hwy 47.

Ownership:

US Fish and Wildlife Service

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

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Present	Present	Present
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Present	Present	Present
Migrating Shorebird Group	Unknown	Present	Present
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Present	Present	Present
American Bittern	Unknown	Occasional	Occasional
American White Pelican	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Barrow's Goldeneye	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black Tern	Absent	Absent	Absent
Black-crowned Night Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-necked Stilt	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Bufflehead	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
California Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Rare
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Rare	Unknown
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dusky Canada Goose	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Eared Grebe	Unknown	Rare	Unknown
Forster's Tern	Unknown	Rare	Unknown
Franklin's Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Great Blue Heron	Present	Present	Present
Greater Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Rare	Unknown
Green Heron	Unknown	Uncommon	Unknown
Least Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lesser Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Rare	Unknown
Long-billed Curlew	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Pied-billed Grebe	Present	Present	Present
Red-necked Grebe	Unknown	Rare	Unknown
Snowy Egret	Absent	Absent	Absent
Sora	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Western Grebe	Unknown	Rare	Unknown
Western Snowy Plover	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
White-faced Ibis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Focal Species table populated with information taken from Watchable Wildlife brochure (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006).

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Emergent vegetation, submerged vegetation of river banks and shorelines	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Wetland marsh habitat	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Emergent vegetation,	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Riparian areas, river banks and shorelines	Unknown

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

The refuge is carved into multiple units (including Wapato Lake) which are further separated into public, private, and sanctuary sections (see Figure 1). The main entrance for visitors is at the refuge office and wildlife center located on Hwy 99W. There are many roads which run along the edge or slightly within the units that can be used for close access, but some sections may be restricted to public use because of private properties. Contact the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge office and wildlife center for more details.

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

- Friends of the Tualatin Refuge. n.d. The Refuge.
http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/The_Refuge/index.cfm. Accessed April 22, 2010.
- Google, Inc. 2010. Tualatin River NWR and Wapato Lake. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731) [Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed April 21, 2010.
- Google Map. 2010. Map of Tualatin River NWR and Wapato Lake, Oregon.
<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). 2006. Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge: Watchable Wildlife. Sherwood, Oregon.
<http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/files/Tualatin%20River%20NWR%20wildlife.pdf> Accessed April 21, 2010.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2010a. Tualatin River NWR and Wapato Lake.
<http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/>. Accessed April 21, 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 21, 2010.

Figure 1: Map of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

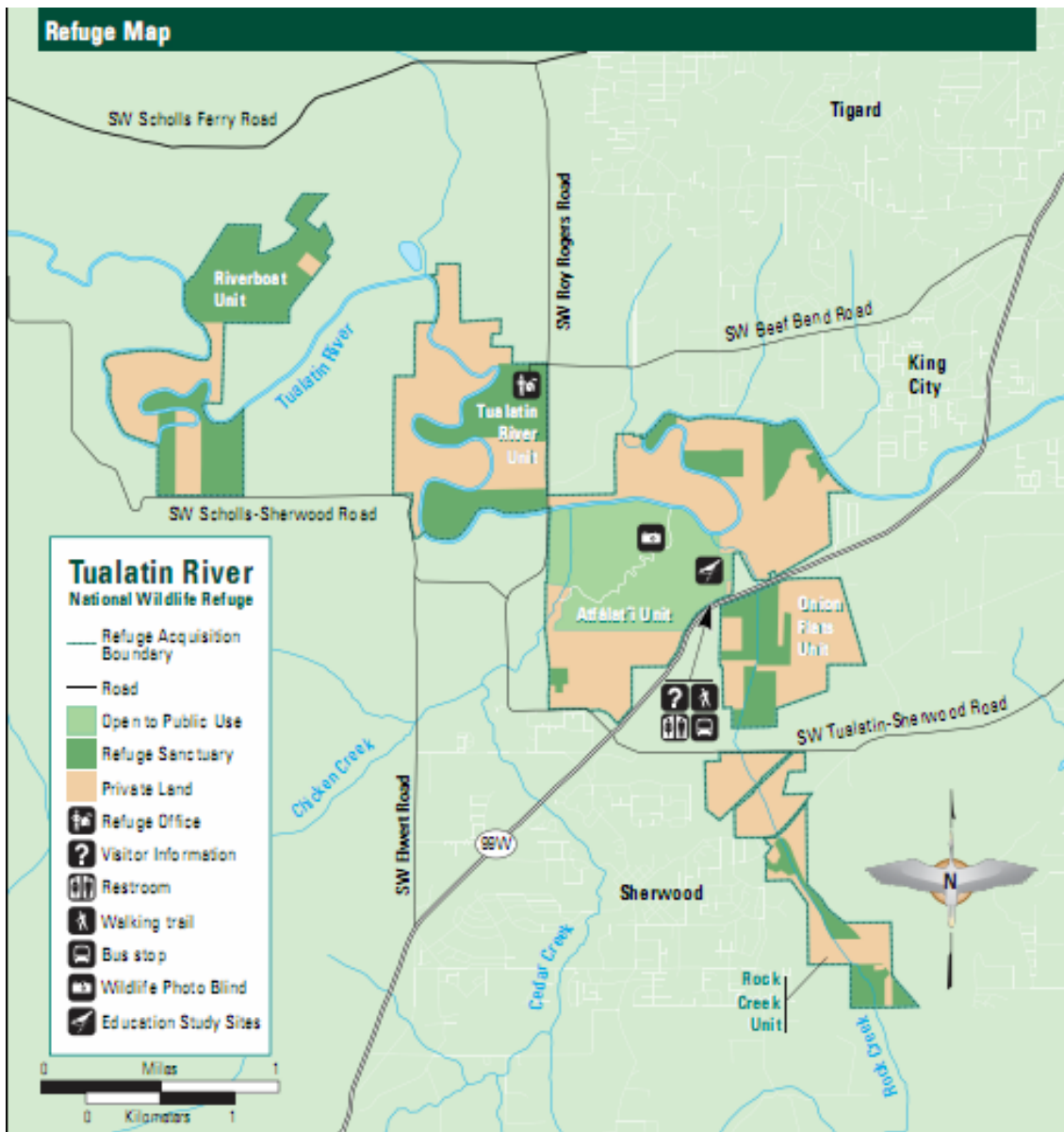


Figure 2: Google Earth (2010) map of Tualatin River NWR and Wapato Lake with the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2010) layer.

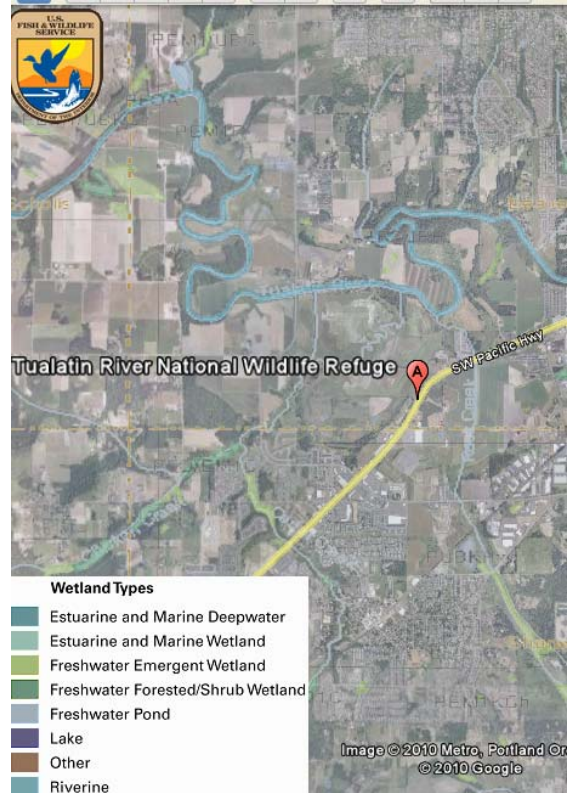
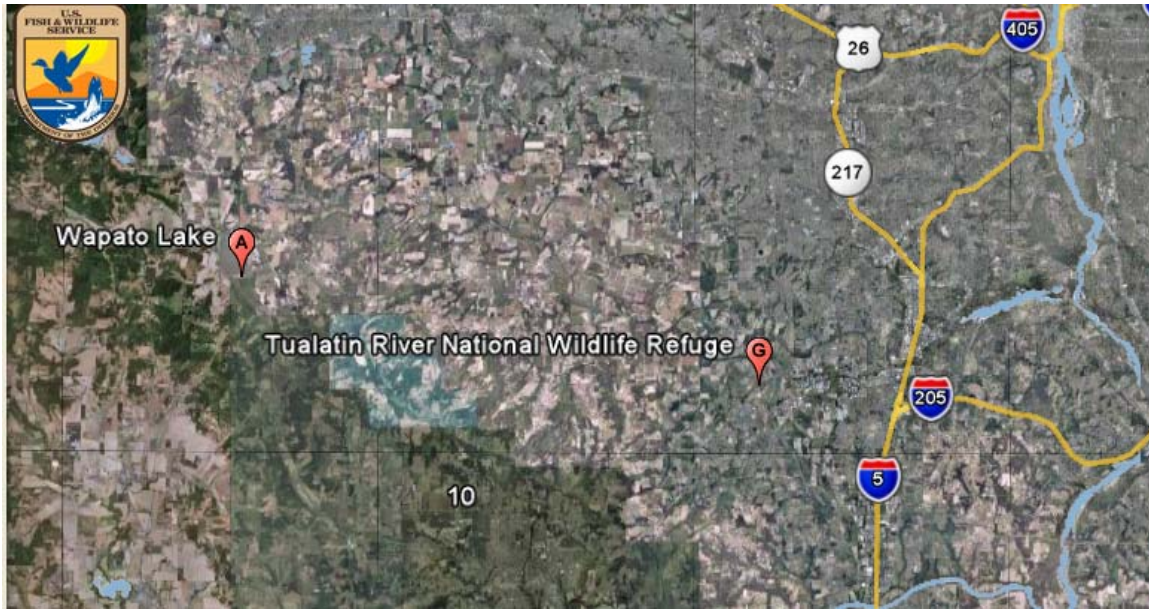


Figure 3: Google Map (2010) road view of Tualatin River NWR and Wapato Lake.

