



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

Mud Slough Wetland Reserve

BCS number: 47-19

****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: 485009, Northing: 4976303

General description

“Mud Slough Wetland, located west of Salem, is one of the most diverse, productive wetlands in western Oregon. The site features a range of diverse shallow water habitats and vegetation, from small native sedges to taller cattails and rushes, as well as a single deeper pond. Willow patches and restored native wetland prairie are also present. The lack of invasive plant and animal species can be attributed to the site preparation done prior to restoration and the continued vigilance of the landowner.” (The Wetlands Conservancy n.d.)

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

“The 440-acre Mud Slough Wetland is located in the Willamette Valley west of Salem [in Polk County], approximately 2.5 miles west of Rickreall... The wetland area extends about 1.5 miles south from Farmer Road and roughly 0.5 miles east from the railroad tracks.” (National Audubon Society 2010)

Ownership:

Private ownership: Mark and Debbie Knaupp

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

“Hundreds of shorebirds use the area during spring and fall migration and during winter... Breeding marshbirds include Sora, Virginia Rail, American Bittern. (National Audubon Society 2010)

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Unknown	Present	Unknown
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present	Unknown	Present
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
American Bittern	Unknown	Present	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	Present	Unknown
Bufflehead	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
California Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Unknown	Unknown	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	Unknown	Unknown
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	Present	Unknown
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Unknown	Present	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 Oregon Habitat Joint Venture (OHJV 2001) and National Audubon Society (2010)

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Unknown	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Herbaceous Wetland Vegetation	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Re-planted Native Trees and Shrubs	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Unknown	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

“Nelson’s checkermallow, a flower listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, grows in wetland meadows.” (OHJV 2001)

Invasive species: Reed canarygrass, Pennyroyal, Purple loosestrife, nutria, bullfrog (National Audubon Society 2010).

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

“The wetland was restored by building a series of low dikes to slow down and impound water from adjacent Mud Slough during high-water. The existing perennial fescue grass was eliminated and the site has reverted to native herbaceous wetland vegetation within two years of restoration. Limited planting of native trees and shrubs provided woody cover and diversity to the site.” (OHJV 2001)

“Willow patches and restored native prairie are present. The lack of invasive plant and animal species at Mud Slough is both due to historical scarcity and continued management by the landowner. A total of 335 acres are held in a Wetland Reserve Program, and 106.25 acres are held in a Willamette Valley Mitigation Bank. In 2005, a Conservation and Management Plan was written for the property, and outlines continued management of the site for a diversity of habitats and associated wildlife.” (National Audubon Society 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. Mud Slough Wetland Reserve. Google Earth (Version 5.1.3533.1731) [Software]. Available from <http://earth.google.com>. Accessed May 16, 2010.

Google Map. 2010. Map of Mud Slough Wetland Reserve. <http://maps.google.com/>. Accessed May 16, 2010.

National Audubon Society. 2010. Important Bird Areas in the U.S. <http://iba.audubon.org/iba/viewSiteProfile.do?siteId=3713&navSite=state>. Accessed May 16, 2010.

Oregon Habitat Joint Venture (OHJV). 2001. Oregon's Wetlands: Willamette Valley Projects. http://www.ohjv.org/projects/willamette.html#mud_slough. Accessed May 16, 2010.

The Wetlands Conservancy. n.d. Mud Slough Conservation Easement. http://www.oregonwetlands.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=71. Accessed May 16, 2010.

Figure 1: Google Earth (2010) map of Mud Slough Wetland Reserve with the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2010) layer.



Figure 2: Google Map (2010) road view of Mud Slough Wetland Reserve.

