

## 51-31. PAYETTE RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)

### Boundaries and ownership:

*Boundaries:* Boundaries are clearly marked

*Ownership:* Idaho Department of Fish & Game

### Focal species using the site and timing of use:

Waterfowl (Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Common Goldeneye, Lesser Scaup, Redhead) and waterbirds (Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, American Coot) use this area during the breeding season. Waterfowl (over 1,000 White-fronted Geese and other waterfowl), waterbirds (Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, American White Pelican, and others), and shorebirds (Long-billed Curlew, Semipalmated Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe; Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan lists this as shorebird site) use the area during migration. Sandhill Cranes use the area in spring. Bald Eagles are common winter residents.

### Location of type 1 and 2 habitat within the site:

| Functional Group     | Type 1 Habitat                                | Type 2 Habitat    |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| waterbirds           | open water & emergent vegetation              | none              |
| large waders         | emergent vegetation                           | rest of shoreline |
| secretive marshbirds | water's edge                                  | none              |
| waterfowl            | open water, edges during breeding season      | none              |
| shorebirds           | exposed mudflats during spring/fall migration | rest of shoreline |
| gulls and terns      | all areas                                     | none              |

### Access to the type 1 and 2 habitat and visibility of the birds:

Most areas are accessible to the public, with the exception of some nesting area closures. Access to nesting areas would require permission from the WMA manager. Birds in ponds can be viewed by scope or binoculars from the shoreline. The river section of the WMA would be best surveyed by small boat/canoe.

### Conservation issues:

- Housing and residential development may have major impacts on the area
- Farming on nearby parcels of land is also a potential problem

### Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

- Managed for waterfowl production – large numbers of Canada Goose platforms and Wood Duck boxes; one of the densest goose populations in lower 48, and one of densest Wood Duck populations in Idaho

### Past and current surveys:

- Have a bird inventory list for the WMA

### Potential survey methods

#### *Description:*

- a. Nest searches for grebes and other waterbirds nesting in the emergent vegetation in small colonies. Canoe may be necessary for access.

- c. Census for waterfowl on the open water by foot for pond areas and by boat for river areas. Late summer or winter counts may be better than breeding season counts, as waterfowl are more easily detected during this period.
- d. Area searches for migrating shorebirds from observation points near Type 1 habitat.
- e. Systematic sampling, probably including the use of playback calls, for secretive marshbirds.
- f. Census for gulls and terns during waterfowl counts.

*Selection bias:* Some areas are closed to the public. With permission for access to these areas, there should be no selection bias.

*Measurement error and bias:* Observer skills is a potential error/bias

**Needed pilot studies:** None may be needed.

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