

Terrestrial Wildlife

An aerial photograph of a coastal wetland area. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of green trees. To the left, a sandy beach meets the ocean. The central part of the image shows a large, shallow body of water with a complex network of channels and marshes. The background features rolling hills under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

SITKA SEDGE TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING
VANESSA BLACKSTONE - OPRD

Simplified Assessment Process

Compile list of native species that occur in the watershed

- Does not include invertebrates – no data

Identify the habitats they utilize at Sitka Sedge

Groups species into functional groups

- Habitat use and high level taxa
- This still ignores many components
 - What do they use it for – breeding, migrating, foraging, etc
 - How important is each habitat to that particular species
 - Indirect effects

Identify species of conservation concern that should be assessed individually



Animal Overview - Sand Lake Watershed

Functional Groups	Mudflats	Low saltmarsh	High saltmarsh	Freshwater Marsh	Scrub-Shrub	Forested Wetland
Amphibians				7	10	10
Birds	99	57	60	96	60	69
Neotropical Migrant - both	8	9	9	10	1	1
Neotropical Migrant - fresh				2	19	20
Neotropical Migrant - salt			1			
Other Bird - both	14	16	23	23	10	8
Other Bird - fresh				6	28	39
Seabird - both	3	3	3	3		
Seabird - salt	15					
Shorebird - both	10	10	7	10		
Shorebird - fresh				2		
Shorebird - salt	16	3	1			
Wading Birds	6	6	7	7	1	
Wading Birds - fresh				1		
Waterfowl - both	27	10	9	28		
Waterfowl - fresh				4	1	1
Mammals	5	8	8	15	15	25
Mammal - both	5	8	8	8	6	5
Mammal - fresh				7	9	20
Reptiles				6	5	5
Grand Total	104	65	68	123	85	104

At-Risk Species

For this presentation:

- Federal or state listed
- Federal or state threatened
- Federal species of concern
- State sensitive, state critical, or conservation strategy

29 at-risk species that utilize the habitats being considered

Note: Western snowy plover may have indirect impacts associated with these alternatives. OPRD will need to consider those impacts due to other regulatory obligations outside the scope of this technical team.

At-Risk by Habitat

Functional Group	Mudflats	Low Saltmarsh	High Saltmarsh	Freshwater Marsh	Scrub-shrub	Forested Wetland
Amphibian				2	3	3
Mammal - both	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mammal - fresh						4
Neotropical Migrant - both	1	1	1	1		
Neotropical Migrant - fresh				1	2	2
Other Bird - both	3	3	4	4		1
Other Bird - fresh						3
Reptile - fresh				1		
Seabird - both	3	1	1	3		
Seabird - salt	1					
Wading Birds	2	2	2	2		
Waterfowl - both	2	2	2	2		
Grand Total	13	10	11	17	6	16

Amphibians – 10 Species

For simplification, all amphibians have been lumped together as they all use freshwater systems

Lentic Amphibians- 6

- At-risk: 1 Federal 2 State
- Breeds exclusively in freshwater marsh

Stream Amphibians - 1

- Breeds exclusively in streams

Terrestrial Amphibians - 3

- At-risk: 1 state
- Moist habitats, at the edges of water
- Very little impact from the alternatives

Reptiles – 6 Species

Freshwater Marsh - 6

- At-risk: 1 Federal 1 State – *western pond turtle*
- Utilize freshwater for foraging or loafing

Scrub-shrub and Forested Wetlands - 5

Birds – 14 Potential Functional Groups

Neotropical Migrants - 36

- At-risk: 4 Federal 4 State
- Breeding and migration
- “Loose” grouping – includes other summer migrants

Seabirds - 23

- At-risk: 1 federal 5 state
- Many utilize the beach and ocean, with marginal use of mudflats

Shorebirds - 29

- At-risk: 1 federal 2 state
- Migration only

Wading Birds - 8

- At-risk: 1 state
- Foraging
- “Loose” grouping, includes rails

Waterfowl – 27

- At-risk: 1 federal
- Foraging, migration, wintering, and loafing
- Breeding: Canada goose, wood duck, mallard, bufflehead, and all in freshwater habitats

Other Birds - 73

- At-risk: 2 federal 6 state
- Resident OR wintering

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Mammals – 2 Functional Groups

Saltwater and Freshwater Habitats

- Utilized for foraging or movement
- Mudflats – 5 species
- Low Saltmarsh – 8 species
- High Saltmarsh – 8 species

Freshwater habitats

- Freshwater Marsh – 7 species (includes beaver)
- Scrub-shrub – 15 species
- Forested Wetland – 1 species

American beaver – Important ecosystem engineer that is now present in the freshwater marsh

Modern Tide Gate (7 feet)

	Habitat Acreages			
	Existing	Modern gates	Breach	Setback
Mud/water	6.8	2.2	9.6	9.6
Low saltmarsh	4.6	5.8	44.6	40.2
High saltmarsh	17.5	3.6	11.0	10.1
Freshwater marsh	29.5	12.1	5.7	6.5
Scrub-shrub	5.2	12.4	4.7	5.3
Forested wetland	15.4	13.1	3.2	4.3

Functional Groups	Mudflats	Low saltmarsh	High saltmarsh	Freshwater Marsh	Scrub-Shrub	Forested Wetland
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Modern Tide Gate (7 feet)

Positive: 254

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Breach

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Breach

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Negative: 380

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Setback Dike

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Mitigation

Every alternative has “winners” and “losers”

Across all species

Modern Tide Gate	254	295
Breach	169	380
Setback Dike	254	295

At-risk Species

Modern Tide Gate	32	41
Breach	23	50
Setback Dike	29	44

Mitigation

Determining which alternative is “best” for wildlife is not possible.

- Selection of alternatives is simply determining what the management goals will be

Every alternative can have mitigation actions developed that should be included with funding requests and moving an alternative forward

- Determine which “losers” should receive mitigation
- Restore and enhance reduced habitats for those species in close proximity

Recommended Functional Groups

15 Groups total

Single Species: Beaver, western pond turtle

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