



see also 1986 USFWS doc. 4US001

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included. Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: United States of America Date: 1992 3. Ref: office use only 4US001

4. Name and address of compiler: Same as before (see EWS slides write-up) US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

5. Name of wetland: Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

6. Date of Ramsar designation:

7. Geographical coordinates: 36° 21' N to 36° 30' N, 116° 15' W to 116° 23' W

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)

The Area is located about 90 miles west and slightly N of Las Vegas on the Calif Nevada border and 60 km East of Boulder

9. Area: (in hectares)

9509 ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

N, P, R, Y

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

630m to 900m above sea level

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The Ash meadows wildlife refuge is an ^{unique, desert} ~~ecosystem~~ ecosystem formed around a group of springs that feed the Carson Slough. It exhibits the greatest biological endemism of any area in the U.S.

13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

The Refuge lies in the Basin and Range Physiographic province of the U.S. This province is characterized by two desert conditions in a series of block faulted valleys partially filled w/ alluvium from the surrounding mountains. Soils developed in the area are mostly Haplargids, Calcorthids, Arripsements, Calcorthids, gently sloping to steep. Most smaller streams are intermittent except where spring fed as in the Wildlife refuge.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Cresote Bush (Larrea) ~~is~~ ^{is} dominated vegetation dominates the area.

The Refuge is an oasis in the ^{arid} desert ecosystem of the Southwestern U.S.A.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site U.S. Government owns the land within the refuge.

(b) surrounding area Mixed private & public ownerships - much of area is U.S. government owned.

16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

~~Area~~ The Wildlife refuge was established in 1984 and with recent additions preserves about 60% of the total area of the Oak meadows ecosystem.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site ~~Area~~ Ecosystem research / Habitat conservation

(b) surroundings/catchment mining of peat & clay, residential & industrial development in region.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site mining for peat & clay in Carson slough and the pumping of water for industrial & residential use.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment Industrial and residential development offsite along w/ mining development threaten the ecosystem stability (mostly by groundwater pumping)

20. Hydrological and physical values: (e.g. groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

The Oak Meadows area has more than 30 springs and seeps that ~~produce~~ have ~~an~~ annual discharge between 21×10^6 and 25×10^6 m³. Site is a unique desert oasis ecosystem.

21. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

~~Mining of peat & clay occurs in the area~~

Desert oasis with a large number of endemic species.

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

The site exhibits the greatest degree of biological endemism of any site in the U.S. It has over 18 endemic organisms including 2 insects, 10 or more molluscs, 5 fish and 1 mammal. Almost all are threatened including the Devil's Hole pupfish (Cyprinodon diabolis, Wales)

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

Eight plants are unique to these sites and are threatened.

24. **Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Area is used ~~as a~~ for Environmental - Ecosystem Research.

25. **Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

A refuge descriptive leaflet and species list are available.

26. **Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

Hunting is permitted, no other activities relating to recreation occur.

27. **Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Desert National Wildlife Refuge - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1500 North Decatur Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89108
USA

28. **Jurisdiction:** (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)

United States Department of the Interior
Richard Wildlife Service

29. **Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Williams, C. O. The decline of Ash Meadows, a unique desert ecosystem. pgs. 716-719 in R. E. Warner & K. M. Hendrix, Eds. California riparian systems, University of California Press, Berkeley.

30. **Reasons for inclusion:** (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

Endemic Species.

31. **Map of site** (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)