

Frequently Asked Questions about the Caspian Tern Draft EIS And Its Relationship to Summer Lake, Oregon

Q: What is being proposed in the Draft EIS for the Summer Lake area?

The preferred alternative (Alternative C) in the Draft EIS proposes to create three half-acre islands in the Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area, which is managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Q: Are there already Caspian terns at Summer Lake?

Yes. Caspian terns have nested in Summer Lake in low numbers since the 1940s. In 2003, only five nesting pairs were observed. Nesting activity varies annually based on water levels and exposure of nesting islands.

Q: What do terns eat at Summer Lake?

A 2003 study found that terns in this area primarily eat tui chub, a non-native fish found in Summer Lake.

Q: Will the project affect water management at Summer Lake?

No. The creation of additional nesting habitat is not expected to affect water-storage capacity. No change in the current water-management regime is necessary for nesting terns.

Q: Would creation of tern nesting areas affect hunting opportunities at Summer Lake?

Terns are not present during the hunting season so management of the wetland impoundments would not change. The created islands also could serve as additional roosting areas for wintering waterfowl.

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