

Closed Lakes Basin

Description

The Closed Lakes Basin includes two large sub-areas. To the east is a region characterized by large, relatively low-lying valleys framed by benches and mountains ranging from 8-10,000 feet in elevation. Here the major watercourses rise in the Steens, Strawberry and Ochoco mountains and flow into Harney Lake. To the west, in a region characterized by broad valleys broken by cinder cones and uplifted fault-block mountains, large numbers of small drainages feed into Goose Lake, the Warner lakes, Lake Abert, Summer Lake, Silver Lake and a number of playas. The topography and habitats are typical of the Northern Basin and Range ecoregion.

Although there are no anadromous fish in the Closed Lakes Basin, its streams and headwater lakes provide important habitat for redband and rainbow trout and a number of sensitive native non-game fish, including the Warner sucker and several species of tui chub. Stream species tend to reside in isolated reaches or pools.

Many of the lake and wetland systems in this region provide critical resting and wintering area for large populations of waterfowl migrating along the Pacific flyway. According to the *State of the Environment* report, Harney basin wetlands draw up to 2.5 million ducks, 100,000 snow geese and 16,000 lesser sandhill cranes during the spring migration. The region is also known for high numbers of endemic species.

Much of the biodiversity in this region is still intact, and many and diverse upland habitat types are found here. Of particular importance are wetland and riparian types.

Priority Ecological Systems

Alkaline wetlands
Aquatic bed
Foothill and lower montane riparian woodland
Freshwater emergent marsh
Lowland riparian forest and shrubland
Subalpine or montane wet meadow

Rare or At-Risk Plant Communities

Arroyo willow - creek dogwood
Basin big sagebrush / basin wildrye
Basin big sagebrush / needle-and-thread
Basin wildrye bottomlands
Black cottonwood - white alder
Black cottonwood / black hawthorn
Black cottonwood / coyote willow
Black cottonwood / pacific willow riparian

Black hawthorn - woods rose
Chokecherry
Coyote willow - pacific willow
Drummond willow / Holm sedge
Mountain alder - western birch
Mountain big sagebrush / western needlegrass
Quaking aspen / aquatic sedge
Quaking aspen / mountain alder - birch - currant
Sandberg bluegrass - Lemmon alkaligrass
Sculer willow
Silver sagebrush / basin wildrye
Silver sagebrush / tufted hairgrass
Tufted hairgrass - Douglas' sedge alkaline prairie
Western birch - creek dogwood
Wyoming big sagebrush - squawapple / idaho fescue

Closed Lakes Basin – Priority Species

<i>Fish</i>	<i>Birds</i>	<i>Mammals</i>	<i>Amphibians and Reptiles</i>	<i>Invertebrates</i>	<i>Plants</i>
Catlow Tui chub Goose Lake Lamprey Goose Lake Sucker Goose Lake Tui Chub Hutton Spring Tui Chub Inland Redband Trout Oregon Lakes Tui Chub Sheldon Tui Chub Warner Sucker	American Bittern Bobolink Greater Sandhill Crane Long-Billed Curlew Long-Eared Owl (Nest Sites Only) Snowy Egret Snowy Plover Swainson's Hawk (Nest Sites Only) Trumpeter Swan Upland Sandpiper Willow Flycatcher Wilson's Phalarope Yellow-Headed Blackbird	Kit Fox Pallid Bat Pygmy Rabbit Spotted Bat Townsend's Big-Eared Bat Western Small-Footed Bat White-Tailed Jack Rabbit	Columbia Spotted Frog Western Toad	<i>Ochlodes yuma</i> (Yuma Skipper) <i>Planorbella oregonensis</i> (Borax Lake Ramshorn Snail)	<i>Pleuropogon oregonus</i> (Oregon Semaphore Grass) <i>Stanleya confertiflora</i> (Biennial Stanleya) <i>Thelypodium howellii</i> Ssp. <i>howellii</i> (Howell's Thelypody)