

## Orange River Wildlife Management Area

### Whiting

#### ***Description:***

The Orange River Wildlife Management Area is a 600+ acre complex of wetlands and uplands with a variety of vegetation types. It is impounded at its eastern end near Route 1, where it drains into the Orange River and then Cobscook Bay. According to National Wetlands Inventory Maps, the largest wetland type is open water, followed by shrub-scrub and emergent types. The WMA is one of the region's more important inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat areas.

Two bald eagle essential habitats are known from the northeast side of the Focus Area. The least bittern was documented from Reynold's Brook in June, 1999. Two birds (assumed to be a pair) were observed in a patch of cat-tails just south of Route 1 (outside but adjacent to the WMA).

#### ***Rare Species and Exemplary Natural Community Table for Orange River Wildlife Management Area***

Common Name	Latin Name	S-RANK	G-RANK	State Status
<i>Rare Animals</i>				
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	S2B	G5	SC
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	S4	G4	T

#### ***Habitats Mapped by MDIFW:***

Waterfowl / Wading Bird Habitat

Bald Eagle Essential Habitat

#### ***Conservation Considerations:***

- There is a concrete roll dam at the site of the old hydro dam. The state owns the dam site and a right-of-way to it.
- There are no records of invasive plants
- Trials of establishment of wild rice in the past were unsuccessful.

#### ***Protection Status:***

The Maine Department of Fisheries and Wildlife owns flowage rights to a level held back by the dam, approximately 644 acres. This protected area includes most of the important wetlands, but not the known site for the least bittern on the south side of Route 1. There is conservation ownership of a boat ramp close to the dam.