

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management and the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Hydrologic and Water-Quality Conditions During Restoration of the Wood River Wetland, Upper Klamath River Basin, Oregon, 2003–05



Scientific Investigations Report 2009-5004

Front Cover: Aerial view of the lower Wood River Valley showing the Wood River Wetland (center), Sevenmile Canal, Wood River, and Agency Lake. (Photograph courtesy of Trisha Roninger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

Back Cover: Wood River Wetland (looking east). Photograph taken by Kurt Carpenter, U.S. Geological Survey, January 2003.

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By Kurt D. Carpenter, Daniel T. Snyder, John H. Duff, Frank J. Triska, Karl K. Lee,
Ronald J. Avanzino, and Steven Sobieszczyk

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Scientific Investigations Report 2009–5004

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey**

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Conversion Factors and Datums

Inch/Pound to SI

Multiply	By	To obtain
Length		
inch (in.)	2.54	centimeter (cm)
foot (ft)	0.3048	meter (m)
mile (mi)	1.609	kilometer (km)
Area		
acre	0.4047	hectare (ha)
Volume		
acre-foot (acre-ft)	1,233	cubic meter (m^3)
Flow rate		
foot per day (ft/d)	0.3048	meter per day (m/d)
foot per year (ft/yr)	0.3048	meter per year (m/yr)
gallon per minute (gal/min)	0.06309	liter per second (L/s)
mile per hour (mi/h)	1.609	kilometer per hour (km/h)
Energy		
calorie (cal)	4.184	joule (J)

SI to Inch/Pound

Multiply	By	To obtain
Length		
centimeter (cm)	0.3937	inch (in.)
millimeter (mm)	0.03937	inch (in.)
meter (m)	3.281	foot (ft)
kilometer (km)	0.6214	mile (mi)
Volume		
liter (L)	0.2642	gallon (gal)
Flow rate		
meter per second (m/s)	3.281	foot per second (ft/s)
Mass		
gram (g)	0.03527	ounce, avoirdupois (oz)
kilogram (kg)	2.205	pound avoirdupois (lb)
Pressure		
kilopascal (kPa)	0.01	bar
kilopascal (kPa)	0.1450	pound-force per square inch (lb/in^2)

Conversion Factors and Datums—Continued

Temperature in degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) may be converted to degrees Fahrenheit ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) as follows:

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = (1.8 \times ^{\circ}\text{C}) + 32.$$

Specific conductance is given in microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ at 25°C).

Concentrations of chemical constituents in water are given in milligrams per liter (mg/L) or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$).

Datums

Vertical coordinate information is referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29). For the purpose of this publication, the term sea level is used to represent the 0-foot altitude as referenced to NGVD29. The conversion between NGVD29 and the commonly used North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) varies spatially; for conversions the reader is directed to either the National Geodetic Survey website for VERTCON at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/TOOLS/Vertcon/vertcon.html> or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website for Corpscon at <http://crunch.tec.army.mil/software/corpscon/corpscon.html>.

Horizontal coordinate information is referenced to the North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27). The conversion between NAD27 and the commonly used North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) varies spatially; for conversions, the reader is directed to either the National Geodetic Survey website for NADCON at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/TOOLS/Nadcon/Nadcon.html> or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website for Corpscon at <http://crunch.tec.army.mil/software/corpscon/corpscon.html>.

Elevation, as used in this report, refers to distance above the vertical datum. Vertical coordinate information for historical data collected and stored as NAVD88 have been converted to NGVD29 for this publication. Horizontal coordinate information for historical data collected and stored as NAD83 have been converted to NAD27 for this publication.

A local vertical datum, called the Upper Klamath Lake Vertical Datum (UKLVD), established by the Bureau of Reclamation, is often used for reporting elevation, especially with regard to the stage of Upper Klamath Lake. The conversions from UKLVD to the national datums NAVD88 and NGVD29 vary spatially and are presently not well defined for much of the Wood River Valley. For the purpose of this publication, the conversion used is UKLVD – 1.78 = NGVD29 (all values are in feet) (Source: William Wood, Bureau of Reclamation, written commun., 2007).

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AGKO	Agency Lake AgriMet station
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CH_4	methane
Cl	chloride
CO_2	carbon dioxide
DBP	disinfection by-products
DEM	digital elevation models
DIN	dissolved inorganic nitrogen
DKN	dissolved Kjeldahl nitrogen
DNRA	dissimilatory nitrate reduction to ammonium
DO	dissolved oxygen
DOC	dissolved organic carbon
ET	evapotranspiration
GF/F	glass fiber filter
HAA	haloacetic acid
HCl	hydrochloric acid
H_2S	hydrogen sulfide
H_2SO_4	sulfuric acid
KFLO	Klamath Falls, Oregon AgriMet station
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
mg-C/L	milligrams of carbon per liter
mg-N/L/m ² /h	milligrams of nitrogen per liter per square meter per hour
N_2	nitrogen gas
NH_3	un-ionized ammonia
NH_4^+	ammonium
NO	nitric oxide
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NO_2+NO_3	nitrite-plus-nitrate
NO_3	nitrate
O_2	oxygen
PAR	photosynthetically active radiation
SC	specific conductance
SRP	soluble reactive phosphorus
TKN	total Kjeldahl nitrogen
TN	total nitrogen
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TP	total phosphorus
$\mu\text{g-C/L}$	micrograms of carbon per liter
$\mu\text{g-Cl/L}$	micrograms of chloride per liter
$\mu\text{g-Fe/L}$	micrograms of iron per liter
$\mu\text{g-N/L}$	micrograms of nitrogen per liter
$\mu\text{g-P/L}$	micrograms of phosphorus per liter
$\mu\text{g-Mn/L}$	micrograms of manganese per liter
μL	microliter
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
W_s	wind speed

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Hydrologic and Water-Quality Conditions During Restoration of the Wood River Wetland, Upper Klamath River Basin, Oregon, 2003–05

By Kurt D. Carpenter, Daniel T. Snyder, John H. Duff, Frank J. Triska, Karl K. Lee, Ronald J. Avanzino, and Steven Sobieszczyk

Abstract

Restoring previously drained wetlands is a strategy currently being used to improve water quality and decrease nutrient loading into Upper Klamath Lake, Oregon. In this 2003–05 study, ground- and surface-water quality and hydrologic conditions were characterized in the Wood River Wetland. Nitrogen and phosphorus levels, primarily as dissolved organic nitrogen and ammonium (NH_4) and soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP), were high in surface waters. Dissolved organic carbon concentrations also were elevated in surface water, with median concentrations of 44 and 99 milligrams of carbon per liter (mg-C/L) in the North and South Units of the Wood River Wetland, respectively, reaching a maximum of 270 mg-C/L in the South Unit in late autumn. Artesian well water produced NH_4 and SRP concentrations of about 6,000 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$), and concentrations of 36,500 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$ NH_4 and 4,110 $\mu\text{g-P/L}$ SRP in one 26–28 ft deep piezometer well. Despite the high ammonium concentrations, the nitrate levels were moderate to low in wetland surface and ground waters.

The surface-water concentrations of NH_4 and SRP increased in spring and summer, outpacing those for chloride (a conservative tracer), indicative of evapoconcentration. *In-situ* chamber experiments conducted in June and August 2005 indicated a positive flux of NH_4 and SRP from the wetland sediments. Potential sources of NH_4 and SRP include diffusion of nutrients from decomposed peat, decomposing aquatic vegetation, or upwelling ground water. In addition to these inputs, evapoconcentration raised surface-water solute concentrations to exceedingly high values by the end of summer. The increase was most pronounced in the South Unit, where specific conductance reached 2,500 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ and median concentrations of total nitrogen and total phosphorus reached 18,000–36,500 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$ and about 18,000–26,000 $\mu\text{g-P/L}$, respectively. Water-column SRP and total phosphorus levels

decreased during autumn and winter following inputs of irrigation water and precipitation, which have lower nutrient concentrations. The SRP concentrations, however, decreased faster than the dilution rate alone, possibly due to precipitation of phosphorus with iron, manganese, or calcium.

The high concentrations of dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus during the growing season give rise to a rich plant community in the wetland consisting of emergent and submergent macrophytes and algae including phytoplankton and benthic and epiphytic algae that have pronounced effects on dissolved oxygen (DO) and pH. Midday readings of surface-water DO during summer often were supersaturated (as much as 310 percent saturation) with elevated pH (as much as 9.2 units), indicative of high rates of photosynthesis.

Minimum DO concentrations in the shallow ground-water piezometer wells were 0.4 mg/L in the North Unit and 0.8 mg/L in the South Unit during summer, which is probably low enough to support microbial denitrification. Denitrification was confirmed during *in-situ* experiments conducted at the sediment-water interface, but rates were low due to low background nitrate (NO_3). Nevertheless, denitrification (and plant uptake) likely contribute to low nitrate levels. Another possible cause of low nitrate levels is dissimilatory nitrate reduction to ammonia (DNRA), a microbial process that converts and decreases nitrate to ammonia. DNRA explains the excess ammonia production measured in the chambers treated with nitrate.

Surface-water levels and standing surface-water volume in the Wood River Wetland reached a maximum in early spring, inundating 80–90 percent of the wetland. Surface-water levels and standing volume then declined reaching a minimum in August through November, when the South Unit was only 10 percent inundated and the North Unit was nearly dry. The shallow ground-water levels followed a trend similar to surface-water levels and indicated a strong upward gradient.

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A monthly water budget was developed individually for the North and South Units of the Wood River Wetland and then summed to produce a budget over 2 water years (2004 and 2005). Inflows for the entire wetland consisted of precipitation (43 percent), regional ground-water discharge (40 percent), applied water for irrigation from adjacent surface-water bodies (12 percent), ground-water seepage through dikes (4 percent), and discharge from artesian wells (1 percent). Outflows consisted of open-water evaporation (64 percent) and evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation (36 percent). Outflows exceeded inflows by about 22 percent over the 2-year period. Changes in surface- and ground-water storage during this period amounted to losses of 1 and 2 percent relative to the total inflow, respectively. A water-budget residual consisting of the errors in measurement of all water-budget components and the sum of any unaccounted for components indicated a deficit of water of 19 percent relative to the total inflow. The monthly patterns in water-budget residuals closely resembled the pattern expected for soil-moisture storage, which was not estimated, but indicated that soil moisture could represent a significant part of the water budget for the wetland.

The distribution of inflow between the North and South Units generally was proportional to their area, with the primary exception being applied irrigation water, which entered entirely into the North Unit. Because of the larger area of open water in the South Unit, the proportion of the outflow from open-water evaporation was greater than from the North Unit.

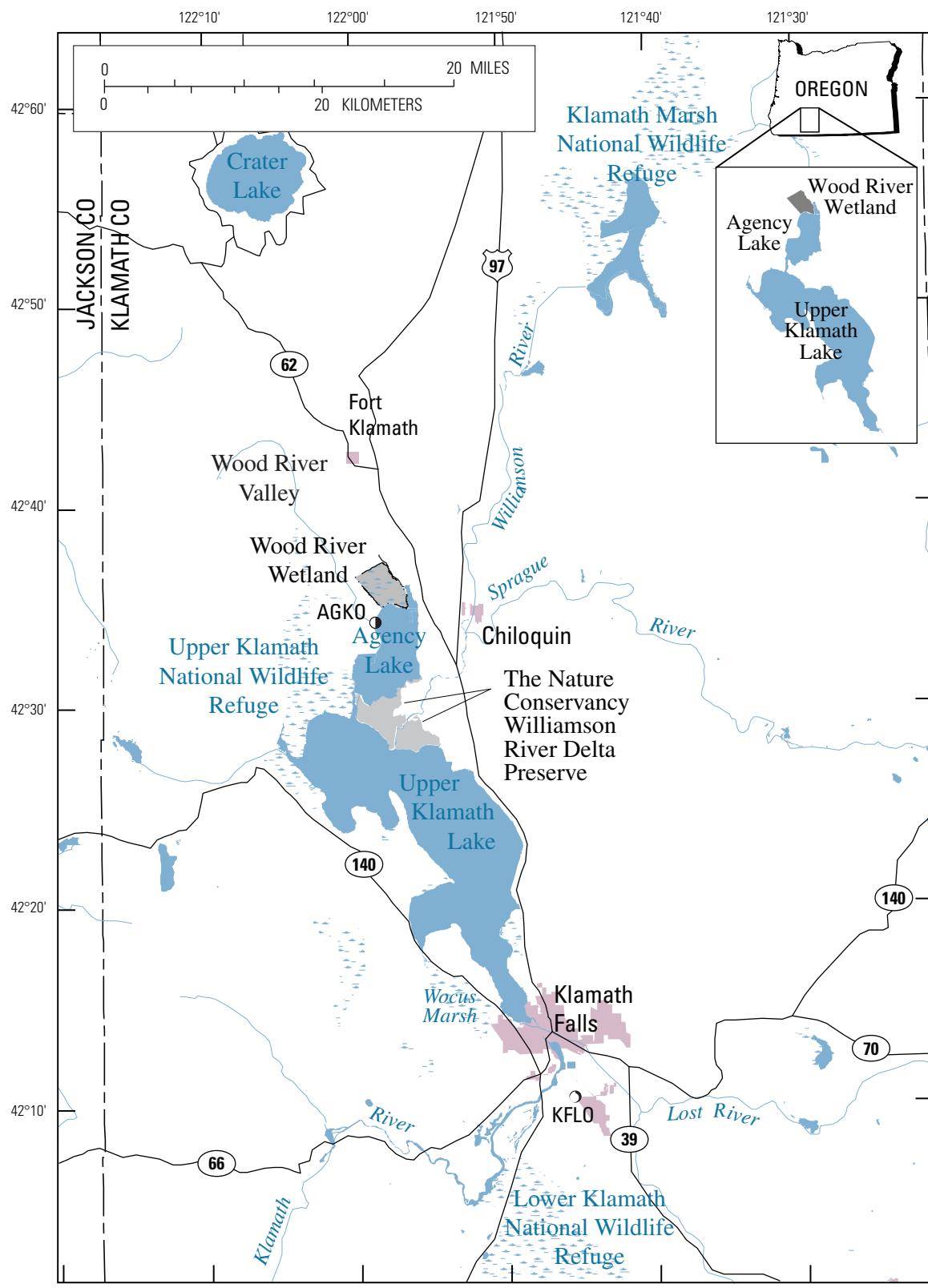
Introduction

Since about 1890, many marshlands have been drained in the upper Klamath River basin in southern Oregon, including 31,000 acres adjacent to Agency and Upper Klamath Lakes (Snyder and Morace, 1997). Although the undrained areas provide high quality habitat and food resources for diverse wildlife communities, 69 percent of the original within-lake wetlands have been drained. Effects of drainage include loss of marsh habitat and lake storage capacity, and altered soil biogeochemistry, including oxidation of peat soils, reduction in bulk mass, and release of carbon, nutrients, and minerals.

Wetlands in the upper Klamath River basin were drained for cattle grazing and crop cultivation including hay, barley, wheat, and potatoes. Draining lowered the water table and allowed oxygen to penetrate organic-rich peat soils, which

promoted decomposition and release of nutrients and minerals that had accumulated over several thousand years (Snyder and Morace, 1997). The decreased nutrient content and greater bulk density of drained wetland soils manifested itself as land subsidence of as much as 13 ft in some wetlands adjacent to Upper Klamath Lake. Subsiding wetlands may release large quantities of carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus when they are flooded. Subsequent pumping of standing water delivers great quantities of nutrients and carbon into Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes. Additional nutrient inputs from tributaries and internal loading fuel massive blooms of blue-green algae (*Aphanizomenon flos-aquae*) that cause periods of poor water quality. The annual growth and decomposition of dense algal blooms produce high pH (9–10 units), widely variable dissolved oxygen (anoxic to supersaturated), and high ammonia concentrations (nearly 0.3 mg-N/L, un-ionized) (Wood and others, 2006). Episodes of poor water quality have been associated with large kills of sucker fish species, including the Lost River sucker (*Deltistes luxatus*) and the shortnose sucker (*Chasmistes brevirostris*), which are protected under the Endangered Species Act (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1988).

Efforts to regain wetland function, increase water availability, decrease nutrient loading, and improve water quality and habitat have been initiated by several private landowners, organizations, and government agencies including the Klamath Basin Ecosystem Restoration Office (a division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Running Y Ranch Resort (MacLaren and Geiger, 2001). In 1994, the BLM completed acquisition of the Wood River Ranch, a 3,200-acre cattle ranch along the north shore of Agency Lake ([fig. 1](#)) that was drained and converted to pastureland in the 1950s and 1960s. Prior to 1994, this property was managed as irrigated pasture for beef production (Bureau of Land Management, 2006). This area is now referred to as the “Wood River Wetland” and currently is managed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to improve water quality, increase water availability, and provide wildlife and fish habitat (Bureau of Land Management, 1995, 1996, 2006). In 2003, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with BLM and with subsequent support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, began a study to characterize the hydrologic and water-quality conditions within the Wood River Wetland to help address questions regarding possible consequences of future management options.



Base modified from USGS digital data, various scales, variously dated.
Projection: UTM, Zone 10, North American Datum 1927.

Figure 1. Location of the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon.

Description of Wood River Wetland

Origin of Wood River Wetland

The wetlands surrounding Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes ([fig. 1](#)), were formed 10,000–12,000 years ago following recession of an expansive Pleistocene water body filled from melting of glacial ice (Dicken, 1980). This great water body, called Modoc Lake, extended 75 mi from Fort Klamath in southern Oregon, to south of Tule Lake in northern California. Modoc Lake deposited lacustrine clays typically to depths between 2.5 and 12 ft (Snyder and Morace, 1997), but occasionally deeper. Such clays can confine ground-water movement, especially where the layers remain intact. Canal digging and dike building possibly breached some clay layers in wetlands around Upper Klamath Lake, including the Wood River Wetland, altering ground-water flow paths. Atop these clay layers, peat soils developed to varying degrees, storing partly decomposed remnants of annual vegetation and associated nutrients. Under the clay are alternating layers of organic and inorganic sediments that probably were deposited over the 1 million years before the clay layer. Sediment cores

from Wocus Marsh near the southwestern part of Upper Klamath Lake ([fig. 1](#)) contained peat deposits at about 85 ft depth that may be as old as 400,000 years (Adam and others, 1994).

Study Area Description

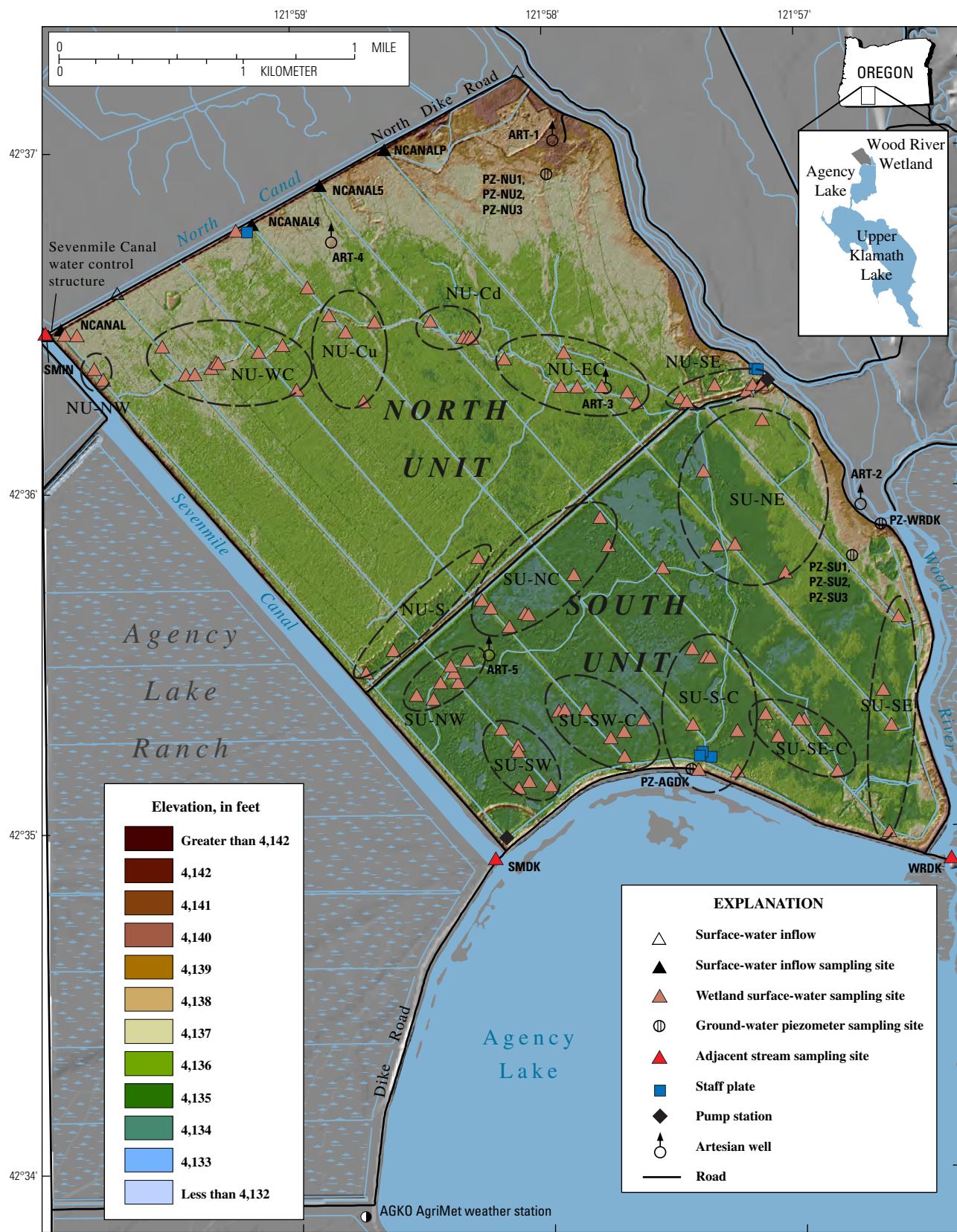
The Wood River Wetland is bordered by North Canal to the northwest, Sevenmile Canal to the southwest, Wood River to the northeast, and Agency Lake to the south ([fig. 2](#)). The property was diked and drained in two stages—the higher, drier, northern parcel in 1948 and the lower, wetter southern parcel in 1957. A central levee maintains the two parcels, a seasonally inundated 1,600-acre North Unit and a more developed wetland, the deeper 1,200-acre South Unit. The Wood River Wetland and the Wood River to the northeast have undergone extensive restoration during the past decade. Restoration included improving water management options, blocking certain canals in the Wood River Wetland to encourage water flow through the historical drainage system, and adding meanders to the Wood River channel (Bureau of Land Management, 2006).



Wood River Wetland (looking east northeast). Photograph taken by Kurt Carpenter, U.S. Geological Survey, October 2003.



Wood River Wetland (looking east). Photograph taken by Kurt Carpenter, U.S. Geological Survey, December 2004.



Base modified from USGS digital data, various scales.
Projection UTM, Zone 10, NAD27, NGVD1929.

Figure 2. Wood River Wetland and locations of sampling sites, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon.

Geology and Soils

Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes are in a large, deep basin filled with layers of volcanic and alluvial sediments, lake clays, and peat soils (Leonard and Harris, 1974). Rocks in the area are predominantly unconsolidated and consolidated volcanic materials (Leonard and Harris, 1974). Large quantities of ash, pumice, and lacustrine deposits of diatoms and peat are hundreds of feet thick (Dicken and Dicken, 1985). Alluvial floodplain deposits consist of volcanic ash-rich clays, silts, sands, along with peat, and other organic materials (Cahoon, 1985; Bureau of Land Management, 1996).

Thin horizontal layers of coarse volcanic pumice underlie the Wood River Wetland, which may facilitate lateral water movement along preferential flow paths through the layers. The volcanic pumice was deposited about 7,600 years ago, when a massive eruption from Mount Mazama formed the current Crater Lake (Hallett and others, 1997). Pumice and volcanic ash were deposited or washed down-valley near the Wood River Wetland (Williams, 1965). This and other eruptions during the Holocene epoch produced layers of pumice and ash that underlie the present wetlands in the upper Klamath River basin (Smith, 1988). In the Wood River Valley, south of Crater Lake, a 6-in. thick layer of pumice tapers off to the south (Walker, 1951; Williams, 1965). This layer is visible in the soil cores collected by Snyder and Morace (1997).

Three major types of peat soils occur around Upper Klamath Lake: hemic peat, hemic/sapric peat, and sapric peat (Snyder and Morace, 1997). Hemic peat is undecomposed to moderately decomposed peat; hemic/sapric peat is intermediately decomposed peat; sapric peat is the most decomposed. Peat color indicates the degree of decomposition (Cameron, 1973; 1975). Hemic peat, either newly exposed or well protected from air, is generally light yellow or brown. Partially decomposed hemic or hemic/sapric peat is brown to dark brown; well-decomposed sapric peat is black. Wetland soils are of the Lather-Histosols type, formed from organic matter, and characterized as poorly drained mucks (Cahoon, 1985). Climate, topography, and changes in water table depth are the primary drivers in the formation and preservation of peat deposits (Cameron and others, 1989). Draining the Wood River Wetland has resulted in the decomposition of peat soils, which is evident in the various occurrences of sapric peat, land subsidence, and loss of mineral and nutrient content in soil cores (Snyder and Morace, 1997).

Vegetation and Other Biota

Vegetation in the Wood River Wetland includes willow thickets and obligate wetland species such as cattail (*Typha latifolia*), giant bur-reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*), and spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*) that also are scattered throughout the mostly flooded South Unit, in shallow areas unaffected by the canals. The plant communities at the wetland were similar to those reported at the Twitchell Island

restoration wetlands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, California (Miller and others, 2008), and include nearly 150 species (Bureau of Land Management, 2006). The plant community is in a dynamic state of change characterized by a general shift from grazing resistant, edge, and upland plants toward obligate wetland species (Bureau of Land Management, 2006). High nutrient concentrations provide for enhanced growth of numerous species, including submerged macrophytes such as coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), and curly pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*). A variety of filamentous green algae, duckweed, and other plants occur in the open-water areas, canals, and in shallow ponds during summer. Around the wetland fringe, particularly in the South Unit, shallow margin areas teem with aquatic life including diving beetles and zooplankton, which feed a diversity of bird life. Nearly 200 bird species have been identified in the area, with waterfowl counts of 25,000–80,000 during peak use periods in spring and autumn (Bureau of Land Management, 2006).



Vegetation at the Wood River Wetland. Photograph taken by Kurt Carpenter, U.S. Geological Survey, July 2005.



Waterfowl at the Wood River Wetland. Photograph taken by John Duff, U.S. Geological Survey, August 2004.

Climate and Water Availability

The semiarid climate in the upper Klamath River basin is characterized by hot, dry summers and moderately wet winters with moderate to low temperatures. Most precipitation occurs between October and March, producing marked seasonal fluctuations in water levels. During winter, precipitation often is in the form of snow, and ice often forms on the surface of the wetland (Bureau of Land Management, 2006). During high snowpack years, high-quality meltwater infiltrates and recharges the ground-water system while surface runoff pulses down the stream network in the Wood River Valley and is used for flood irrigation of pastures. Subirrigation, the irrigation of plants by water delivered to the roots from shallow ground water, also occurs in the Wood River Valley when ground-water levels are sufficiently high (Graham Matthews and Associates, 2005).

Large seasonal temperature changes in the upper Klamath River basin are due to the semiarid climate and high elevation (more than 4,000 ft). Summer months are dry, hot, and often windy. Solar intensity, which is higher at this elevation, adds heat that contributes to high rates of evapotranspiration (ET)—the loss of water from evaporation and plant transpiration.

Hydrology

The wetland is isolated from adjacent surface-water bodies and adjoining property by levees, and water control structures are located at key sites throughout the wetland to manage water levels. The inflow of surface water for irrigation is controlled and generally enters the wetland by first passing into North Canal, on the north side of North Dike Road ([fig. 2](#)). North Canal is filled with water from Sevenmile Canal during flood irrigation, and from overland and subsurface drainage from the adjoining property upgradient (north) of the wetland. Although water from Wood River can be used, Sevenmile Canal is the primary water source during flood irrigation because the inlet structure includes a fish screen. Water from North Canal is routed into the North Unit through control structures along the North Dike Road, at the north end of the north-south trending canals. Although separate, the two parcels that compose the wetland may be partly hydrologically connected by ground-water transport through the horizontal pumice sand and gravel layers. Minor surface-water movements primarily are in the upland North Unit, from the northwest corner to the southeast, following canals and parts of a former natural channel toward the Wood River pump station ([fig. 2](#)). Water accumulated in the southeast corner of the North Unit can be pumped into Wood River or

passed into the South Unit through a water control structure near the pump station, and gates can be managed for draining units independently. A second pump station in the southwest corner of the South Unit can be used to discharge water to the lower reaches of Sevenmile Canal. However, during this investigation (2003–05) only a negligible amount of pumping took place from either pump station for pump maintenance.

Additional sources of water inflow include direct precipitation, regional ground-water discharge, seepage through the dikes, and discharge from five flowing artesian wells on the wetland. The only significant outflow of water from the wetland during the study period was evaporation from areas of open water and evapotranspiration from plants.

Historical and Current Water Management

From 1985 through 1994, the Wood River Wetland was managed for beef cattle production (Bureau of Land Management, 2005). Prior to 1995, water accumulated during winter was pumped off in February or March through May, until surface water was confined to the drainage canals. About 1,300 cow-calf pairs grazed the wetland from about April through November. The pasture was flood irrigated with about 3,000–6,000 acre-ft about once per month during summer. Under this management scenario, open water occurred only from December through April, and grasses, sedges, and weeds provided forage for waterfowl and other wildlife.

From 1995 through 2005, water that accumulated during winter was not pumped off, allowing full inundation of the South Unit, and seasonal inundation of the North Unit. As the dry summer season progressed, water levels declined and much of the wetland went dry or moist, especially in the North Unit, but also partially in the South Unit. Flood irrigation was limited to one watering per year in September and October, when about 1,000 acre-ft of water was added from Sevenmile Canal to the North Unit to provide additional habitat for migrating and resident waterfowl. Under this management scenario, an annual cycle of drying and wetting occurred in the North Unit during moderate to dry years, while relatively deep water (4–6 ft) persisted in the South Unit canals during spring and early summer. Water depth in the non-canal areas of the South Unit ranged from a few inches to more than 6 ft. The seasonal extent of water inundation is shown in [figure 3](#). Both wetland units combined hold about 16,700 acre-ft of water at a water-surface elevation of 4,142 ft (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 [NGVD29]). The largest rate of increase in the inundated area occurs between water-surface elevations of 4,135 and 4,138 ft ([fig. 4](#)).

8 Hydrologic and Water-Quality Conditions, Wood River Wetland, Upper Klamath River Basin, Oregon, 2003–05

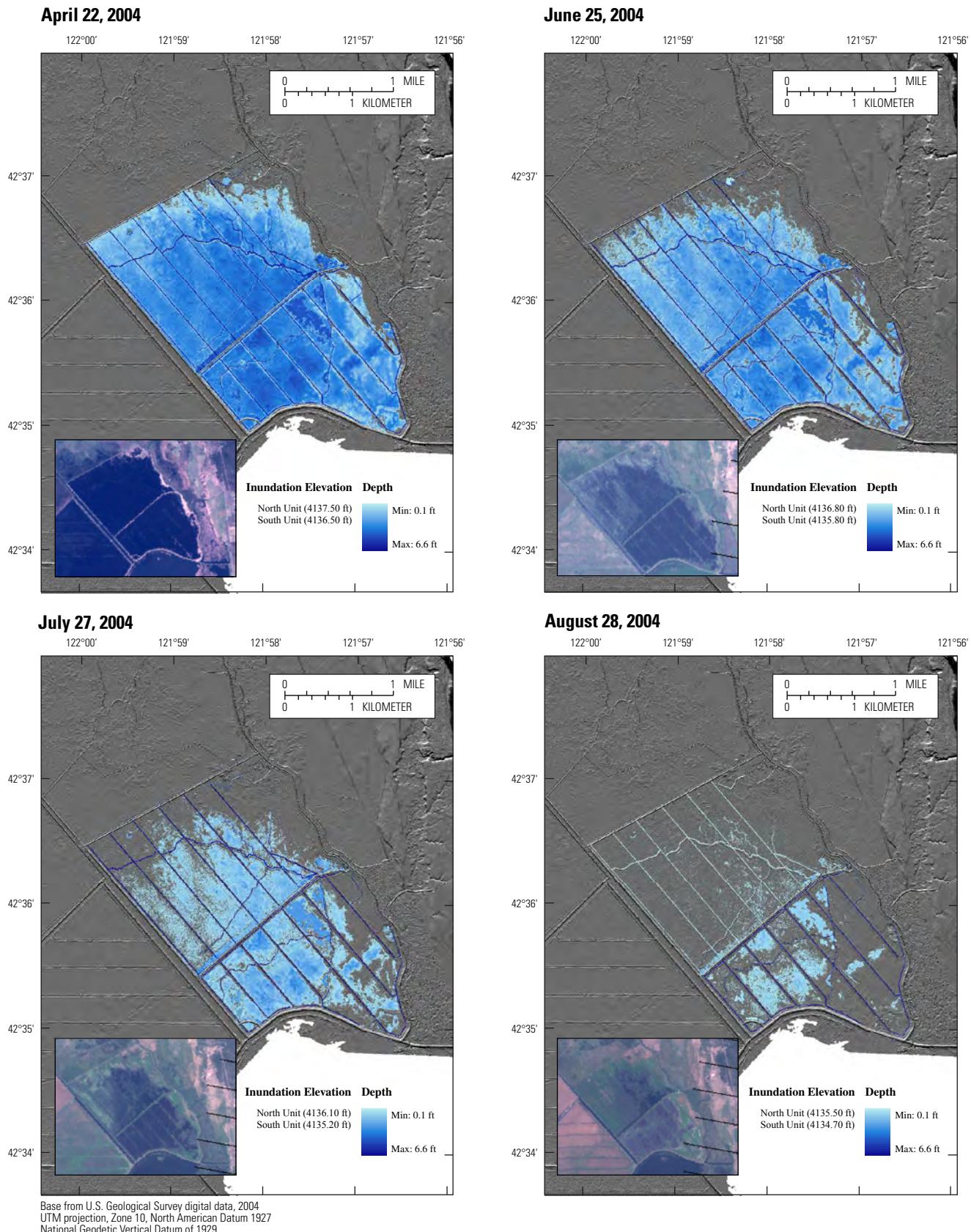


Figure 3. Observed and modeled extent of inundation and depth to water at the Wood River Wetland, Oregon, April–August 2004. (Observed inundation [insets] obtained from Landsat 7 imagery for the specified date using false color to emphasize inundation. Modeled inundation derived from a digital elevation model based on LiDAR [Light Detection And Ranging] data.)

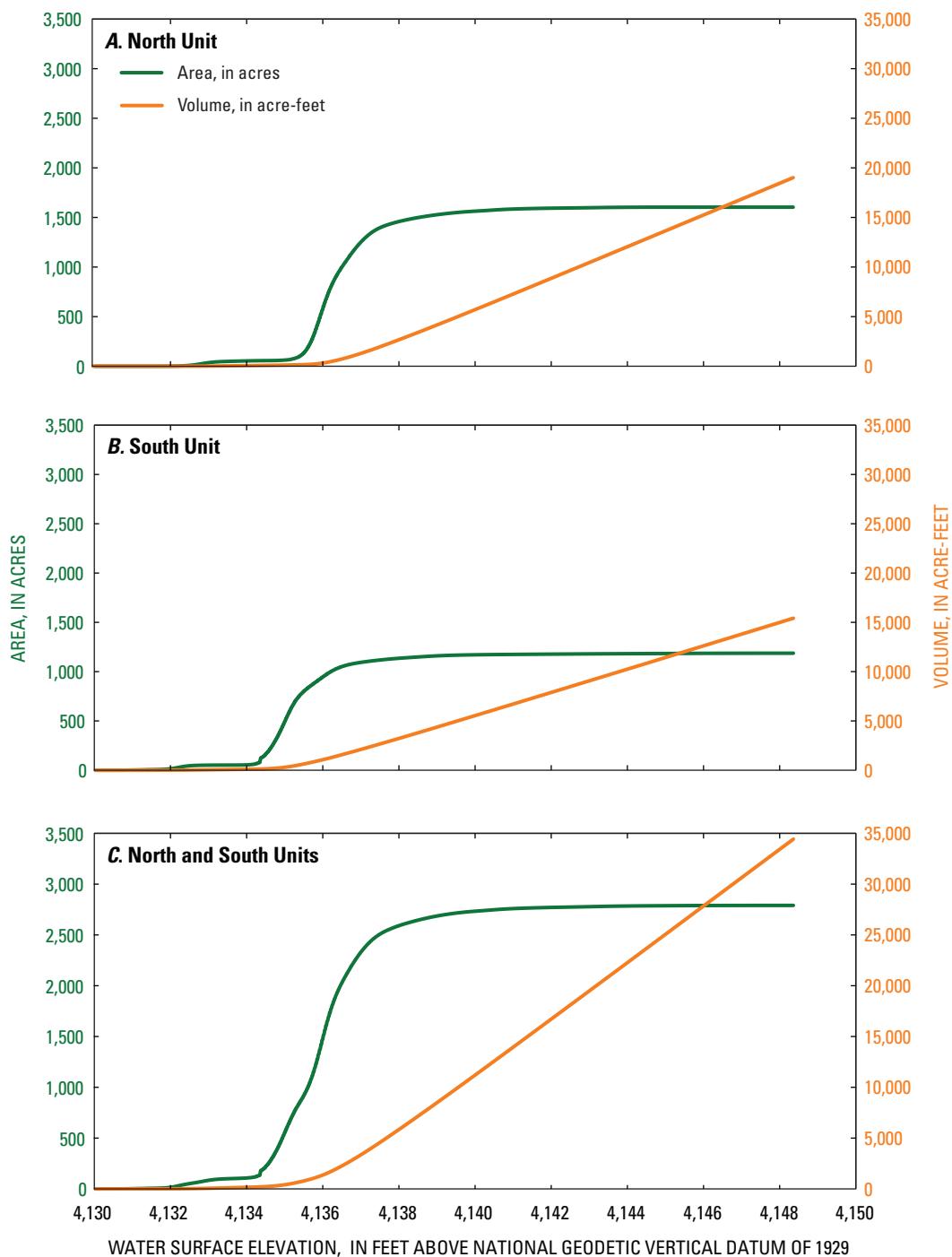


Figure 4. Stage, volume, and area relations for the (A) North Unit, (B) South Unit, and (C) North and South Units of the Wood River Wetland, Oregon.

Study Design and Methods

Surface- and ground-water quality was evaluated at several sites in each unit in 2003–05. Adjacent streams, Wood River and Sevenmile Canal ([table 1](#), [fig. 2](#)), also were sampled for comparison. Sampling was concentrated during the growing season (approximately monthly May/June through September) with a few winter and early spring samples collected to characterize the non-growing season. Samples of flood-irrigation water were collected over a 3-day period in September 2003, when water from the adjacent property to the north was let on to the wetland. In 2005, samples were collected monthly from June to September.

A hydrologic budget for the Wood River Wetland was developed by collecting information on inflows, outflows, and changes in water storage for the wetland. Water-budget components were determined through measurement or estimation. Results of the water-budget analysis were used to calculate standing surface-water volume on each sampling date to quantify changes in water quality over time.

Table 1. Water-quality sampling sites, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

[Site code: Locations of sampling sites shown in [figure 2](#), and (or) the online database. Abbreviations: WRW, Wood River Wetland; ft, foot]

Site code	Site name	Site code	Site name
Adjacent streams		Wood River Wetland ground water	
SMIN	Sevenmile Canal at Wood River Wetland inlet upstream of fish screen	PZ-NU1	NU Piezometer 59588 (shallow 3–5 ft)
SMDK	Sevenmile Canal Bridge at Dike Road near mouth	PZ-NU2	NU Piezometer 59589 (intermediate 10–12 ft)
WRDK	Wood River Bridge at Dike Road near mouth	PZ-NU3	NU Piezometer 59590 (deepest 26–28 ft)
Wood River Wetland surface water ¹		PZ-SU1	SU Piezometer 59591 (shallow 5–6 ft)
NU-NW	North Unit - NW northwest	PZ-SU2	SU Piezometer 59592 (intermediate 10–12 ft)
NU-WC	North Unit - WC west central	PZ-SU3	SU Piezometer 59593 (deepest 30–32 ft) artesian
NU-Cu	North Unit - Cu - center upstream of artesian well # 4	PZ-WRDK	Dike Road (Wood River) Piezometer 59594 (depth 8–10 ft)
NU-Cd	North Unit - Cd - center downstream of artesian well # 4	PZ-AGDK	Dike Road (Agency Lake) Piezometer 59595 (depth 14–16 ft)
NU-EC	North Unit - EC - east central	ART-1	Artesian well #1 at upper northeastern corral (depth 208 ft)
NU-SE	North Unit - SE - east	ART-3	Artesian well #3 (near the North Unit pump station) (depth 219 ft)
NU-S	North Unit - south central	GW-AG pore	Agency Lake pore water along shore near Wood River Wetland
SU-NW	South Unit - NW - northwest	North Canal (irrigation canal)	
SU-NC	South Unit - NC - north central	NCANAL	Wood River Wetland inlet and fish screen
SU-NE	South Unit - NE - northeast	NCANAL4	Water control structure 4
SU-SW	South Unit - SW - southwest	NCANAL5	Water control structure 5
SU-SW-C	South Unit - SW-C - southwest central	NCANALP	North levy pond inflow
SU-S-C	South Unit - S-C - south central	Agency and Upper Klamath Lakes	
SU-SE-C	South Unit - SE-C - southeast central	AGENCY shore	Agency Lake along shore near Wood River Wetland
SU-SE	South Unit - SE - southeast	AGENCY straits	Agency Straits adjacent to The Nature Conservancy parcel
		AGENCY Lake	Upper Agency Lake
		UKL outlet	Upper Klamath Lake outlet at Klamath Falls, Oregon

¹ Although differentiated according to general location (for example, Wood River Wetland North Unit - NW - northwest), multiple sampling locations in each wetland unit were analyzed together to produce medians and other statistical summaries for each sampling date used in the analyses. Data for individual locations are given in [appendix A](#).

Field Methods

Water samples—Water samples were collected from adjacent streams at the Dike Road bridges (for Sevenmile Canal and Wood River) or at the Sevenmile Canal water control structure at the inlet to the wetland ([fig. 2](#)). Surface-water sites in the wetland were accessed by canoe or by wading. Discrete water samples were collected about 10–20 cm below the water surface. Although wind occasionally mixes the surface water, temperature stratification was sometimes observed, especially in the South Unit. Therefore, the discrete water samples may not fully represent the water quality throughout the water column.

In the North Unit, sampling started at the northwest corner and progressed toward the southeast corner pump station. In the South Unit, sampling order varied depending on water level, wind, and other conditions. Surface water was collected using a battery-operated peristaltic pump (Geopump®) with Masterflex® tubing. Occasionally, water samples were collected in 2-L amber polyethylene bottles and processed off site.



Accessing canals for sampling at the Wood River Wetland (looking southeast). Photograph taken by John Duff, U.S. Geological Survey, August 2004.

Water samples also were collected from eight ground-water piezometers ([fig. 2](#)) using a peristaltic pump and weighted Masterflex® tubing. Wells were purged for at least 10 minutes (or until dry) by pumping approximately three water volumes from each well. Water samples were collected 12–24 hours after purging to allow fresh water to recharge wells. Prior to initial purging, water levels were measured with a calibrated electronic E-tape.

Water samples were analyzed for filtered and unfiltered (total) nutrients on 15 occasions. Dissolved organic carbon (DOC), select metals, and chloride (Cl) were analyzed less frequently. Bulk samples were shaken and subsampled into 125-mL bottles for total phosphorus (TP) and total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN). Samples for dissolved constituents, including ammonium (NH_4), nitrite plus nitrate ($\text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_3$), hereafter referred to as nitrate (NO_3), and dissolved Kjeldahl nitrogen (DKN) were filtered into 60-mL sample bottles (for NH_4 , NO_3 , and SRP), or a 125-mL bottle (for DKN). Filtered samples were processed through 0.45- μm filtration capsules attached directly to the peristaltic tubing or collected into a 60-mL syringe and filtered through 0.45- μm Acrodisc® filters. DOC samples were filtered through combusted 0.7 μm GF/F filters (Whatman®). Total nutrient samples (TKN and TP) were acidified with 1 mL sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4), and NH_4 and SRP samples were preserved with 100 μL concentrated hydrochloric acid (HCl) per 60-mL sample. Samples were packed on ice and shipped to the laboratories for analyses.

Field parameters—*In-situ* water temperature, specific conductance (SC), dissolved oxygen (DO), and pH were measured at most sites using a calibrated Hydrolab H20 or YSI 6600 multi-parameter probe, or an equivalent single-parameter meter. Readings occasionally were taken below the water surface and just off the bottom, but most readings were taken about 10–20 cm below the water surface. Vertical profiles of light intensity occasionally were collected to determine the

light or photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) available for photosynthesis in the water column and to calculate the light extinction depth (where PAR is zero).

Ground-water piezometers—Eight piezometers (wells used to measure ground-water pressure head or to sample water quality at a point or specific depth range in the subsurface) were installed at four sites in July 2003 ([fig. 2](#), [table 2](#)), according to the Oregon Water Resources Department guidelines for monitoring wells (Oregon Water Resources Department, 2001). Two nests consisting of three wells each (shallow, intermediate, and deep) were installed in the North and South Units, and two individual wells were drilled along the East and South Dike Roads ([fig. 2](#)). Slug tests were performed according to USGS protocols (Halford and Kuniansky, 2002) in the two dike road piezometers, PZ-WRDK, on the dike adjacent to Wood River, and PZ-AGDK, on the dike adjacent to Agency Lake. The slug tests were conducted to determine the hydraulic properties of the wetland soils and dike materials, and to estimate the rate of water flow through the dike materials and ground-water seepage through the wetland soils.



Construction of ground-water piezometers in the North Unit of the Wood River Wetland (looking north). Photograph taken by Charley Palmer, U.S. Geological Survey, August 2003.



Ground-water piezometer nest in the South Unit of the Wood River Wetland (looking west southwest). Photograph taken by Kurt Carpenter, U.S. Geological Survey, June 2004.

Material collected during well drilling included a wide range of coarse sediments (pumice pebbles and sand), silty loams, clays, peat, and a small amount of volcanic ash. The North Unit piezometers (PZ-NU1, PZ-NU2, and PZ-NU3) were installed in the northern corner of the wetland near an old corral. The shallow well (PZ-NU1) in this nest was completed in a pumice horizon at 3–5 ft overlain by sapric peat. The open interval of the intermediate-depth well (PZ-NU2) was installed in a deeper pumice horizon at 10–12 ft. The deep well (PZ-NU3), was completed at 26–28 ft in a mixed media bed consisting of inorganic sand and loam. The South Unit piezometers (PZ-SU1, PZ-SU2, and PZ-SU3) were installed along the central-eastern margin of the South Unit. The shallow well (PZ-SU1) in the South Unit piezometer nest was open to a depth of 5–6 ft in decomposed to partly decomposed

sapric and sapric-hemic peat. The intermediate-depth well (PZ-SU2) was open at 15–17 ft in a pumice horizon with some silt and clay. The deep well (PZ-SU3) was open at 30–32 ft in a layer of medium-sized and well-sorted flowing sands, and was artesian with a hydraulic head several feet above land surface. The wells along the Wood River and Agency Lake dikes were open to a layer of decomposed peat at 8–10 and 14–16 ft, respectively ([fig. 2](#)). Piezometers were sampled for nutrients on most sampling trips, whereas field parameters were collected less frequently, often limited by the amount of recoverable water.

Soil cores—Soil core data collected from the Wood River Wetland and used in this report (peat thickness, mass, and carbon/nutrient content) were obtained from Snyder and Morace (1997).

In-situ mesocosm (chamber) experiments—

Ammonium and SRP fluxes from the sediment–water interface in the South Unit were examined in June 2005 using clear polycarbonate dome chambers (volume about 4 L, with dimensions of 19 cm [diameter] × 21 cm [height]). Chambers were inserted into the sediment to a depth of 6 cm, and purged of air prior to incubation. Two chambers in each site (eight chambers in all) were fitted with combination dissolved oxygen (DO)–temperature probes mounted on stirring platforms to measure oxygen demand. Water samples (60 mL) were drawn at the beginning and end of 19–26 hour incubation period by syringe for analysis of ammonium and

SRP. Water samples were filtered through 0.45-μm membrane filters and acidified with 100 μL of ultra pure HCl in 60 mL polyethylene bottles. A second chamber study (August 2005) examined inorganic nitrogen dynamics. Chambers of varying size (0.8–1.85 L) were set into the wetland sediment, filled with surface water, and sparged with helium to displace DO inside the chambers. The acetylene block method estimated denitrification by measuring nitrous oxide (N_2O) production with and without additions of 0.8 to 2 mg/L NO_3^- and (or) glucose (80 mg/L) at two sites in the southern South Unit. Dissolved NH_4^+ , NO_3^- , and N_2O were measured before and after 4–5 hours.

Table 2. Piezometers installed at the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, July 2003.

[Site code: Locations of sampling sites shown in [figure 2](#). **Description:** The south nest of wells was heavily damaged by inundation during extraordinarily high water levels in the wetland during spring 2006; wells were decommissioned and abandoned. **USGS site No.:** Additional information may be available for these wells on the USGS National Water Information System (<http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/gw>) using the Site No. as the Site Identifier. **Oregon Water Resources Department well log identification No.:** Drillers' logs for these wells are available from the Oregon Water Resources Department (http://apps2.wrd.state.or.us/apps/gw/well_log/Default.aspx) using the well log identification No. as the Site Identifier. **Abbreviations:** USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; LiDAR, light detection and ranging; NGVD29, National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929]

Site code	Description	Open interval, in feet below land surface	Open interval material	Completed well depth, in feet below land surface	
PZ-NU1	North Nest - Shallow	3.4 – 5.4	Pumice under decomposed peat	6.5	
PZ-NU2	North Nest - Intermediate	10.4 – 12.4	Pumice under decomposed peat	13.5	
PZ-NU3	North Nest - Deep	26.2 – 28.2	Inorganic sand and loam under clay	29.3	
PZ-SU1	South Nest - Shallow	5.5 – 6.5	Decomposed peat and ash/clay	6.5	
PZ-SU2	South Nest - Intermediate	15.0 – 17.0	Pumice/silt/clay under decomposed peat	18.0	
PZ-SU3	South Nest - Deep	30.0 – 32.0	Well sorted sand under clay/loam	33.0	
PZ-WRDK	Wood River dike	8.0 – 10.0	Decomposed peat	11.0	
PZ-AGDK	Agency Lake dike	14.0 – 16.0	Decomposed peat	17.0	
Site code	Depth to water range, in feet below land surface 2003–05	Land surface elevation from LiDAR, in feet above NGVD29	USGS site No.	Oregon Water Resources Department well log identification No.	Station name
PZ-NU1	0.4 – 5.2	4,139	423548121564703	KLAM-54064	34.00S/07.50E-14BAD03
PZ-NU2	0.3 – 5.2	4,139	423548121564702	KLAM-54063	34.00S/07.50E-14BAD02
PZ-NU3	0.3 – 5.2	4,139	423548121564701	KLAM-54062	34.00S/07.50E-14BAD01
PZ-SU1	0.5 – 4.6	4,137	423656121575903	KLAM-54061	34.00S/07.50E-24CAD03
PZ-SU2	0.7 – 4.8	4,137	423656121575902	KLAM-54066	34.00S/07.50E-24CAD02
PZ-SU3	-4.6 – -2.0	4,137	423656121575901	KLAM-54065	34.00S/07.50E-24CAD01
PZ-WRDK	4.1 – 8.7	4,144	423554121564001	KLAM-54223	34.00S/07.50E-24ACC01
PZ-AGDK	3.6 – 7.0	4,143	423510121572301	KLAM-54222	34.00S/07.50E-26ADD01

Laboratory Methods

Dissolved nutrients (NO_3 , NH_4 , and SRP), chloride (Cl), and dissolved metals (Fe, Mn, Cd, Co, Cu, Ni, Pb, V, and Zn) were analyzed at the USGS National Research Laboratory in Menlo Park, California. Metals were analyzed using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Method 200.8 (ICP-MS). Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) was analyzed on an Oceanography International Model 700 carbon analyzer using persulfate oxidation at high temperature at the USGS National Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. TKN, TP, and DKN were analyzed at the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory in Denver, Colorado, using published protocols (Patton and Truitt, 1992, 2000). In this report, dissolved ammonium includes ionized ammonium (NH_4^+) plus un-ionized ammonia (NH_3), hereafter referred to as ammonium (NH_4). Total nitrogen (TN) was calculated as the sum of TKN plus nitrate.

Analyses for dissolved inorganic nutrients (NO_3 , NH_4 , and SRP) and Cl were performed on a Technicon Auto Analyzer II continuous-flow analyzer with colorimetric detection. All samples were refiltered immediately before analysis using 0.45- μm , 25-mm syringe filters (Pall Life Sciences, No. 4497T). When analyzing acidified samples, standards were identically acidified with high-purity hydrochloric acid. Correction of sample absorbance for color was necessary for the dissolved nutrients because many samples were highly colored. For each method, special reagents were made that omitted one or more, critical, color-forming ingredients. Sample-color absorbance, measured with the special reagents, was subtracted from total absorbance and measured with the standard reagents to obtain color-corrected absorbance. Analyte concentrations were calculated by interpolation of the color-corrected absorbance on the calibration curve. Analyte concentrations greater than the range of the methods used required dilution prior to analysis. An automated version of the method of Armstrong and others (1967), implemented by Technicon as Industrial Method No. 158-71W (Technicon Industrial Systems, 1972), was used to determine $\text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_3$. The critical ingredient omitted for color correction was N-1-naphthylethylenediamine dihydrochloride. An automated phenol-hypochlorite method (Technicon Industrial Method No. 154-71W; Technicon Industrial Systems, 1973a) was used to determine ammonium. The critical ingredients omitted for color correction were sodium nitroferricyanide and sodium hypochlorite. The molybdenum-blue method of Murphy and Riley (1962), implemented by Technicon as Industrial Method No. 155-71W (Technicon Industrial Systems, 1973b), was used to determine SRP. When acidified samples were analyzed, sufficient sodium hydroxide was added to the surfactant solution reagent to neutralize sample acidity. The critical ingredient, ascorbic acid, was omitted for color correction. A modified version of the ferric thiocyanate method of O'Brien (1962) was used to determine

chloride. To eliminate color prior to analysis, 0.5 mL of 30 percent hydrogen peroxide was added to each 30 mL sample. Samples in quartz-glass tubes were then irradiated for 75 minutes with ultraviolet light from a 1200-watt source in a La Jolla Scientific Photo-Oxidation Unit (Model PO-14). This photo-oxidation treatment destroyed all organic coloring matter, but did not oxidize Cl to higher oxidation states. After photo-oxidation and refiltration, all samples were clear, so sample absorbance did not require color correction. Humic associated chloride released by the photo-oxidation process was assumed negligible compared to the amount of inorganic chloride already present in solution.

Water Budget

A water budget is an accounting of the water stored in and water exchanged between the atmosphere, land surface, and subsurface. Inflows minus outflows equal the change in storage over a specified period of time within a specified volume (control volume) (Healy and others, 2007, p. iii–iv and p. 6). The water budget for the Wood River Wetland was based on observations and estimations of the inflows, outflows, and changes in storage of the wetland units. A monthly water budget was developed individually for the North and South Units of the Wood River Wetland for control volumes. The control volumes were laterally bound by the surrounding dikes, the upper surface consisted of the land, water, and vegetation surfaces, and the lower boundary was the shallow subsurface. The water budget was based on estimates of inflows from precipitation, ground water, and surface water applied for irrigation; outflows to open-water evaporation and evapotranspiration due to emergent vegetation; and changes in surface-water and ground-water storage (eq. 1).

$$(P + GW_{in} + SW_{in}) - (E + ET) = (\Delta SW + \Delta GW + \Delta SM) \quad (1)$$

\leftarrow inflows \rightarrow outflows \leftarrow change in storage \rightarrow

where:

- P is precipitation as rain or snow,
- GW_{in} is ground-water inflow volume,
- SW_{in} is surface-water inflow volume,
- E is open-water evaporation,
- ET is evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation,
- ΔSW is change in standing volume of surface water,
- ΔGW is change in ground-water volume of the saturated zone, and
- ΔSM is change in ground-water volume of the unsaturated zone.

The estimated error in the total hydrologic budget was calculated as the residual of (inflows - outflows) - estimated change in storage (Winter, 1981) and represents the sum of errors in measurement or estimation of each water budget component and the sum of any unestimated components such

as soil-moisture storage. Surface-water inflows were limited to small and periodic applications of irrigation water, and there were no significant outflows to surface water, pumping, or ground water. Insufficient information was available to estimate the soil-moisture storage independently.

Inflows

Inflows to the Wood River Wetland consisted of direct precipitation on the wetland, ground water, and applied water from flood irrigation. Because dikes and canals isolate the wetland, there are no significant surface-water inflows.

Precipitation

Daily precipitation data were acquired from the Agency Lake AgriMet station (AGKO), one in a network of satellite-based automated agricultural weather stations operated and maintained by the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau of Reclamation, 2008a). The AGKO site is on the northwest shore of Agency Lake, 2.5 mi southwest of the Wood River Wetland (fig. 1, fig. 2). The precipitation data were used without adjustment for distance due to the close proximity of the weather station. The precipitation record was complete except for 10 days in March and April 2005. Missing values were estimated using precipitation records at the Klamath Falls, Oregon (KFLO) AgriMet station, about 32 mi south of the wetland (fig. 1) (Bureau of Reclamation, 2008b).

Precipitation at the AGKO site was measured using a 12-in. heated tipping-bucket rain and snow gage (Peter L. Palmer, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho, written commun., 2008). The measurement of precipitation using rain gages is subject to errors from various sources (Smith, 1993, p. 3.18–3.19); however, Yang and others (1999, p. 491) stated that wind-induced gage undercatch of precipitation is the greatest source of bias. This is especially true for solid precipitation (snow and ice) measurements (Yang and others, 1998, p. 241). Unshielded rain gages, which includes the rain gage used at the AGKO site (Bureau of Reclamation, 2008c), are more susceptible to undercatch than shielded gages.

Yang and others (1998, p. 243) developed a set of best-fit regression equations to correct wind-induced undercatch for unshielded U.S. National Weather Service 8-in. standard precipitation gages based on the type of precipitation (rain, mixed, or snow) and the wind speed (W_s):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Rain} \quad R &= \exp(4.605 - 0.062 W_s^{0.58}) \\ \text{Mixed} \quad R &= 100.77 - 8.34 W_s \\ \text{Snow} \quad R &= \exp(4.606 - 0.157 W_s^{1.28}) \end{aligned}$$

where:

R is daily catch ratio (percent), and
 W_s is daily wind speed at the gage height (m/s).

R , the daily catch ratio, represents the ratio of gage-measured precipitation influenced by undercatch due to wind to the expected gage-measured precipitation if there was no influence due to wind. These equations produce adjusted precipitation estimates that are similar to those obtained by Larson and Peck (1974, fig. 3, p. 859).

Because the precipitation gage and the anemometer (wind meter) at the AGKO site are not at the same height above land surface, a correction is needed to find the W_s at the gage height. The following W_s adjustment was used to find the W_s at the gage height based on the wind field profile (Benning and Yang, 2005, p. 278):

$$U(h) = U(H) \left[\frac{\ln(h/z_0)}{\ln(H/z_0)} \right] \quad (2)$$

where:

$U(h)$ is estimated daily wind speed (W_s) at the gage orifice (m/s),

$U(H)$ is measured daily wind speed at the anemometer (m/s),

h is height of the gage (m),

H is height of the anemometer (m), and

z_0 is roughness parameter (m).

The measured daily wind speed at the anemometer, $U(H)$, was recorded by the AGKO AgriMet station. The height of the rain gage, h , and anemometer at the AGKO AgriMet site, H , are 4.8 and 8.2 ft above land surface, respectively (Peter L. Palmer, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho, written commun., 2008). The roughness parameter, z_0 , was set to 0.01 m for a winter snow surface (December through March) and 0.03 m for short grass (April through November) based on values used by Yang and others (1998, p. 247) with seasonal adjustments appropriate for the Wood River Valley. The precipitation relations are applicable for wind speeds less than 6.5 m/s; therefore, adjusted wind speeds greater than 6.5 m/s (14.5 mi/h) were reset to 6.5 m/s to prevent overestimation of precipitation (Yang and others, 1998, p. 247; Benning and Yang, 2005, p. 278).

Daily precipitation adjusted for wind was calculated as the daily precipitation divided by R . Daily adjusted values of precipitation were summed to develop monthly estimates of inflow from precipitation. The median values of daily wind speed during individual events of rain, mixed precipitation, and snow were 6.1, 4.0, and 6.6 mi/h, respectively, for May 2003 through September 2005. The median values of estimated daily undercatch for individual events of rain, mixed precipitation, and snow were 11, 14, and 46 percent respectively during this period. Daily adjustment for wind-induced undercatch increases the gage-measured precipitation by about 19 percent on an annual basis.

Ground Water

Ground-water inflow to the Wood River Wetland takes place through numerous possible pathways: regional ground-water discharge through sediments, lateral ground-water seepage through dikes, and from direct discharge from flowing artesian wells.

Regional Discharge

The Wood River Wetland is adjacent to Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes, which are regional ground-water discharge areas (Illian, 1970; Leonard and Harris, 1974; Gannet and others, 2007, p. 46–47), and as such receives ground-water discharge from the upward movement of water from underlying aquifers. This is indicated by water levels in the five artesian wells (heads above land surface) and by the artesian water levels in the deepest piezometer (PZ-SU3, fig. 2). Preferential ground-water discharge also may occur through the natural internal streambeds, and the canal beds because of dredging associated with the construction of the canals to lower the water table by draining ground water from the wetland. During natural stream channel formation or canal construction, a significant clay confining layer (occasionally observed in soil cores, Rosenbaum and others, 1995, p. 33–34; Snyder and Morace, 1997, p. 7 and 26) may have been breached, providing significantly greater regional ground-water discharge than was calculated for the water budget. However, lack of data precluded inclusion of this type of discharge in the estimate of regional ground-water discharge.

Regional ground-water discharge was estimated using Darcy's Law, which describes ground-water flow within a porous media (Darcy, 1856; Freeze and Cherry, 1979). Darcy's law is expressed as: $Q = AiK$, where: Q is the volumetric flow [length³/time]; A is the cross-sectional area, perpendicular to the flow direction, through which flow occurs [length²]; i is the hydraulic gradient [dimensionless], and K is the hydraulic conductivity [length/time]. The law predicts that the volumetric flow of ground water is directly proportional to the hydraulic gradient and hydraulic conductivity of the media. The hydraulic gradient is the difference in the height of the water surface (that is, head difference) on either side of the dike divided by the length of porous media through which the head difference is distributed. Hydraulic conductivity is a measure of the ability of porous media to transmit water, with higher values indicating increased flow.

For diffuse regional ground-water discharge, the cross-sectional area perpendicular to ground-water flow was set equal to the area of each unit of the Wood River Wetland. Daily values of the hydraulic gradient were calculated as the daily head difference divided by the soil distance through which the head was transmitted. The head difference was calculated as the difference between the water level measured in the deep piezometer PZ-SU3 and the intermediate-depth piezometer PZ-SU2 (South Unit) as measured at least once

every four months. Linear interpolation of these levels was used to calculate the daily head differences. The length through which the head difference was distributed was estimated as the distance between the centers of the open intervals for each piezometer (15 ft). Hydraulic conductivity was estimated to be 0.084 ft/d, which was the mean of slug tests performed on two piezometers: PZ-WRDK, on the dike adjacent to Wood River, and PZ-AGDK, on the dike adjacent to Agency Lake (fig. 2, table 2). The open intervals selected for these piezometers were representative of the undisturbed soils below the dikes. The lithology near the open intervals for these piezometers consists of hemic to sapric peat, silty clay with sand, and poorly sorted pumice sand and pebbles. The hydraulic conductivity estimate is in the high permeability range for clays, in the mid- to low range for peat, and in the low range for poorly sorted sands (Freeze and Cherry, 1979, p. 29; Wolff, 1982, p. 79–84; Fetter, 1994, p. 98). Daily values of regional ground-water discharge then were summed by month to create monthly estimates of inflow.

Seepage through Dikes

Water levels in the Wood River Wetland are lower than the elevation of surrounding surface-water bodies due to land subsidence and isolation from Agency Lake and the adjacent streams. This produces a head gradient conducive to seepage into the wetland, which was estimated using Darcy's Law. Seepage was calculated daily and summarized monthly for the exterior dikes adjacent to a surface-water body including the Sevenmile Canal, Agency Lake, and Wood River dikes. Because sediments in the upper saturated zone consist of layers of peat, clay, and pumice (Snyder and Morace, 1997, p. 6–7, 25–26), flow through each was calculated separately using the thicknesses and hydraulic conductivity for each layer. The hydraulic conductivity of the clays, being several orders of magnitude less than that of pumice or peat, was excluded, as it was assumed to have a negligible contribution.

The cross-sectional area perpendicular to seepage through the dikes was calculated as the dike length multiplied by the vertical thickness of the pumice or peat layers. A thickness of 0.5 ft was selected for the pumice layer, and 7.5 ft for the peat soil layers, based on soil core data (Snyder and Morace, 1997, pl. 1). The thickness of the peat layers was augmented by the saturated area of the dike above the preexisting land surface as this material was primarily composed of dredged peat soils. The augmented thickness ranged from –0.8 to 3.2 ft depending on the water stages on either side of the dike.

The head difference was calculated as the daily difference between the elevation of Upper Klamath Lake (which adjoins Agency Lake) and water-surface elevation in the wetland measured at one of several staff gages. The stage of Upper Klamath Lake (USGS water-stage station 11507001 http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=11507001) was selected because it is continually monitored and because the

surface-water flow gradients between Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes and Agency Lake and its tributaries are so low that the monitored stage was assumed representative of all adjacent surface-water bodies. The elevation at the selected station for Upper Klamath Lake is actually a weighted mean elevation determined from three sites measured by the USGS. The distance through which the head difference was distributed was estimated as the distance across the base of the dikes using a detailed map derived from LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) data with a 1-m lateral resolution (see Haluska and Snyder [2007] for a description of the LiDAR data). The width of the dikes was set to 100 ft for days when wetland water level was above land surface at the base of the dikes and to 150 ft for days when water level was below land surface. Hydraulic conductivity for the pumice layer was set at 100 ft/d, based on literature values for sorted sand (Freeze and Cherry, 1979, p. 29; Wolff, 1982, p. 84; Fetter, 1994, p. 98). Hydraulic conductivity of the peat layer was set at 0.084 ft/d, the mean of slug tests performed on piezometers PZ-WRDK and PZ-AGDK because peat is the predominant lithology of the saturated zone in each piezometer.

Discharge from Artesian Wells

Five artesian wells in the Wood River Wetland continuously flow onto the land surface or directly to surface waters (fig. 2, table 3). Measurements of hydraulic head elevations during this and previous studies (Snyder and

Morace, 1997; Gannett and others, 2007) ranged from 3.2 to 15.4 ft above land surface (table 3). Drilling records for these wells were unavailable, but soundings from four wells indicated depths ranging from 149 to 219 ft (Snyder and Morace 1997, p. 34; Gannett and others, 2007). Discharge rates from the artesian wells measured in a previous study (Snyder and Morace, 1997, p. 12) and as part of this study ranged from 2.6 to 20.2 gal/min (table 3). To develop monthly estimates of inflow from artesian wells, it was assumed that these wells discharged at a continuous rate over the period of the study equivalent to the measured values.

Applied Flood Irrigation

From 1999 to 2005, about 1,000 acre-ft of water was applied annually to the Wood River Wetland for irrigation, typically starting around September 15 and ending around October 31 (Bureau of Land Management, 2006, p. 4). The quantity of water applied to the wetland was not measured and instead was estimated by the approximate area and depth of inundation. During 2003, this water was transferred from the adjacent private tract located on the northwest side of the North Canal to the North Unit, and during 2004–05, the water was transferred from the Sevenmile Canal through the water control structure to the North Unit (fig. 2). To develop the water budget, this water was presumed to enter the wetland at a constant rate each year from September 15 through October 31 and was apportioned by month.

Table 3. Artesian wells at Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon.

[Site code: Locations are shown in figure 2. USGS site No.: Additional information is available for these wells on the USGS National Water Information System (<http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/gw>) using the Site No. as the Site Identifier. Abbreviations: USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; ART, artesian well]

Site code	Location	USGS site No.	Well depth based on sounding, in feet below land surface	Depth to water, in feet below land surface	Depth to water measurement date	Discharge, in gallons per minute	Discharge measurement date
ART-1	Horse corral 0.25 miles south of northeast corner	423701121575400	208	-6.8	09-28-00	225.5	09-28-00
ART-2	Wood River dike 0.15 miles west of Crooked Creek	423556121565000	149	-3.5	08-17-95	32.6	05-24-95
ART-3	North Unit 0.55 miles west of Wood River pump station	423617121575000	219	-8.0	08-17-95	35.8	08-17-95
ART-4	Central North Unit 0.20 miles south of the North Canal	423644121585101	- ¹	-15.4	10-25-00	20.2	10-25-00
ART-5	South Unit 0.65 miles north of Sevenmile Canal pump station	423531121581401	192	-9.9	10-25-00	8.9	10-25-00

¹ Blockage prevented depth sounding.

² Previously published measurement by Snyder and Morace (1997, p. 34) did not consider flow from secondary discharge pipe; therefore, that measurement was superseded with the more recent measurement presented here.

³ Previously published measurement by Snyder and Morace (1997, p. 34).

Outflows

Outflows from the Wood River Wetland included evaporation of open water and evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation. No major pumping of surface water took place during this study. No direct outflows from surface or ground water took place because of the low surface- and ground-water levels in the wetland relative to the area outside the wetland.

Daily estimates of evaporation and evapotranspiration for the North and South Units were made separately for open water and emergent vegetation as a function of the daily water-surface elevation, because the ratio of open water to emergent vegetation is a function of stage. A similar method was used in the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (fig. 1) by Risley and Gannett (2006, p. 5–10) using values for the land-cover types at the Wood River Wetland that represent open water and emergent vegetation. The ET in areas with open water and emergent vegetation was assumed to be dominated by the open-water component. The proportion of open water was determined daily using the stage-area relation previously derived (fig. 4). The remainder of the wetland area was assumed to be emergent vegetation.

Evaporation of Open Water

Pan-evaporation data often are used to estimate the rate of evaporation for open water. However, daily pan-evaporation data were unavailable for the upper Klamath River basin for the period of this study. Daily evaporation from the open-water areas was estimated as the potential evaporation calculated using the empirical Priestley-Taylor equation using daily observations of air temperature, water temperature, and solar radiation at a nearby weather station. The Priestley-Taylor equation (Winter and others, 1995, p. 984) is defined by the equation

$$PE = \alpha * \left(s / (s + \gamma) \right) * [(Q_n - Q_x)] / L, \quad (3)$$

where:

PE is potential evaporation (cm/d^{-1});

α is Priestley-Taylor empirically derived constant (dimensionless);

$s / (s + \gamma)$ is parameter derived from the slope of saturation vapor pressure-temperature curve at the mean air temperature (dimensionless);

s is slope of the saturation vapor pressure-temperature curve ($\text{kPa } ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$);

γ is psychrometric constant ($\text{kPa } ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$);

Q_n is net radiation ($\text{cal cm}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$);

Q_x is change in heat stored in the water body ($\text{cal cm}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$); and

L is latent heat of vaporization (cal g^{-1}).

The widely used Priestley-Taylor equation was selected because of its simple form, limited data requirements, and proven performance as a reasonable estimate of potential evaporation (Winter and others, 1995; Rosenberry and others, 2004). Values for the terms in the Priestley-Taylor equation were obtained as follows: the Priestley-Taylor empirically derived constant α was set equal to the commonly used value of 1.26, which has been determined to be representative for a fully saturated surface (Priestley and Taylor, 1972, p. 87; Winter and others, 1995, p. 991). The slope of the saturation vapor pressure-temperature curve s and the psychrometric constant γ were determined in a manner similar to Allen and others (2005, p. 10–11) using values of daily mean air temperature and elevation for the AGKO AgriMet site (Bureau of Reclamation, 2008a). The net radiation Q_n also was determined in a manner similar to Allen and others (2005, p. 11–25) using values of the observation date, daily global solar radiation, daily minimum and maximum air temperature, mean daily dewpoint temperature, elevation, and latitude for the AGKO AgriMet site (Bureau of Reclamation, 2008a) and a value of 0.08 (dimensionless) for the albedo of open water (Shuttleworth, 1993, p. 4.6). The change in heat stored in the water body Q_x also was determined in a manner similar to Shuttleworth (1993, p. 4.10, eqn. 4.2.20) using values of the density and specific heat of water, the daily change in water volume as determined using daily change in water depth for each unit of the Wood River Wetland, and the mean daily water temperature in a canal in an adjacent drained wetland at the AGKO AgriMet site (Bureau of Reclamation, 2008a), where water temperatures were assumed to be similar to those in the Wood River Wetland. The change in heat stored in the water body comprising the standing surface water in the North and South Units was nearly insignificant relative to the net radiation resulting from solar radiation. Ninety-five percent of the daily maximum magnitude values for the change in heat stored in the water body were equivalent to less than 4 percent of the daily net radiation magnitude. A value of 586 cal g^{-1} was used for the latent heat of vaporization L (Allen and others, 2005, p. 9).

The daily temperature and global solar radiation records were complete except for 10 days in March and April 2005. Missing values were estimated using records at the Klamath Falls, Oregon (KFLO) AgriMet station (Bureau of Reclamation, 2008b). Because the open-water areas of the Wood River Wetland had water freely available for evaporation and were not water limited, it was assumed that the potential open-water evaporation calculated using the Priestley-Taylor equation was equal to the actual open-water evaporation. The daily rate of open-water evaporation was multiplied by the area representing the daily inundated area of the North and South Units to determine the volume of open-water evaporation in each unit on a daily basis and then summed to obtain monthly estimates.

Evapotranspiration from Emergent Vegetation

The evapotranspiration from the emergent vegetation component was estimated using a method described in Risley and Gannett (2006, p. 5–6). For the months of April–October, Risley and Gannett (2006) estimated evapotranspiration using results from a USFWS model based on the Priestley–Taylor evapotranspiration equation (Ronald R. Thomasson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon, written commun., 2005). The model was calibrated using data from energy budget studies conducted at several sites in the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex ([fig. 1](#)) (Bidlake, 1997, 2000, 2002; Bidlake and Payne, 1998). Using a simulation period of 1961–90, the model predicted a median ET loss of 2.41 ft for April–October. Risley and Gannett (2006) used this value and the monthly reference ET rates estimated for the KFLO AgriMet station to represent ET losses for November–March. The annual ET loss for the emergent vegetation component was estimated to be 2.63 ft. Although the KFLO site is 32 mi south of the Wood River Wetland, comparison of the ET data from the AGKO and KFLO sites indicated that total ET for October 2003 through September 2005 differed by less than 5 percent, justifying their use for emergent vegetation ET rates. The monthly rate of evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation ([table 4](#)) was divided by the

Table 4. Estimated monthly evaporation from open water and evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, October 2003–September 2005.

[Values are in feet and do not add exactly due to rounding. **Evaporation from open water:** Monthly average for October 2003 through September 2005. **Evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation:** Source Risley and Gannett, 2006, table 1, p. 5]

Month	Evaporation from open-water	Evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation
January	0.062	0.014
February	0.119	0.040
March	0.276	0.122
April	0.397	0.188
May	0.536	0.270
June	0.662	0.394
July	0.811	0.567
August	0.668	0.485
September	0.390	0.324
October	0.207	0.179
November	0.074	0.030
December	0.049	0.014
Annual	4.25	2.63

number of days in each month and then multiplied by the area representing the dry areas of the North and South Units to determine the volume of evapotranspiration in each unit on a daily basis. The daily volumes of evapotranspiration were then summed to obtain monthly estimates.

Changes in Storage

Standing Surface-Water Level and Volume

Daily changes in surface-water storage were determined using information on standing surface-water volume estimated using daily interpolated estimates of surface-water stage and a stage-volume relation developed from LiDAR data (Haluska and Snyder, 2007) ([fig. 4](#)). Measurements of surface-water stage consisted of nearly 60 sets of staff gage readings at three sites in the wetland ([fig. 2](#)) taken by BLM staff from May 19, 2003, to September 30, 2005. Each gaging site consisted of one to three staff gages to accommodate various surface-water levels. These gages were read with varying frequency, although many were less than 1 month apart. South Unit readings were infrequent during autumn through spring (September 2003 to February 2004, and November 2004 to May 2005). For the North Unit, readings were infrequent from November 2003 to February 2004 and from November 2004 to May 2005. Gage elevation (NGVD29) was determined by surveying instruments and the relation of staff gage readings to LiDAR imagery. Linear interpolation was used to estimate daily surface-water stage in the North and South Units for days with no observations. Although the lack of measurements for extended periods introduces uncertainty in the water budget, the interpolated results generally followed the water-level trend of adjacent Agency Lake.

The relation between the surface-water elevation and open-water area and standing water volume in the wetland were developed using LiDAR, photographic imagery, and a digital elevation model (DEM) (Haluska and Snyder, 2007). From these relations, lookup tables were prepared to calculate the inundated area and water volume in the wetland at various surface-water elevations. The lookup tables were used to determine the daily standing surface-water volume and the daily change in surface-water storage. Monthly change in surface-water storage was determined as the change of storage volume between the last day of the month and the last day of the previous month.



High water levels at the Wood River Wetland, South Unit (looking south southeast). Photograph taken by Kurt Carpenter, U.S. Geological Survey, July 2005.



Low water levels at the Wood River Wetland, North Unit (looking south southeast). Photograph taken by Kurt Carpenter, U.S. Geological Survey, July 2005.

Ground-Water Storage

The change in shallow ground-water volume in the saturated part of the subsurface represents a change in the volume of water stored in the wetland. The change in ground-water storage is equal to the change in saturated volume multiplied by the change in water or moisture content of the soil or subsurface material. The change in saturated volume is determined by the area and thickness of the ground-water level change. For ground-water level declines, the change in water content is equal to the specific yield of the subsurface material. Specific yield is a dimensionless number that is the ratio of the volume of water that a saturated porous medium will yield by gravity to the volume of the porous medium (Lohman and others, 1972, p. 12). For rising ground-water levels, the water content is dependent on the antecedent soil-moisture content due to the prior addition or subtraction of water in the unsaturated zone within the volume encompassed by the ground-water level rise. Increases in water content can occur through the infiltration of precipitation or applied water for irrigation and decreases in water content can occur through evapotranspiration from plants or soil. Because no data were collected regarding water content of the unsaturated zone, the change in water content of the unsaturated zone for ground-water level increases was assumed to be equal to the specific yield.

The monthly change in saturated volume of the subsurface materials was determined individually for the North and South Units. The change in the ground-water level for the shallowest well in each of the piezometer nests in each unit was interpolated on a daily basis. The ground-water level in each piezometer was assumed to be representative of the ground-water level throughout each wetland unit. The total volume of saturated soil, surface water, and air above the land or water surface between an arbitrary elevation (selected as the lowest land-surface elevation in the wetland 4,129.79 ft. NGVD29) and the daily interpolated ground-water level for the piezometers was calculated for each wetland unit by multiplying the area of each unit by the height of the ground-water above the datum (calculated as the difference of the ground-water level elevation and the arbitrary datum elevation). Depressions in the land surface of the wetland that are below the ground-water level elevation may be filled with either surface water or air. The part of the total volume containing surface water or air was determined by using the stage-volume relation for each unit for the corresponding elevation of ground-water and subtracted from the total volume. The remaining volume is the saturated wetland soil for each unit above the arbitrary datum for that day. The daily change in ground-water storage is a function of the daily change in saturated wetland soil volume and the specific yield of the soil. The monthly change in ground-water storage was calculated as the sum of the daily changes in saturated wetland soil volume for the month multiplied by the specific yield of the soil.

A value of specific yield for peat soils was selected for use because peat is the predominant lithology present by volume in the upper part of the subsurface at the Wood River Wetland (Snyder and Morace, 1997, pl. 1). Boelter (1965, p. 229–230) measured specific yield for moderately decomposed herbaceous peat and for well-decomposed peat, obtaining values of 0.15 and 0.10, respectively. The mean of these two values, 0.125, was selected for use in this study. Multiplying the monthly change in saturated volume for each wetland unit by a specific yield of 0.125 provides an estimate of the change in ground-water storage for each unit.

Soil-Moisture Storage

The change in soil-moisture storage in the unsaturated part of the subsurface represents a change in volume of water stored in the wetland. The change in soil-moisture storage often is assumed to be negligible over the course of a water year (water year is defined as October 1–September 30, and is identified by the year in which it ends), because depletion of soil-moisture storage is assumed to be equaled by replenishment through the infiltration of precipitation or other inflows. Although this assumption is generally valid when averaged over many years, variations during any single year could be significant. Soil-moisture storage can be calculated using information on soil-moisture content and volume of the unsaturated zone. The volume of the unsaturated zone can be estimated by using information on land surface from LiDAR data and by using the shallow ground-water levels recorded in the piezometers. No information was available on soil-moisture content; therefore, the change in soil moisture storage in the Wood River Wetland could not be directly calculated during this study.

Calculation of Standing Nutrient Masses

Nutrient dynamics in wetlands are the result of interactive relations among physical, chemical, climatic, and biologic components. Nutrient sinks include uptake by wetland plants, microbial denitrification, ammonia volatilization, and precipitation into insoluble compounds. Nutrient sources include ground water, wet and dry precipitation, waterfowl feces, nitrogen fixation, decomposition, and release of nutrients from sediments and decaying plant material. Quantifying each of these dynamic processes was beyond the scope of this study. However, it was possible to quantify the seasonal fluctuation of standing nutrient masses, which provided insights into the whole-system responses to dilution, evapoconcentration, and biogeochemical processes. Nutrient masses (in kilograms) were calculated for the North and South Units as the median nutrient concentration multiplied by the standing water volume estimated on each sampling date.

Results

Hydrologic Conditions During 2003–05

Surface Water and Ground Water

Surface-water stage and standing surface-water volume in the Wood River Wetland reached a maximum in early spring during the 2003–05 data collection period ([figs. 3](#) and [5](#)). During this time, 80–90 percent of the wetland area was inundated. The average depth of the inundated areas was about 1.1–1.6 ft and maximum depths outside the canals were

about 6 ft. Throughout each year, a greater percentage of the South Unit became inundated compared to the North Unit. The average water depths of the inundated areas in the South Unit were greater than the North Unit after discounting the canals. Surface-water stage and standing surface-water volume reached a minimum from August through November, when only about 10 percent of the wetland area was inundated. At this time, most of the inundation occurred in the South Unit and most of the North Unit was dry with much of the surface water confined to canals or ditches ([fig. 3](#)). The wetland was reportedly frozen over during parts of the winters of 2003–04 and 2004–05 (Bureau of Land Management, 2006).

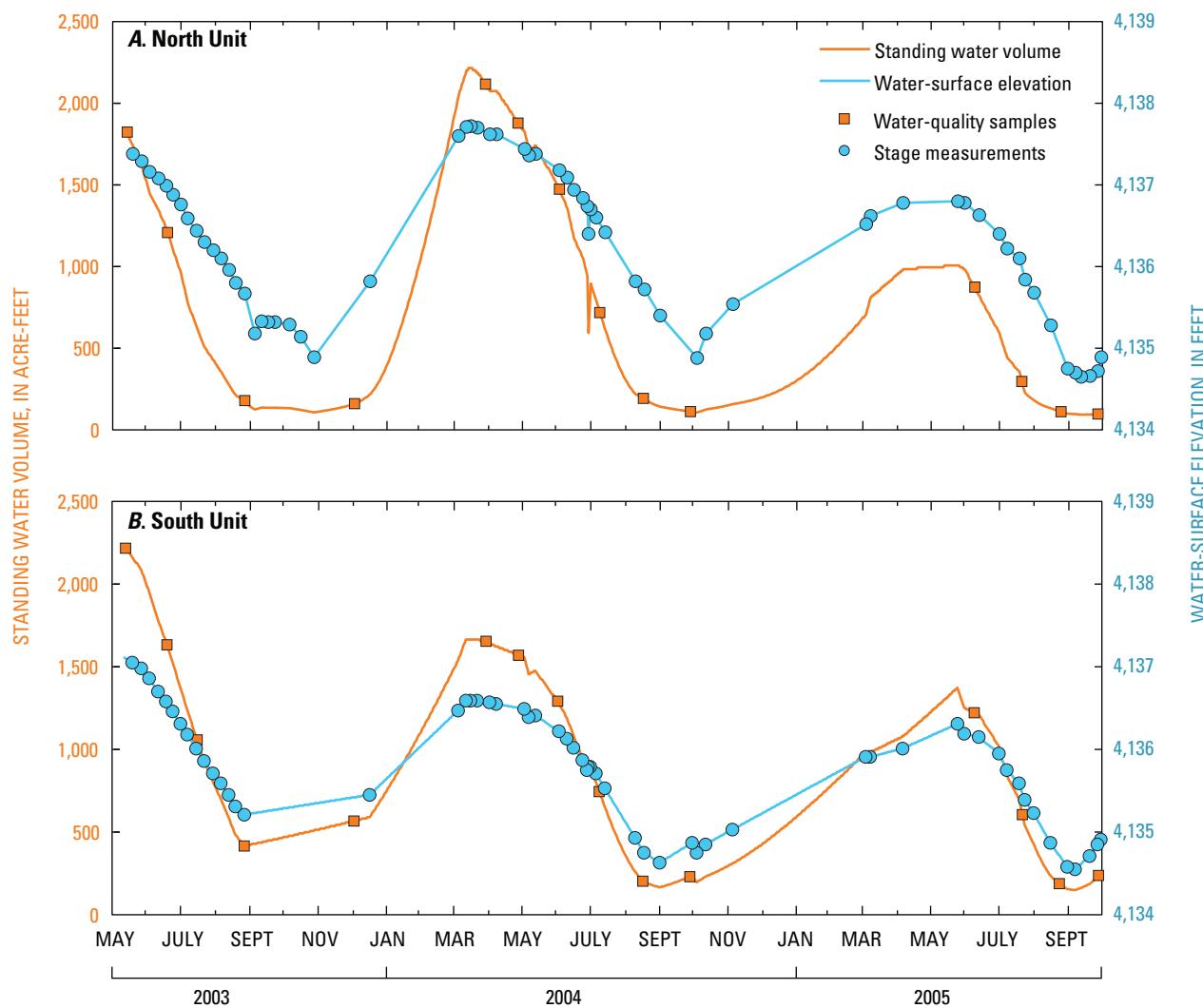


Figure 5. Daily water-surface elevations and standing volumes in the (A) North Unit and (B) South Unit of the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05. (Dates of stage measurements and collection of water-quality samples for each unit are indicated.)

The highest levels of shallow ground-water during the study period were in late winter or early spring and the lowest levels were in late summer or early autumn following a trend similar to surface-water levels ([fig. 6](#)). In the North Unit, water levels in all three piezometers (shallow, intermediate, and deep) were nearly identical and generally differed by only about 0.1 ft. The highest head was typically in the deep piezometer and the lowest head was in the shallow piezometer, indicating a slight upward gradient for ground-water flow; however, water levels in these piezometers did not exceed land surface. In the South Unit, water levels in the shallow and intermediate piezometers were nearly identical, generally differing by only about 0.2 ft. The highest head typically was in the shallow piezometer, indicating a slight downward gradient for ground-water flow; however, peak ground-water levels in these piezometers occasionally exceeded land surface indicating the potential for upward flow. The head difference in the deep piezometer in the South Unit varied from 5 to 7 ft above the head in the shallow and intermediate piezometers. The ground-water level in the deep piezometer always exceeded land surface by several feet, indicating artesian conditions. This is an indication of a strong upward gradient for ground-water flow and the likely presence of confining conditions resulting from intervening low-permeability layers such as clay.

Water Budget

The water budget was determined monthly for May 2003 through September 2005. [Table 5](#) presents the summary for October 2003 through September 2005 (water years 2004 and 2005). Excluding May through September 2003 from the summary of the monthly budgets prevents the biasing of the annual averages toward those months that have low precipitation and high evapotranspiration due to disproportionate representation. This also allowed for a more accurate comparison of annual changes in the starting and ending magnitudes of the storage components by diminishing the effects of seasonal changes in storage.

Inflows

Monthly inflows to the Wood River Wetland (excluding contributions from storage components) peaked in September and October due to applied irrigation that represented only about 12 percent of the total inflow but which was applied over just 1.5 months. Inflows peaked again in late autumn through late winter or mid-spring due to precipitation. Precipitation was the largest component of inflow, accounting for about 43 percent of total inflow, most of which occurred during this time ([fig. 7A](#), [table 5](#)). The remainder of the inflow was ground water from several sources. Most ground-water inflow resulted from regional ground-water discharge, which accounted for 40 percent of the total inflow and remained

relatively constant throughout the year with a slight peak in summer due to increased hydraulic gradient. Ground-water discharge from artesian wells and seepage through dikes accounted for only 1 percent and 4 percent of the total inflow, respectively. Seepage through the dikes peaked in the spring when the water levels in the adjacent surface-water bodies were highest. The minimum inflows to the wetland resulted from decreased precipitation and occurred in summer and late autumn, excluding periods of applied irrigation. The distribution of inflow between the North and South Units generally was proportional to their area. The exceptions were applied irrigation, which entered entirely into the North Unit, and ground-water seepage inflows through the dikes, which were greater in the South Unit due to the long perimeter dikes adjacent to surface-water bodies.

Total precipitation during the 2005 water year was about normal although the distribution of precipitation throughout the year was not. Precipitation was lower than normal during January and February 2005 and higher than normal in May 2005. This resulted in low levels of standing surface-water and, to a lesser extent, ground-water during spring and summer due to the uptake of precipitation by soil-moisture storage.

Outflows

Outflows from the Wood River Wetland (excluding contributions to storage components) peaked in June and July as a result of evaporation and evapotranspiration ([fig. 7B](#)). The largest component of outflow was from open-water evaporation, which was equivalent in volume to 78 percent of the total inflows ([table 5](#)) and accounted for 64 percent of the total outflows. The remaining outflow was from evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation, which was equivalent in volume to 44 percent of the total inflows ([table 5](#)) and accounted for 36 percent of the total outflows. Open-water evaporation exceeded emergent vegetation evapotranspiration from December through July and peaked around June when temperatures increased and large areas remained inundated. The reverse was true from August through November, when evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation exceeded open-water evaporation and peaked around August when water levels receded and plant growth increased. The minimum outflows from the wetland occurred November through January due to decreased evaporation and evapotranspiration resulting from lower temperatures, decreased solar radiation, and dormant vegetation. Open-water evaporation represented a greater proportion of the outflow in the South Unit than in the North Unit. This was a consequence of the slightly lower land-surface elevation in the South Unit, which resulted in large inundated areas that persisted for a longer time, allowing for warmer water temperatures (as much as 33.4°C, South Unit) that resulted in increased open-water evaporation.

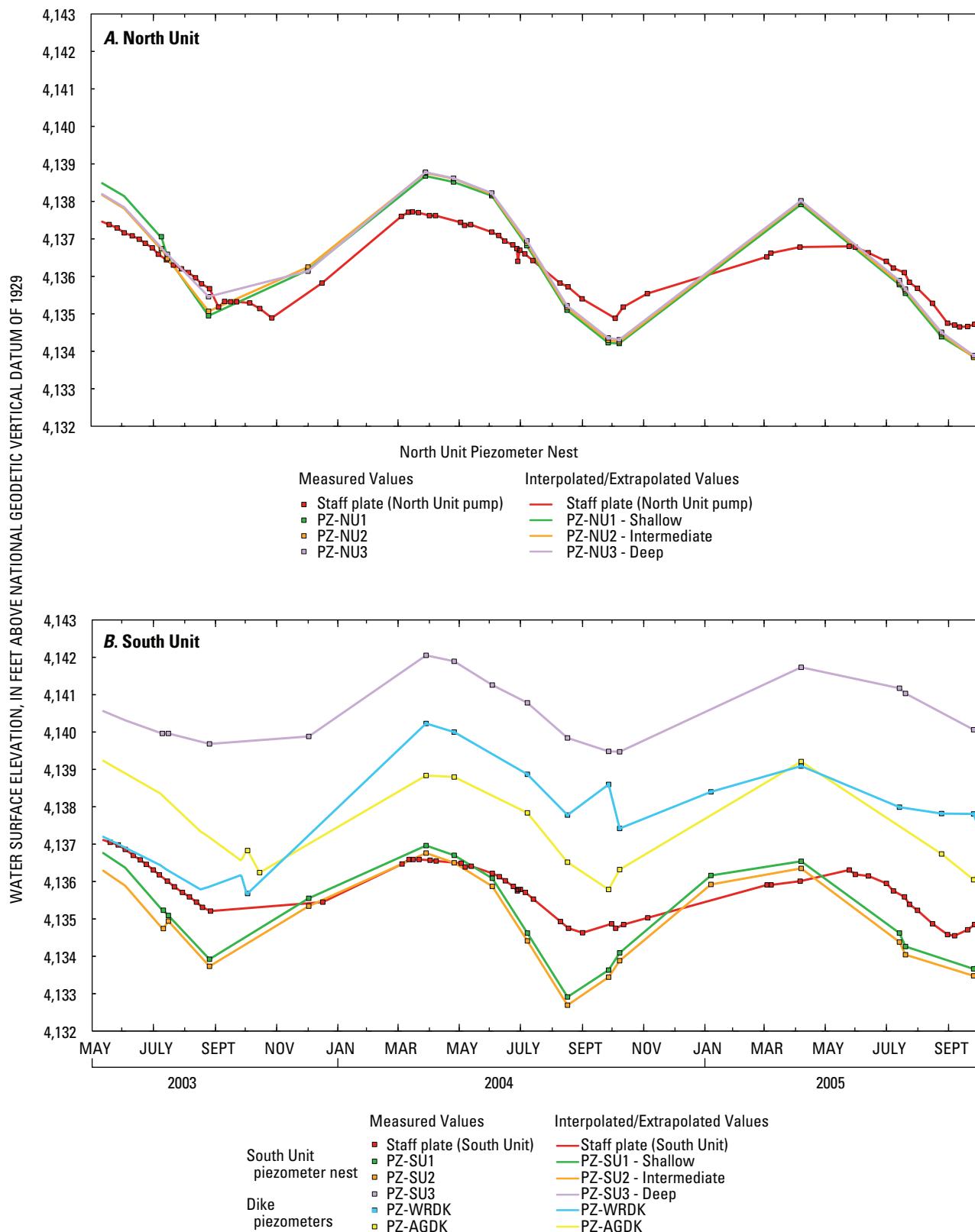


Figure 6. Ground-water elevations in wells and surface-water elevations from staff gages in the (A) North Unit and (B) South Unit of the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

Table 5. Water budget summary for the North Unit, South Unit, and total for the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, October 2003–September 2005.

[Volumetric values rounded to the nearest 100 acre-feet. Minor adjustments were made to rates and percentages due to rounding to maintain consistency within the table. **Feet of water per year:** Values represent the annual amount of water gained or lost from the wetland due to a water-budget component as if that component were spread across the entire area of each wetland unit.]

	North Unit			South Unit			Total wetland		
	Acre-feet	Feet of water per year	As percentage of total inflow	Acre-feet	Feet of water per year	As percentage of total inflow	Acre-feet	Feet of water per year	As percentage of total inflow
Inflows									
Precipitation	4,100	1.28	39	3,100	1.31	49	7,200	1.29	43
Ground water:									
Discharge from artesian wells	100	0.03	1	0	0.00	0	100	0.02	1
Seepage through dikes	300	0.09	3	400	0.17	6	700	0.13	4
Regional ground-water discharge	3,900	1.22	38	2,800	1.18	45	6,700	1.20	40
Total ground water	4,300	1.34	42	3,200	1.35	51	7,500	1.35	45
Irrigation inflow from Sevenmile Canal	2,000	0.62	19	0	0.00	0	2,000	0.36	12
Total inflow	10,400	3.24	100	6,300	2.66	100	16,700	3.00	100
Outflows									
Pumpage	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0
Evapotranspiration:									
Open-water evaporation	6,500	2.03	63	6,500	2.74	103	13,000	2.33	78
Emergent vegetation evapotranspiration	4,900	1.53	47	2,500	1.05	40	7,400	1.33	44
Total evapotranspiration	11,400	3.56	110	9,000	3.79	143	20,400	3.66	122
Total outflow	11,400	3.56	110	9,000	3.79	143	20,400	3.66	122
Change in storage (negative values indicate loss in storage)									
Observed change in surface-water storage	0	0.00	0	-200	-0.08	-3	-200	-0.04	-1
Observed change in ground-water storage	-300	-0.09	-3	-100	-0.04	-2	-400	-0.07	-2
Total change in storage	-300	-0.09	-3	-300	-0.12	-5	-600	-0.11	-3
Water-budget residual¹									
Residual ²	-700	-0.23	-7	-2,400	-1.01	-38	-3,100	-0.55	-19

¹ The residual incorporates errors associated with the measurement or estimation of all budget components as well as values of any unmeasured or unestimated budget components such as soil-moisture storage.

² Calculated as: Inflows - Outflows - Change in storage. Negative (-) values indicate a deficit of water due to errors in estimation or lack of inclusion of additional budget components resulting in one or more of the following conditions: inputs underestimated, outputs overestimated, and (or) change in storage overestimated.

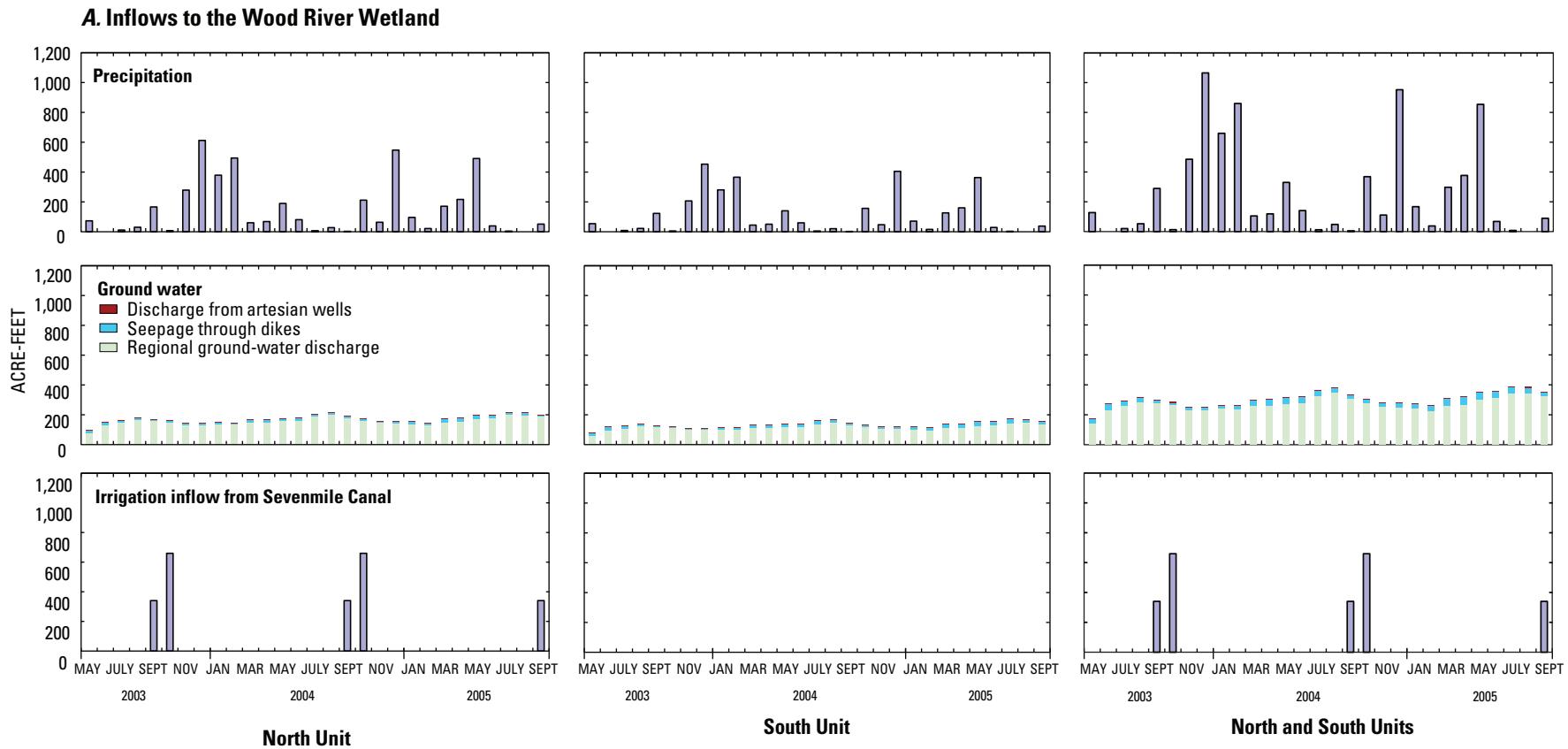


Figure 7. Monthly water-budget components (A) inflows, (B) outflows, (C) observed changes in storage, and (D) residuals, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, May 2003 through September 2005.

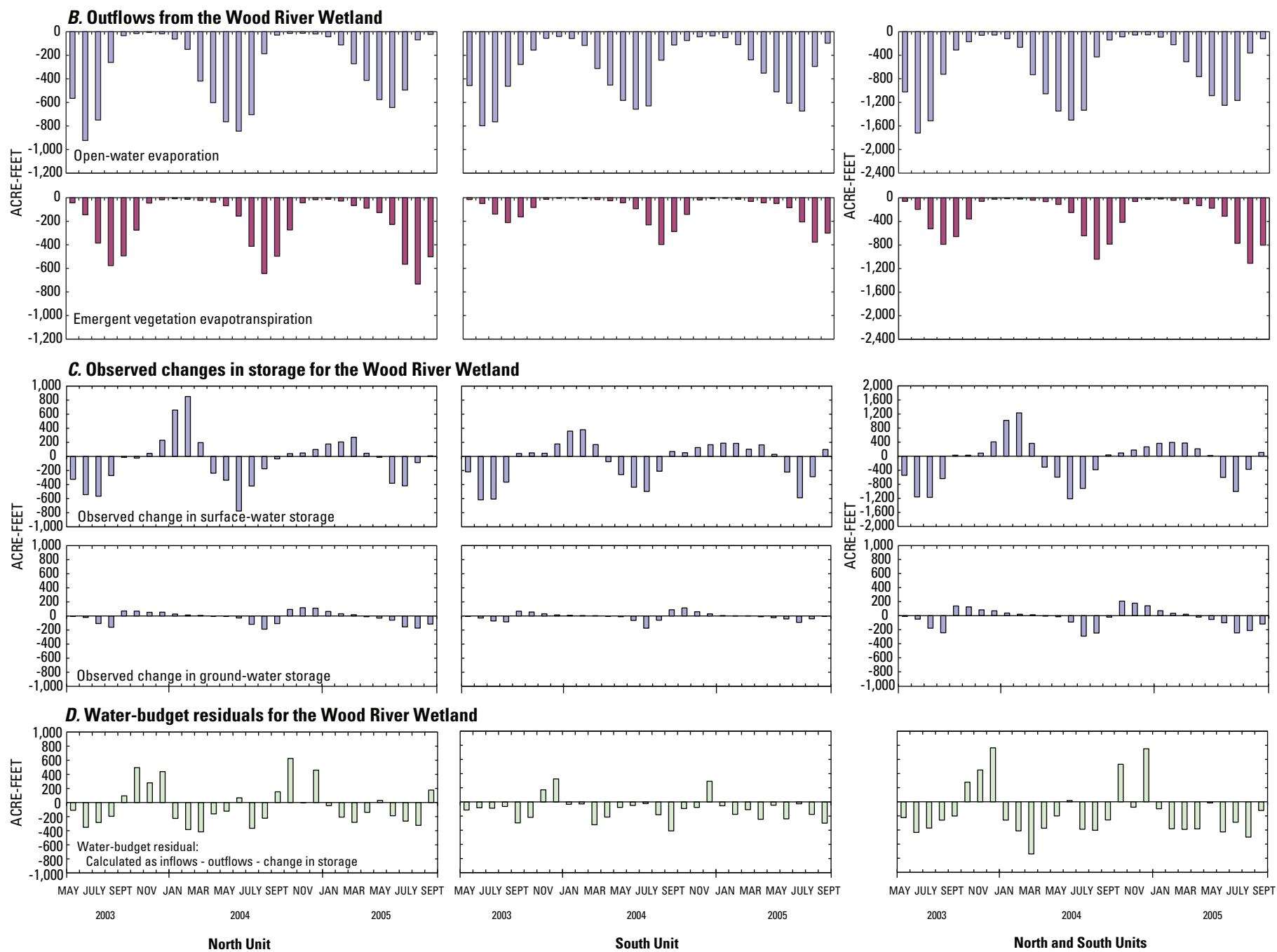


Figure 7. Continued

Changes in Storage

Changes in surface-water storage began increasing in autumn and showed the greatest increases in late winter due to increased inflow from precipitation, decreased outflows to evaporation and evapotranspiration, and prior satisfaction of soil-moisture and ground-water storage requirements ([fig. 7C](#)). Standing surface-water volumes responded to these increases and reached a maximum in early spring ([figs. 3](#) and [5](#)). Changes in surface-water storage decreased throughout the spring and summer and showed their largest declines in late spring and early summer due to increased outflows to evaporation and evapotranspiration, and decreased inflows from precipitation. The inflows from applied irrigation and precipitation that occurred in late summer and early autumn had to satisfy soil-moisture and ground-water storage before surface-water storage could increase. Standing surface-water volumes responded to these declines and reached a minimum from September through November. The patterns of change in surface-water storage were similar for the North and South Units, although the North Unit had greater magnitudes for the largest rise and decline, which occurred during water year 2004. The total decline in surface-water storage was equivalent in volume to 1 percent of the total inflows.

Changes in ground-water storage began increasing in September and October initially showed the greatest increases due to inflow from applied irrigation and increased inflow from precipitation ([fig. 7C](#)). Decreased outflows to evapotranspiration and contemporaneous satisfaction of soil-moisture storage requirements contributed to the increase in ground-water storage. Increases in ground-water storage superseded increases in surface-water storage until ground-water levels rose to inundate the soils. Throughout the autumn and early winter, ground-water storage continued to increase; however, the magnitude of the increases declined as the available storage for ground water in the unsaturated zone became filled. Beginning in spring, changes in ground-water storage declined. The magnitude of the decline increased through the summer due to increased outflows to evapotranspiration and decreased inflows from precipitation, which also must contribute to satisfy soil-moisture requirements. However, the declines in ground-water storage occurred only after overlying surface-water levels receded sufficiently to expose the soils. Patterns of ground-water storage changes were similar in the North and South Units, although the magnitudes were somewhat greater in the North Unit due to the thick unsaturated zone over a larger area.

From October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2005, the standing surface-water levels in the North and South Units declined about 0.4 ft. However, because the North Unit was nearly dry and only a small part of the South Unit was inundated, the decline in stage represented only about a 200 acre-ft loss in surface-water storage, nearly all of which occurred in the South Unit ([table 5](#)). During this same period, shallow ground-water levels declined about 1.7 ft in the North Unit and about 0.7 ft in the South Unit. This resulted in a

decline in ground-water storage of about 300 acre-ft in the North Unit and about 100 acre-ft in the South Unit ([table 5](#)). The total decline in ground-water storage was equivalent in volume to 2 percent of the total inflows.

Water-Budget Residual

Monthly water-budget residuals ([fig. 7D](#)) were calculated using values of the inflows, outflows, and changes in storage. Positive residual values are due to errors in estimation or lack of inclusion of additional water-budget components. Positive residual values indicate an excess of water resulting from one or more of the following conditions: inputs overestimated, outputs underestimated, or change in storage underestimated. Negative residual values indicate a deficit of water resulting from one or more of the following: inputs underestimated, outputs overestimated, or change in storage overestimated. Examination of the monthly residuals reveals that the values follow the seasonal pattern expected for soil-moisture storage, an unmeasured and unestimated component of the water budget. Water goes into soil-moisture storage during the autumn and early winter primarily from inflow from applied irrigation and precipitation. During winter, soil-moisture stored in the unsaturated zone is converted to ground-water storage as rising ground-water levels incorporate the water into the saturated zone. During mid- to late spring soil-moisture storage may briefly increase as the soil receives moisture that remains in the unsaturated zone as ground-water levels decline. However, this may be offset by water removed from soil-moisture storage through evapotranspiration, which increases around mid- to late spring and increases through the summer. This cycle is more prominent in the North Unit, which had a thicker unsaturated zone over a larger area, and which persisted through a longer period of time compared with the South Unit.

Most monthly residual values can be explained by the uptake or release of water by soil-moisture storage. However, errors in the estimation of the water-budget components are also present in the residuals. Sources of error include:

- unknowns regarding the quantity and timing of surface-water inflows for applied irrigation,
- insufficient frequency of measurement of surface-water and ground-water levels for the estimation of surface-water and ground-water storage,
- uncertainty in the elevations and representativeness of staff gages for determination of surface-water levels in the estimation of surface-water storage,
- uncertainty in the estimate of specific yield of the saturated soils for the estimation of ground-water storage,
- possible underreporting of precipitation resulting from undercatch of solid and liquid precipitation due to wind and unshielded rain gage,

- uncertainty with regard to the estimates of the hydraulic conductivity for the estimation of ground-water inflow,
- estimation of evaporation of open-water using the Priestley-Taylor equation, and
- estimates made from similar nearby wetlands for estimates of evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation.

These errors may contribute to the water-budget residual calculated for October 2003 through September 2005, which was -3,100 acre-ft over the 2 year period ([table 5](#)). This amounted to an unaccounted loss of 0.55 ft/yr of water across the wetland and was equivalent in volume to 19 percent of the total inflows.

The magnitudes of the monthly residuals tended to be larger for the North Unit than for the South Unit. However, the monthly deficits and excesses of water for the North Unit tended to balance each other on an annual basis. This is not true for the South Unit, which exhibited greater deficits than excesses of water. As a result, the cumulative residual for the South Unit for the 2-year period of the water-budget accounted for 77 percent of the total residual for the units combined.

Based on the discussion above, possible causes of the deficit may be one or more of the following: underestimation of inflows from precipitation, ground water, or surface water used for irrigation (considered most likely); overestimation of evaporation, evapotranspiration, or change in surface- or ground-water storage. Other unmeasured water-budget components such as soil-moisture storage or inflows resulting from breaches in the dikes also could contribute to the measured deficit.

Surface-Water Quality

Surface-water quality was highly variable depending on location (adjacent streams, North Unit, and South Unit) and season. Considerably lower concentrations of dissolved ions (lower SC) and nutrients and generally higher levels of daytime DO were detected in samples collected from Sevenmile Canal and Wood River than from wetland surface waters ([fig. 8](#), [table 6](#)).



Water samples from the Wood River Wetland. Photograph taken by John Duff, U.S. Geological Survey, August 2005.

Wetland surface water in the South Unit was warmer and had higher median DOC concentrations than the North Unit, ground-water, and adjacent stream sites ([table 7](#), [fig. 8](#)). Maximum concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus, and dissolved organic carbon were exceedingly high in the South Unit, reaching 90,000 µg-N/L TKN, 32,200 µg-P/L TP, and 270 mg-C/L DOC ([tables 8](#) and [9](#)). The median concentrations of those parameters also were high. Ammonium concentrations reached 2,760 and 5,840 µg-N/L in the North and South Units, respectively. Median concentrations of nitrate were generally low (3.6 and 115 µg-N/L) in the North and South Units, respectively ([table 8](#)). In December 2003, however, the median nitrate concentration in the North Unit increased to 2,270 µg-N/L ([table 9](#)). Although no pumping occurred during 2003–05, the total nutrient concentrations in April and May (months when pumping typically occurred) ranged from 6,910 to 10,450 µg-N/L TKN and from 4,400 to 6,350 µg-P/L TP in the South Unit, and were about 4,000 µg-N/L TKN and from 670 to 800 µg-P/L TP in the North Unit ([fig. 9](#), [table 9](#)).

Signs of biological activity, such as supersaturated DO during the daytime hours of as much as 310 percent, were apparent in the wetland surface waters ([table 7](#)). Accumulation of DO results from photosynthesis by wetland plants and algae. The highest recorded surface pH in the North and South Units (9.1 and 9.2, respectively) corresponded with DO concentrations of 310 percent and 290 percent saturation. DO concentrations in surface waters decreased each summer, with the lowest daytime values less than 2 mg/L in surface water each year. Minimum DO concentrations ranged from 0.3 to 0.8 in the North Unit and from 0.2 to 1.9 mg/L in the South Unit, although concentrations may have been lower at times because instantaneous readings did not include early morning measurements.

Water-quality conditions varied seasonally, generally related to increasing spring and summer temperature and simultaneous evapoconcentration of nutrients and salts. SC values as much as 2,500 µS/cm were recorded in the South Unit ([table 7](#)). Most forms of N and P increased during the spring and summer months ([fig. 9](#)). Particulate N and P increased during summer, particularly in the South Unit as indicated by the relative concentration patterns of inorganic to total nutrients (DIN to TN and SRP to TP, [fig. 10](#)). Particulate matter and the tea-colored surface water produced significant light attenuation, reducing availability for photosynthesis and seed germination in areas of appropriate depth. Light extinction depths (point where light availability is zero) were as low as 30 cm in the South Unit, although values of 35–70 cm were more common. The combination of low light penetration, high water temperature, and high organic content contributed to high biological oxygen demand and lowered DO concentration to 0.2–2.8 mg/L in surface water each year ([fig. 9](#)).

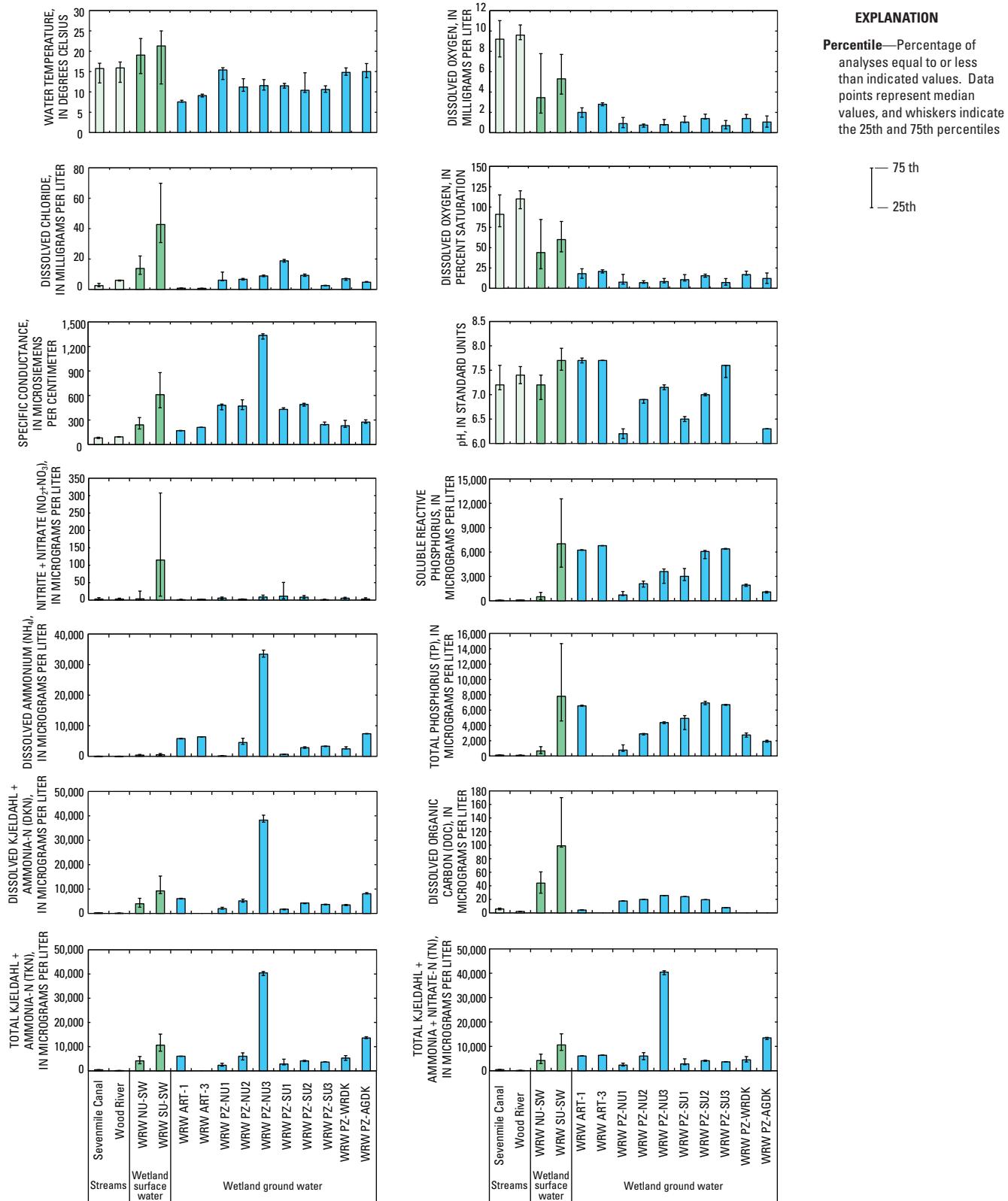


Figure 8. Median values for water-quality variables grouped by site type, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05. (Surface-water sites are indicated by green bars; ground-water sites are indicated by blue bars.)

Table 6. Summary of field parameter surface-water data for Wood River Wetland, adjacent streams, and ground-water sites, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

[See [table 1](#) for sampling site information. Abbreviations: °C, degrees Celsius; µS/cm, microsiemens per centimeter; mg/L, milligram per liter; min, minimum; max, maximum; n, number of observations; NU, North Unit; SU, South Unit; ART, artesian well; PZ, piezometer well; WRDK, Wood River dike; AGDK, Agency Lake dike; –, no data]

Site type	Sampling site	Water temperature (°C)				Specific conductance (µS/cm)				Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)			
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
Tributary	Sevenmile Canal–inflow - SMIN	15.8	7.2	22.7	6	81	71	150	6	9.2	4.6	11.6	6
	Sevenmile Canal–mouth - SMDK	18.8	9.8	21.8	8	94	77	580	8	7.7	1.6	11.4	8
	Wood River–mouth WRDK	15.9	9.0	21.2	11	94	85	100	11	9.6	8.2	11.3	11
Wetland surface water	North Canal–inflow	15.2	5.9	18.6	4	120	110	250	4	5.2	4.3	7.7	4
	NU Wetland–surface	19.1	5.8	30.8	68	240	78	790	75	3.5	0.3	20.0	74
	NU Wetland–bottom	18.0	10.5	22.5	30	300	79	790	30	0.7	0.1	10.0	30
	SU Wetland–surface	21.3	4.5	33.4	83	610	83	2,500	89	5.3	0.2	20.0	89
	SU Wetland–bottom	19.0	12.7	25.0	18	430	81	1,260	18	3.1	0.1	11.2	18
Wetland ground water	ART-1	7.6	7.4	9.0	4	170	160	180	4	2.0	0.4	3.5	4
	ART-3	9.1	8.4	9.8	2	210	210	210	2	2.8	2.5	3.1	2
	PZ-NU1	15.4	10.3	16.4	7	480	340	580	7	0.9	0.4	4.6	7
	PZ-NU2	11.2	8.8	14.3	8	470	420	600	8	0.8	0.4	1.4	8
	PZ-NU3	11.6	9.2	13.7	8	1,340	1,150	1,410	8	0.8	0.6	1.7	8
	PZ-SU1	11.5	10.8	14.2	6	430	430	460	5	1.1	0.8	2.0	6
	PZ-SU2	10.4	9.1	17.1	8	490	440	560	8	1.4	0.6	5.3	8
	PZ-SU3	10.6	9.0	14.6	8	245	230	450	8	0.7	0.3	1.9	8
	PZ-WRDK	14.8	13.4	17.0	3	230	190	360	3	1.4	1.4	2.2	3
	PZ-AGDK	15.0	12.0	19.9	4	275	260	340	4	1.1	0.4	2.1	4
Site type	Sampling site	Dissolved oxygen (percent saturation)				pH (standard units)							
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
Tributary	Sevenmile Canal–inflow	91	62	140	6	7.2	6.8	7.6	5				
	Sevenmile Canal–mouth	92	20	100	8	7.4	6.8	7.7	7				
	Wood River–mouth	110	79	140	11	7.4	6.8	8.2	10				
Wetland surface water	North Canal–inflow	59	45	85	4	6.8	6.6	7.0	4				
	NU Wetland–surface	44	3.1	310	68	7.2	6.6	9.1	63				
	NU Wetland–bottom	5.5	2.3	65	19	7.2	6.7	10.0	19				
	SU Wetland–surface	60	3.0	290	83	7.7	7.2	9.2	78				
	SU Wetland–bottom	34	2.2	74	10	7.5	6.8	7.8	10				
Wetland ground water	ART-1	18	4.0	33	4	7.7	7.6	7.8	3				
	ART-3	21	17	25	2	7.7	7.7	7.7	2				
	PZ-NU1	7.6	4.5	50	7	6.2	6.0	6.4	3				
	PZ-NU2	7.0	4.1	14	8	6.9	6.6	6.9	4				
	PZ-NU3	8.3	6.3	16	8	7.2	7.1	7.2	4				
	PZ-SU1	11	8	21	6	6.5	6.4	6.6	2				
	PZ-SU2	16	7	42	8	7.0	6.9	7.1	4				
	PZ-SU3	7.1	2.9	17	8	7.6	6.6	7.6	4				
	PZ-WRDK	17	16	25	3	–	–	–	0				
	PZ-AGDK	12	4.5	22	4	6.3	6.3	6.3	1				

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Table 7. Summary of seasonal field parameter data for the North Unit and South Unit, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

[Abbreviations: °C, degrees Celsius; µS/cm, microsiemens per centimeter; mg/L, milligram per liter; min, minimum; max, maximum; n, number of observations; –, no data]

Wetland unit	Date	Water temperature surface (°C)				Water temperature bottom (°C)				Specific conductance surface (µS/cm)				Specific conductance bottom (µS/cm)				pH surface (standard units)			
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
North Unit	05-12-03	14.6	14.5	23.2	5	–	–	–	0	240	170	250	5	–	–	–	0	7.0	6.9	7.3	5
	06-19-03	28.3	19.7	30.8	5	17.9	15.5	18.9	5	230	170	350	5	280	240	350	5	7.1	6.7	7.4	5
	08-27-03	23.4	19.0	26.9	5	17.9	17.5	18.0	4	690	110	790	5	710	210	760	4	8.2	7.2	8.7	5
	12-03-03	6.4	5.8	7.5	4	–	–	–	0	235	190	350	4	–	–	–	0	7.1	6.6	7.3	4
	03-29-04	9.6	8.6	10.0	6	–	–	–	0	195	190	210	6	–	–	–	0	7.5	7.3	7.6	6
	04-27-04	14.8	12.5	17.3	5	–	–	–	0	230	180	250	5	–	–	–	0	7.1	6.8	7.3	5
	06-03-04	17.8	16.4	22.1	5	–	–	–	0	300	250	310	5	–	–	–	0	7.3	6.9	7.3	5
	07-09-04	20.8	18.0	23.5	6	17.8	17.0	20.0	6	345	280	400	6	375	290	400	6	6.9	6.7	7.1	6
	08-17-04	23.1	18.2	26.0	6	18.9	17.0	19.8	6	335	190	680	6	335	190	680	6	7.4	6.8	8.9	6
	09-28-04	12.0	11.5	16.5	5	12.0	10.5	14.0	5	81	78	150	5	82	79	270	5	–	–	–	0
	06-08-05	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	0	270	120	360	7	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	0
	07-21-05	21.1	19.1	24.4	6	–	–	–	0	510	190	650	6	–	–	–	0	7.2	6.7	7.4	6
	08-25-05	27.3	22.3	29.4	5	21.0	19.7	22.5	4	190	130	730	5	245	130	790	4	7.3	6.8	9.1	5
	09-27-05	17.6	15.9	20.6	5	–	–	–	0	94	87	170	5	–	–	–	0	7.0	6.8	7.7	5
South Unit	05-13-03	19.3	14.4	24.7	11	16.2	12.7	24.8	7	420	380	440	11	420	390	430	7	7.6	7.4	7.6	11
	06-19-03	22.6	20.0	28.4	4	–	–	–	0	580	550	600	4	–	–	–	0	7.7	7.5	7.8	4
	07-16-03	22.5	20.1	26.3	7	–	–	–	0	790	770	830	7	–	–	–	0	7.4	7.3	7.5	7
	08-27-03	28.5	24.2	30.2	4	18.8	16.6	20.0	3	1,290	1,280	1,290	4	1,220	1,180	1,260	3	8.2	8.0	8.4	4
	12-03-03	5.1	4.5	5.9	5	–	–	–	0	860	770	1,160	5	–	–	–	0	8.0	7.6	8.2	5
	03-30-04	8.6	8.4	9.1	8	–	–	–	0	445	440	480	8	–	–	–	0	7.8	7.6	7.8	8
	04-28-04	11.5	11.0	12.0	6	–	–	–	0	515	500	530	6	–	–	–	0	7.7	7.6	7.7	6
	06-02-04	24.4	22.7	27.7	6	–	–	–	0	640	620	650	6	–	–	–	0	7.7	7.6	7.8	6
	07-09-04	25.0	24.5	26.0	6	24.0	21.5	25.0	5	880	870	890	6	820	770	870	5	7.5	7.2	7.5	6
	08-17-04	25.3	24.6	26.1	3	–	–	–	0	1,720	1,650	1,860	3	–	–	–	0	8.3	8.1	8.9	3
	09-28-04	20.0	18.0	23.5	5	17.0	16.5	22.0	3	86	83	610	5	85	81	100	3	–	–	–	0
	06-09-05	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	0	525	510	560	6	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	0
	07-22-05	27.8	24.0	28.8	6	–	–	–	0	945	620	1,020	6	–	–	–	0	7.8	7.2	8.7	6
	08-24-05	25.6	20.5	33.4	7	–	–	–	0	1,660	460	2,100	7	–	–	–	0	8.3	8.1	9.2	7
	09-28-05	11.9	9.9	14.0	5	–	–	–	0	430	280	2,500	5	–	–	–	0	7.6	7.3	9.0	5

Table 7. Summary of seasonal field parameter data for the North Unit and South Unit, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.—Continued

[Abbreviations: °C, degrees Celsius; µS/cm, microsiemens per centimeter; mg/L, milligram per liter; min, minimum; max, maximum; n, number of observations; –, no data]

Wetland unit	Date	pH bottom (standard units)				Dissolved oxygen surface (mg/L)				Dissolved oxygen bottom (mg/L)				Dissolved oxygen surface (percent saturation)				Dissolved oxygen bottom (percent saturation)			
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
North Unit	05-12-03	—	—	—	0	3.0	2.4	9.0	5	—	—	—	0	34	27	120	5	—	—	—	0
	06-19-03	7.0	6.7	7.1	5	2.8	0.4	3.5	5	0.4	0.2	0.6	5	44	7.5	51	5	4.2	2.8	5.5	5
	08-27-03	7.3	6.9	7.5	4	5.7	2.1	13.8	5	0.9	0.3	2.2	4	86	28	200	5	10	3.4	26	4
	12-03-03	—	—	—	0	9.3	7.3	9.7	4	—	—	—	0	86	69	90	4	—	—	—	0
	03-29-04	—	—	—	0	7.1	6.3	8.2	6	—	—	—	0	72	64	84	6	—	—	—	0
	04-27-04	—	—	—	0	3.1	1.5	4.7	5	—	—	—	0	32	13	47	5	—	—	—	0
	06-03-04	—	—	—	0	1.7	0.8	2.4	5	—	—	—	0	24	7.8	26	5	—	—	—	0
	07-09-04	—	—	—	0	1.5	1.0	2.7	6	0.2	0.1	0.7	6	19	13	37	6	—	—	—	0
	08-17-04	7.6	6.7	10.0	6	2.2	0.8	4.1	6	0.5	0.2	1.3	6	30	10	59	6	6.4	2.3	13	6
	09-28-04	—	—	—	0	9.6	7.7	10.4	5	9.6	0.8	10.0	5	100	82	120	5	—	—	—	0
	06-08-05	—	—	—	0	6.0	1.6	7.8	6	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0
	07-21-05	—	—	—	0	0.5	0.3	2.2	6	—	—	—	0	5.4	3.1	29	6	—	—	—	0
	08-25-05	7.7	7.1	8.1	4	6.5	2.3	20.0	5	4.9	4.7	7.0	4	82	23	310	5	54	50	65	4
	09-27-05	—	—	—	0	8.5	7.7	9.6	5	—	—	—	0	100	94	120	5	—	—	—	0
South Unit	05-13-03	7.5	7.4	7.6	7	5.0	3.8	5.8	11	3.2	2.4	5.2	7	62	48	74	11	37	29	74	7
	06-19-03	—	—	—	0	3.1	2.4	4.1	4	—	—	—	0	41	32	60	4	—	—	—	0
	07-16-03	—	—	—	0	2.8	1.9	3.2	7	—	—	—	0	38	25	44	7	—	—	—	0
	08-27-03	7.5	6.8	7.8	3	8.5	5.9	10.7	4	0.2	0.2	0.4	3	140	81	160	4	2.6	2.2	4.4	3
	12-03-03	—	—	—	0	9.4	7.0	11.1	5	—	—	—	0	86	65	110	5	—	—	—	0
	03-30-04	—	—	—	0	7.4	5.8	9.0	8	—	—	—	0	74	58	89	8	—	—	—	0
	04-28-04	—	—	—	0	6.1	5.8	6.9	6	—	—	—	0	55	53	63	6	—	—	—	0
	06-02-04	—	—	—	0	4.1	2.8	4.4	6	—	—	—	0	46	34	49	6	—	—	—	0
	07-09-04	—	—	—	0	4.1	3.5	5.4	6	0.1	0.1	4.1	5	58	50	78	6	—	—	—	0
	08-17-04	—	—	—	0	1.0	0.8	4.4	3	—	—	—	0	12	10	65	3	—	—	—	0
	09-28-04	—	—	—	0	11.0	10.2	14.4	5	11.0	10.4	11.2	3	140	130	200	5	—	—	—	0
	06-09-05	—	—	—	0	5.7	4.0	7.2	6	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0
	07-22-05	—	—	—	0	2.7	0.2	13.1	6	—	—	—	0	39	3.0	200	6	—	—	—	0
	08-24-05	—	—	—	0	9.0	4.1	20.0	7	—	—	—	0	110	44	290	7	—	—	—	0
	09-28-05	—	—	—	0	5.8	2.2	9.6	5	—	—	—	0	65	23	95	5	—	—	—	0

Table 8. Summary of nutrients, major ions, and dissolved organic carbon data for adjacent streams, wetland surface water, and ground-water sites, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

[See [table 1](#) for sampling site information. Abbreviations: N, nitrogen; µg/L, microgram per liter; min, minimum; max, maximum; n, number of observations; MDL, method detection limit; NU, North Unit; SU, South Unit; ART, artesian well; PZ, piezometer well; WRDK, Wood River dike; AGDK, Agency Lake dike; <, less than; –, no data]

Site type	Sampling site	Dissolved nitrite+nitrate-N (NO ₂ +NO ₃) (µg/L)				Dissolved ammonium-N (NH ₃ +NH ₄) (µg/L)				Dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) (µg/L)			
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
Tributary	Sevenmile Canal–inflow - SMIN	3.1	0.5	27.6	8	12	5.2	84	8	14	6.9	110	8
	Sevenmile Canal–mouth - SMDK	3.2	0.6	9.7	10	20	10	38	11	24	11	42	11
	Wood River–mouth WRDK	3.1	0.5	31.9	15	6.6	2.4	19	15	10	4.5	39	15
Wetland surface water	North Canal–inflow	1.9	<MDL	970	9	180	8.4	4,830	9	220	10	5,800	9
	NU wetland–surface	3.6	<MDL	5,120	74	380	2.3	2,760	75	410	7.1	5,710	75
	SU wetland–surface	115	<MDL	820	94	510	28	5,840	94	755	32	5,850	94
Wetland ground water	ART-1	1.2	0.4	8.1	8	5,790	5,620	5,970	8	5,740	0.4	5,970	9
	ART-3	2.2	2.2	2.2	1	6,360	6,360	6,360	1	6,360	6,360	6,360	1
	PZ-NU1	5.8	0.3	80.1	11	130	78	690	11	130	84	770	11
	PZ-NU2	2.6	0.1	8.8	12	4,510	3,320	8,960	12	4,510	3,320	8,960	12
	PZ-NU3	8.7	0.6	82.2	12	33,400	22,900	36,500	12	33,450	22,900	36,500	12
	PZ-SU1	11.2	3.0	180	10	655	330	2,020	10	670	0.0	2,030	11
	PZ-SU2	8.4	0.6	46.8	12	2,810	1,910	3,330	12	2,820	1,920	3,360	12
	PZ-SU3	1.2	<MDL	47.7	12	3,290	2,890	3,570	12	3,290	2,890	3,570	12
	PZ-WRDK	5.5	3.8	15.5	5	2,430	2,270	3,160	5	2,440	2,290	3,160	5
	PZ-AGDK	3.0	1.9	21.6	6	7,380	7,280	7,980	6	7,380	7,290	8,010	6
Site type	Sampling site	Dissolved Kjeldahl + ammonium-N (DKN) (µg/L)				Total Kjeldahl + ammonium-N (TKN) (µg/L)				Total Kjeldahl-N + ammonium-N + nitrite +nitrate-N (TN) (µg/L)			
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
Tributary	Sevenmile Canal–inflow	265	87	390	4	480	160	1,110	7	480	160	1,110	7
	Sevenmile Canal–mouth	430	140	860	7	545	210	790	8	545	210	790	8
	Wood River–mouth	120	54	200	7	140	57	430	14	140	57	430	14
Wetland surface water	North Canal–inflow	–	–	–	0	1,050	920	6,860	5	1,050	960	7,830	5
	NU Wetland–surface	3,970	140	13,600	56	4,150	230	17,500	71	4,210	230	17,500	71
	SU Wetland–surface	9,240	290	38,600	61	10,600	320	90,000	90	10,600	320	90,000	90
Wetland ground water	ART-1	6,080	5,720	6,320	4	6,060	5,920	6,670	5	6,060	5,920	6,680	5
	ART-3	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	0	6,360	6,360	6,360	1
	PZ-NU1	1,990	1,270	3,890	7	2,340	1,700	3,910	9	2,340	1,730	3,910	9
	PZ-NU2	5,150	4,220	7,170	7	6,050	4,080	9,700	10	6,050	4,080	9,700	10
	PZ-NU3	38,250	35,500	42,900	8	40,450	36,800	43,100	10	40,450	36,800	43,100	10
	PZ-SU1	1,760	1,260	1,910	6	2,830	1,760	6,710	8	2,830	1,840	6,710	8
	PZ-SU2	4,280	3,580	4,400	7	4,130	2,630	5,320	10	4,130	2,630	5,330	10
	PZ-SU3	3,700	3,190	6,150	8	3,650	3,450	4,190	10	3,670	3,450	4,190	10
	PZ-WRDK	3,490	2,810	3,700	4	5,280	3,370	7,310	3	4,480	3,370	7,310	4
	PZ-AGDK	8,090	7,990	9,490	4	13,600	12,800	15,300	4	13,500	7,500	15,300	5

Table 8. Summary of nutrients, major ions, and dissolved organic carbon data for adjacent streams, wetland surface water, and ground-water sites, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.—Continued

[See [table 1](#) for sampling site information. Abbreviations: N, nitrogen; µg/L, microgram per liter; min, minimum; max, maximum; n, number of observations; MDL, method detection limit; NU, North Unit; SU, South Unit; ART, artesian well; PZ, piezometer well; WRDK, Wood River dike; AGDK, Agency Lake dike; <, less than; –, no data]

Site type	Sampling site	Soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP) (µg/L)				Total phosphorus (TP) (µg/L)				Dissolved silica (Si) (mg/L)			
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
Tributary	Sevenmile Canal–inflow SMIN	74	59	130	8	130	85	180	7	–	–	–	0
	Sevenmile Canal–mouth SMDK	120	74	320	11	185	91	250	8	48	48	48	1
	Wood River–mouth WRDK	100	79	160	15	100	90	210	14	–	–	–	0
Wetland surface water	North Canal–inflow	120	50	1,490	9	130	110	1,050	5	–	–	–	0
	NU Wetland–surface	500	41	3,210	75	670	72	6,660	71	58	42	73	2
	SU Wetland–surface	7,020	88	19,900	94	7,800	99	32,200	90	49	35	64	4
Wetland ground water	ART-1	6,240	6,180	6,310	8	6,560	6,340	6,760	5	–	–	–	0
	ART-3	6,790	6,790	6,790	1	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	0
	PZ-NU1	720	280	1,520	11	780	350	1,680	9	60	60	60	1
	PZ-NU2	2,100	290	2,570	12	2,900	2,270	3,670	10	–	–	–	0
	PZ-NU3	3,600	290	4,110	12	4,370	4,060	4,650	10	–	–	–	0
	PZ-SU1	3,010	950	5,030	10	4,920	2,170	5,860	8	–	–	–	0
	PZ-SU2	6,070	3,770	7,000	12	6,940	6,190	7,490	10	–	–	–	0
	PZ-SU3	6,390	6,030	6,630	12	6,710	6,430	7,150	10	–	–	–	0
	PZ-WRDK	1,930	1,620	2,180	5	2,750	2,180	3,270	3	–	–	–	0
	PZ-AGDK	1,090	93	1,270	6	1,920	1,730	2,280	4	–	–	–	0
Site type	Sampling site	Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) (mg/L)				Dissolved chloride (Cl) (mg/L)							
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n				
Tributary	Sevenmile Canal–inflow	6	3	8	2	3	2	11	8				
	Sevenmile Canal–mouth	3	3	3	1	4	2	7	10				
	Wood River–mouth	2	2	2	2	6	5	6	15				
Wetland surface water	North Canal–inflow	15	7	17	3	8	2	33	9				
	NU Wetland–surface	44	24	66	8	14	2	63	71				
	SU Wetland–surface	99	95	270	13	43	2	230	94				
Wetland ground water	ART-1	4	4	5	2	1	1	1	8				
	ART-3	–	–	–	0	1	1	1	1				
	PZ-NU1	18	18	18	1	6	4	14	11				
	PZ-NU2	20	20	20	1	7	5	40	12				
	PZ-NU3	26	26	26	1	9	8	11	12				
	PZ-SU1	24	24	24	1	19	8	25	10				
	PZ-SU2	20	20	20	1	9	2	17	12				
	PZ-SU3	8	8	8	1	3	2	7	12				
	PZ-WRDK	–	–	–	0	7	6	18	5				
	PZ-AGDK	–	–	–	0	5	5	7	6				

Table 9. Summary of seasonal nutrients, major ions, and dissolved organic carbon data for the North Unit and South Unit, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

[Abbreviations: N, nitrogen; µg/L, microgram per liter; mg/L, milligram per liter; min, minimum; max, maximum; n, number of observations; <, less than; MDL, method detection limit; –, no data]

Wetland unit	Date	Dissolved nitrite+nitrate-N (NO ₂ +NO ₃) (µg/L)				Dissolved ammonium-N (NH ₃ +NH ₄) (µg/L)				Dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) (µg/L)				Dissolved Kjeldahl + ammonium-N (DKN) (µg/L)			
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
North Unit	05-12-03	50	26	210	4	270	44	750	4	320	71	960	4	–	–	–	0
	06-19-03	5.4	1.4	23	5	500	89	680	5	510	90	710	5	–	–	–	0
	08-27-03	6.8	1.2	7	5	210	2.3	1,250	5	210	9.1	1,260	5	–	–	–	0
	12-03-03	2,270	350	5,120	4	580	500	840	4	2,940	930	5,710	4	–	–	–	0
	03-29-04	3.5	<MDL	13	6	45	22	48	6	50	22	59	6	2,670	2,530	2,810	6
	04-27-04	28	4.1	59	5	500	120	820	6	515	120	880	6	3,680	2,910	4,060	5
	06-03-04	100	<MDL	190	5	450	200	710	5	610	200	900	5	4,170	3,870	4,650	5
	07-09-04	1.3	0.4	11	6	990	470	2,470	6	995	470	2,470	6	7,550	5,980	9,000	6
	08-17-04	0.5	<MDL	3	6	165	42	2,710	6	165	42	2,710	6	5,210	2,160	11,600	6
	09-28-04	1.7	1.2	3	5	10	5.8	27	5	12	7.1	29	5	180	140	1,070	5
	06-08-05	93	19	380	7	440	260	610	7	560	370	940	7	5,580	4,230	6,700	7
	07-21-05	2.8	1.4	7.7	6	895	380	2,760	6	895	390	2,770	6	8,960	2,880	13,600	6
	08-25-05	2.5	1.3	5.5	5	200	86	580	5	200	87	580	5	2,750	1,310	12,600	5
	09-27-05	1.1	0.2	2.4	5	14	6.9	27	5	14	7.1	29	5	310	240	1,420	5
South Unit	05-13-03	340	250	460	11	270	130	420	11	660	430	760	11	–	–	–	0
	06-19-03	335	300	380	4	515	460	660	4	855	840	960	4	–	–	–	0
	07-16-03	190	110	260	7	630	500	740	7	760	690	930	7	–	–	–	0
	08-27-03	18	4.9	94	6	465	260	720	6	525	270	760	6	–	–	–	0
	12-03-03	15	1.7	48	5	250	120	2,060	5	260	150	2,110	5	–	–	–	0
	03-30-04	81	50	130	8	955	630	1,380	8	1,040	760	1,430	8	8,060	7,290	8,900	8
	04-28-04	490	270	690	6	1,780	1,190	2,240	6	2,340	1,880	2,540	6	9,150	4,520	9,500	6
	06-02-04	340	170	390	6	360	270	970	6	745	560	1,140	6	9,220	8,410	10,800	6
	07-09-04	205	92	240	6	505	290	860	6	685	530	950	6	15,100	14,600	15,500	6
	08-17-04	2.6	<MDL	25	4	895	280	5,840	4	905	280	5,850	4	28,900	26,600	35,100	4
	09-28-04	2.7	<MDL	5.6	6	86	28	350	6	89	32	350	6	455	290	11,900	6
	06-09-05	550	240	820	6	490	300	630	6	1,040	870	1,290	6	8,480	7,830	9,070	6
	07-22-05	22	5	180	7	1,110	140	1,840	7	1,130	150	1,860	7	14,800	8,000	16,900	7
	08-24-05	10	<MDL	61	7	820	110	2,020	7	870	110	2,030	7	29,300	12,600	36,700	7
	09-28-05	1.7	<MDL	4.6	5	170	46	630	5	170	47	630	5	4,610	2,390	38,600	5

Table 9. Summary of seasonal nutrients, major ions, and dissolved organic carbon data for the North Unit and South Unit, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.—Continued

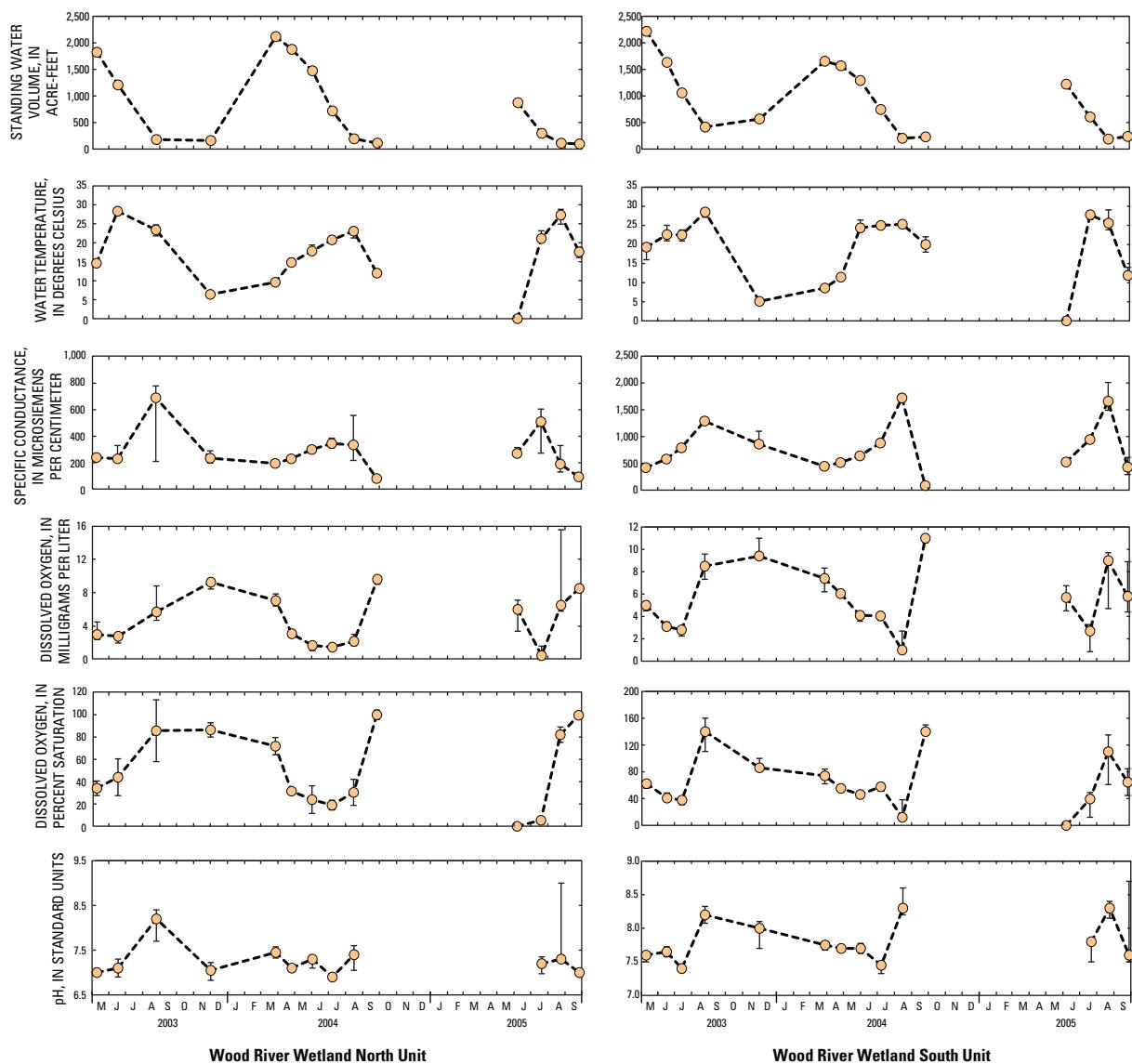
[Abbreviations: N, nitrogen; µg/L, microgram per liter; mg/L, milligram per liter; min, minimum; max, maximum; n, number of observations; <, less than; MDL, method detection limit; –, no data]

Wetland unit	Date	Total Kjeldahl-N + ammonium-N (TKN) (µg/L)					Total Kjeldahl-N + ammonium - N + nitrite+nitrate-N (TN) (µg/L)					Soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP) (µg/L)			Total phosphorus (TP) (µg/L)		
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
North Unit	05-12-03	4,100	3,600	4,600	3	4,160	3,640	4,810	3	585	260	690	4	800	600	900	3
	06-19-03	5,110	2,140	6,090	5	5,120	2,140	6,110	5	610	210	1,500	5	840	280	1,670	5
	08-27-03	7,810	750	13,800	4	7,820	750	13,800	4	2,290	44	2,970	5	1,980	88	4,500	4
	12-03-03	3,310	3,130	3,590	4	5,520	3,570	8,700	4	79	41	200	4	185	140	350	4
	03-29-04	3,000	2,760	3,060	6	3,000	2,760	3,060	6	180	150	340	6	330	260	570	6
	04-27-04	4,000	3,130	4,180	5	4,000	3,130	4,180	5	580	320	720	6	670	420	830	5
	06-03-04	4,440	3,820	4,800	5	4,440	3,820	4,800	5	1,030	480	1,070	5	1,170	680	1,230	5
	07-09-04	7,410	7,160	9,450	6	7,410	7,160	9,450	6	1,570	910	2,330	6	1,810	1,180	2,700	6
	08-17-04	6,230	2,420	12,700	6	6,230	2,420	12,700	6	505	73	2,940	6	2,100	260	6,660	6
	09-28-04	280	230	2,690	5	280	230	2,690	5	60	55	170	5	110	72	520	5
	06-08-05	5,420	4,200	6,330	7	5,460	4,210	6,700	7	750	340	990	7	870	390	1,160	7
	07-21-05	9,460	3,280	13,500	6	9,460	3,280	13,500	6	1,720	510	3,210	6	2,080	640	3,640	6
	08-25-05	4,560	1,350	17,500	4	4,560	1,350	17,500	4	150	46	1,580	5	655	130	3,470	4
	09-27-05	480	300	3,370	5	480	300	3,370	5	71	69	110	5	120	110	560	5
South Unit	05-13-03	6,600	6,100	6,800	11	6,910	6,530	7,090	11	4,150	3,620	4,520	11	4,400	3,900	4,900	11
	06-19-03	8,380	8,380	8,380	1	8,680	8,680	8,680	1	7,530	7,010	7,740	4	7,720	7,720	7,720	1
	07-16-03	11,700	11,200	12,300	6	11,850	11,400	12,500	6	10,700	10,400	11,100	7	11,650	11,400	12,300	6
	08-27-03	18,650	10,500	21,700	6	18,650	10,500	21,800	6	13,450	6,810	15,600	6	18,450	11,200	19,900	6
	12-03-03	14,400	12,600	19,100	5	14,400	12,700	19,100	5	4,170	3,700	6,890	5	5,070	4,240	7,730	5
	03-30-04	8,240	7,270	9,450	8	8,240	7,270	9,450	8	4,040	3,870	4,510	8	4,590	4,500	5,240	8
	04-28-04	10,450	9,620	11,200	6	10,450	9,620	11,200	6	5,150	4,100	7,500	6	6,350	5,860	6,460	6
	06-02-04	10,450	8,610	11,200	6	10,450	8,610	11,200	6	7,520	7,050	7,810	6	8,170	7,920	8,430	6
	07-09-04	14,800	14,000	17,200	6	14,800	14,000	17,200	6	12,950	12,700	13,300	6	14,300	14,000	14,700	6
	08-17-04	36,500	29,600	90,000	4	36,500	29,600	90,000	4	15,600	6,830	19,100	4	26,150	23,700	32,200	4
	09-28-04	3,470	320	12,300	6	3,470	320	12,300	6	165	88	3,520	6	505	99	5,070	6
	06-09-05	8,720	7,750	9,210	6	9,330	8,320	9,780	6	7,190	6,560	7,540	6	7,700	7,220	8,350	6
	07-22-05	14,600	9,290	17,000	7	14,600	9,300	17,000	7	14,000	6,340	14,600	7	15,600	7,890	16,000	7
	08-24-05	29,800	10,200	42,100	7	29,800	10,200	42,100	7	16,300	3,470	19,900	7	22,800	5,880	28,500	7
	09-28-05	6,970	3,470	47,400	5	6,970	3,470	47,400	5	2,810	1,960	3,670	5	3,630	2,350	20,400	5

Table 9. Summary of seasonal nutrients, major ions, and dissolved organic carbon data for the North Unit and South Unit, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.—Continued

[Abbreviations: N, nitrogen; µg/L, microgram per liter; mg/L, milligram per liter; min, minimum; max, maximum; n, number of observations; <, less than; MDL, method detection limit; —, no data]

Wetland unit	Date	Dissolved silica (Si) (mg/L)				Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) (mg/L)				Dissolved chloride (Cl) (mg/L)			
		median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n	median	min	max	n
North Unit	05-12-03	—	—	—	0	62	53	66	4	8.1	8.1	8.1	1
	06-19-03	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	13	8.6	20	5
	08-27-03	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	46	8.1	51	5
	12-03-03	—	—	—	0	29	24	35	4	13	13	18	4
	03-29-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	11	11	12	6
	04-27-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	13	9.3	13	5
	06-03-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	17	12	17	5
	07-09-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	25	16	27	6
	08-17-04	58	42	73	2	—	—	—	0	21	14	45	6
	09-28-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	2.4	2.3	5.4	5
	06-08-05	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	17	3.0	24	7
	07-21-05	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	32	5.7	44	6
	08-25-05	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	10	4.2	63	5
	09-27-05	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	3.4	2.8	6.2	5
South Unit	05-13-03	—	—	—	0	98	95	100	8	28	26	29	11
	06-19-03	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	37	35	38	4
	07-16-03	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	52	51	55	7
	08-27-03	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	95	43	100	6
	12-03-03	—	—	—	0	190	150	270	5	76	62	110	5
	03-30-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	30	29	31	8
	04-28-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	35	34	37	6
	06-02-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	43	41	46	6
	07-09-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	70	69	71	6
	08-17-04	49	35	64	4	—	—	—	0	155	150	200	4
	09-28-04	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	3.0	2.3	68	6
	06-09-05	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	36	34	39	6
	07-22-05	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	66	38	71	7
	08-24-05	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	150	31	200	7
	09-28-05	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	25	15	230	5

**EXPLANATION**

Percentile—Percentage of analyses equal to or less than indicated values. Data points represent median values, and whiskers indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles.



Figure 9. Trends in water-quality variables in the North Unit and South Unit, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

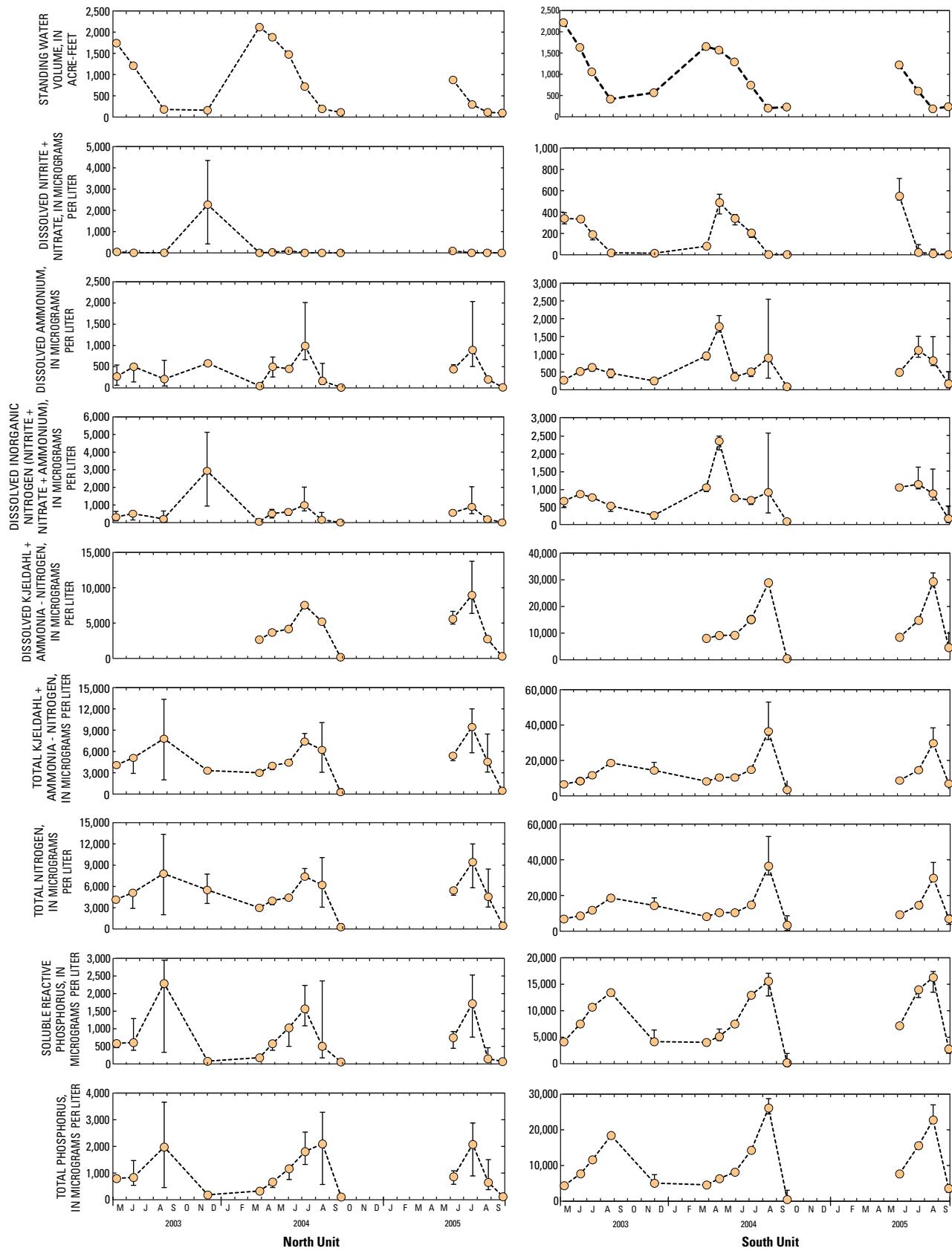


Figure 9. Continued

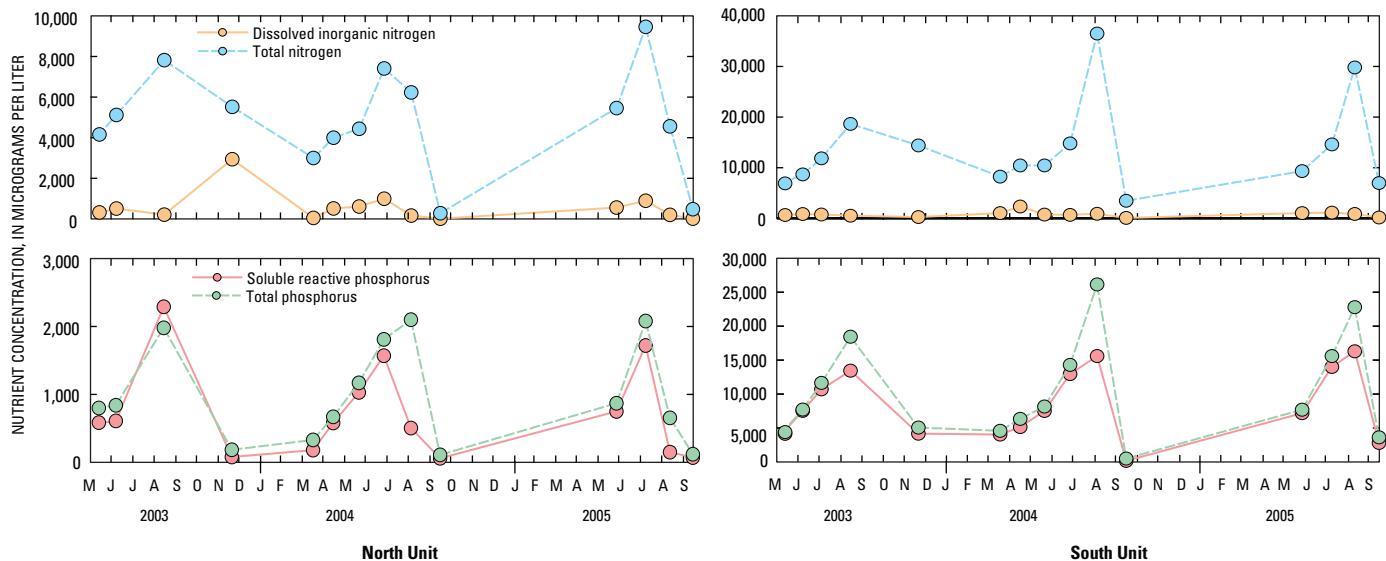


Figure 10. Median concentrations of bioavailable and total forms of nitrogen and phosphorus in the North and South Units, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

The increases in dissolved inorganic N and P (NO_3 , NH_4 , and SRP) outpaced the rate of evapoconcentration in the South Unit from spring and early summer to July, indicating the importance of other mechanisms. Ratios for individual nutrient to SC were calculated to examine temporal shifts in nutrients relative to a conservative tracer; SC was highly correlated with Cl (fig. 11), a conservative tracer unaffected by biological activity. Increases in the NO_3 to SC, NH_4 to SC, and SRP to SC ratios indicated that inorganic nutrients were produced faster than by evapoconcentration alone.

The seasonal pattern in nutrient to SC ratios were more pronounced in the South Unit than in the North Unit, but the general patterns were the same. Nutrient concentrations and ratios were more variable in the North Unit, where a notable increase in the NO_3 to SC ratio was measured in December 2003 (fig. 12), when the median NO_3 concentration was 2,270 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$. The phosphorus to SC ratio exhibited similar seasonal increases in nutrient mass and concentration (fig. 12).

Seasonal Patterns in Standing Nutrient Masses

Standing mass of TN and TP changed markedly, showing seasonal increases during spring and decreases in winter that were inconsistent with simple evapoconcentration and dilution mechanisms (fig. 13). Nitrogen mass was lowest during the autumn and winter, peaked in April, and decreased through the growing season, whereas SRP and TP peaked one to two months later in June and July and then decreased (fig. 13).

Trace Metals

Dissolved trace metal concentrations, determined on a small number of samples, were dominated by iron, especially in the South Unit, where concentrations were 522–748 $\mu\text{g-Fe}/\text{L}$ (table 10). Samples containing high dissolved iron also contained high manganese concentrations, ranging from 65 to 103 $\mu\text{g-Mn}/\text{L}$. The South Unit sites also had lower DO concentrations and higher dissolved iron, manganese, and phosphorus than the adjacent surface-water bodies (fig. 14).

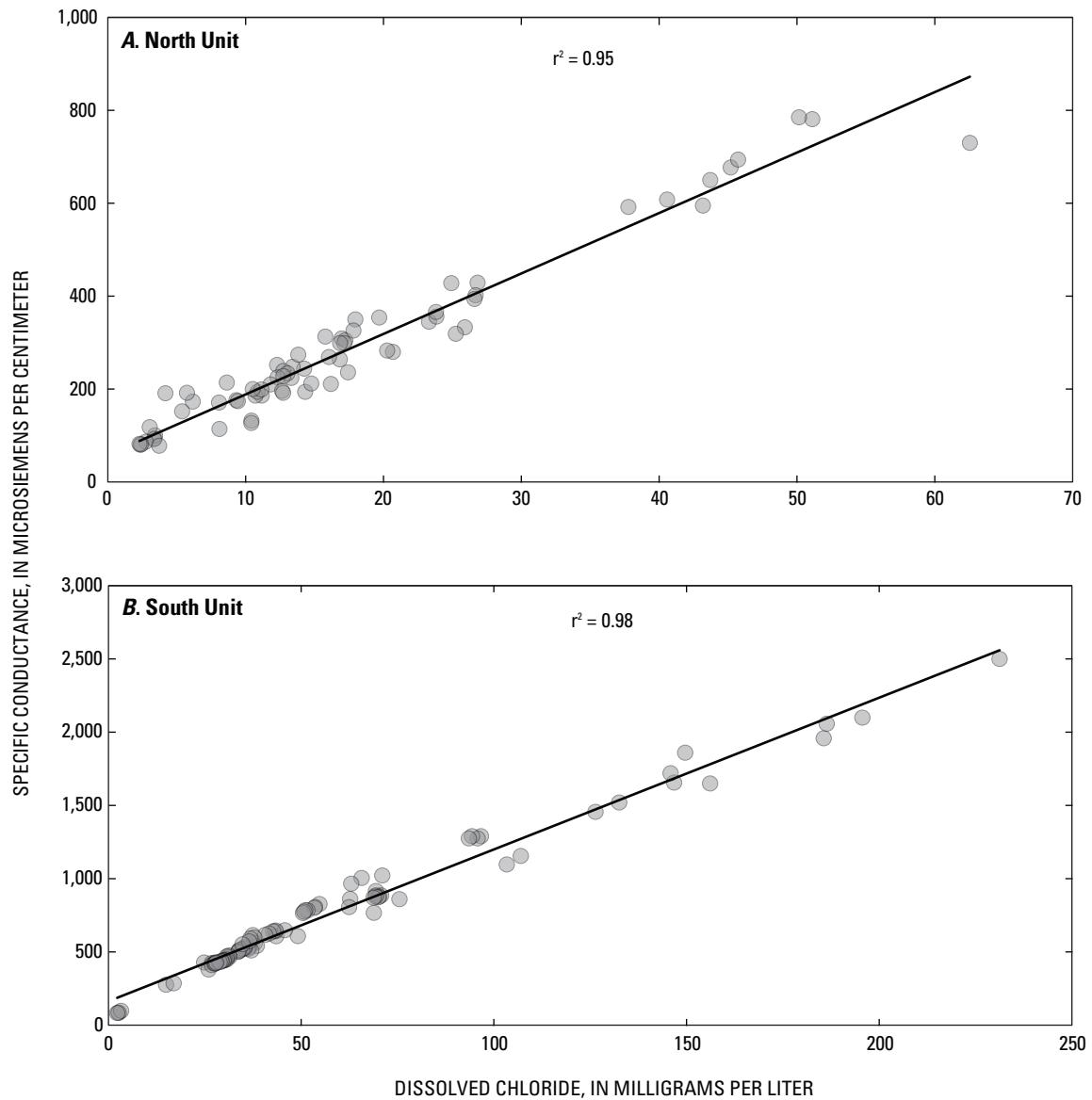


Figure 11. Relation between dissolved chloride and specific conductance in the (A) North Unit and (B) South Unit of the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

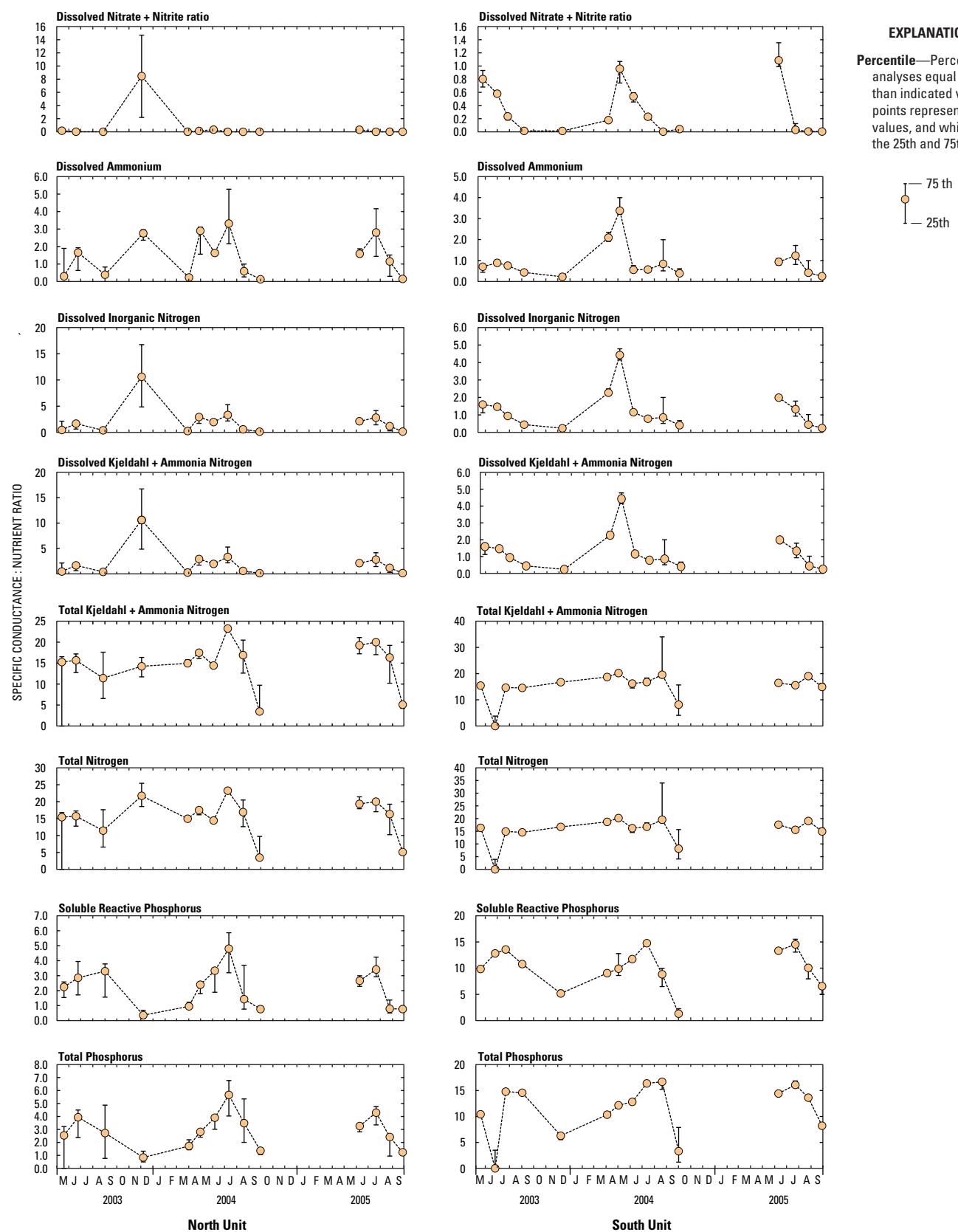


Figure 12. Ratios of nutrients to specific conductance for the North and South Units, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

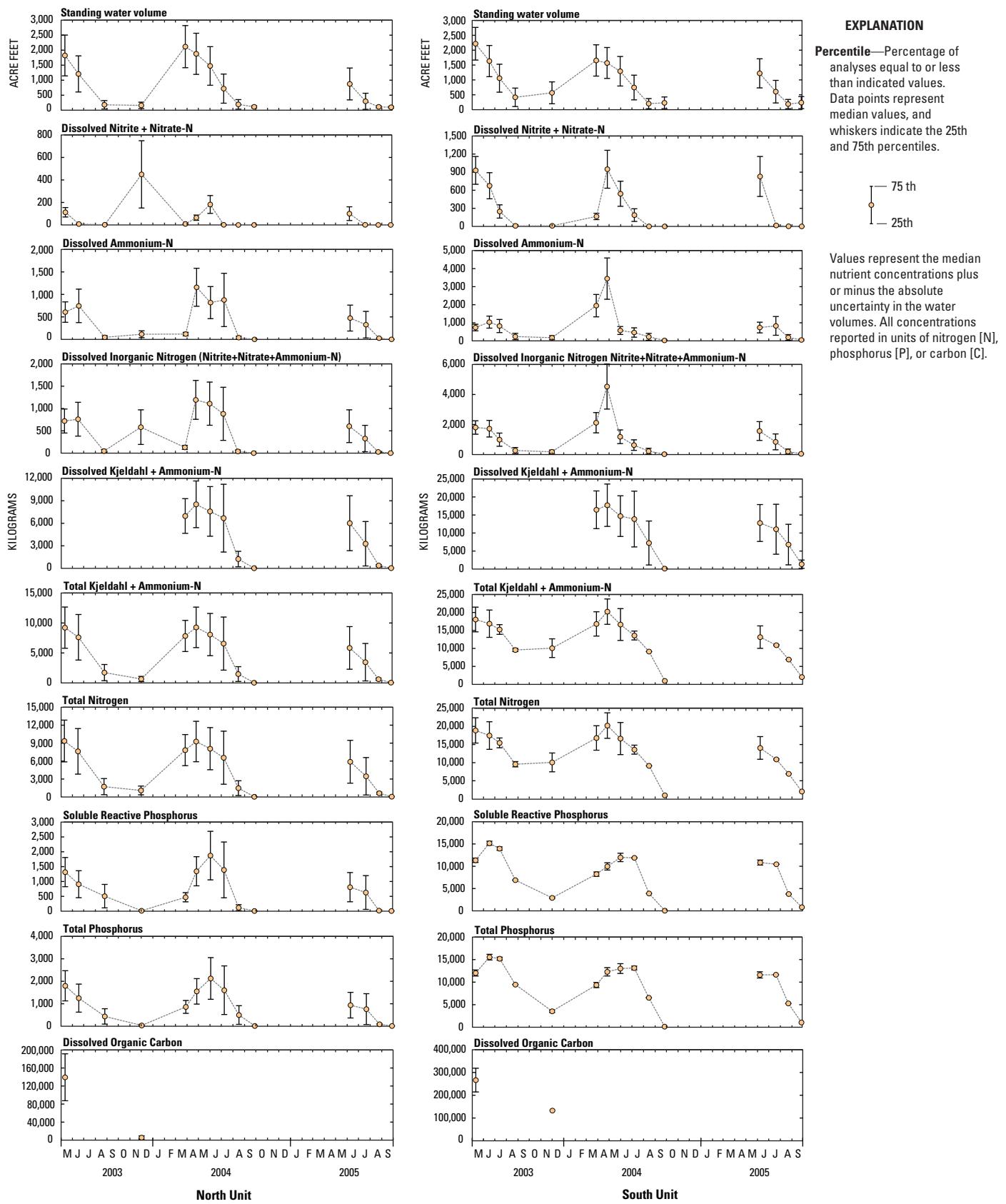


Figure 13. Trends in standing nutrient masses (nitrogen, phosphorus, and carbon) in the North and South Units, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

Table 10. Trace metals and other selected water-quality variables from the Wood River Wetland and Agency Lake, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, May 2003.

[Abbreviations: µg/L, microgram per liter; DOC, dissolved organic carbon; Cl, chloride; Temp, water temperature; SC, specific conductance; DO, dissolved oxygen; mg/L, milligram per liter; °C, degrees Celsius; µS/cm, microsiemens per centimeter; <, less than laboratory method detection limit; WRW, Wood River Wetland; TNC, The Nature Conservancy]

Site name	Dissolved metal concentrations, in µg/L										Select water-quality variables					
	Cadmium (Cd)	Cobalt (Co)	Copper (Cu)	Iron (Fe)	Manganese (Mn)	Nickel (Ni)	Lead (Pb)	Vanadium (V)	Zinc (Zn)	DOC (mg/L)	Cl (mg/L)	Temp (°C)	SC (µS/cm)	DO (mg/L)	DO (percent saturation)	pH
Sevenmile Canal near mouth	<0.001	0.03	0.36	184	24	0.17	0.002	4.6	0.14	3.2	—	9.8	80	10.1	103	7.7
Wood River near mouth	0.008	0.01	0.29	83	5.8	0.17	0.108	7.1	0.63	2.0	5.5	11.8	97	9.6	102	7.2
Wood River Wetland South Unit-S-C south central	0.005	0.48	3.2	522	65	2.3	0.104	26.3	1.08	98	27.6	16.2	420	5.3	62	7.6
Wood River Wetland South Unit-NW northwest	0.007	0.49	2.8	657	103	2.3	0.115	24.8	1.16	26.0	19.3	380	4.5	56	7.4	
Wood River Wetland South Unit-NE north east	0.007	0.54	3.3	748	81	2.5	0.226	27.1	1.15	97	27.8	20.3	428	4.8	62	7.6
Agency Lake along shore near WRW	<0.001	0.02	0.50	42	1.1	0.15	0.007	7.2	0.11	3.8	4.7	15.6	102	9.0	105	8.0
Agency Straits adjacent to TNC property	0.025	0.02	0.53	42	1.2	0.15	0.014	7.2	0.46	3.7	4.4	—	—	—	—	—

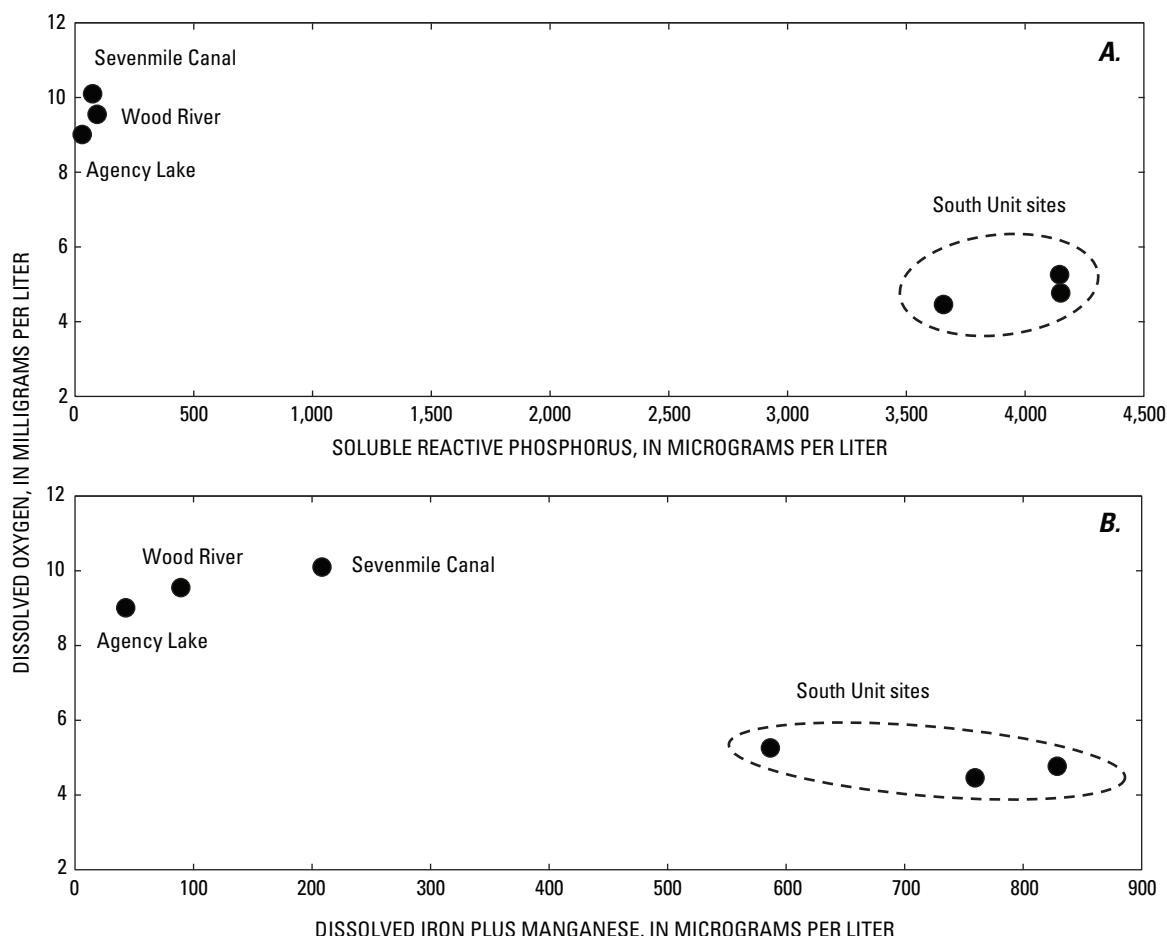


Figure 14. Relations between dissolved oxygen and (A) soluble reactive phosphorus and (B) dissolved iron and manganese, at surface water sites in and around the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, May 2003.

Ground-Water Quality

Ground-water quality from the artesian wells and piezometers at the wetland is presented in [figure 8](#) and [tables 6](#) and [8](#). Ground-water quality generally varied less over time than surface water, with the artesian wells showing the least variation. Variations in water quality between wells generally was greater than within an individual well, as shown for SC and SRP in [figure 15](#). SC and SRP were similar in the two intermediate-depth wells along the dike road (PZ-WRDK and PZ-AGDK, [fig. 2](#)).

On four occasions, the water temperature of artesian well water at the northeast corral (ART-1) ranged from 7.4 to 9°C, with DO concentrations between 0.4 and 3.5 mg/L ([table 6](#)). Nutrient concentrations from ART-1 were intermediate between the adjacent streams and wetland surface water, with median TKN concentrations of 6,060 µg-N/L (5,790 µg-N/L was dissolved ammonium) and median TP concentrations of 6,240 µg-P/L (mostly bioavailable SRP). Samples collected from ART-1 contained 4 mg-C/L DOC and 1 mg/L chloride, relatively low concentrations compared with the other wells ([table 8](#)).

DO in piezometer wells ranged from 0.3 to 5.3 mg/L (2.9–50 percent saturation, [table 6](#)) with median DO concentrations ranging from 0.7 to 5.3 mg/L. Minimum DO decreased slightly with increasing depth in the South Unit wells, from 0.8 mg/L DO in the shallow well to 0.3 mg/L in the deep well. Overall, the median pH in shallow wells (6.2 and 6.5 units in PZ-NU1 and PZ-SU1, respectively) was less than the median in the deep wells in both units (pH ranged from 7.2 to 7.6 units). The highest pH in ground water (7.8 units) was measured in the artesian well ART-1 ([table 6](#) and [fig. 8](#)).

Most total nitrogen (TN) was dissolved organic nitrogen + NH₄⁺ (dissolved Kjeldahl nitrogen—DKN). In many instances, dissolved NH₄⁺ comprised most DKN in the piezometers. Nitrate concentrations in wells were low, ranging from less than detection to 180 µg-N/L ([table 8](#)). Concentrations of NH₄⁺ and SRP in ground water generally increased with depth ([fig. 8](#), [table 8](#)), especially in the North Unit, where the deep well (PZ-NU3) had exceedingly high concentrations: NH₄⁺ (as much as 36,500 µg-N/L), SRP (as much as 4,110 µg-P/L) and SC (as high as 1,410 µS/cm) ([tables 6](#) and [8](#)). Nitrate levels, although low, were highest in the shallow South Unit wells, which contained slightly higher DO levels. The highest SRP concentrations in the South Unit ground water (about 6,600–7,000 µg-P/L) were detected in the intermediate and deep wells (PZ-SU2, and PZ-SU3). The median SRP concentration in the South Unit shallow well (PZ-SU1) was about four times higher than in the North Unit shallow well (PZ-NU1) ([table 8](#)).

Concentrations of NO₃, NH₄⁺, and SRP in the shallow and intermediate depth wells in the North Unit showed seasonal patterns somewhat related to DO concentrations ([fig. 16](#)). In 2003, the SRP concentration in PZ-NU1 was highest in December (1,265 µg-P/L) and decreased by spring when the DO concentration was 4.6 mg/L. SRP concentrations in PZ-NU1 increased from about 300 to 1,500 µg/L during summer ([fig. 16](#)). DO concentrations in the North Unit decreased during summer to about 0.4 mg/L in the shallow and intermediate depth wells by July and August. The DO concentration in the intermediate depth well (PZ-NU2) was lower compared with the shallow or deep wells. Seasonal decreases in DO concentrations did not appear to increase SRP, but NH₄⁺ concentrations decreased from about 9,000 µg-N/L to about 3,500 µg-N/L. Modest increases in DO concentrations occurred in September, especially in the North Unit wells, possibly in response to flood irrigation ([fig. 16](#)).

Biogeochemistry Experiments

Chamber studies were conducted in June and August 2005 at various locations in the South Unit to examine potential for biogeochemical controls on nutrient dynamics at the sediment-water interface. Overall, nutrient flux was about twice as high for SRP (2.9 milligrams of phosphorous per liter per square meter per hour [mg-P/L/m²/h]) than for NH₄⁺ (1.3 mg-N/L/m²/h). The SRP increased in all chambers, averaging about 500 µg-P/L (6.5 percent) after an incubation period of 18–20 hrs. The NH₄⁺ concentrations increased about 200 µg-N/L (25 percent) in all but two chambers, where the NH₄⁺ concentration decreased ([fig. 17](#)). The DO concentrations decreased in most chambers to nearly anoxic levels (0.1–0.2 mg/L) by the end of the incubations, producing DO consumption rates between 0.15 and 1.0 mg/L/h. Slight increases in DO, potentially indicative of plant photosynthesis, occurred in two of the South Unit west chambers ([fig. 17](#)).

A decrease in NO₃ concentration was measured in all five control chambers, with simultaneous production of N₂O, indicating active denitrification by microbes ([fig. 18](#)). Denitrification rates were low in the controls due to low background NO₃ (about 10–20 µg-N/L). Nitrate depletion and denitrification were enhanced with NO₃ addition, indicating availability of DOC for microbes. The NO₃[–] + glucose addition further enhanced NO₃ depletion, producing N₂O during denitrification and NH₄⁺, possibly by dissimilatory nitrate reduction to ammonia (DNRA) ([fig. 18](#)).

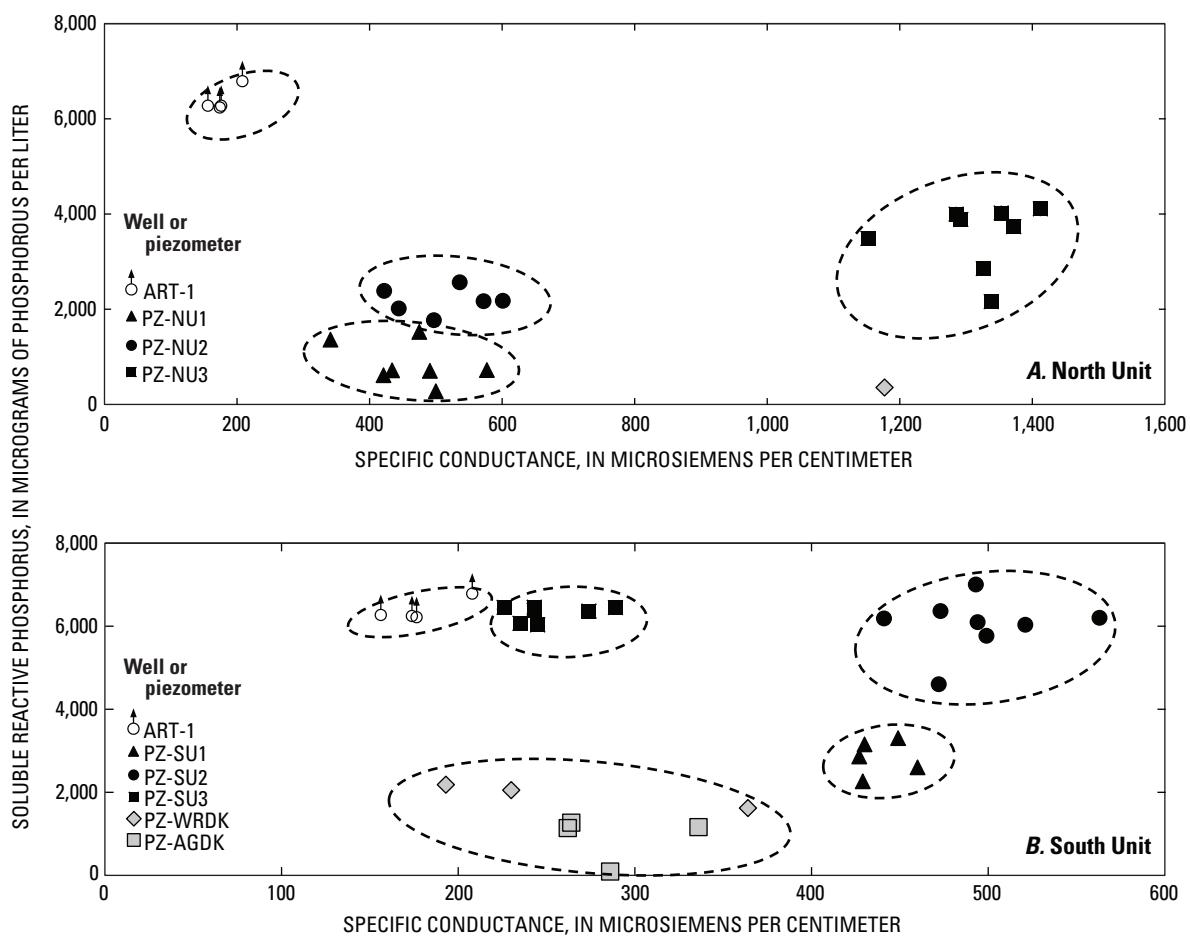


Figure 15. Soluble reactive phosphorus and specific conductance in wells and piezometers in the (A) North Unit and (B) South Unit of the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

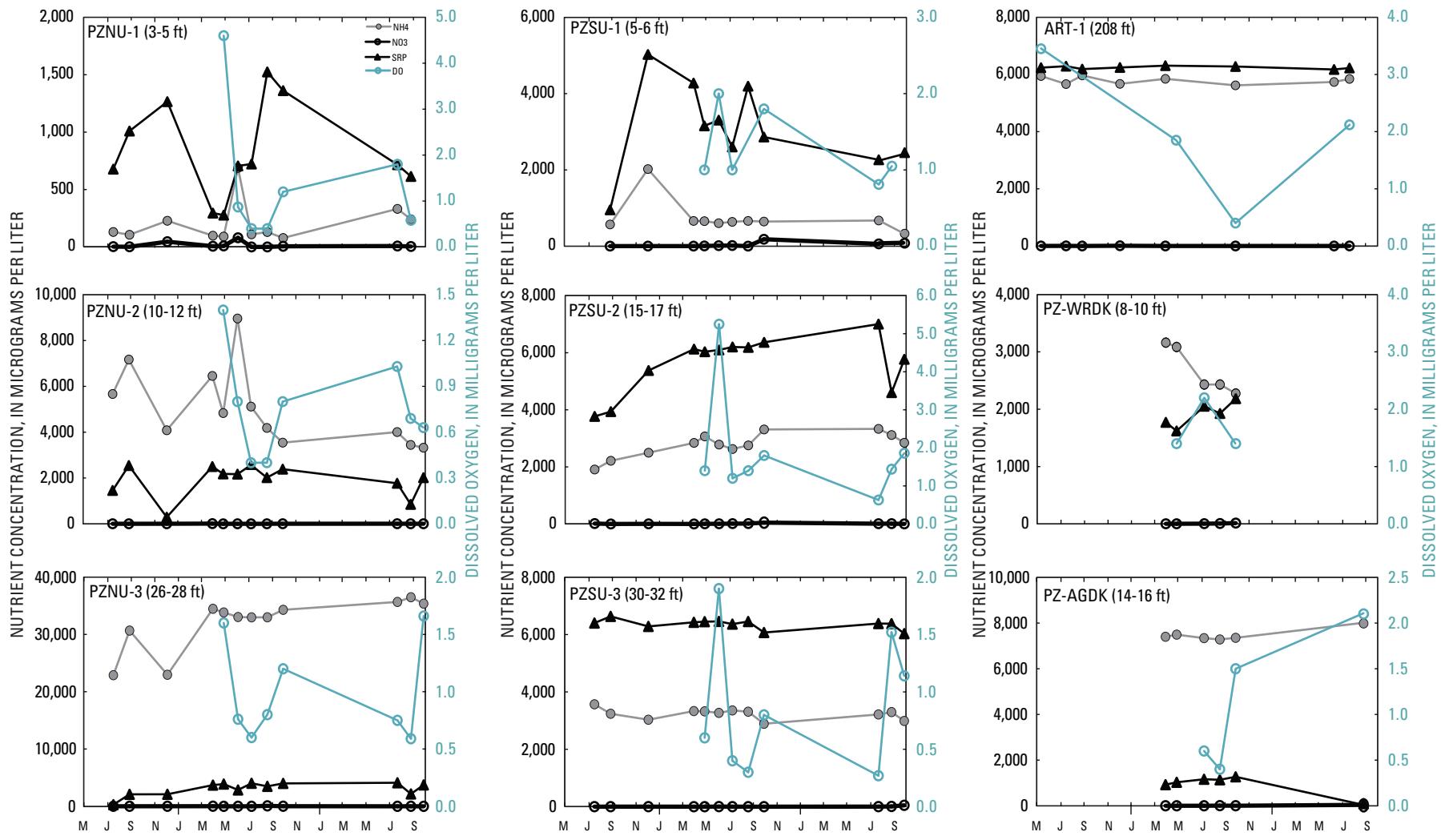


Figure 16. Seasonal patterns in nutrients and dissolved oxygen concentrations in wells at the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 2003–05.

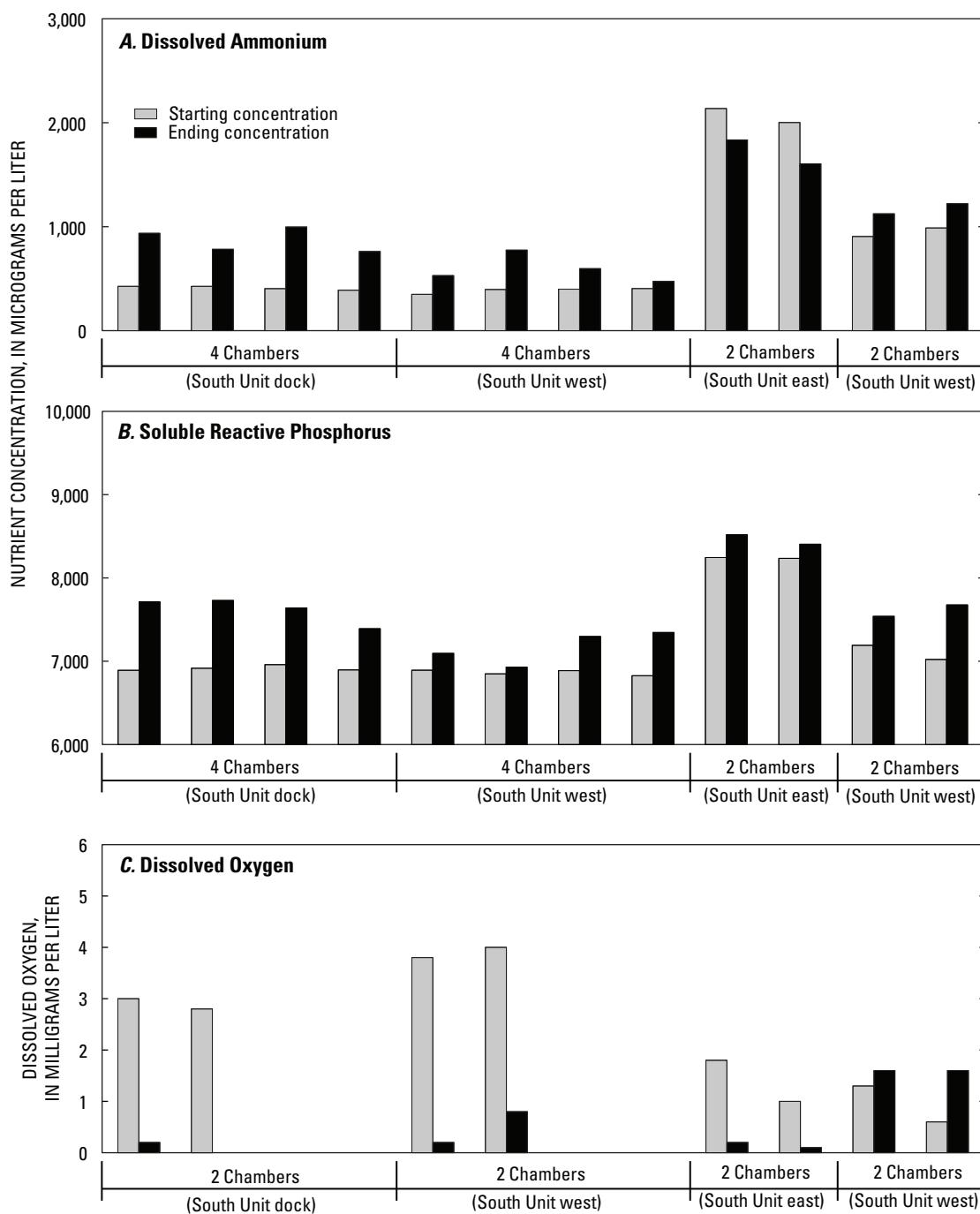


Figure 17. Results of nutrient flux chamber experiments showing concentrations of (A) dissolved ammonium, (B) soluble reactive phosphorus, and (C) dissolved oxygen in the South Unit of the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, June 2005.

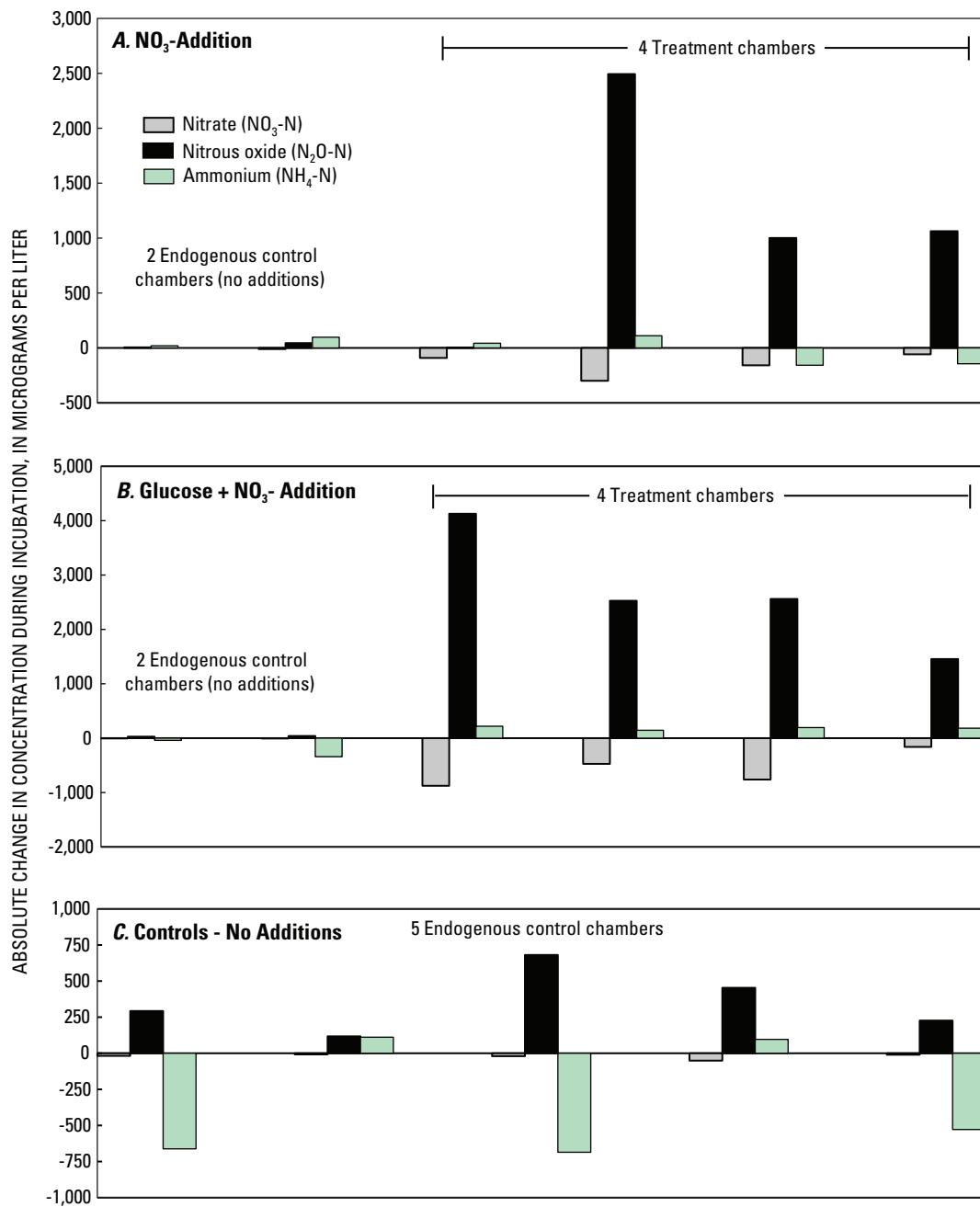


Figure 18. Effect of (A) nitrate addition, (B) glucose plus nitrate addition, and (C) no addition on nitrogen concentrations during *in-situ* chamber experiments conducted in the South Unit of the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, August 2005.

Discussion

Water Quality

Water-quality in the Wood River Wetland was dynamic and related to seasonal water availability and temperature, major controls of biological activity, and continued release of nutrients and DOC. Potential sources of N and P include leaching from previously oxidized peat soils, the decay of recently grown vegetation, waterfowl feces (Manny and others, 1994), and remnant cattle waste. Evaporation and evapotranspiration water losses further increased nutrient and mineral concentrations in surface waters.



Pelican at the Wood River Wetland. Photograph taken by John Duff, U.S. Geological Survey, April 2005.

Concentrations of nutrients, DOC, and SC were substantially higher than in other area wetlands, including the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (Mayer, 2005) and restored wetlands surrounding Upper Klamath Lake (for example, Caledonia Marsh [MacLaren and Geiger, 2001] and Agency Lake Ranch [Damion Ciotti, Bureau of Reclamation, oral commun., 2007]). SRP and NH_4 concentrations were particularly high in the South Unit. Benthic nutrient-flux experiments indicated that N and P were released from the soils ([figs. 17 and 18](#)).

Despite the high NH_4 concentrations, concerns about toxicity to aquatic life are lessened because at most times, a relatively insignificant amount of the more toxic, un-ionized free ammonia (NH_3) was present. The median ammonium concentrations in the North and South Units were 380 and 510 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$, respectively, which would produce NH_3 concentrations less than 30 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$. The maximum surface-water concentration of total ammonia was 5,840 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$ (in the South Unit during August 2004), which would produce about 390 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$ un-ionized ammonia (with concurrent temperature of 25°C and pH of 8.1 pH units). This maximum ammonia level might stress fish, including endangered Lost River and shortnose sucker fish, which have respective 96-hour LC_{50} (median lethal concentration for one-half the test population) values of 780 and 530 $\mu\text{g/L NH}_3$ (Saiki and others, 1999). Although no fish were observed in the wetland

during the field sampling—possibly because the inlet structure includes a fish screen—water with elevated NH_3 discharged to Wood River or Sevenmile Canal might affect fish in the immediate vicinity of the pump outlet station, depending on the total ammonia concentration, water temperature, pH, and streamflow in the receiving stream.

One logical source of NO_3 , NH_4 , and SRP during spring and early summer is sediment flux. Increasing nutrient to SC ratios coincided with increased water temperature, which stimulated bacterial activity and decomposition of peat soils. Although this hypothesis was supported by the chamber experiments, other potential sources of inorganic nutrients, including waterfowl feces or N-fixation, may be important at times. The decrease in DIN ($\text{NO}_3 + \text{NH}_4$) and phosphorus (SRP) concentrations during mid-August through September and the decrease in the DIN to SC and SRP to SC ratios indicate the presence of sinks such as plant uptake, rapid nitrification-denitrification for N, and sorption for P.

Legacy Effect of Wetland Drainage and Land Management

Intact wetland soils typically are inundated or water saturated, limiting air penetration into deep layers where anaerobic conditions limit decomposition and allow peat to accumulate (Cameron and others, 1989). Draining lowers the water table, increases aeration, and enhances soil microbial activity, which accelerates decomposition of organic matter (Maciak, 1972; Lee and Manoch, 1974; Lévesque and Mathur, 1979; Mathur and Farnham, 1985; Efimov and Lunina, 1988; Laine and others, 1992). Because decomposition is most efficient in aerobic environments, decay rates are typically highest in aerated, unsaturated soils, and lowest in deep, water-saturated anoxic zones. Decomposition rates generally decrease exponentially as oxygen becomes depleted through progressively deeper layers.

Historical land management at the former Wood River Ranch included 50 years of wetland draining for beef production, which caused peat decomposition resulting in decreased peat thickness and mass, and promoted C, N, and P loss. Cattle waste also accumulated. Snyder and Morace (1997) determined that the extent of peat decomposition in drained wetlands surrounding Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes is related to the time since drainage, among other factors. In many places, soils have oxidized and lost substantial bulk, resulting in compaction and land subsidence as much as 13 ft (Snyder and Morace, 1997, p. 26). Loss of peat thickness at the Wood River Wetland may be as high as 4–4.4 ft ([table 11](#)). Wetland soils in the Twitchell Island restoration wetland in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, California, show land subsidence as much as 6 m (Rojstaczer and others, 1991; Fleck and others, 2004). In the Wood River Wetland, similar mineralization has released large quantities of carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus, with respective losses averaging 36, 31, and 18 percent ([table 11](#)).

Table 11. Changes in peat thickness and nutrient content in soil cores collected from Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon.

[Data from Snyder and Morace (1997, p. 39) and D.T. Snyder (U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 1997). Shading indicates cores closest to the ground-water piezometer nests. **Initial:** prior to the beginning of drainage of a wetland for agricultural use. **1995:** quantity present in the year 1995, the year of core sample acquisition. **Loss:** the difference between initial and 1995. See Snyder and Morace (1997, p. 21–24) for method of calculation. **Abbreviations:** NU, North Unit; SU, South Unit; WRR, Wood River Ranch; ft, foot; kg, kilogram]

Wetland unit	Core name	Area of wetland represented by core (acres)	Peat thickness			Peat mass				Total organic carbon mass			
			Initial (ft)	1995 (ft)	Loss (ft)	Initial (kg)	1995 (kg)	Loss (kg)	Loss (percent)	Initial (kg)	1995 (kg)	Loss (kg)	Loss (percent)
North Unit	WRR-05	343	4.3	3.5	0.8	220,000,000	210,000,000	12,000,000	5	84,000,000	70,000,000	14,000,000	17
	WRR-07	223	0.7	0.3	0.4	25,000,000	23,000,000	2,000,000	8	8,300,000	4,000,000	4,200,000	51
	WRR-08	491	11.3	7.3	4.0	900,000,000	730,000,000	170,000,000	19	290,000,000	100,000,000	190,000,000	65
	WRR-03	421	10.1	10.1	0	840,000,000	840,000,000	0	0	230,000,000	230,000,000	0	0
	WRR-04	165	10.7	10.0	0.7	290,000,000	290,000,000	74,000,000	3	100,000,000	92,000,000	7,700,000	8
South Unit	WRR-01	225	2.5	1.2	1.3	90,000,000	71,000,000	19,000,000	21	30,000,000	13,000,000	16,000,000	56
	WRR-02	187	7.0	3.7	3.3	210,000,000	180,000,000	34,000,000	16	69,000,000	32,000,000	37,000,000	53
	WRR-10	390	8.5	5.5	3.0	500,000,000	430,000,000	74,000,000	15	160,000,000	90,000,000	70,000,000	44
	WRR-09	225	14.5	10.1	4.4	520,000,000	480,000,000	36,000,000	7	160,000,000	110,000,000	53,000,000	33
	Sum	2,670				3,600,000,000	3,200,000,000	360,000,000		1,100,000,000	750,000,000	390,000,000	
Average		297	7.7	5.7	2.0	400,000,000	360,000,000	40,000,000	10	130,000,000	83,000,000	44,000,000	36
NU average		329	7.4	6.2	1.2	460,000,000	420,000,000	39,000,000	7	140,000,000	100,000,000	43,000,000	28
SU average		257	8.1	5.1	3.0	330,000,000	290,000,000	41,000,000	15	100,000,000	61,000,000	44,000,000	46
Wetland unit	Core name	Area of wetland represented by core (acres)	Total nitrogen mass					Total phosphorus mass					
			Initial (kg)	1995 (kg)	Loss (kg)	Loss (percent)	Initial (kg)	1995 (kg)	Loss (kg)	Loss (percent)			
North Unit	WRR-05	343	4,900,000	4,000,000	870,000	18	130,000	120,000	800	1			
	WRR-07	223	590,000	390,000	200,000	34	17,000	17,000	0	0			
	WRR-08	491	21,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	50	550,000	280,000	270,000	49			
	WRR-03	421	19,000,000	19,000,000	0	0	350,000	350,000	0	0			
	WRR-04	165	4,900,000	4,400,000	500,000	10	140,000	120,000	13,000	10			
South Unit	WRR-01	225	2,100,000	1,000,000	1,100,000	51	56,000	54,000	1,500	3			
	WRR-02	187	4,900,000	2,700,000	2,200,000	45	130,000	81,000	53,000	39			
	WRR-10	390	12,000,000	6,800,000	4,800,000	42	250,000	180,000	76,000	30			
	WRR-09	225	11,000,000	7,900,000	3,400,000	30	270,000	190,000	73,000	28			
	Sum	2,670	79,000,000	56,000,000	23,000,000		1,900,000	1,400,000	480,000				
Average		297	8,800,000	6,200,000	2,600,000	31	210,000	160,000	54,000	18			
NU average		329	9,900,000	7,500,000	2,400,000	23	230,000	180,000	56,000	12			
SU average		257	7,500,000	4,600,000	2,900,000	42	180,000	130,000	51,000	25			

Other studies at the newly restored Twitchell Island have demonstrated that permanently flooded conditions (25–55 cm depth) resulted in an average plant-material accumulation rate of 4 cm/yr in planted test plots (Miller and others, 2008). Such high rates of accumulation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are producing land subsidence reversal, storing carbon and other nutrients and minerals in partly decomposed young peat that resemble the older peat in terms of composition and bulk weight. The highest rates of 7–9 cm/yr were in plots with water depth of 55 cm in an area receiving a relatively low degree of flushing (Miller and others, 2008), which contributed to low decomposition rates and high overall accumulation of vegetation. Vegetative growth at the Wood River Wetland is occurring in many habitats less than 55 cm deep, whereas the open-water areas (canals and deep water habitats) are largely unvegetated. Because of the similarities in plant community composition between the Twitchell Island and Klamath Basin wetlands, hydrologic restoration of Wood River Wetland may produce results similar to those at the restoration of Twitchell Island. Although potential growth rates of wetland vegetation may be lower for upper Klamath River basin wetlands because of lower temperatures, light availability may be greater during summer months due to the higher elevation (about 4,000 ft) of the basin. As Miller and others (2008) point out, reversal of land subsidence through hydrologic restoration is an important strategy for reducing carbon emissions that contribute to global warming for two reasons: (1) a large amount of carbon can be stored (1 kg of carbon per square meter per year in the Twitchell Island wetlands) and (2) losses are minimized due to development of anaerobic conditions that limit further loss of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere from oxidation of peat soil.

Wood River Wetland peat beds were often buried beneath layers of silt, ash, pumice, or clay (Snyder and Morace, 1997) that further restricted oxygen penetration. In some areas, seasonally fluctuating water tables may infuse oxygenated surface water to peat layers, promoting aerobic decomposition. Permeable pumice layers also may facilitate the horizontal transport of oxygenated water, also enhancing peat decomposition. Oxygen availability in the deep peat horizons probably is limited, however, because of the high concentrations of ammonium and low nitrate in the deep wells, particularly in the North Unit ([fig. 8](#)).

Biogeochemical cycling and (or) diffusive processes have enhanced P content in sediments relative to C or N. The Redfield ratio (C:N:P of 106:16:1 [by atom]) describes their relative proportions in healthy plant tissue. When compared with the Redfield ratios, C losses from the Wood River Wetland were 2–7 times greater than expected relative to losses for N and 2–451 times greater than expected for P ([table 12](#)). This disproportionate C loss resulted from decomposition and aerobic respiration of the organic-rich peat soils, producing carbon dioxide (CO₂). Losses of N also were disproportionate compared with P because N is lost in gaseous form (NO, N₂O, and N₂) during denitrification, whereas P, which has no gaseous phase, is continuously recycled by biotic uptake/release or physiochemical sorption-desorption. Two cores (WRR-08, in the North Unit, and WRR-02, in the South Unit) showed significantly greater P-loss (relative to N), indicated by the low N:P Redfield ratio factors for these two cores (0.2–0.3) ([table 12](#)). These cores were collected from the deeper inundated areas of the wetlands (see plate 1, Snyder and Morace [1997]), on the north side of each dike. The large P loss might have been due to greater anaerobic release in these deeper areas.

Table 12. Losses of carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus from soil cores, and comparison to Redfield ratio factors, Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon.

[Data from Snyder and Morace (1997) and D.T. Snyder (U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 1997). Shading indicates cores closest to the ground-water piezometer nests. **Redfield ratio factor:** The loss ratio divided by the Redfield ratio (by weight); that is, a ratio of 1 would indicate balanced loss, whereas ratios greater than 1 indicate greater relative loss. **Abbreviations:** C, carbon; N, nitrogen; P, phosphorus]

Wetland unit	Core name	Loss ratios			Redfield ratio factor		
		C:N	C:P	N:P	5.7 C:N	41 C:P	7.23 N:P
North Unit	WRR-05	16	18,479	1,123	3	451	156
	WRR-08	18	712	39	6	2	0.2
	WRR-04	15	583	38	2	369	155
South Unit	WRR-01	15	10,715	706	1,880	17	260
	WRR-02	17	700	42	7	2	0.3
	WRR-10	15	927	64	3	23	9
	WRR-09	15	718	46	2	379	173
Average		17	4,690	294	4	240	97
NU average		18	6,591	400	4	274	104
SU average		16	3,265	214	5	190	87

Biogeochemical Processes and Nutrient Transformation

Wetlands host diverse microbial communities whose metabolism drives carbon and nutrient cycles. The biogeochemical reactions are complex, and are driven by the presence or absence of DO. Reduction-oxidation (redox) conditions dictate the position, composition, and activity of microbes (Cameron, 1970; Cameron and others, 1989). Alternating bands of dark-colored decomposed soil and unmineralized light soil in Wood River Wetland cores may be due to redox gradients. Abiotic processes, including sorption and sequestering of inorganic phosphorus to iron and manganese compounds, also may be occurring in the sediment. In the presence of DO, phosphorus can be bound to iron and manganese, whereas anaerobic conditions may cause phosphorus to be released ([fig. 14](#)).

The dried and oxygenated surface soils at the Wood River Wetland have been decomposed by bacteria that metabolize organic matter into CO₂, producing carbonic, humic, and fulvic acids that lower pH. Median pH values in the shallow wells in the North and South Units (6.2 to 6.5 units) were less than in the deep wells (7.2 to 7.6 units) ([table 6](#)), which is consistent with this theory. Lower NH₄ and SRP concentrations in the shallow wells may indicate preferential decomposition and loss of nutrients from surficial soil layers by flushing. The high SC and ammonium concentrations in the North Unit deep well (PZ-NU3) ([fig. 8](#)) might have been due to a lack of flushing of the deeper soil layers by precipitation or surface-water irrigation. In contrast, the deep water from the South Unit (PZ-SU3) had lower SC than the intermediate or shallow depth wells. Greater flushing of the deeper layer compared with the shallow wells (PZ-SU1 and PZ-SU2) might explain this pattern, especially given the artesian nature of the deeper piezometer well ([tables 1 and 2](#)). The influence of deep artesian water on PZ-SU3 appeared for several water quality parameters, including SC, pH, and SRP ([fig. 8](#)). Less flushing in PZ-SU3 is consistent with the lower concentrations of DO and higher water temperatures compared with the deeper artesian wells ([fig. 8](#)). The differences in DO between the wells, and closer proximity to surficial peat soils for PZ-SU3, may allow ammonia to accumulate (from the breakdown of peat) if DO concentrations limit the conversion of ammonium to nitrate by nitrifying bacteria.

Decomposition of peat releases large quantities of DOC, amino acids, and other forms of dissolved organic nitrogen (DKN), which is mineralized to NH₄ (ammonification) by bacteria. This is one potential source of NH₄ in the wetland. In the presence of oxygen, NH₄ can be oxidized to NO₂ and NO₃ by nitrifying bacteria *Nitrosomonas* and *Nitrobacter*, although the relatively low DO levels in ground water (0.8–1.9 mg/L) may suppress this process below surficial sediments, resulting in relatively low NO₃ in ground-water discharge. Low NO₃ concentrations also may result from denitrification. Although denitrification rates at ambient NO₃ levels were not

especially high in the chamber experiments ([fig. 18](#)), they were stimulated by adding NO₃. This indicates that coupled nitrification-denitrification could maintain the low NO₃ in the wetland throughout the year. Denitrification is the primary removal mechanism for nitrogen in many wetlands (Kadlec and Knight, 1996), with rates determined by factors such as temperature, organic carbon availability, nitrate loading, and anoxic conditions (Bachard and Horne, 2000).

Wetlands often contain water with little or no oxygen, particularly during summer, when biological oxygen demand from bacteria is high. DO gradients form in the water column, producing redox boundaries near or in the sediments where anaerobic microbes generate energy by oxidizing C, N, S, and other elements. During anaerobic metabolism, bacteria produce NO, N₂O, N₂, hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), and methane (CH₄), among other gases. Hydrogen sulfide gas odors were occasionally detected in the mucky soils in the wetland and in water samples collected from the deep North Unit well (PZ-NU3). Anaerobic conditions can also stimulate microbial reduction of nitrate to ammonium in a process called dissimilatory nitrate reduction (DNRA), which is carried out by *Clostridia* and certain sulfate reducing bacteria (Atlas and Bartha, 1993). The increase in NH₄ during the chamber experiments with the simultaneous addition of nitrate and glucose ([fig. 18](#)) indicates that DNRA could be occurring in the wetland sediments.

Potential Management Strategies

The Wood River Wetland, and other drained wetlands adjacent to Agency and Upper Klamath Lakes, present difficult challenges to restoring wetland function, such as enhancing plant growth and retention of nutrients. The draining of wetlands has caused large losses of NH₄ and SRP to surface waters that produce exceedingly high concentrations of dissolved nutrients and salts. Such legacy effects require a water-level and water-quality management strategy that slows the oxidation of peat soils and reduces nutrient concentrations while promoting growth of wetland vegetation.

Water-Quality Management

Although the wetland generates large amounts of N and P, nutrient loading from the wetland to adjacent water bodies was eliminated during 2003–05 by not pumping water from the wetland ([fig. 19](#)). High water in 2006 increased the water-surface elevation to about 4,138 ft (NGVD29) in the North Unit ([fig. 2](#)), and water was pumped from the wetland to relieve stress on dikes and encourage seed germination of wetland plants (Andrew Hamilton, Bureau of Land Management, written commun., 2006). About 4,500 acre-ft of water was pumped into Wood River and Sevenmile Canal between April and early June 2006, lowering the water level

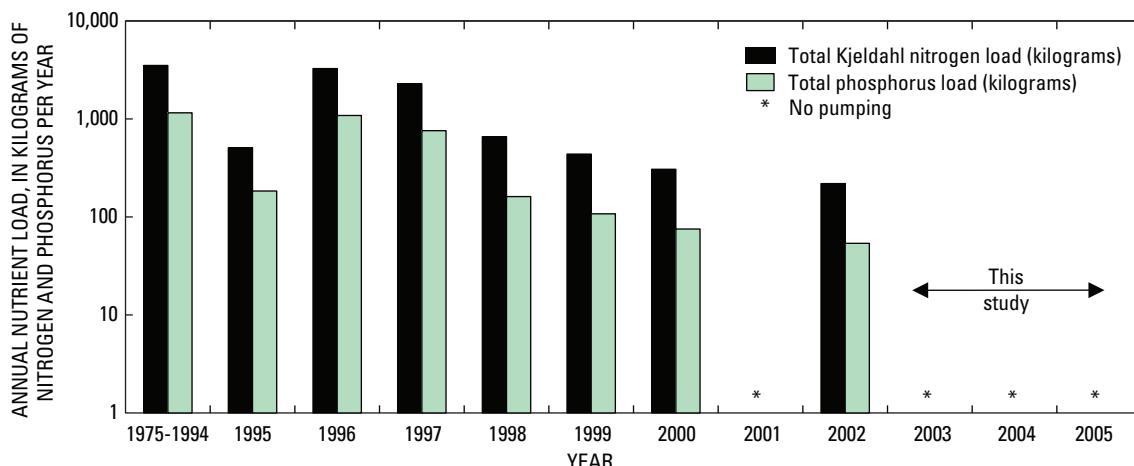


Figure 19. Annual loads of total Kjeldahl nitrogen and total phosphorus discharged from the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, 1975–2005.

by about 3.2 ft. Although the nutrient load may have been high, the biological effects to the receiving waters depend on many factors, including the rate of loading, dilution by receiving waters, and residence time. Management strategies that could reduce the negative effects of pumping nutrient rich water on receiving waters include varying the timing so potential nutrient loading would occur during the non-growing season (late autumn and winter), or pumping smaller amounts more frequently. Additional flushing of the wetland by flood irrigation and pumping may be required to dilute the sometimes exceptionally high levels of dissolved salts in the wetland surface waters that may interfere with seed germination, particularly in the South Unit.

Water-Level Management

Water levels influence biogeochemical reactions, seed germination, and other aspects of wetland ecology through their influence on habitat, DO concentrations, pH, temperature, and a number of other factors. The high DOC concentrations impart a brown color to the water that decreases light available for photosynthesis, and the high salt concentrations may interfere with osmotic water uptake in germinating seeds and young plants. Although adding water to the wetland during the summer could reduce the buildup of salts or DOC to levels more favorable for growth of wetland vegetation, lower water levels are required for seeds of many emergent plant species to germinate (Shipley and Parent, 1991). Bathymetric maps generated for the Wood River Wetland (fig. 3) can be used to optimize water levels in the North and South Units to help achieve management goals related to water quality and restoration of the wetland plant community.

To prevent further oxidation of peat soils, water could be added to the North Unit during summer to raise the water table and induce anaerobic conditions. Drying alters the structural

integrity of soils, increases the surface area for decomposition, and allows air (with oxygen) to penetrate, further accelerating degradation. An intermediate water level may provide sufficient water to prevent oxidation of peat soils and would have the added benefit of increasing germination potential for wetland plants that cannot reproduce in a continuously flooded condition. Studies conducted on soil cores in the nearby Williamson River Delta Preserve detected higher nutrient losses from both flooded and dried cores compared with continuously moist cores (Aldous and others, 2005). Keeping soils moist and marginally flooded may be one management strategy to minimize nutrient loss in restored wetlands. Pumping of standing water from the wetland during spring to achieve water depths of between 25 and 55 cm (as determined during the Twitchell Island studies) might enhance plant growth, although creation of drier habitat may be necessary for initial seed germination. Plant growth can begin to rebuild peat soils, store carbon and nutrients, and reverse their losses.

One challenge for hydrologic restoration at the Wood River Wetland is that the land surface is sloped and irregular, with natural stream channels and deep canals that provide topographic relief. A particular water level will, therefore, produce a range in water depths throughout the wetland. The inundation analysis of the Wood River Wetland (fig. 20) portrays the number and size of ponded areas produced at a given water level that can be used to optimize water levels in the North and South Units.

Due to wetter than average precipitation during winter 2005, water was pumped from the wetland in April 2006 to ease pressure on the dikes. Future management could include permanent flooding to maintain saturated soil conditions and limit aerobic peat mineralization, with pumping to maintain target levels. Water level targets of 4,140.5 ft (NGVD29) in the North Unit and 4,135 ft in the South Unit were proposed by the BLM for enhancing seed germination (Bureau of Land Management, 2006). In the South Unit, this corresponds to

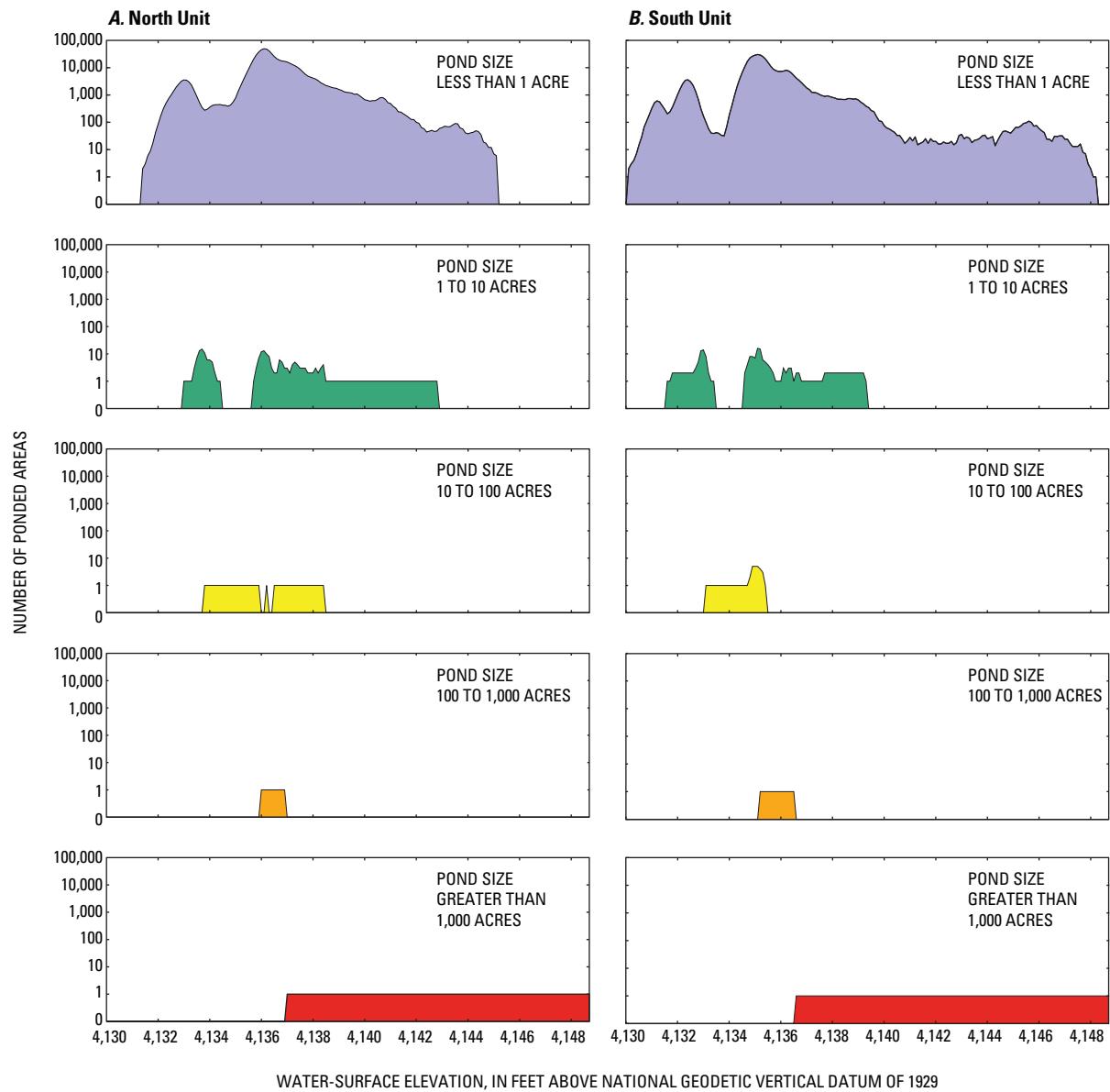


Figure 20. Effect of water depth (stage) on formation and size of ponded areas (polygons) in the (A) North Unit and (B) South Unit of the Wood River Wetland, upper Klamath River basin, Oregon.

the level where many small ponds begin to coalesce into larger water parcels (fig. 20) reaching a maximum number of ponds at about 4,134.8 ft (NGVD29). In the North Unit, the maximum number of ponds occurs at a water elevation of about 4,135.8 ft (NGVD29), which is 4.7 ft lower than the proposed target of 4,140.5 ft. This higher water level will result in fewer wetted parcels in the North Unit, but will produce a greater area of inundation, which will help prevent further oxidation of peat soils.

Many drained wetlands around Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes have subsided several feet, and reconnection with the lake can produce large areas of relatively deeper water habitat. In the Twitchell Island wetland, depths ranging from 25 to 55 cm produced conditions favorable for

wetland plant vegetation propagation and growth, leading to accumulation of plant material (Miller and others, 2008). Future studies at the Wood River and other area wetlands might include similar experiments to determine which water levels are most favorable to optimize plant growth while minimizing decomposition rates and water losses from ET at greater depths.

In 2007, The Nature Conservancy wetland restoration project at the nearby Williamson River Delta Preserve removed parts of the dike and reconnected the former wetland to Agency Lake. Although this change may initially release DOC and nutrients (Aldous and others, 2005), over the long term, nutrient losses would be expected to decrease as vegetation becomes established and peat soils rebuild (Fleck

and others, 2007). Regaining hydrologic connection to the lake will also produce a more natural flooding regime as wetland water levels decline in step with Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes, which drop an average of about 3 ft between June and October. Water may be applied to prevent soil drying during the late summer and early autumn, when water levels are lowest.

Capping Artesian Wells

Although the five artesian wells discharge 1 percent of the total water inflow, the water has relatively high nutrient concentrations (about 6,000 µg/L of NH₄-N and SRP), much higher than those measured in Agency and Upper Klamath Lakes. Stopping the flow by decommissioning or capping these wells would reduce this input of nutrients to the wetland.

Potential Future Studies

In addition to the Wood River Wetland, other drained wetlands in the upper Klamath River basin are being restored through changes in water-level management (Agency Lake Ranch) or reconnecting the wetlands by removing dikes (for example, at TNC Williamson River Delta Preserve). Restoration of these wetlands presents unique opportunities to gain knowledge about how drained wetlands respond to various management strategies. The wetland character and history that govern the content and relative decomposition of the organic content of the soils, along with variables that control biogeochemical processes, determines to a large extent how a wetland responds to flooding or other changes in water-level management.

Comparing Managed Wetlands

Functioning wetlands support healthy vegetation that take up and store nutrients and carbon, trap sediment, and generally improve downstream water quality. Active wetlands process nutrients through removal of nitrogen by plant uptake and denitrification and removal of phosphorus from uptake and precipitation into insoluble forms along with iron and other minerals. Each process requires a specific suite of conditions dictated by the local hydrology, soil type, and plant or bacterial assemblage. Future studies of managed wetlands around Agency and Upper Klamath Lakes could examine how current and future water-level management affects soil conditions, plant assemblage structure, biogeochemical

processing, and nutrient losses/storage over time. Additional monitoring of DO, pH, SC, and nutrients and additional flux studies in different types of wetlands could provide additional feedback to refine adaptive management strategies.

Plant Physiology Studies

Vegetation surveys indicate a continuing trend toward more obligate wetland plant species and a decrease or stabilization in the proportion of weedy, upland, or edge species (Bureau of Land Management, 2006). Enhanced production of emergent wetland species might be achieved by targeting water levels to specific concentrations of nutrients or dissolved salts. The high SC (as much as 2,500 µS/cm) and temperature (33.4°C) in the South Unit during summer could exceed the tolerance for seed germination of target plant species. The high DOC color in water effectively absorbs light wavelengths utilized during photosynthesis. As a result, light extinction depths were generally shallow (35–70 cm), which indicates that light probably limits photosynthesis in much of the open-water areas. Such light limitation might also decrease successful germination of dormant wetland plant seeds. Future studies could determine the light requirements for seed germination to promote recruitment and stimulate plant biomass, thereby increasing nutrient uptake and build plant biomass. Understanding individual plant preferences and tolerances for dissolved salts, nutrients, and light, for example, could accelerate wetland restoration by optimizing growth or mitigating unfavorable conditions.

Potential Effects of Dissolved Organic Carbon Export from Restored Wetlands

Potential inhibitory effects of DOC on *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae*—Decomposition of peat soils in the Wood River Wetland resulted in as much as 270 mg/L DOC in surface water ([table 8](#)). Certain types of DOC may inhibit or interfere with the growth of blue-green algae such as *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* (AFA) (Geiger, 2001). If future management includes pumping high-DOC water into Agency Lake, monitoring the abundance and health of the AFA could verify potential interactive effects. Alternatively, as a result of wetland draining, export of DOC and bioavailable N and P may have enriched the lake with excess carbon and nutrients that stimulated heterotrophic activity and enriched the lake sediments with organic matter. This scenario may have contributed to the current condition of near complete dominance by AFA in Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes.

Summary

Hydrologic and water-quality conditions were monitored in the newly restored Wood River Wetland in the upper Klamath River basin, Oregon, from May 2003 to September 2005 to establish baseline conditions as a prelude to development of future adaptive management options. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and instantaneous measures of field parameters (water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and specific conductance) were monitored approximately monthly during the growing season at surface- and ground-water sites in the North and South Units of the Wood River Wetland. Limited dissolved organic carbon and selected dissolved metals data also were collected.

Solute concentrations in the wetland were higher than in adjacent streams or Agency Lake. Potential sources of nutrients in the wetland include releases from peat soils and decomposition of organic matter, including emergent, submergent, and floating macrophytes, algae, and waterfowl feces. Another factor contributing to high solute concentrations is summer evaporation and evapotranspiration, which averaged about 3.7 feet of water per year. The highest surface-water concentrations for most nutrients occurred in late summer, when water volumes were lowest. Evapoconcentration helped raise nutrient, carbon, and dissolved ion concentrations to exceedingly high values. This effect was most pronounced in the deeper South Unit, where specific conductance (SC) values reached 2,500 microsiemens per centimeter ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) in September 2005. During the three year study, the median concentrations of total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) in the South Unit reached about 18,000–36,000 and 18,000–26,000 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$), respectively. Most of the TN and TP was in dissolved form, primarily as dissolved organic nitrogen or ammonium, and soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP). Nutrient concentrations in surface water generally were much lower in the North Unit than in the South Unit, which has deeper peat soils, although one set of samples collected in December 2003 from the North Unit contained elevated concentrations of nitrate.

Spring and early summer increases in dissolved ammonium and SRP outpaced chloride, a conservative tracer indicative of evapoconcentration. This indicates that biogeochemical processes other than evapoconcentration are responsible for the elevated nutrient concentrations in the wetland. Lower SRP and TP levels occurred in autumn following the annual flood irrigation of the North Unit and a return to cooler and wetter winter conditions. The SRP and TP concentrations decreased at a rate that was faster than dilution, indicating that inorganic sorption may have occurred in the wetland, possibly involving iron, manganese, or calcium.

Because of the elevated ammonium concentrations (and relatively high water temperature and moderate pH), some highly toxic un-ionized ammonia (NH_3) developed in the wetland surface waters. The median ammonium concentrations in the North and South Units were 380 and 510 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$, respectively, which equates to NH_3 concentrations of less than about 30 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$ at the ambient temperature and pH. The maximum total ammonia concentration of 2,020 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the South Unit during August 2004 equates to 390 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$ un-ionized ammonia (NH_3) at the ambient water temperature and pH (25°C and 8.1 units, respectively). This NH_3 level might stress fish, including endangered Lost River and shortnose sucker fish, which have respective 96-hour LC_{50} (median lethal concentration for one-half the test population) values of 780 and 530 $\mu\text{g/L}$ NH_3 (Saiki and others, 1999). Although a fish screen is used at the wetland inlet structure, water with elevated NH_3 discharged to Wood River or Sevenmile Canal during pumping might affect fish in the immediate vicinity of the pump outlet station, depending on a number of factors, including the total ammonia concentration, pH, water temperature, and streamflow (amount of dilution) in the receiving stream (Wood River or Sevenmile Canal).

Seasonal increases in dissolved nutrients and minerals result from mineralization of peat soils. Previous studies of soil cores indicated land subsidence of about 4–5 feet, resulting in carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus losses of about 36, 31, and 18 percent of their initial (predrainage) mass, respectively. Peat-associated nitrogen likely contributed to the high ammonium concentrations (22,900–36,500 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$) in the 26–28 ft well in the North Unit. Elevated nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations (about 6,000–7,000 $\mu\text{g/L}$ of ammonium and SRP) were measured in water samples from the five continuously flowing artesian wells. Biological activity was apparent in the wetland, including development of algae and floating and submerged aquatic plants, which boosted median total Kjeldahl nitrogen levels to 10,600 $\mu\text{g-N/L}$ and TP to about 7,800 $\mu\text{g-P/L}$ in the South Unit. The rapid decrease in ammonium, nitrate, and SRP during the latter part of the growing season (August and September) indicated biological uptake from algae, macrophytes, and other wetland vegetation. Photosynthesis by aquatic plants sometimes produced supersaturated midday dissolved oxygen concentrations in surface waters (as much as 310 percent saturation) and pH up to 9.2 units during summer.

Dissolved oxygen concentrations at wetland surface-water sites decreased each summer, and minimum values were less than 0.5 mg/L each year. Decomposition of peat soils and vegetation likely contributed to the decreased dissolved oxygen levels measured in the wetland surface and ground waters. Some areas of the wetland supported sulfate reduction indicative of anaerobic conditions. Anaerobic soil conditions in wetland sediments act to halt the oxidation and decomposition of peat soils, and are a natural condition in functioning and healthy wetlands.

In-situ mesocosm dome chamber experiments conducted in the South Unit during June and August 2005 indicated active demand for dissolved oxygen (0.15–1.0 milligrams of oxygen per liter per hour [mg-O₂/L/h]). Positive flux of ammonium and SRP from the bed sediment also was measured during the chamber experiments. This release may be attributed to the upward movement of ground water through nutrient-rich decomposing peat soils (for nitrogen and phosphorus), and desorption from iron or manganese in the soil under anaerobic conditions (for phosphorus). The chamber experiments also confirmed active denitrification, but rates were low due to low nitrate levels in the incubation water (wetland surface water). The low nitrate probably results from a combination of denitrification in the wetland, uptake by wetland vegetation, and perhaps from a microbial process termed dissimilatory nitrate reduction to ammonium (DNRA). The concentration of dissolved ammonium increased in the chambers with additions of nitrate and carbon, which indicates the possible occurrence of DNRA. Overall, these experiments showed active nutrient cycling by microbial populations in the wetland sediments.

Surface-water levels and standing surface-water volumes in the Wood River Wetland reached a maximum in early spring, inundating 80–90 percent of the wetland. Minimum water levels occurred in August through November, when the South Unit was 10 percent inundated and the North Unit was nearly dry. Shallow ground-water levels followed a trend similar to surface-water levels and indicated a strong upward gradient. The hydrologic conditions and water levels measured during this study were influenced by the relatively dry conditions in 2003–05, and may not be representative of conditions during wet years. Additionally, water levels may not get as low considering that current management includes irrigation in late July to maintain a greater area of saturated soils.

Monthly water budgets were developed individually for the North and South Units of the Wood River Wetland and then summed to produce a water budget over a 2 year period (2004 and 2005 water years). The budget was based on estimates of inflows from precipitation, ground water, and surface water applied for irrigation; outflows to open-water evaporation and evapotranspiration due to emergent vegetation; and changes in surface-water and ground-water storage. Precipitation was the largest component of inflow for the entire wetland, representing 43 percent of the total inflow. Precipitation values were obtained from a nearby automated agricultural weather station. Inflow from regional ground-water discharge accounted for 40 percent of the total and was estimated using Darcy's Law. Reported inflow from applied water for irrigation from adjacent surface-water bodies contributed 12 percent of the total inflow. Combined inflows from ground-water seepage through dikes and discharge

from five artesian wells represented 5 percent of the total inflow. Outflows from the wetland consisted of open-water evaporation (estimated using an empirical evaporation equation) and evapotranspiration from emergent vegetation (estimated from energy balance studies of nearby wetlands) which accounted for 64 and 36 percent of the total outflow, respectively. Outflows exceeded inflows by about 22 percent over the 2-year period. Changes in surface-water and ground-water storage during this period were determined by the change in surface- and ground-water levels and amounted to losses of only 1 and 2 percent relative to the total inflow, respectively. A water-budget residual consisting of the errors in measurement or estimation of all water-budget components and the sum of any unestimated components indicated a water deficit of 19 percent relative to the total inflow. The monthly patterns in water-budget residuals for the wetland resembled a soil-moisture signal, which, although not measured, could be a significant part of the water budget.

The distribution of inflow between the North and South Units generally was proportional to their area. The primary exception was applied irrigation, which entered entirely into the North Unit. Open-water evaporation was a greater proportion of the outflow in the South Unit relative to the North Unit as a consequence of the South Unit's large persistent areas of open water.

Inundation models developed for this study can be used to guide future water management of the wetland to reduce further oxidation of peat soils while providing shallow habitats for wetland plant seed germination. Given the current conditions, higher water levels in the North Unit and lower water levels in the South Unit (achieved through pumping) may be needed to achieve both of these management goals. Additional flushing of the wetland by flood-irrigation and pumping may be required to dilute the sometimes exceptionally high levels of dissolved salts and dissolved organic carbon in the wetland surface waters that may impede seed germination in the South Unit. Focused studies could determine the particular salt tolerances and light requirements for successful germination and growth of wetland plant species.

Determining the appropriate water level to minimize oxidation of soils while promoting seed germination is challenging due to the presence of relatively deep canals, patchy distribution of swales and ponds, and areas of subsided soils. Future studies of the various managed wetlands around Agency and Upper Klamath Lakes could examine how current and future water levels affects soil conditions, plant assemblage structure, and nutrient losses/storage over time. Such studies would provide useful feedback to help guide restoration of wetlands for water quality improvements and carbon storage.

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Appendix A. Water-Quality Data, Wood River Wetland, Oregon, 2003–05

Appendix data can be accessed by downloading files at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2009/5004>.

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