

Møsvasstangen

1. Country: Norway

3. Ref: 7NO016

4. Name and address of compiler: Øystein R. Størkensen, Directorate for Nature Management, Tungasletta 2, N-7005 Trondheim, Norway. Tel: +47-7358 0500, fax: +47-7391 5433

5. Name of wetland: Møsvasstangen

7. Geographical coordinates: 59°50'N, 8°10'E

8. General location: Situated in Vinje municipality, Telemark county. Nearest village being Rjukan.

9. Area: The total area is 1,436ha.

10. Wetland type: O, U, V

11. Altitude: 920-950 m.a.s.l.

12. Overview: Large wetland with mires and lakes, with inland and alpine characteristics.

13. Physical features: The area is dominated by extensive mires with several small lakes. Large quaternary deposits created by the movement of ice and meltwater has formed drumlins, eskers and kames. These well formed quaternary deposits increase the protection value of the area. The climate is intermediary of an inland climate with relatively warm summers and cold winters. Precipitation is relatively sparse with around 700mm annually.

14. Ecological features: The somewhat sloping face of the area has created one of the largest string-mires in southern Norway. These large unspoilt mires are a rare sight in the southern provinces. Different types of mires exist with a gradient from extremely poor to extremely rich. The area is covered with 50% mires, 30% alpine meadow and 20% forest.

15. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site: Private

(b) surrounding area: Private

16. Conservation measures taken: Established as a landscape protection area with bird protection on 13 October 1989.

17. Conservation measures proposed: None.

18. Current land use: (a) site: Nature conservation, fishing and grazing.

(b) surroundings/catchment: Fishing.

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

(a) at the site: None.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment: Agricultural activities. Nearby Lake Møsvann is regulated for hydropower, but this does not affect the nature protection area other than scenically with naked shores which can be seen from the reserve during parts of the year.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

21. Social and cultural values: More than 100 sites of archaeological interest has been found, dating back to the iron-age, of these many are iron-furnaces. The cultural heritage authorities have rated the area high for conservation.

22. Noteworthy fauna: The area constitute the southernmost breeding site for many northern and alpine birdspecies. Totally 82 birdspecies have been recorded, typical breeding birds include *Gavia arctica*, *Anas crecca*, *Grus grus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Calidris alpina*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Numenius phaeopus*, *Phalaropus lobatus* and *Calcarius lapponicus*.

23. Noteworthy flora: Mire plant societies is rich and varied with typical alpine species. On drier parts snowbed flora dominate with *Loiseleuria procumbens*, *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *Nardus stricta* as characteristic species. *Betula pubescens* (ssp. *tortuosa*) forms the dominating tree cover. Floristically the lakes are dominated by stands of *Carex rostrata* and *Equisetum fluviatilis*.

24. Scientific research and facilities: None.

25. Conservation education: None.

26. Recreation and tourism: Fishing.

27. Management authority: Fylkesmannen i Telemark, Statens Hus, N-3708 Skien.

28. Jurisdiction: Dept. of Environment.

29. Bibliographical references: Numerous reports (in Norwegian) and studies have been published on the natural and cultural history of the area, including quaternary studies, vegetation ecology, birdlife, archaeology and landscape studies: Jansen, J.I. 1987: Kvartærgeologiske verneverdige områder i Telemark (protection of quaternary areas in Telemark); Arnesen, M.R. 1981: Møsvasstangen-ornitologisk rapport (ornithological report); The University of Oslo 1972: Survey of archaeological sites at Møsvasstangen; Ormaasen, E. & Rønningsland, T.M. 1973: Quaternary geology of Møsvasstangen; Fylkesmannen i Telemark 1974: A survey of the natural history of Møsvasstangen includes all the above mentioned aspects.

30. Reasons for inclusion: 1b, 2c

31. Map of Site: Enclosed.