

This brochure describes National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), National Fish Hatcheries (NFH), and other management units of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in California. Those listed under "Discover Your National Wildlife Refuges" provide visitor access. Those under "Sanctuaries and Private Lands Closed to Visitors" are closed to the public to protect imperiled species, to serve as undisturbed wildlife sanctuaries, or because a conservation easement includes privately-owned lands. Some of these allow viewing from bordering areas.

A brief description of the habitat, wildlife, recreation opportunities, and addresses and phone numbers are provided for each refuge or unit. Environmental education programs for school children are available at most refuges. Many have active volunteer programs, involved with restoration projects, special events, and other activities. Several sites are assisted by local non-profit refuge support groups. And many hold annual special events and festivals, such as the Wild on Wetlands weekend at Los Banos NWR (March), San Diego NWR Bird Festival (February), and Modoc NWR Migratory Bird Festival (September). Contact each refuge to learn more about these opportunities and events.

Offices are generally open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Since recreational opportunities may vary seasonally, it is a good idea to contact the refuge or hatchery to confirm visitor access hours, which may differ from office hours.

Website addresses are provided for those units that have their own websites. If you would like to learn more about the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/cno>.



# Discover Wildlife California



**Clear Lake NWR** 530/667-2231  
c/o Klamath Basin NWR Complex  
4009 Hill Road  
Tulelake, California 96134  
<http://www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges>  
**Directions:** From Tulelake, drive south on Highway 139 for 23 miles. Turn east off Highway 139 onto Forest Service Road 136 and drive east for 9 miles. Access to the north side of the refuge is from Kowoloski Road, 4 miles south of Malin. The refuge's roads are impassable during wet weather.  
**Wildlife:** American white pelicans, double-crested cormorants, and other colonial nesting birds, including gulls and terns, nest on small islands. Pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and sage grouse inhabit the dry grasslands.  
**Habitat:** 33,440 acres, including a 23,770-acre lake surrounded by dry grasslands, sagebrush, and scattered juniper trees.  
**Recreation:** Wildlife viewing, nature study and photography are permitted year round, and waterfowl and pronghorn hunting are permitted seasonally. Except for limited roads into the refuge for designated hunting programs, refuge use is limited to roads on the north and south sides to protect nesting colonial and upland birds.  
**Special Note:** The lake level is controlled by a Bureau of Reclamation dam to provide irrigation water to the Tulelake area. Contact Klamath Basin NWR Complex for public use regulations.

**Coachella Valley NWR** 760/348-5278 or 760/251-4860  
c/o Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR Complex  
906 West Sinclair Road  
Calipatria, California 92523-9744  
<http://www.fws.gov/coachella>  
**Directions:** From Interstate 10 take the Ramon Road exit and travel east for approximately 4 miles; turn north on Thousand Palms Road and travel approximately 2 miles to the visitor center; or from Interstate 10 take the Washington exit and travel 5 miles north to Thousand Palms Road; turn north and travel 2 miles to the visitor center.  
**Wildlife:** Many migratory birds and desert wildlife species can be found on the refuge. The federally threatened Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, threatened Coachella Valley milkvetch, and other sensitive species, such as the flat-tailed horned lizard, are protected within the refuge boundary.  
**Habitat:** 3,276 acres of aeolian habitat types: sand dunes, sand hummocks, and sandy plains all within the "blow-sand" ecosystem.  
**Recreation:** Enjoy wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and photography along designated trails only.  
**Special Note:** The Coachella Valley NWR is part of the larger 20,114-acre Coachella Valley Preserve made up of lands managed cooperatively by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Center for Natural Lands Management, to protect critical habitat for two threatened Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizards. While the Coachella Valley NWR is closed to the public except for two equestrian trails, the Thousand Palms Oasis Visitor Center is open daily during the spring and fall, and the preserve is open daily, sunrise to sunset.

**Colusa NWR** 530/934-2801  
c/o Sacramento NWR Complex  
752 Country Road 59W  
Willows, California 95888  
<http://www.fws.gov/sacramentovalleyrefuges>  
**Directions:** From I-5 take the Colusa/Highway 20 exit, drive 6 miles east on Highway 20, the refuge entrance is on the right.  
**Wildlife:** Thousands of waterfowl are present from September through March with peak populations in December and January. Many birds and mammals can be seen year round.  
**Habitat:** 4,626 acres, including seasonal marsh, permanent ponds, and uplands.  
**Recreation:** Enjoy wildlife viewing and photography as you drive the 8-mile, gravelled auto tour through wetlands. Walk a one-mile trail along a lush riparian slough. The auto tour and trail are open sunrise to sunset year round. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting is permitted seasonally on a separate area of the refuge.

**Delevan NWR** 530/934-2801  
c/o Sacramento NWR Complex  
752 Country Road 59W  
Willows, California 95888  
<http://www.fws.gov/sacramentovalleyrefuges>  
**Directions:** From Williams, take Interstate 5 north 9 miles to Maxwell Road exit. Drive east on Colusa-Maxwell Road for 4 miles to gravelled Four Mile Road which parallels the west refuge boundary. From Colusa, travel north on the Colusa-Princeton Road 5 miles to Colusa-Maxwell Road. Turn west and travel 4 miles to gravelled Four Mile Road.  
**Wildlife:** Waterfowl are present from September through March. See hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese from November through January. Many other birds and mammals can be seen year round.  
**Habitat:** 5,797 acres including seasonal marsh, permanent ponds, and uplands.  
**Recreation:** Enjoy wildlife observation and photography from perimeter roads. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting permitted seasonally.

**Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR** 510/792-0222  
9500 Thornton Ave  
Newark, California 94560  
<http://www.fws.gov/desfbay>  
Find us also on Facebook!  
Environmental Education Center  
1751 Grand Boulevard  
Alviso, California 95002  
408/262-5513  
**Directions:** The visitor center and refuge headquarters are located near Dumbarton Bridge toll plaza. From the Peninsula on the West Bay, take Highway 101 to Highway 84 East in Menlo Park and cross the Dumbarton Bridge. From the East Bay, take Interstate 880 to Highway 84 West (Decoto Road). From Highway 84 take the Thornton Avenue exit south, follow the signs to the refuge. The Fremont site opens at 7:00 a.m. except for federal holidays. The Visitor Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Environmental Education Center is located in Alviso. From Highway 237, go north on Zanker Road, which turns into Los Esteros. After the railroad tracks, at the bend in the road, make a sharp right (east) onto Grand Boulevard. Trails are open during daylight hours seven days a week. The building is open Monday through Friday by reservation, and weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Wildlife:** See a rich array of wildlife in an urban area, ranging from migratory waterfowl and shorebirds from October to April, to harbor seals and fish year round. The refuge provides habitat for several threatened or endangered species including the California clapper rail, western snowy plover, salt marsh harvest mouse, and Contra Costa goldfinch.

**Habitat:** Nearly 30,000 acres, featuring the estuary in the South San Francisco Bay with open water, tidal sloughs, mudflats, and salt marshes. Refuge habitats adjacent to the estuary include vernal pools, uplands, and salt ponds.

**Recreation:** Enjoy wildlife viewing, nature study, photography, interpretive programs, boating, hiking, and biking year round. Fishing is free from a pier near the headquarters in Fremont. Waterfowl hunting is offered seasonally. The Fremont Visitor Center and Alviso Environmental Education Center provide a bookstore, interpretive and educational programs, and more.

**Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes NWR** 805/343-9151  
P.O. Box 9  
Guadalupe, California 93434  
<http://www.fws.gov/hoppermountain>  
**Directions:** Located along 18 miles of coastline in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, the refuge headquarters/visitor center shares space with the Dunes Center at 1065 Guadalupe Street (Highway 1) in Guadalupe. From Santa Barbara and Highway 101, drive north and take the Santa Maria/Highway 166 west (Main Street) exit. Travel 9 miles to Guadalupe, continuing west on Main Street for 2 miles to the beach parking lot managed by Santa Barbara County. Hike north to the refuge. From San Luis Obispo, take Highway 101 south to the Pismo Beach/Highway 1 exit. Take Highway 1 south for 20 miles. About two miles north of Guadalupe turn right on Oso Flaco Lake Road. Travel west for 1 mile to the Oso Flaco Natural Area parking lot. Take a short hike on a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk through the coastal dunes and dune lake out to the beach. Travel south on the beach to the refuge.

**Wildlife:** Good opportunities to view wildlife and coastal dune plants in a unique remote and diverse coastal ecosystem. The area supports threatened and endangered species including the western snowy plover, California least tern, California red-legged frog, American peregrine falcon, California brown pelican, Morro Bay blue butterfly, and over 16 rare plant species. It is home to many shorebirds and waterfowl as well as deer, coyote, and other large mammals.



**Habitat:** Explore 2,553 acres of coastal dunes comprising wetlands, dune lakes, coastal sage scrub, coastal foredunes, dune swale, and active coastal dune/coastal strand communities.  
**Recreation:** Enjoy wildlife observation, photography, strolling on the beach, and hiking through the dune environment in a near wilderness setting. Surf fishing is permitted along the shoreline.  
The visitor center in Guadalupe offers interpretive walks, special events, and other programs. Check the web site for more information and schedules.

**Humboldt Bay NWR** 707/733-5406  
P.O. Box 576, 1020 Ranch Road  
Loleta, California 95551  
<http://www.fws.gov/humboldtby>  
**Directions:** From Arcata, take Highway 101 south to the Hookton Road exit at the south end of the Bay. To reach the Hookton Slough trailhead, drive 1.2 miles west on Hookton Road; the parking area is on the north side of Hookton Road. To reach the refuge office: southbound Highway 101 travelers take Hookton Road and turn right at the end of the off ramp, then left immediately onto Ranch Road. Northbound Highway 101, take the Hookton Road overpass and turn right onto Ranch Road. Continue to the refuge office.  
**Wildlife:** The refuge is a critical migration and wintering area for tens of thousands of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds including Aleutian Canada geese, tundra swans, marbled godwits, and long-billed curlews. The bay waters and eelgrass beds are also an important staging area for over 20,000 black brant each spring and provide important habitat for dozens of species of fish and invertebrates.  
**Habitat:** Approximately 3,500 acres in and around Humboldt Bay, including eelgrass beds, tidal and freshwater marshes, mudflats, and uplands. These are the largest remaining eelgrass beds south of Willapa Bay, Washington. The Lanphere Dunes Unit protects endangered and rare plants within the bay's sand dune habitat.

**Recreation:** Wildlife viewing, photography, interpretation, and hiking are available year round in the South Humboldt Bay portion of the refuge. The 3-mile Hookton Slough Trail is open daily, and 1.75-mile Shorebird Loop Trail is open seasonally. The peak viewing season is September through April. Guided walks are offered at the Salmon Creek or Hookton Slough Units of the refuge on the second Sunday of each month. Guided walks at the Lanphere Dunes Unit are offered on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Waterfowl hunting is permitted in designated areas. Check local regulations for more information.

**Kern NWR** 661/725-2767  
10811 Corcoran Road  
Delano, California 93215  
<http://www.fws.gov/kern>  
**Directions:** From Interstate 5 take Highway 46 east 5 miles to Corcoran Road and turn north. Drive 10.6 miles to the refuge at the intersection of Corcoran Road and Garces Highway. From Highway 99 — at Delano take the Highway 155 (Glenville/Alta Sierra) exit. Turn west on Highway 155 (Garces Highway). Go 19 miles west to the refuge at the intersection of Corcoran Road and Garces Highway.

**Wildlife:** The refuge is a significant wintering area for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, and other water-associated birds in the southern San Joaquin Valley. It provides habitat for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox, Tipton kangaroo rat, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and the newly listed Buena Vista Lake shrew.

**Habitat:** 10,618 acres of grasslands and wetlands located just south of the historic Tulare Lake Basin. A century ago this area was an inland lake and wetland complex encompassing over 625,000 acres. The refuge is one of the few remaining wetlands left in the area. Marsh habitat acreage varies from year to year because of limited water supply.

**Recreation:** Enjoy wildlife viewing, nature study, and photography, particularly October through March when waterfowl and waterbird use of the refuge is highest. A 6.5-mile self-guided auto tour is open daily except during waterfowl hunting season (October through January) when the tour route is closed Wednesday and Saturdays.

**Lower Klamath NWR** 530/667-2231  
Klamath Basin NWR Complex  
4009 Hill Road  
Tulelake, California 96134  
<http://www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges>  
**Directions:** Lower Klamath NWR, part of the Klamath NWR Complex, is located on the California-Oregon border, 24 miles south of Klamath Falls, Oregon. From Interstate 5 at Weed, California, take Highway 97 northeast for 45 miles to the Oregon border. Take State Route (Highway 161) east towards Tulelake. Turn south at the refuge entrance and auto tour route (18 miles east of Highway 97) or continue four miles and turn south on Hill Road and drive four miles to the visitor center. The refuge has several public access points. Write, call, or check the website for maps.

Explore arid deserts, densely-forested mountains, lush valley wetlands, and more than 1,000 miles of stunning coastlines. When it comes to wildlife habitat, California has it all! These incredibly diverse habitats are home to a remarkable array of species, from lumbering elephant seals to dainty Smith's blue butterflies, from spectacular flocks of geese and ducks numbering in the hundreds of thousands to the majestic California condors, which can be counted on a few hands.

California is also National Wildlife Refuge country, where 38 refuges provide 479,064 acres of habitat for wildlife. Wildlife viewing, photography, education, interpretation, hunting, fishing, or other forms of wildlife-compatible recreation are enjoyed by millions of visitors annually. They are also wild places where people can find solace and reconnect with nature.

The Klamath Basin refuges to the north boast some of the largest concentrations of waterfowl in North America. Sacramento NWR in the central state provides critical wintering habitat for waterfowl navigating the Pacific Flyway. Tijuana Slough NWR, on the edge of Baja California, protects one of the last estuaries in Southern California and many imperiled bird species. And San Francisco Bay and Stone Lakes NWRs, each near major cities, are among the few urban refuges in the nation.

Discover and enjoy California's wildlife on their home turf—at your National Wildlife Refuges. These are part of the more than 540 refuges that make up the Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System, the largest network of lands in the nation where wildlife conservation is the primary goal. Whether you visit for just a few hours or for several days, please feel welcome and come back often.

**Wildlife:** Klamath Basin refuges play host to nearly one million waterfowl each fall, representing one of the largest concentrations of waterfowl in North America. Lower Klamath and Tule Lake support 600 to 1,000 bald eagles, the largest gathering of wintering bald eagles in the lower 48 States. The area offers breeding habitat for gadwall, mallard, cinnamon teal, northern pintail, Canada geese, white pelican, white-faced ibis, and many other nesting species. Summer populations include egrets, herons, grebes, terns, gulls, and others.  
**Habitat:** 50,912 acres of open water, marsh, uplands, and croplands.  
**Recreation:** Visit the Refuge Visitor Center at headquarters for orientation. Enjoy wildlife viewing, nature study, interpretation, and photography. An 11-mile auto tour route offers opportunities to see marsh birds and raptors. Note that this tour does not adjoin the road into Lava Beds National Monument. Photography blends are available by reservation.

**Merced NWR** 209/826-3508  
c/o San Luis NWR Complex  
73765 West Wolfson Road, P.O. Box 2176  
Los Banos, California 93635  
<http://www.fws.gov/sanluis>  
**Directions:** From Merced, take Highway 59 south for 8 miles. Turn west on Sandy MUSH Road and drive 8 miles.

**Wildlife:** Enjoy year round viewing. The refuge has large wintering populations of northern pintails, green-winged teal, shovellers, mallards, gadwalls, four species of geese, plus sandhill cranes. This is the primary wintering area for the largest flock of lesser sandhill cranes and Ross' geese in the Pacific Flyway. Fall and spring migrants include phalaropes, yellowlegs, dowitchers, sandpipers, long-billed curlews, black-bellied plovers, and white-faced ibis. Summer residents include nesting mallards, gadwalls, cinnamon teal, avocets, black-necked stilts, American bitterns, and several species of herons and egrets. Recently restored riparian habitat is attracting flocks of migrant songbirds such as warblers, flycatchers, bush-tits, as well as the occasional red-shouldered hawk, Cooper's hawk or merlin.

**Habitat:** 10,200 acres of native grasslands, agricultural fields, and wetlands.

**Recreation:** Enjoy opportunities for wildlife viewing, nature study, and photography via the auto tour route and three nature trails through the newly restored riparian habitat. Interpretive panels are along the self-guided auto tour route and at the entrance observation platform. Waterfowl hunting is permitted seasonally. The observation platform and restrooms at the entrance are moderately accessible by wheelchair. There is one moderately accessible hunting blind reserved for those with impaired mobility.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

**National Wildlife Refuge System Mission:** The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

**Universal Accessibility Statement:** Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental disability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**Modoc NWR** 530/233-3572  
5364 County Road 115  
Alturas, California 96101  
<http://www.fws.gov/modoc>  
**Directions:** Take Highway 395 to Alturas. The refuge is approximately 2.5 miles southeast of town on County Road 115; watch for refuge signs at the south end of town.

**Wildlife:** There are excellent views of large concentrations of waterfowl and greater sandhill cranes in spring and fall including Canada geese, tundra swans, mallards, cinnamon teal, wigeon, and northern pintails. Sandhill cranes nest on the refuge. American white pelicans are present in summer. Mule deer are residents.

**Habitat:** 7,021 acres of ponds, irrigated meadows, natural floodplains, marshes, cereal grain crops, and sagebrush/juniper uplands located at a 4,400-foot elevation on the western edge of the Great Basin desert.

**Recreation:** Enjoy wildlife viewing, nature study, photography, interpretation, and observation blinds. A two-mile auto tour and walking trail are available year-round. The auto tour route and Wigeon Pond walking trail are open 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. to sunset. Fishing and boating (including launch) are available seasonally on the Dorris Reservoir Unit. You can view wildlife and wetlands from the observation overlook on Highway 395. Waterfowl hunting is available and there is one accessible hunt blind. There is an accessible fishing pier at Dorris Reservoir and the Wigeon Pond. Trail is paved and fully accessible. There are no accessible photo or observation blinds.



