

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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301 North Third Street
Ridgefield WA 98642
(360) 887-4106

Three of the four National Wildlife Refuges located on the Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area are currently closed to the public. Public use facilities are planned for each of these refuges and will be developed as funding permits. The fourth refuge in the complex, Conboy Lake, has a self-guided trail and visitor facility. Group tours may be accommodated at each refuge as time allows. Contact the refuge managers for additional information.

Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge consists of more than 800 acres of historic lakebed and river bottomland habitat with wetlands, riparian areas, grasslands and hardwood forest. The refuge, which provides habitat for wintering waterfowl and year-round habitat for a variety of wildlife species, can be viewed from State Highway 14.

Location: South of State Highway 14 and east of Washougal near Washington's west entrance to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. (360) 887-4106

Franz Lake National Wildlife Refuge contains more than 500 acres of river bottomland and upland riparian habitat with numerous springs, seeps and creeks, grasslands, hardwoods and upland forest. Franz Lake is one of the few remaining natural wetlands in the Columbia River Gorge. The refuge provides critical wintering habitat for tundra swans and other waterfowl and year-round habitat for a variety of wildlife species. A viewing site on Highway 14 is being developed.

Location: Along State Highway 14 between Mileposts 30 and 32. (509) 427-5208

Pierce National Wildlife Refuge consists of 336 acres of river bottomland habitat with riparian areas, wetlands, grasslands and hardwoods. The refuge provides habitat for Canada geese, a variety of waterfowl and numerous other wildlife species. Hardy Creek supports one of the last remaining chum salmon runs in the lower Columbia River drainage. The refuge can be viewed from the Beacon Rock trail.

Location: South of State Highway 14 between Beacon Rock State Park and North Bonneville. (509) 427-5208

Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge, a large seasonal marsh at the base of 12,307-foot Mount Adams, is a major stopover for migrating Canada geese, tundra swans, and many species of ducks, and the only known nesting location for sandhill cranes in Washington. The best time to see geese, swans, and ducks is in early spring when visitors are also treated to a beautiful display of wildflowers. Public access is limited to the area around the headquarters, Willard Spring Trail, and roadside viewing.

Location: Headquarters is 6 miles southwest of Glenwood, WA, on Wildlife Refuge Road. (509) 364-3410.



If you would like to know more about the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and our activities in the Columbia River Gorge, call our Information and Education Office at 509-538-2242. Group tours and educational programs can be arranged.

No person shall, on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, physical or mental restrictions, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in any program or activity of the Department of the Interior.

(Cover photo taken from Cape Horn, Hwy. 14)

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Columbia River Gorge National Fish Hatcheries and National Wildlife Refuges



U. S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service



Carson National Fish Hatchery

The Carson National Fish Hatchery, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, began rearing salmon and trout in 1937. During the 1950's, the hatchery began rearing spring chinook salmon exclusively. It releases more than 2 million smolts annually and supplies millions of eggs to other hatcheries.

Location: The hatchery is at the confluence of Tye Creek and Wind River 14 miles north of the Columbia River, about 60 miles east of Vancouver, Washington. To visit the hatchery, turn north off State Highway 14 at the Wind River Highway (about 3 miles east of Stevenson) and go 14 miles to the hatchery. Visitors are welcome from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. daily. Call in advance for information on group tours, lectures on fish culture, and dates of hatchery activities. (509) 427-5905

Best Times to Visit:

May through August: To view adult salmon
 May: To see fry being marked before release
 August: To see spawning
 Year-round viewing of young fish.

Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery

Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was opened in 1901. In 1972, hatchery capacity was doubled to partially mitigate lost fall chinook salmon spawning grounds destroyed by the construction of the John Day Lock and Dam. The hatchery uses spring water recycled through a biological filtration bed. Tule fall chinook salmon return to the Spring Creek Hatchery in September.

Location: Spring Creek Hatchery is located 4 miles west of the Hood River/White Salmon bridge on State Highway 14. Visitors are welcome at the hatchery from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, September through May, and weekdays mid-May through August. Call ahead to arrange for group or guided tours. (509) 493-1730

Best Times to Visit:

September: To view adult Tule fall chinook and spawning
 Visitors' Weekend - 2nd weekend of September (call to confirm dates)

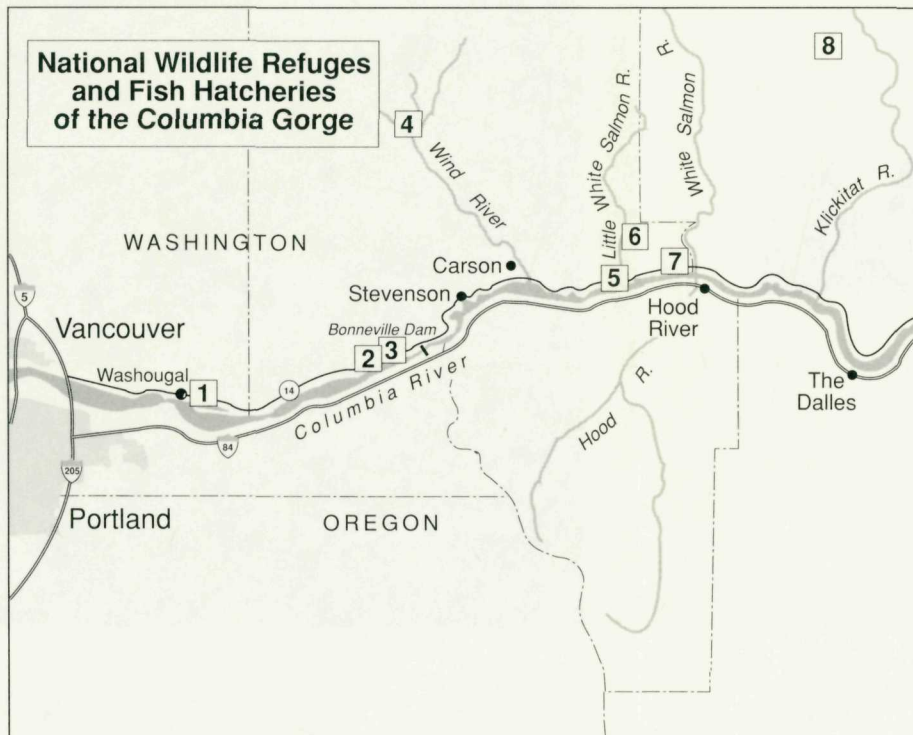
Little White Salmon /Willard National Fish Hatchery Complex

The Little White Salmon/Willard National Fish Hatchery Complex, the oldest of the three federal hatcheries in the Columbia Gorge, was established in 1896 at the mouth of the Little White Salmon River. The hatchery raises spring and Upriver Bright fall chinook and coho (silver) salmon. Adult salmon return to the Little White Salmon Hatchery for spawning. Chinook salmon eggs are incubated and smolts are reared at that hatchery. Coho eggs are transferred to the Willard Hatchery where the eggs are incubated, and smolts are reared and released back into the Little White Salmon River. An observation deck overlooking the White Salmon River provides views of salmon spawning in natural habitat.

Location: The Little White Salmon Hatchery is located 12.5 miles east of Stevenson, Washington, along State Highway 14. The hatchery entrance road is located at the west end of the Little White Salmon River Bridge. Turn north at the west end of the Little White Salmon River Bridge (at Drano Lake) and go about one mile to the hatchery. The Willard Hatchery is located about 5 miles up the west end of Cook-Underwood Road on the Little White Salmon River. Visitors are welcome at both hatcheries from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Call ahead to arrange for group tours. (509) 538-2755

Best Times to Visit:

At Little White Salmon River Hatchery:
 May through August: To view adult spring chinook
 Mid-July through mid-August: To watch spawning of spring chinook
 October through mid-November: To view adult coho and fall chinook
 Late October through late November: To see spawning of coho and fall chinook
 Year-round viewing of young fish at both hatcheries.



- 1 Steigerwald Lake NWR
- 2 Franz Lake NWR
- 3 Pierce NWR
- 4 Carson NFH
- 5 Little White Salmon NFH
- 6 Willard NFH
- 7 Spring Creek NFH
- 8 Conboy Lake NWR

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
 NFH = National Fish Hatchery

