



Black Brant

**MORE INFORMATION:**

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge is managed from the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge office. For more information contact:

Refuge Manager  
 Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge  
 100 Brown Farm Road  
 Olympia, Washington 98506  
 Phone: (206) 753-9467

For more information on rules and regulations for Dungeness Recreation Area contact the county park ranger, or:

Clallam County Parks and Recreation Dept.  
 223 E. 4th St.  
 Port Angeles, Washington 98362  
 Phone: (206) 452-7831, ext. 291

# DUNGENESS National Wildlife Refuge



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RF 13531-1 February 1984

**Washington**

## DUNGENESS: A HAVEN FOR WILDLIFE

With a splash, two brightly colored harlequin ducks land on the glassy waters of Dungeness Bay. Around them black brant feed on beds of eelgrass, while western sandpipers probe for tiny mollusks in the mudflats along Dungeness Spit.

## THE MANY ENVIRONMENTS AND WILDLIFE OF DUNGENESS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Dungeness Spit, formed by eroding soil, wind and water currents, stretches for five and one-half miles out into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It breaks the rough sea waves to form a quiet bay, sand and gravel beaches and tideflats. There, wildlife can find food and protection from wind, waves and pounding surf. The bay and estuary of the Dungeness River produce microorganisms that form the base of a food web, feeding a variety of wildlife including waterfowl, seabirds, shellfish and anadromous and ocean fishes. Shorebirds and waterfowl feed and nest along the beaches, while seals haul-out of the water to rest in the sun. The tideflats are the home of crabs, clams, oysters and other shellfish. Shorebirds, such as turnstones, phalaropes and sandpipers may be seen searching for food along the water's edge.

## ESPECIALLY OBSERVE BLACK BRANT

As many as 40,000 waterfowl stop briefly at Dungeness each fall on their journey south for the winter and north in spring, and up to 15,000 spend the winter at the Refuge. Black brant, a species of goose that depends on eelgrass for its food, is present throughout the winter months. Even more brant are present during the spring migration north. Although eelgrass is still found at Dungeness, human development has made it harder to find along the Pacific Coast.

## DUNGENESS BAY: A SALMON NURSERY

New Dungeness Bay and Dungeness Harbor are also the home of steelhead and chinook, coho and chum salmon. After the eggs hatch and the young salmon become accustomed to their new home in the Dungeness River, they travel downstream to Dungeness Harbor. There they feed on plankton, larval crustaceans and mollusks for about a year before swimming out to sea.

## ENJOY OBSERVING WILDLIFE

Although the Refuge is open to the public during daylight hours throughout the year, the best time to visit is during the fall and spring migrations. In the fall thousands of scaup, scoters, mallards, dunlin and plovers may be seen. Many of these stay for the winter and are joined by mergansers, cormorants, loons and harlequin ducks. During the spring killdeer, snipe, mallards and pintails nest on the Spit. Summer visitors will not see large numbers of birds, but may still see cormorants, great blue herons and red-tailed hawks, as well as seals hauling-out to rest on Graveyard Spit. Visitors should remember that they are guests in the homes of wildlife and should take care not to disturb the wildlife or their homes.

## HOW TO VISIT THE REFUGE

These special regulations help protect resources and visitors at Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge:



### HIKING

Dungeness NWR is open only to foot traffic and horseback riding. Please stay on the trails through the upland forest.



### BOATING, FISHING

Boaters and anglers are welcome around Dungeness Spit. The nearest public boat ramp is located off the Refuge to the east of Cline Spit (see map). Anglers must comply with Washington State fishing regulations.



### CLAMMING, OYSTERS

Visitors are welcome to dig clams at Dungeness, but are subject to Washington State shellfish regulations. All oysters are privately owned and may not be harvested by the public.



### HORSEBACK RIDING

Dungeness Spit is OPEN to horseback riding daily from Oct. 16 to April 14. From April 15 to Oct. 15 it is OPEN on weekdays and CLOSED on weekends and holidays. Access trails through Dungeness Recreation Area are CLOSED to horses from Oct. 15 to Jan. 15 for the hunting season.

*The following activities are allowed ONLY in Dungeness Recreation Area. They are PROHIBITED in Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge:*



### FIRES

Fire grills are provided at both the camping and picnic sites in Dungeness Recreation Area. Please do not build fires on the Refuge.



### CAMPING

Campsites are provided in Dungeness Recreation Area. Contact the county park ranger for the latest fee schedule.



### PETS

Pets must be kept on a leash in Dungeness Recreation Area. No pets are allowed in Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge.



### HUNTING

Dungeness Recreation Area is open to waterfowl and upland game bird hunting on Wed., Sat., and Sun. during the regular seasons. Hunters must comply with Washington State and Federal hunting regulations.