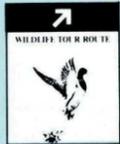


Visitor Information

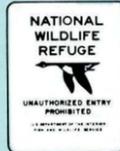
The headquarters office for the complex is located on Hill Road, six miles west of Tulelake, California. Additional information on refuge activities may be obtained here.

Refuge regulations help protect visitors and resources. Please observe them.

As you travel through the refuges you will encounter regulatory signs such as speed limit and parking area signs. Other signs you will see include the following.



Auto Tour Route - Follow these signs on the Lower Klamath Refuge to enjoy the interpretive panels along the auto tour route.



National Wildlife Refuge - This sign is used to show the boundaries of the refuges. Entry is allowed only on designated access routes.



Area Closed - Certain areas of the refuges are closed to visitors for management purposes. Entry beyond this sign is prohibited.



No Vehicles or Authorized Vehicles Only - Motor vehicles are not allowed beyond this sign. Please do not block access.



Waterfowl Hunting Only or Public Hunting Area - The area beyond these green signs is open to waterfowl or waterfowl/pheasant hunting only during regular State seasons. Check with refuge manager for details.

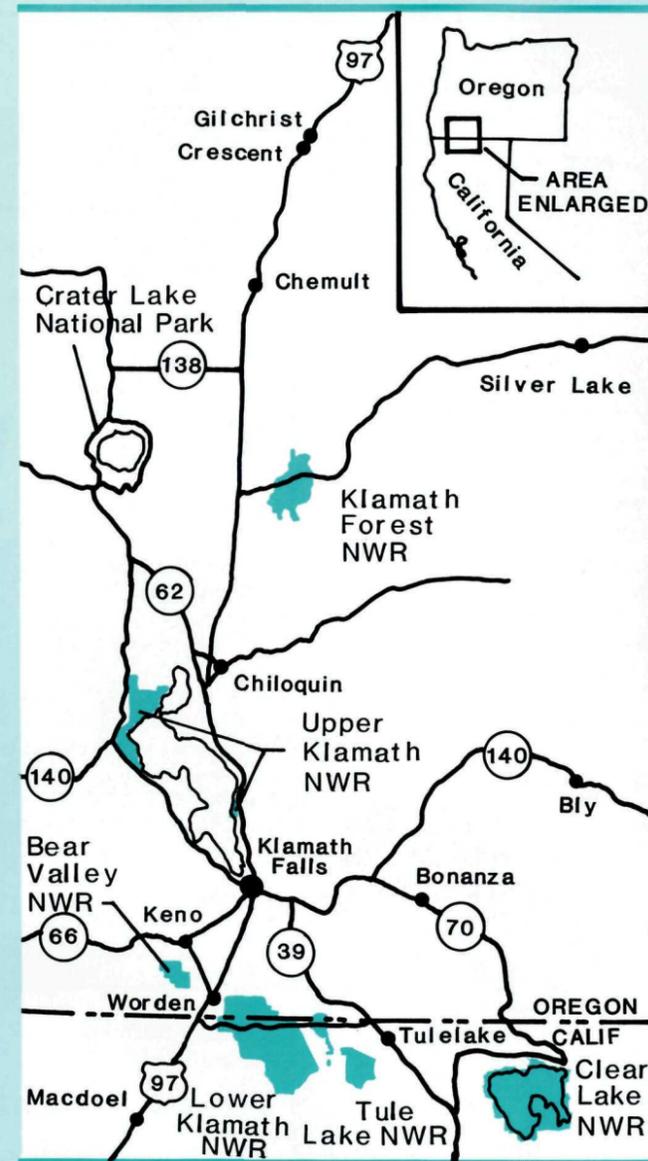


Pheasant Hunting Only - The area beyond these yellow signs is open to pheasant hunting during the regular State season. Permits may be required during part of the season. Check with the refuge manager for details.

For Further Information

For further information about these refuges, the Refuge System, or volunteer opportunities, please contact:

Refuge Manager
Klamath Basin NWRs
Route 1 Box 74
Tulelake, CA 96134
Phone (916) 667-2231



Nearby Areas of Interest

Klamath Wildlife Area
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
1800 Miller Island Rd., West
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
Phone (503) 883-5734

Butte Valley Wildlife Management Area
California Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 429
Macdoel, CA 96058
Phone (916) 398-4627

Lava Beds National Monument
PO Box 867
Tulelake, CA 96134
Phone (916) 667-2282

Modoc National Forest
Doublehead Ranger District
PO Box 818
Tulelake, CA 96134
Phone (916) 667-2247

Winema National Forest
Supervisor's Office
2819 Dahlia St.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
Phone (503) 883-6714

Crater Lake National Park
PO Box 7
Crater Lake, OR 97604
Phone (503) 594-2211

For Lodging Information:

Klamath County Visitor's Association
PO Box 1867
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
Phone (503) 884-0666

Tulelake Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 592
Tulelake, CA 96134
Phone (916) 667-5178

Take Pride in Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges

Refuge status is not failsafe protection. Wildlife and their habitats will always be vulnerable to careless public use and abuse. Too often it seems that because these natural resources belong to everyone, they are seen as the responsibility of no one. Refuge managers cannot do their jobs without support from everyone who is committed to the future of wildlife, their habitats and the valuable recreation opportunities they provide.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) provides opportunities for you to take part in supporting the preservation of habitat for decreasing waterfowl populations. Your support is needed to ensure that enough high-quality habitat is maintained to restore the declining number of North American ducks, geese and swans. The NAWMP invites you and your support to become part of its historic conservation success story.

How You Can Help

Observe rules and report any destructive activity you see. Rules have been made for your protection and for the benefit of the natural resources.

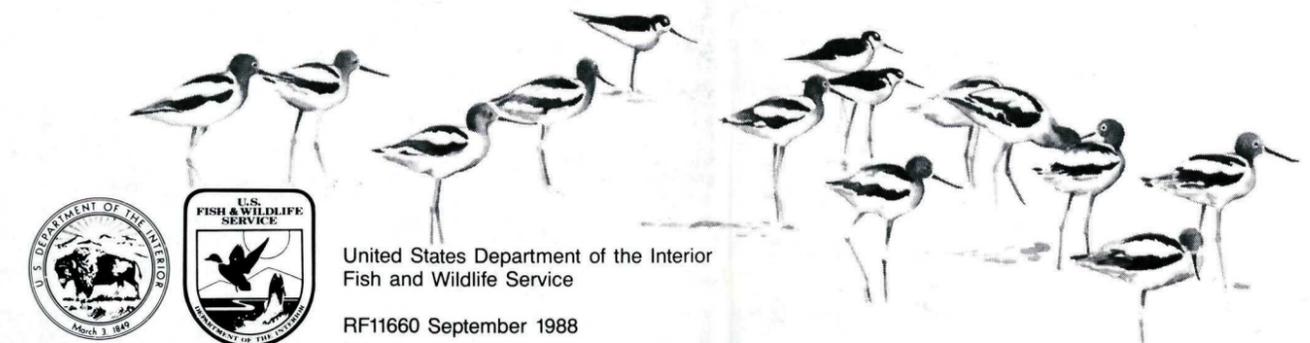
Take your trash home with you.

Look for opportunities to communicate the good stewardship message to others.

One way to demonstrate your support is by volunteering your time and skills to assist managers in the management and protection of these resources. Please contact the refuge volunteer coordinator for further details.

Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges

California - Oregon



United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

RF11660 September 1988

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1988-0-691-033/80027

Why Are The Refuges Here?

Once Extensive Marshes

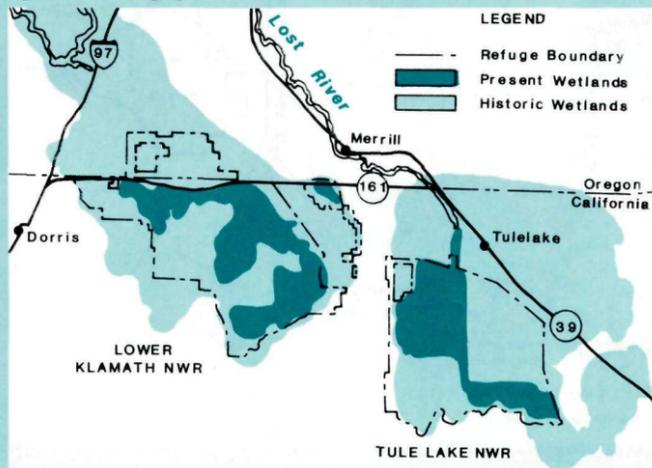
Historically, the Klamath Basin was dominated by about 185,000 acres of shallow lakes and extensive marshes. These lakes and marshes attracted peak fall concentrations of over six million waterfowl and supported large concentrations of marsh birds such as pelicans, cormorants, egrets and herons.



Oregon Historical Society

Marshes Shrink Drastically

Today less than 25% of the historic wetland acres remain. In 1905, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation initiated the Klamath Reclamation Project to convert the marshes and lakes of Lower Klamath and Tule Lake to agricultural lands. Oregon and California gave to the federal government any lands that could be reclaimed from under the waters of Lower Klamath and Tule Lakes. As these lakes and marshes were dried up, the land was converted to irrigated agriculture and opened to settlement. Today, the Basin's extensive agricultural economy is mostly based on lands converted from wetlands to agriculture by government and private efforts.



Refuges Protect What Remains

To conserve the Basin's remaining wildlife values six National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) have been established. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages and protects this valuable wildlife habitat and regulates wildlife oriented recreation. Even though the Basin's marsh habitat has been greatly reduced, the refuges still attract the majority of migrating Pacific Flyway waterfowl and support peak fall concentrations of nearly one million birds — one of the largest concentrations in the United States. Agricultural and water programs are coordinated under an agreement between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation.



Diverse Habitats Support Diverse Wildlife

A variety of habitats exist on the six refuges - marshes, open water, grassy meadows, coniferous forests, sagebrush and juniper grasslands, agricultural land, and cliffs and rocky slopes. This variety supports diverse and abundant populations of resident and migratory wildlife. A total of 411 wildlife species have been observed or are considered present on the refuges.



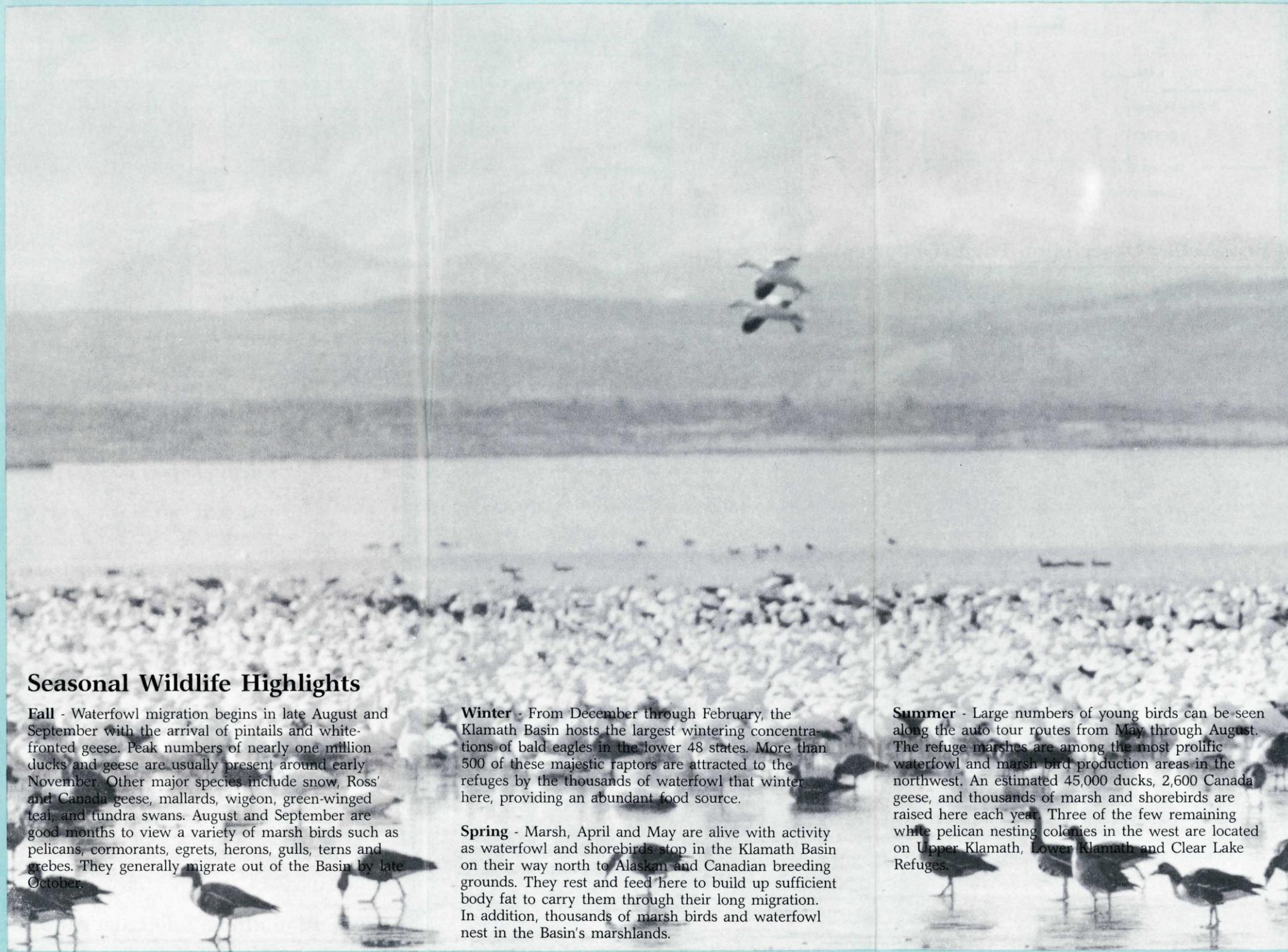
Seasonal Wildlife Highlights

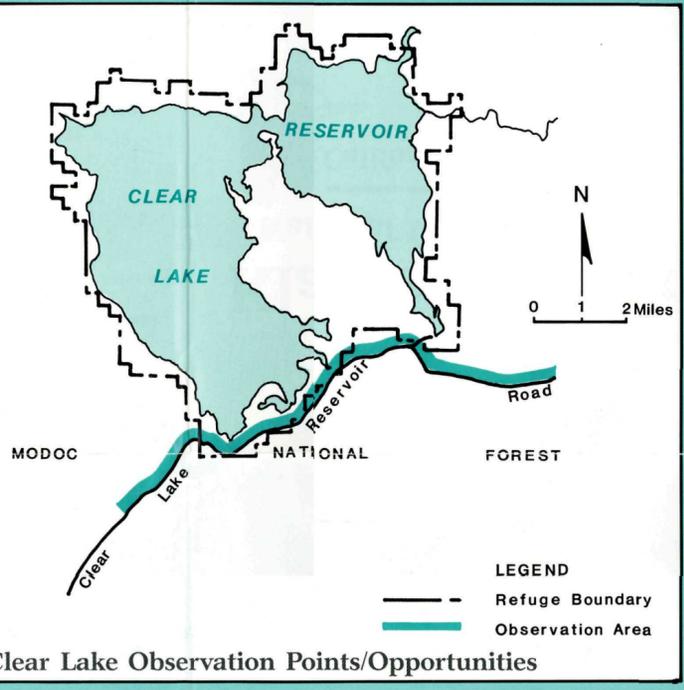
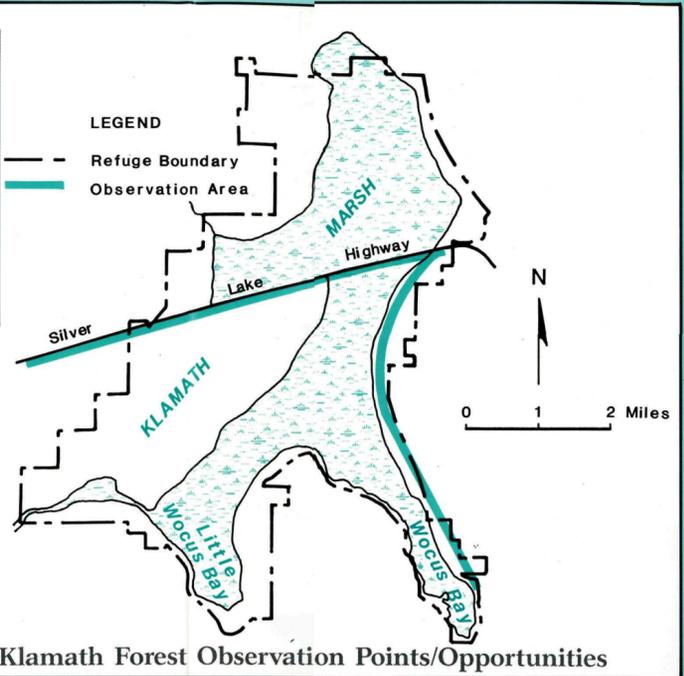
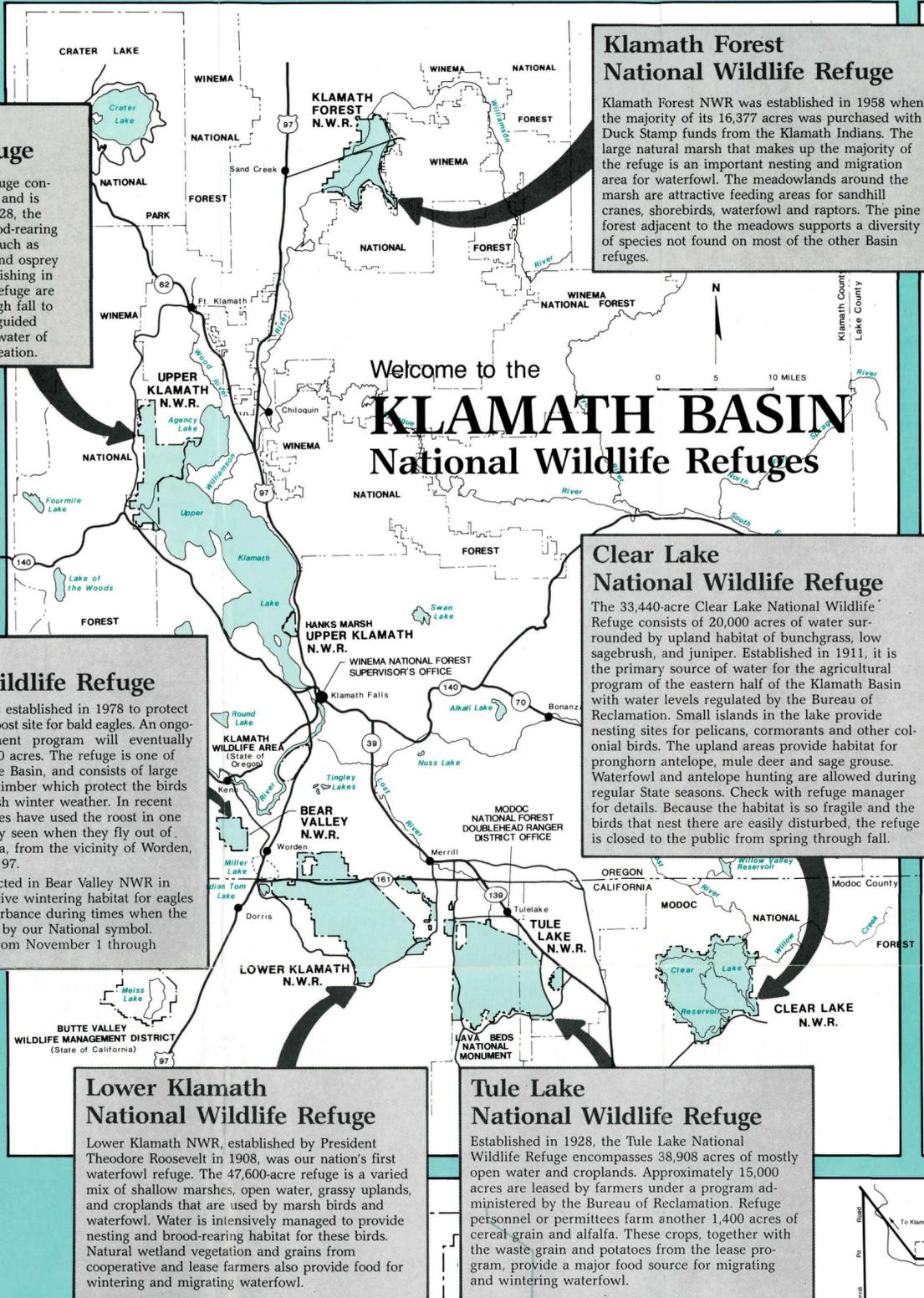
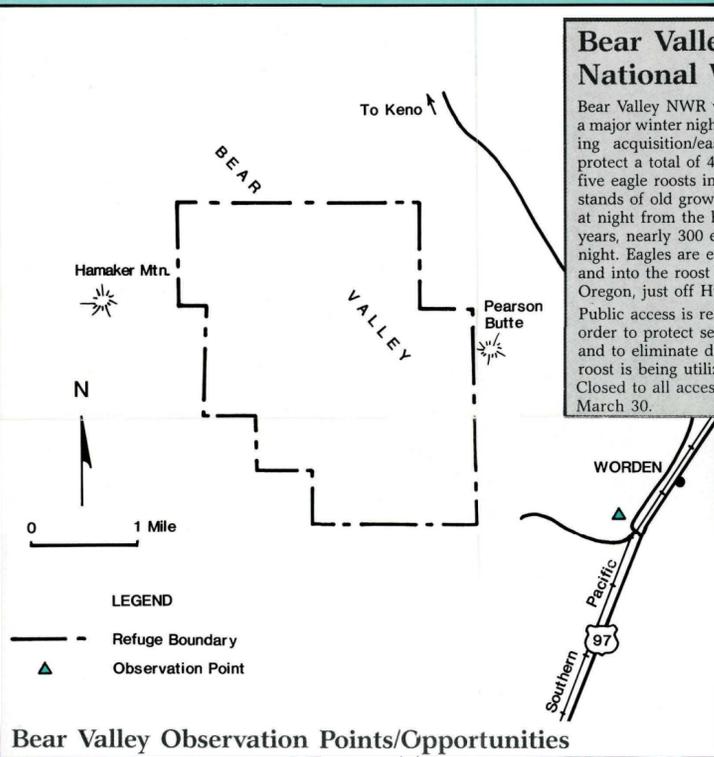
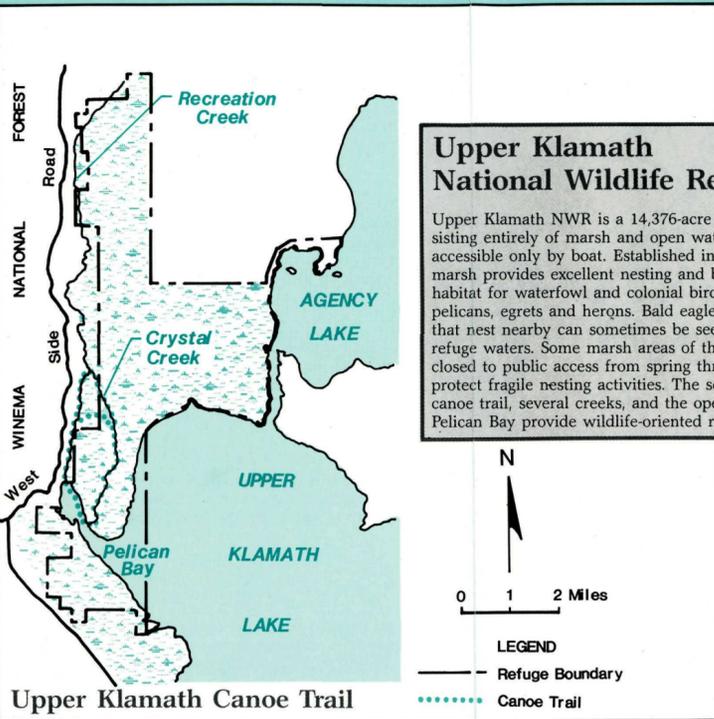
Fall - Waterfowl migration begins in late August and September with the arrival of pintails and white-fronted geese. Peak numbers of nearly one million ducks and geese are usually present around early November. Other major species include snow, Ross' and Canada geese, mallards, wigeon, green-winged teal, and tundra swans. August and September are good months to view a variety of marsh birds such as pelicans, cormorants, egrets, herons, gulls, terns and grebes. They generally migrate out of the Basin by late October.

Winter - From December through February, the Klamath Basin hosts the largest wintering concentrations of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. More than 500 of these majestic raptors are attracted to the refuges by the thousands of waterfowl that winter here, providing an abundant food source.

Spring - Marsh, April and May are alive with activity as waterfowl and shorebirds stop in the Klamath Basin on their way north to Alaskan and Canadian breeding grounds. They rest and feed here to build up sufficient body fat to carry them through their long migration. In addition, thousands of marsh birds and waterfowl nest in the Basin's marshlands.

Summer - Large numbers of young birds can be seen along the auto tour routes from May through August. The refuge marshes are among the most prolific waterfowl and marsh bird production areas in the northwest. An estimated 45,000 ducks, 2,600 Canada geese, and thousands of marsh and shorebirds are raised here each year. Three of the few remaining white pelican nesting colonies in the west are located on Upper Klamath, Lower Klamath and Clear Lake Refuges.





Enjoy Your Visit

Visitor Center

You are encouraged to stop by the Center when you first arrive. Klamath Basin wildlife are colorfully described by exhibits, and you may obtain information regarding wildlife viewing opportunities, road conditions, upcoming events, and refuge rules and regulations. A cooperative association sales outlet here provides an opportunity to purchase items pertaining to wildlife and resource conservation. A percentage of sales supports interpretive and educational programs on the refuge. You may invest in wetlands preservation by purchasing a Duck Stamp while visiting the Center. The Center is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekends and holidays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (except Christmas and New Year's Day).

Literature available includes: Wildlife of Klamath Basin NWRs (bird list); Common Wildlife of the Klamath Basin NWRs (pictures); Bald Eagles of the Klamath Basin; Canoe Trail brochures; hunting leaflets; and other Service literature.

Wildlife Observation

The Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges are internationally famous for their abundance and diversity of wildlife. Their varied wildlife and habitats are a photographer's delight and photographic opportunities abound. You can increase your chances of seeing wildlife by staying in your vehicle and using it as a blind.

Visitation Hours

The refuges are open during daylight hours, except as modified by refuge hunting regulations. Overnight camping is not permitted on any of the refuges.

Auto Tour Routes

Visitors are encouraged to use the self-guided auto tour routes on Tule Lake and Lower Klamath NWRs. In most instances, the routes are improved dike roads and are easily traveled. The variety of habitats along the tour routes provide views of numerous species of wildlife. Portions of the routes may be closed for management purposes or public safety. The route at Lower Klamath Refuge provides interpretive panels to enhance your enjoyment and understanding of the area. Roads marked as "authorized vehicles only" or "no vehicles" are closed to the public for management purposes.

Canoe Trails

Self-guided canoe trails are available on Upper Klamath and Tule Lake NWRs. These trails may be inaccessible at times because of management activities or weather conditions. The Tule Lake trail is open only from July through September to reduce disturbance to nesting birds. Descriptive leaflets are available for both trails. Canoes can be rented at Upper Klamath but you need your own at Tule Lake.

Hunting

Public hunting is permitted on the refuges. Hunters are responsible for familiarizing themselves with current refuge and State hunting regulations. Descriptive hunt leaflets are available.

Fishing

Public fishing is permitted only on selected portions of the Upper Klamath and Klamath Forest NWRs. Anglers must familiarize themselves with current State fishing regulations which are available at sporting goods stores.

Group Programs

Special programs for schools, clubs, etc., may be arranged by contacting refuge headquarters.

