

THINGS TO DO AT NISQUALLY

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge welcomes people as well as wildlife.

REFUGE HOURS
The Refuge is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

HIKING
The trails at Nisqually are open only for walking (no jogging please). Hikers may take the 1/2 mile Nisqually River Interpretive Trail (may be flooded at high tides), the mile loop to the Twin Barns, or the 5.6 mile Brown Farm Dike Trail. To avoid disturbing wildlife, PLEASE STAY ON THE TRAILS AND LEAVE PETS AT HOME.

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION
Wildlife may be seen from all Refuge trails. The observation deck at the Twin Barns and the two photo blinds help visitors get a better view of wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Teachers and group leaders should contact the Refuge office for information and to make reservations. During office hours scheduled groups may use the Twin Barns Education Center or check out learning materials to use outdoors.

BOATING, CANOEING
Boats are an excellent way to view wildlife. Canoeers, Kayakers, and other small boaters should beware of hazardous tides, wind, and weather conditions that exist around the Nisqually Delta. The closest launching ramp is at Luhr Beach. To use Washington State's Luhr Beach landing you must purchase a conservation decal, unless you have a hunting, fishing or trapping license. For more information contact; State Game Department, 516 N. Washington. Olympia, WA, phone (206) 753-5717.

HUNTING
Waterfowl hunting is allowed only on the Washington State Dept. of Game's Nisqually Habitat Management Area outside the Brown Farm Dike. Maps showing hunting areas are available at the Washington Dept. of Game office in Olympia or at the Refuge office.

FISHING
Anglers may fish both the Nisqually River and McAllister Creek by boat. Fishing from the river banks is allowed only in those areas shown on the map.

DRINKING WATER
Sorry, no drinking water is available on the Refuge. Please bring your own.

LITTER
No litter barrels are provided on the Refuge. Please carry out what you bring in.

HANDICAPPED
Refuge trails have gravel or grass surfaces, and may be slippery or muddy when wet. Visitors should examine their own abilities and limitations before using the Refuge.

SORRY, NO PETS, FIRES, JOGGING OR CAMPING ARE ALLOWED ON THE REFUGE. BICYCLES AND MOTORBIKES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON REFUGE TRAILS.

Consult your tide tables before boating to Nisqually Refuge from the north.



WILDLIFE OBSERVATION TIPS

WHEN - Early morning, evening and when the weather clears after a storm are good times to observe wildlife. Spring bird migration usually goes from mid-March through mid-May, and fall migration from September through December.

WHERE - Be sure to look in a variety of habitats, along the "edges" between habitats, and remember to look high and low as well as at eye level. Please stay on the trails.

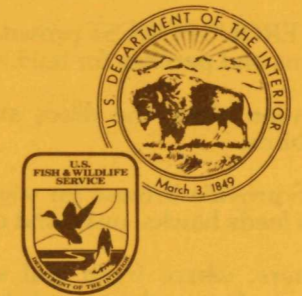
HOW - You will see more animals if you are QUIET. Be sure to listen for animal calls or songs, or try sitting down along the trail and waiting.

WHAT TO BRING - Binoculars or spotting scopes are helpful for observing wildlife, and a good field guide will help you identify what you see. You are always welcome to bring your camera and a lunch to eat along the trail. **DON'T FORGET YOUR RAINCOAT!**

MORE INFORMATION:

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

Dungeness and San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuges are also managed from the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge office.



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

NISQUALLY



National Wildlife Refuge

Washington

NISQUALLY

A HOME FOR WILDLIFE

Sand shrimp, ducks, salmon, and hawks live side by side on Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Salt marshes lie adjacent to freshwater marshes, and mudflats quickly turn to thick forests. Nisqually Refuge was set aside in 1974 to protect this diversity of habitats and the many wildlife species that live in them.

Migratory waterfowl are of special importance at Nisqually. Up to 20,000 ducks and 300 geese find food, water, and shelter in the grasslands, mudflats, and freshwater marshes during spring and fall migration.

Each habitat is used by different kinds of wildlife in a variety of ways:

OPEN FRESHWATER PONDS are used for feeding, loafing, and brood rearing by a variety of waterfowl, especially mallards and teal.

OPEN SALTWATER areas of the Nisqually Reach are the home of seals, whales, and a variety of fish.

MUD FLATS support a varied fauna of clams, shrimp, worms, and crabs, and provide important feeding grounds for shorebirds.

FRESHWATER MARSHES are used in spring and fall as stopover areas for migratory waterfowl, and during breeding season as important nesting and feeding areas for marsh birds.

An uncommon snowfall greets these migrating wigeons.



A watchful eye of a red-tailed hawk.



Leaving the handy perch in search of food.

SALT MARSHES serve as resting and feeding habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl. Black brant feed on beds of eelgrass.

DECIDUOUS WOODLANDS are the home of numerous songbirds, raptors, and a variety of small mammals.

MIXED CONIFEROUS FOREST provides a nest site for great blue herons and perches for bald eagles.

SHRUB vegetation along the dikes supports a wide variety of songbirds.

GRASSLANDS provide browse for wigeon. A thriving vole population feeds hawks, owls, and coyotes.

ESTUARY waters, where fresh and saltwater meet, serve as a nursery for anadromous fish, as well as the home of various crustaceans, plankton, and other microorganisms.



Over 300 species of wildlife benefit from the ten habitats of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge lies at the south end of Puget Sound between Nisqually River and McAllister Creek and is just north of Interstate 5.

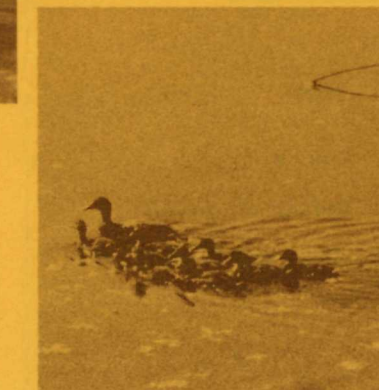
A goldfinch, the Washington State bird, lands on a thistle.



A killdeer reflects on its next meal.



At low tide shorebirds search for tasty morsels.



Ducks thrive and shape-up for their seasonal migrations.



Alone or in a group you will enjoy the Brown Farm Dike Trail.

A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TOO

The lush grasslands and marshes and the abundant wildlife of the Nisqually River Delta have attracted many people throughout the years. The original inhabitants thrived on wild game and fish, and when trappers and settlers moved into the area several families made their homes in the Nisqually Valley as well. To this day Indian fishing nets can be seen in the Nisqually River as a result of the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854, which guaranteed the Indians the right to fish in their usual and accustomed places.

Nisqually began to take on its present appearance when Alson L. Brown purchased the land in 1904. Crews of men using horse-drawn scoops built dikes to hold back the saltwater and make the land a farm. The "Brown Farm" produced butter, mincemeat, honey, and other delicacies for nearly fifty years.

By the mid-1960's farming this land was no longer economical, and proposals were made to turn the Delta into a superport or a sanitary landfill. Local conservationists led by Margaret McKenny quickly organized the Nisqually Delta Association in an effort to save the Delta. Their action resulted in the establishment of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge on February 21, 1974.