

# REFUGE VISITS

## WILDLIFE-DEPENDENT RECREATION

**TRAILS** — The refuge has 7 miles of trails including a 1-mile loop trail and a 5-1/2-mile loop trail which provide views of wildlife habitats and access to observation decks, photo blinds, and the Twin Barns Education Center. Please stay on the trails. Seasonal closures of trails occur throughout the year.

**BOATING** — Boating is permitted in waters outside the Brown Farm Dike. Canoeists, kayakers, and small boaters should beware of hazardous tides, shallow waters, wind, and weather conditions around the Nisqually Delta. The nearest public boat ramp is at Luhr Beach.

**FISHING** — Fishing from boats is permitted in waters outside the Brown Farm Dike. Fishing from the river banks is permitted only in the designated McAllister Creek Bank Fishing Area. There is no bank fishing access along the Nisqually River. Washington State regulations apply.

**NO HUNTING** — While hunting is not allowed on any refuge lands, waterfowl hunting is allowed by boat access only on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife lands adjacent to the refuge.

**NISQUALLY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IS NOT A PARK** — Sports such as jogging, bicycling, frisbee throwing, kite flying, and jet skiing are disturbing to wildlife and to other visitors. These sports should be done elsewhere.

## EDUCATION PROGRAM

**RESERVATIONS** — Schools and large groups are required to make a reservation to visit the refuge.

**TWIN BARNs EDUCATION CENTER** — Provides exhibits about the refuge and classroom space for school groups. Open to school and other education groups by reservation only throughout the week.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Nisqually Refuge has an active program of volunteers helping with wildlife studies, public information, education, and maintenance. If you would like to become involved, call the refuge office.

# WHAT TO KNOW

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**LOCATION** — Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is located 8 miles east of Olympia, Washington. From Interstate 5, take exit 114 and follow the signs to the refuge.

**HOURS** — The refuge is open daily during daylight hours. The refuge office is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

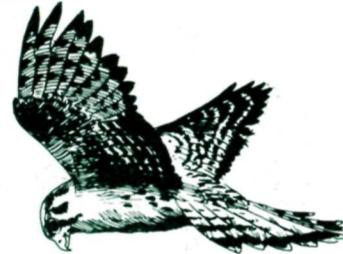
**TWIN BARNs EDUCATION CENTER** — Open to the public on Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**ENTRANCE FEE** — Daily fee is \$2.00 per family. Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access Passports and a Federal Duck Stamp admits one family. Children under 16 enter free.

**PROHIBITED** — Pets, bicycles, fires, camping, and firearms are not allowed on the refuge.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge  
100 Brown Farm Road  
Olympia, Washington 98516  
Telephone: (360) 753-9467  
Fax: (360) 534-9302



American Kestrel

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages national wildlife refuges and national fish hatcheries throughout the country for the continued conservation, protection, and enhancement of our fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.



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

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# NISQUALLY

## NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON



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## A PROTECTED ESTUARY

The Nisqually River Delta, a biologically rich and diverse area at the southern end of Puget Sound, supports a variety of habitats. Here, the freshwater of the Nisqually River combines with the saltwater of Puget Sound to form an estuary rich in nutrients and detritus. These nutrients support a web of sealife — the benefits which extend throughout Puget Sound and beyond.

Together with McAllister and Red Salmon Creeks, the Nisqually River forms one of the largest remaining relatively undisturbed estuaries in Washington. Although most major estuaries in Washington have been filled, dredged, or developed, the estuary of the Nisqually River has been set aside especially for wildlife. In 1974, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect the delta and its diversity of fish and wildlife habitats.

## A HOME FOR WILDLIFE

As surrounding wildlife habitat is lost to development, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge has become an increasingly important place for wildlife, especially migratory birds. For some birds, Nisqually Refuge is a place to feed and rest before continuing on, while for others it is the end of their seasons journey. Western sandpipers and other shorebirds feed and rest on the estuarine mudflats and marshes. Ducks and geese feed and rest on the freshwater ponds and marshes.

Spring brings many songbirds — goldfinches, warblers, and tree swallows can be seen in the forests and fields. Woodpeckers, hawks, and small mammals are found in the dense woodlands, croplands, and grasslands. Mixed conifer forests on the bluffs above the delta provide perches for bald eagles and osprey, and is a nesting site for a colony of great blue herons. Salmon and steelhead use the estuary for passage to upriver areas.

## A PLACE FOR PEOPLE

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge provides abundant opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. Hiking, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, fishing, and environmental education all provide a chance to learn more about the natural world and the importance of places rich in beauty and biological diversity.

