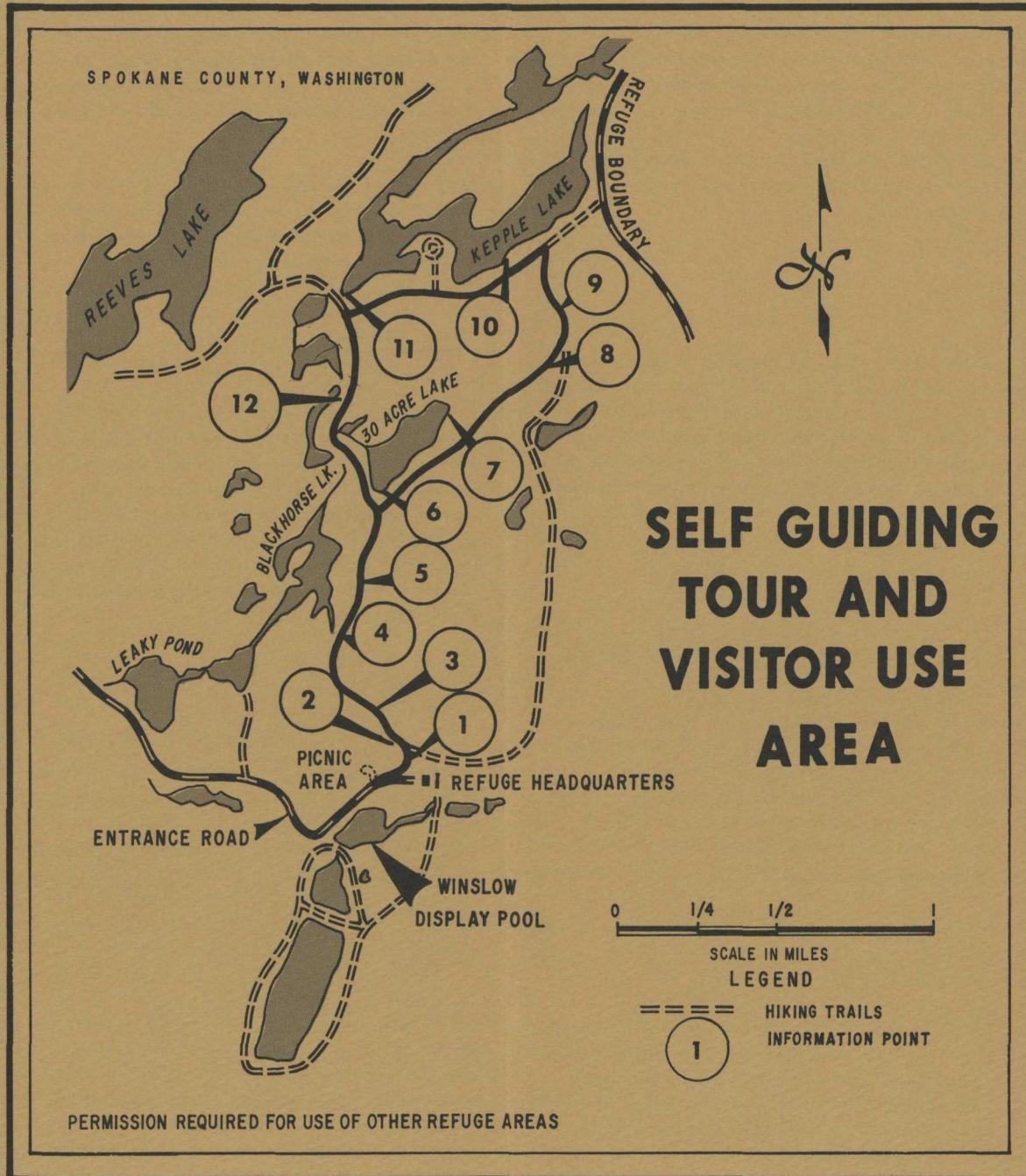
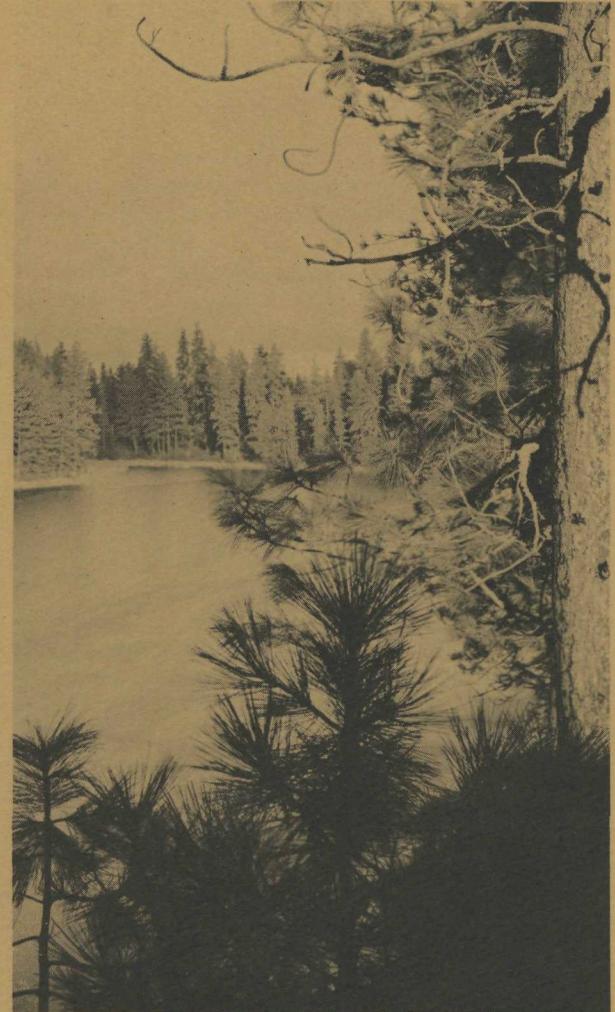


After leaving Marker No. 12, proceed ahead to the road on which you entered. This is the end of the visitor tour. We hope you enjoyed your visit. If you wish to spend more time on the refuge, you are welcome to stay until dark.

For additional information contact the Refuge Manager, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Route 3, Box 107, Cheney, Washington 99004, telephone 235-4723.



SELF GUIDING TOUR



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.



TURNBULL National Wildlife Refuge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

TURNBULL

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Welcome to Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. We hope you enjoy our public tour route. This is a four-mile auto route passing through scenic pine woods and marshy lake areas on the refuge. If time is short, you can make the trip in 15-20 minutes, getting a quick glimpse of the refuge and its wildlife. If you have a more leisurely schedule, there is plenty to occupy an hour, a morning, or even a day.

If you are interested in seeing large numbers of ducks and geese, you should plan your tour between September and December. Waterfowl numbers are lower during the spring migration, and things are quiet during the summer, but there is always something to see.

As you travel along the tour route, you will see numbered sign posts. Numbered paragraphs in this pamphlet correspond to the signs and describe the features around you. We hope this information will enhance your refuge visit. A bird list and general information leaflet are available at refuge headquarters.

Marker No. 1

This collection of deer antlers has been gathered on the refuge during the past few years. Most of the antlers are from whitetailed deer--the most common species of deer. A few mule deer also are present. Males of both species shed their antlers each year after the fall mating season. They grow a new set during the spring and summer.

Marker No. 2

Thickets like this one are common along some of the small stream courses and moist areas. The dominant shrub is Douglas hawthorn. These areas are beneficial to wildlife in several ways. The tender twigs on the shrubs serve as food for deer. Small birds and mammals use thickets as escape cover. Robins, yellow warblers, blackheaded grosbeaks, catbirds, and magpies are often seen. Chipmunks are common, and if you listen closely you may hear the chattering of the pine squirrel.

Marker No. 3

Numberous large openings in the woods on the refuge have abundant grasses and flowers, often beautiful in the spring. Bluebells, shooting stars, baby's breath, and balsam root become evident in April. Following these in May and June, lupine, delphiniums, yellow mustard, pink staghorn, and wild garlic make their appearance. These meadows are favorite haunts of meadowlarks, sparrows, and other small birds which feed on the seeds produced by the grasses and flowers.

These open meadow areas are preferred by cattle which graze the area in summer. Under controlled management, grazing is compatible with wildlife objectives.

WINSLOW DISPLAY POOL

The Winslow Display Pool provides a home for the trumpeter swans which were introduced from Red Rock Lakes Refuge in Montana between 1963 and 1966. Except for a few wing-clipped decoy and display birds, all 30-40 trumpeter swans are wild. The number of swans in the display pool varies according to the season as most of the flying trumpeters scatter out in the vicinity in spring and summer to nest and then return to spend the winter in the display pool.

Marker No. 4

To see Blackhorse Lake, drive a few hundred feet off the route on the turn-out provided. This lake is typical of the lakes on the refuge that have been restored following drainage by settlers around the turn of the century. During spring months, the shoreline vegetation of cattails and bulrush provide nesting areas for diving ducks, blackbirds, and marsh wrens. These same areas provide the broods of ducklings with protection and feeding areas during the summer months. During fall migration, you may see several hundred waterfowl, including swans, Canada geese, and ducks, on Blackhorse Lake. An excellent variety of ducks is usually present, and every species on the refuge is represented at some time on this one lake.



Marker No. 5

Here is another of the aspen groves that occur in low areas throughout the refuge. In addition to their relationship with beaver, these groves are important to other types of wildlife. Songbirds, including the American Redstart, Wilson's warbler, red-eyed vireo, brown veery, and flycatchers, frequent these places. Black-throated hummingbirds are found here and you may be lucky enough to witness their diving, buzzing courtship flights in the spring. Ruffed grouse and California quail are also present. In June, you may see the adults followed by broods of scurrying young--a delightful sight.

Marker No. 6

30-Acre Lake is an excellent example of the many marshy potholes found in this area. These potholes provide waterfowl with nesting, resting and protective cover. Abundant aquatic vegetation and small water organisms provide a good food supply. One of our primary objectives on Turnbull Refuge is to maintain such areas in optimum condition for nesting waterfowl.



Marker No. 7

Here is one of the places you can see beaver lodges. You may park your car on the turn-out provided and walk about 75 yards to the edge of 30-Acre Lake. Beaver build these lodges with sticks, vegetation, and mud. Here they spend the winter and give birth to their young. In some places, beaver do not build lodges, but make their homes in bank dens on the shorelines.

Marker No. 8

The refuge is located in an open ponderosa pine forest. Around the turn of the century, this area was heavily logged, and most of the virgin timber was removed. The remaining timber is called second growth. Current management provides for a selective, sustained harvest of trees which results in more attractive wildlife habitat. Many tree stands are much too thick, and a thinning program is needed.

Marker No. 9

As in all western states, barbed wire was important in settlement of this area. Settlers found fences difficult to build here because of rocky ground. No machines or air compressors were available to dig holes or drive posts. As a result, people relied heavily on rock-crib fence braces such as the one seen here. Many of these braces are still in use in the Columbia Plateau region. This crib was made by wagon wheel irons and tree branches.

Most of the area was heavily grazed prior to establishment of the refuge, and the range was in poor condition. Proper range management is slowly bringing grasses back to excellent condition.



Marker No. 10

Kepple Lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in the area. It is a fine example of wildlife habitat restoration by the refuge after the lake was drained by early settlers. The lake is a fine waterfowl area, used for nesting, feeding and resting during the fall and spring migrations. It is a favorite of diving ducks such as the ruddy, canvasback, redhead, and scaup. Tree nesting species like the wood duck and hooded merganser also use this lake.

Marker No. 11

Another example of various types of wildlife habitat is this rose thicket. These thickets provide protective cover to a variety of wildlife. Their fruits are eaten by ruffed grouse, quail, and songbirds. Deer browse on the tender twigs.

Marker No. 12

Small potholes such as this are used by a variety of ducks including mallards, gadwalls, and teal. Each one can accommodate only a few ducks, but these areas occur by the thousands in eastern Washington. Many more are present in other northern states. When considered as a whole, they are of prime importance to waterfowl, waterfowl hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts of this nation.