

USFWS Photo

## Regulations Protect Visitors and Resources

Activities permitted on the refuges may change due to winter waterfowl closures. Please help wildlife by observing posted refuge regulations.

**Refuge Access.** Refuges, including roads and trails, are open from sunrise to sunset.

**Motor Vehicles and Bicycles** are permitted only on roads open to vehicle access. Bicycling is prohibited during the winter waterfowl closure. Please park only in designated areas.

**Pets.** For both your pet's and wildlife's safety, please leash your pet and walk them only at information kiosks and trailhead parking areas.

**Hiking.** Some trails close seasonally to reduce disturbance to wintering waterfowl. Please observe posted regulations.

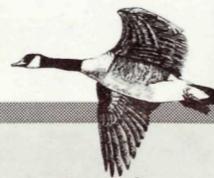
**Hunting.** Consult the refuge headquarters for current regulations.

**Fishing.** Allowed from May 1 through October 31 in designated areas at William L. Finley NWR. All State of Oregon regulations apply.

**Firearms** and other weapons are prohibited except as authorized for hunting.

**Prohibited Activities.** Camping, fires, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing are not allowed on the refuges. Collecting historical objects or artifacts is not permitted. Collecting animals, plants, or fruit is also prohibited.

## Discovering Wildlife Throughout the Year



**Spring.** Pacific tree frogs start shrilling with the first February thaw and rough-skinned newts begin the overland trek to spawn in open water. Wintering waterfowl flocks start migrating north in March, shorebirds migrate through in April. Song bird migration peaks in early May coinciding with the height of spring wildflowers.

**Summer.** Broods of mallards, hooded mergansers and wood ducks appear in June, and turtles can be seen basking on logs. Ox-eye daisies, lupines, wild hollyhocks and delphiniums cover refuge fields and roadsides. Black-tailed deer appear with fawns in tow; squirrels, birds, and the occasional black bear gorge on the July blackberry crop.

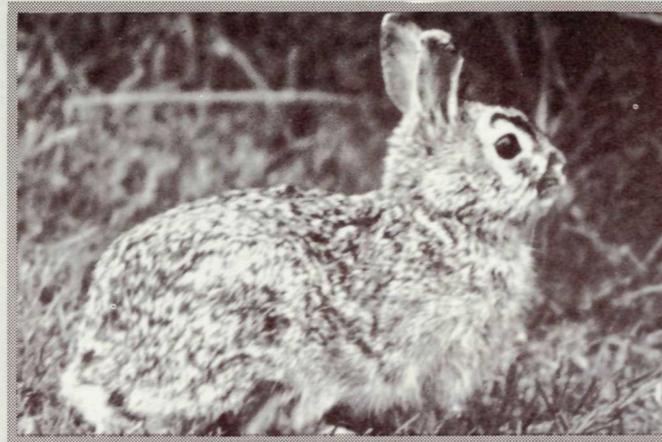


Photo by Cathy Stahr

**Fall.** Song birds start to migrate south in August and flocks of geese begin to fill the skies in late September. Roosevelt elk go into rut and can be heard bugling at Finley NWR at dusk. Sightings of migrating raptors increase in September. Rough-legged hawks arrive in October as turkey vultures depart.

**Winter.** Thousands of geese, ducks and swans can be seen grazing on refuge fields through the winter. Small numbers of bald eagles and the occasional peregrine falcon can be seen hunting the wintering flocks. Raptor sightings are common as resident birds are joined by migrants from farther north.

The three Western Oregon refuges in the Willamette Valley are part of more than 500 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service also manages national fish hatcheries and provides Federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance, conservation and protection of migratory birds, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.

### For more information, contact:

Refuge Manager  
Western Oregon NWRs Complex  
26208 Finley Refuge Road  
Corvallis, Oregon 97333  
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Fax:(503) 757-4450



Print courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

# Willamette Valley

National Wildlife Refuges



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Fish and Wildlife Service  
RF13590 August 1994



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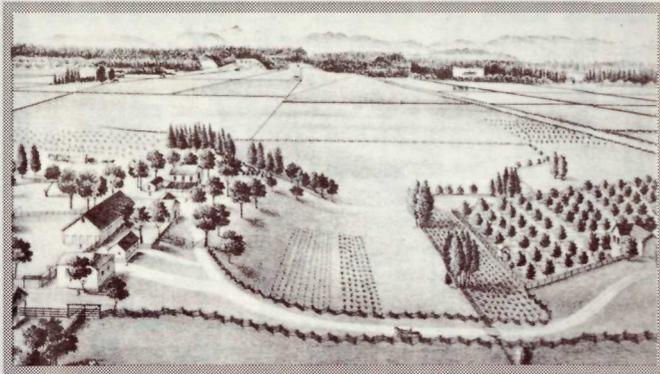
## Oregon

## Changing the Face of the Willamette Valley

The original Willamette Valley was a rich mix of wildlife habitats. Valley wetlands were once extensive with meandering stream channels and vast seasonal marshes. As people have altered the natural landscape to meet their own needs, wildlife have not always benefitted.



**Pre-Contact** Kalapuya Indians burned frequently creating vast grasslands.



**1840s** Settlers arriving on the Oregon Trail began converting the prairies to farm fields and pastures.



Rivers were deepened and channelized and wetlands were drained to make way for farms and towns.

## Preserving Habitat For Wildlife

Today, the Willamette Valley is a pleasant mix of farmland and growing cities with fewer areas remaining for wildlife. Three National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) were created in the 1960s — William L. Finley, Ankeny, and Baskett Slough NWR — to preserve and restore some of the vanishing native habitats for wildlife. They are intensively managed to meet the needs of many species, especially those confined to small or limited ranges.

The primary management goal on the Willamette Valley refuges is to provide wintering habitat for dusky Canada geese. Unlike other Canada geese, duskies have limited summer and winter ranges. They nest on Alaska's Copper River Delta and winter almost exclusively in the Willamette Valley. Habitat loss, predation and hunting have caused a decrease in populations.



Photo by Aaron Drew

Dusky Canada geese can be distinguished from other sub-species by their large size and dark color.

### Managing for Dusky Canada Geese

Dusky Canada geese have three main requirements:

**Food.** Under cooperative agreements, area farmers plant refuge fields. Some fields are planted annually and others are mowed or burned to produce the tender, nutritious grasses preferred by geese.

**Wetlands.** Water is needed for resting and foraging habitat. Many refuge wetlands occur naturally; others are created by dikes and levees. Some refuge wetlands, drained or channelized by previous owners, are being restored.

**Sanctuary.** By resting in undisturbed areas on the refuges, wintering geese regain energy reserves required for migration and nesting. This sanctuary also prevents depredation problems on neighboring private lands. Because of their need for a quiet resting area waterfowl habitat is closed to all public entry while the geese are in residence.

## Other Management Goals

Another management goal is to preserve native species and enhance biodiversity. Disappearing Willamette Valley habitats such as native prairie and riparian forest are examples of habitat now protected on the refuges.



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Pigeon Butte Research Natural Area

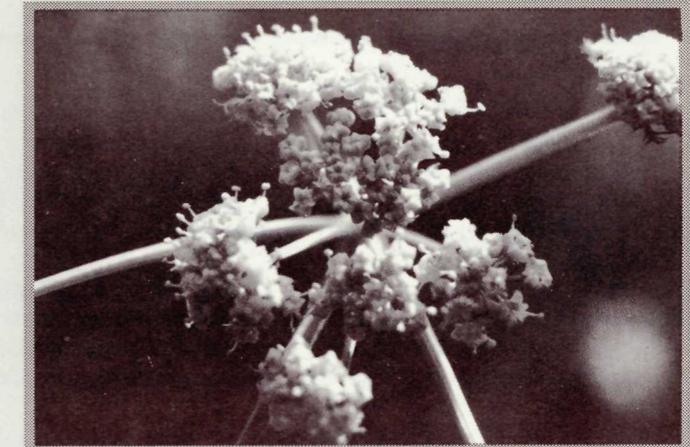


Photo by Kendal Derby

Bradshaw's Desert Parsley (*Lomatium bradshawii*)

Endangered and threatened species such as peregrine falcons, bald eagles, Oregon chub, and Bradshaw's Desert Parsley find protection and sanctuary on the refuges.

An overall management goal of the Willamette Valley refuges is to allow opportunities for compatible wildlife-oriented education and recreation.

**Enjoy your visit!**

