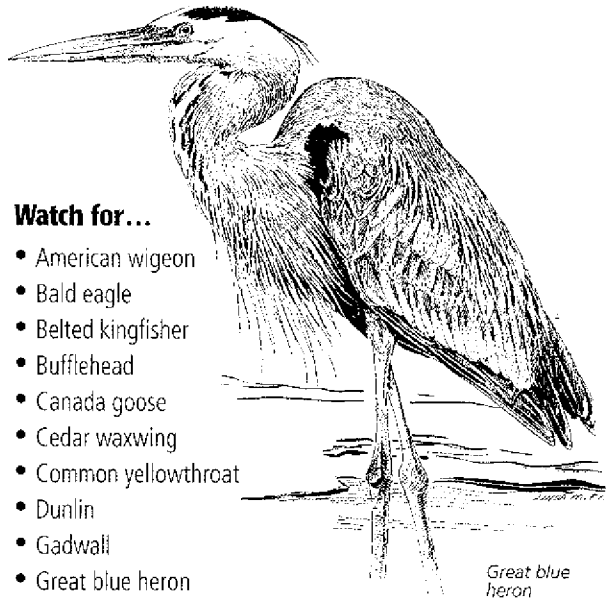


Wetland and Lagoon

The Reserve's saltwater (brackish) lagoons and adjacent wetland marshes offer prime bird watching opportunities. Shallow and weather-protected, they attract numerous migratory birds. Look for ducks, herons, shorebirds and raptors.



Great blue heron

Watch for...

- American wigeon
- Bald eagle
- Belted kingfisher
- Bufflehead
- Canada goose
- Cedar waxwing
- Common yellowthroat
- Dunlin
- Gadwall
- Great blue heron
- Green-winged teal
- Greater yellowlegs
- Killdeer
- Least sandpiper
- Long-billed dowitcher
- Mallard
- Marsh wren
- Northern harrier
- Northern pintail
- Northern shoveler
- Peregrine falcon
- Ruddy duck
- Savannah sparrow
- Short-billed dowitcher
- Swallows

Common plants

- Cattail
- Orchard grass
- Pickleweed
- Seaside arrowgrass
- Slough sedge
- Silver cinquefoil
- Hardstem bullrush

Mammals

- Black-tailed deer
- Coyote
- River otters

Please stay on the trails!

Unlike most national parks, about 90 percent of the Reserve lies on private land. Please respect the property rights of private landowners by staying on designated trails, and keeping dogs on leash. Watch out for hunters. Wear bright colors.

Please don't pick the plants!

If you want to grow some of the native species found on the Reserve, a local chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society can help you find a responsible source, www.wnps.org/salal.

Recommended field guides:

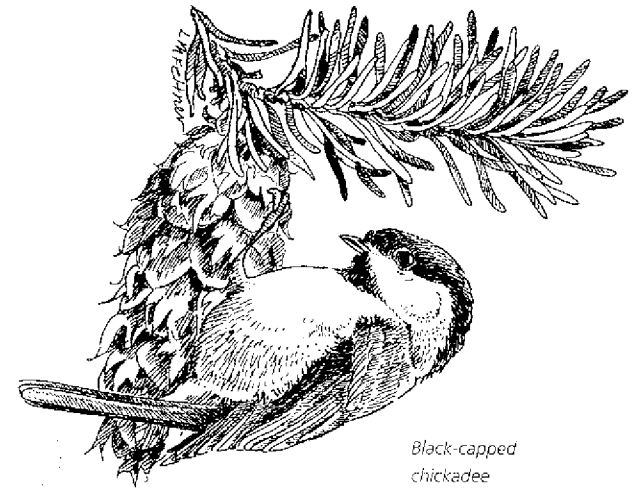
- *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*
by Jon L. Dunn, Third Edition, 1999
(ISBN: 0792274512)
- *Plants of the Pacific Northwest*
by Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon, 1994
(ISBN: 1551050404)
- *A Field Guide to Mammal Tracking*
by James Halfpenny, 1986
(ISBN: 0-933472-98-6)

To go bird watching at Ebey's Landing NHR with the National Audubon Society, contact the Whidbey Chapter, (360) 678-2264, (360) 678-3161.



Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
(360) 678-6084

Naturalist's GUIDE



Black-capped chickadee

Fall and Winter

at Ebey's Landing
National Historical Reserve



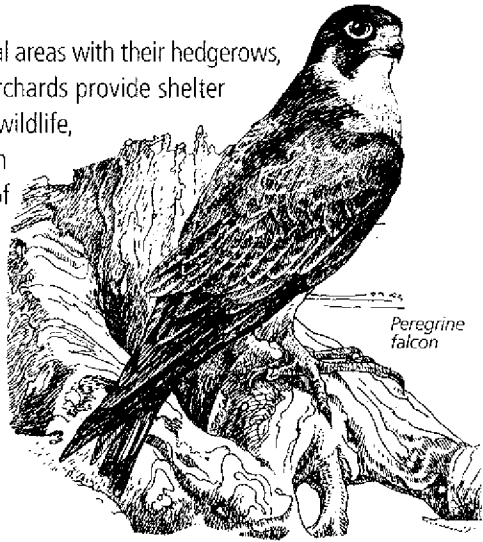
Ebey's Landing
National Historical Reserve

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Whidbey Island, Washington

Prairie

At the end of the last ice age, 13,000 years ago, Whidbey Island was covered by a mile-high glacier. When the glacier retreated, prairies with rich soil formed. Indians farmed the prairies using fire and digging sticks. Euro-American settlers followed introducing new farming methods.

Agricultural areas with their hedgerows, pastures and orchards provide shelter and forage for wildlife, including a high concentration of raptors. Some domestic birds have gone wild here. Look for Chinese pheasants and even turkeys.



Peregrine falcon

Watch for...

- American crow
- American goldfinch
- American robin
- Bald eagle
- Brewer's blackbird
- Brown-headed cowbird
- California quail
- European starling
- Glaucous-winged gull
- Golden-crowned sparrow
- House finch
- House sparrow
- Northern harrier
- Peregrine falcon
- Red-tailed hawk
- Red-winged blackbird
- Rock dove
- Savannah sparrow
- Song sparrow
- White-crowned sparrow
- Merlin

Plants

- Bare-stem parsley
- Nootka rose
- Roemer's (Idaho) fescue
- Snowberry

Mammals

- Black-tailed deer
- Eastern cottontail
- Raccoon
- Field mouse

Signs of Wildlife

Tracks are often found in soft ground or in frost or snow. When looking for animal tracks, count the toes.

Deer have split hooves. When jumping they leave an extra dot beneath each one like an exclamation point. The rodent family, squirrels, mice, and beaver, have four toes on the front feet and five on their hind feet. Rabbits hop placing hind feet in front of smaller fore paws. Raccoons have five toes with long fingers like ours.

Wetland animals often have webbed feet that obscure the number of toes they have. Feel the depressions left behind. Also look for scat, pathways, burrows or signs of foraging.

When viewing wildlife, remain still and quiet. Try not to disturb wild animals and do not feed them. Keep a respectful distance. After all, this is their home.



Beach and Bluff

A beach walk in winter can be an exhilarating experience, but beware. Wind and rain pelt the bluffs and transform the shoreline, sometimes overnight. Waves toss logs and kelp up on the beach. Check a tide chart before planning your beachwalk to make sure you won't get trapped by rising water.

Most of the walkable beaches in the Reserve are between Fort Casey and Fort Ebey state parks. Careful observers can find traces of Whidbey's geologic story. Walk along Keystone Spit where storms deposited sand and gravel over the centuries creating a beach so solid it was nearly developed into a community called "Little Chicago". At low tide, rocks beneath Fort Casey's lighthouse host an array of intertidal life. South of Ebey's Bluff, look for the "thrust fault" where colliding layers of clay and sand are shifting upward. On Ebey's Bluff, study the formation of Perego's Lagoon, the result of shifting sands and winter storms. The west end of Penn Cove (Kennedy and Grasser's lagoons) is an excellent place for bird watching!

Watch for...

- Bald eagle
- Barrow's goldeneye
- Belted kingfisher
- Black oystercatcher
- Black scoter
- Black turnstone
- Common goldeneye
- Common loon
- Double-crested cormorant
- Glaucous-winged gull
- Great blue heron
- Greater scaup
- Harlequin duck
- Horned grebe
- Lesser Scaup
- Long-tailed duck
- Pelagic cormorant
- Red-breasted merganser
- Red-necked grebe
- Red-throated loon
- Sanderling
- Surf scoter

Mammals

- Dall's porpoise
- California sea lions
- Grey whales
- Orca whales
- River otters
- Raccoons

Common plants

- Blue wildrye
- Chocolate lily
- Common Camas
- Creeping bent grass*
- Death Camas
- Dune wildrye
- English plantain*
- Fawn lily
- Gumweed
- Marsh clover

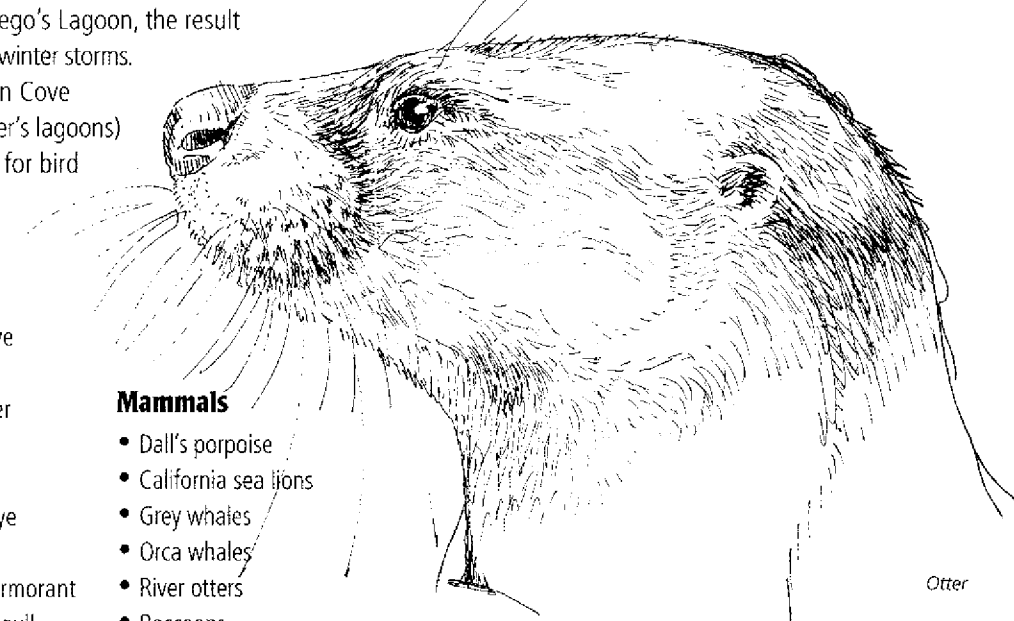
- Nootka rose
- Northern saitas*
- Orchard grass*
- Prickly pear cactus**
- Roemer's (Idaho) fescue
- Snowberry

* Non-Native

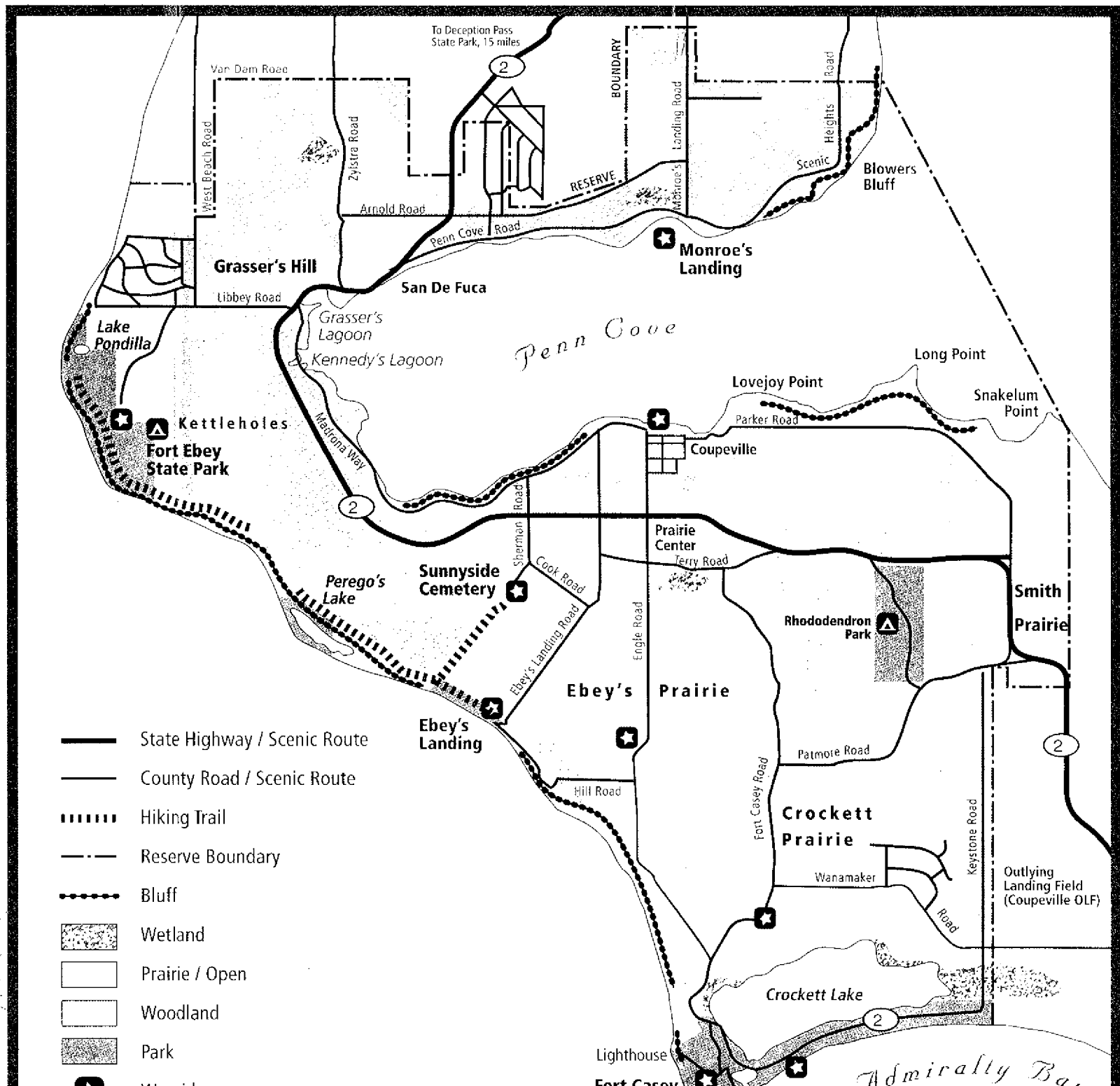
** Unusual to find this plant west of the Cascades

Saltwater Algae

- Bull kelp
- Coraline algae
- Green urchin algae
- Rock weed
- Sea lettuce



Otter



Fall and winter bring great change to the landscapes of Whidbey Island. Winter storms transform the beaches, nourish the woodlands and bring a wide array of birdlife to the fields and marshes. Rosehips dot the hedgerows and fruiting orchards attract deer and other wildlife. A large population of field mice, shrews and voles attract migrating raptors. Mating owls are often heard at dusk. Colorful waterfowl seek sheltered coves. This season is ideal for bird watching and viewing wildlife on the Reserve.

Ebey's Landing NHR is in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains and gets considerably less rain than Seattle. A north wind brings clear, cold days, while a southwest wind brings rain. So, when going outside this time of year, be prepared. Dress in layers. Wear wool or other fabrics that keep you warm even when wet. Bring a raincoat or poncho, hat, gloves, water, snacks and a flashlight just in case. Use this brochure or one of the recommended field guides to enhance your experience.

WILDLIFE HABITATS



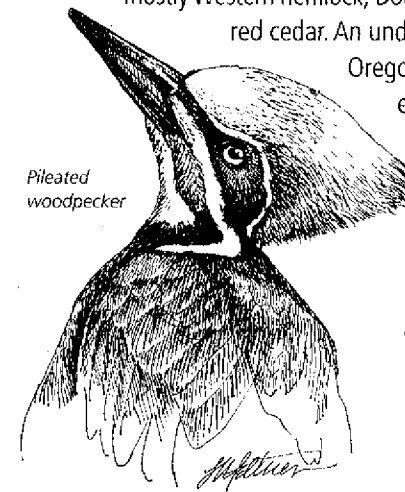
Oregon grape

Within the Reserve boundaries, you can experience four distinct wildlife habitats—delineated on the map. Each area offers different vegetation and types of shelter. Look for raccoons, deer, otter and a variety of waterfowl in the protected forests, fields, marshes and coves of the Reserve. Bird watchers can sleep a little later as most birds aren't active until an hour after sunrise.

Woodland

Most of the Reserve's accessible forest land is in Fort Ebey State Park and Rhododendron Park. There you'll find glacial depressions known as kettles, some over 200 feet deep. These forests contain mostly Western hemlock, Douglas-fir and Western red cedar. An understory of salal and Oregon grape provide

edible berries and cover for wildlife. Dead standing trees are valuable habitat.



Pileated woodpecker

Common plants

- Bald hippea rose
- Big leaf rhododendron
- Douglas-fir
- Douglas maple
- Grand fir
- Red alder
- Red elderberry
- Red huckleberry
- Salal
- Snowberry
- Sword fern
- Western hemlock
- Western red cedar
- Western white pine
- Honeysuckle
- Willow

Watch for...

- Barred owl*
- Brown creeper
- Chestnut-backed chickadee
- Dark-eyed junco
- Downy woodpecker*
- Fox sparrow
- Great horned owl*
- Golden-crowned kinglet
- Hairy woodpecker*
- Northern flicker
- Pacific slope flycatcher
- Pileated woodpecker
- Red breasted nuthatch
- Ruby-crowned kinglet
- Song sparrow
- Spotted towhee
- Winter wren

* *Heard but rarely seen.*

Wildlife

- Black-tailed deer
- Douglas squirrel