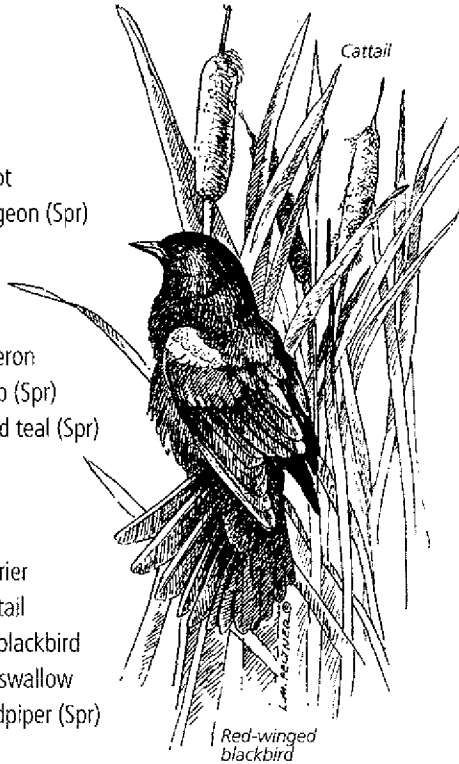


Wetland and Lagoon

The reserve's saltwater (brackish) lagoons and adjacent wetland marshes offer prime bird-watching opportunities. Shallow and weather-protected, they attract numerous species of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. In spring, some 90 different species—both terrestrial and aquatic—rest and feed in the marshy grasslands around Crockett Lake.

Watch for...

- American coot
- American wigeon (Spr)
- Bald eagle
- Dunlin (Spr)
- Gadwall
- Great blue heron
- Greater scaup (Spr)
- Green-winged teal (Spr)
- Killdeer
- Mallard
- Marsh wren
- Northern harrier
- Northern pintail
- Red-winged blackbird
- Violet-green swallow
- Western sandpiper (Spr)



Common plants

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

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.

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:

- **A Field Guide to Western Birds**
by Roger T. Peterson, 1990
(ISBN: 0395911737)
- **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)

To go birdwatching 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



Spring
and
Summer
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

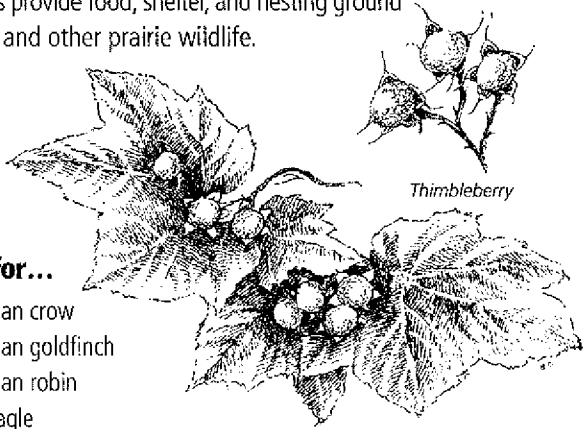
The three prairies in the reserve are among its most unique features—displaying a rare combination of natural and cultural history. A mile-high glacier receded 13,000 years ago, forming prairies with rich soils. Indians farmed the prairies for thousands of years using fire and digging sticks. Euro-American settlers followed and introduced new farming methods. Today a third of the prairie land yields vegetables, grain, forage, and seed crops. The rest is a mixture of pasture, woodland, wetlands, and farmsteads. As you watch for birds in Ebey's, Crockett, and Smith Prairies, consider the hedgerows, field patterns, and orchards, too. These traditional rural features have cultural value, as well as provide food, shelter, and nesting ground for birds and other prairie wildlife.

Watch for...

- American crow
- American goldfinch
- American robin
- Bald eagle
- Barn swallow
- Brewer's blackbird
- Chestnut-backed chickadee
- Golden-crowned sparrow (Spr)
- House finch
- House sparrow
- Northern harrier

- Red-tailed hawk
- Red-winged blackbird
- Savannah sparrow
- Song sparrow
- Violet-green swallow
- White-crowned sparrow

- Black-tailed deer
- Eastern cottontail



Thimbleberry

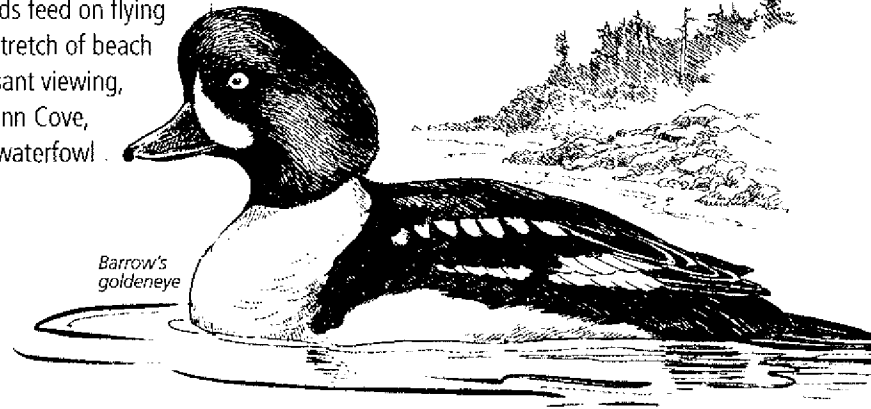
Plants*

- American vetch (N)
- Bare-stem parsley (N)
- Blue flag iris (N)
- Bracken fern (N)
- Camas lily (N)
- Chocolate lily (N)
- Columbia lily (N)
- Death camas (N)
- Fawn lily (N)
- Henderson's shooting star (N)
- Hyacinth brodiaea (N)
- Lace-leaf biscuit root (N)
- Nootka rose (N)
- Northern saitis (N)
- One flowered broom rape (N)
- Prairie smoke (N)
- Purple snake root (N)
- Roemer's (Idaho) fescue (N)
- Showy fleabane (N)
- Snowberry (N)
- Tall oregon grape (N)
- Two colored lupine (N)
- Woolly sunflower (N)

* Most of the native wildflowers and grasses found in this habitat are now extremely rare.

Beach and Bluff

Some of the reserve's best walking is along the strip of rocky beach between Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks. The beach rises to dramatic 200-foot high bluffs, most of which are accessible by a trail. The intertidal zone and shoreline kelp beds along the coastal strip provide feeding habitat for gulls, ducks, shorebirds, and raptors. Swallows and other birds feed on flying insects along the beach. The rocky stretch of beach along Keystone Spit also offers pleasant viewing, as do the lowland lagoons along Penn Cove, which provide shelter and food for waterfowl and many migratory birds.

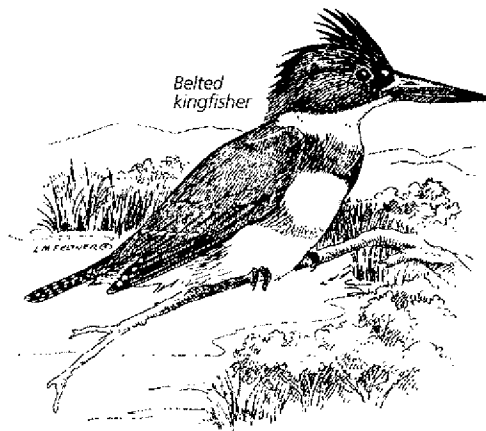


Barrow's goldeneye

Watch for...

- Bald eagle
- Barrow's goldeneye (Spr)
- Belted kingfisher
- Brandt's cormorant (Spr)
- Bufflehead (Spr)
- Common goldeneye (Spr)
- Double-crested cormorant
- Glaucous-winged gull

- Gray whale (Spr)
- Harbor seal
- Pigeon guillemot
- Rhinoceros auklet
- River otter
- Surf scoter
- Western sandpiper (Spr)
- White-winged scoter (Spr)



Belted kingfisher

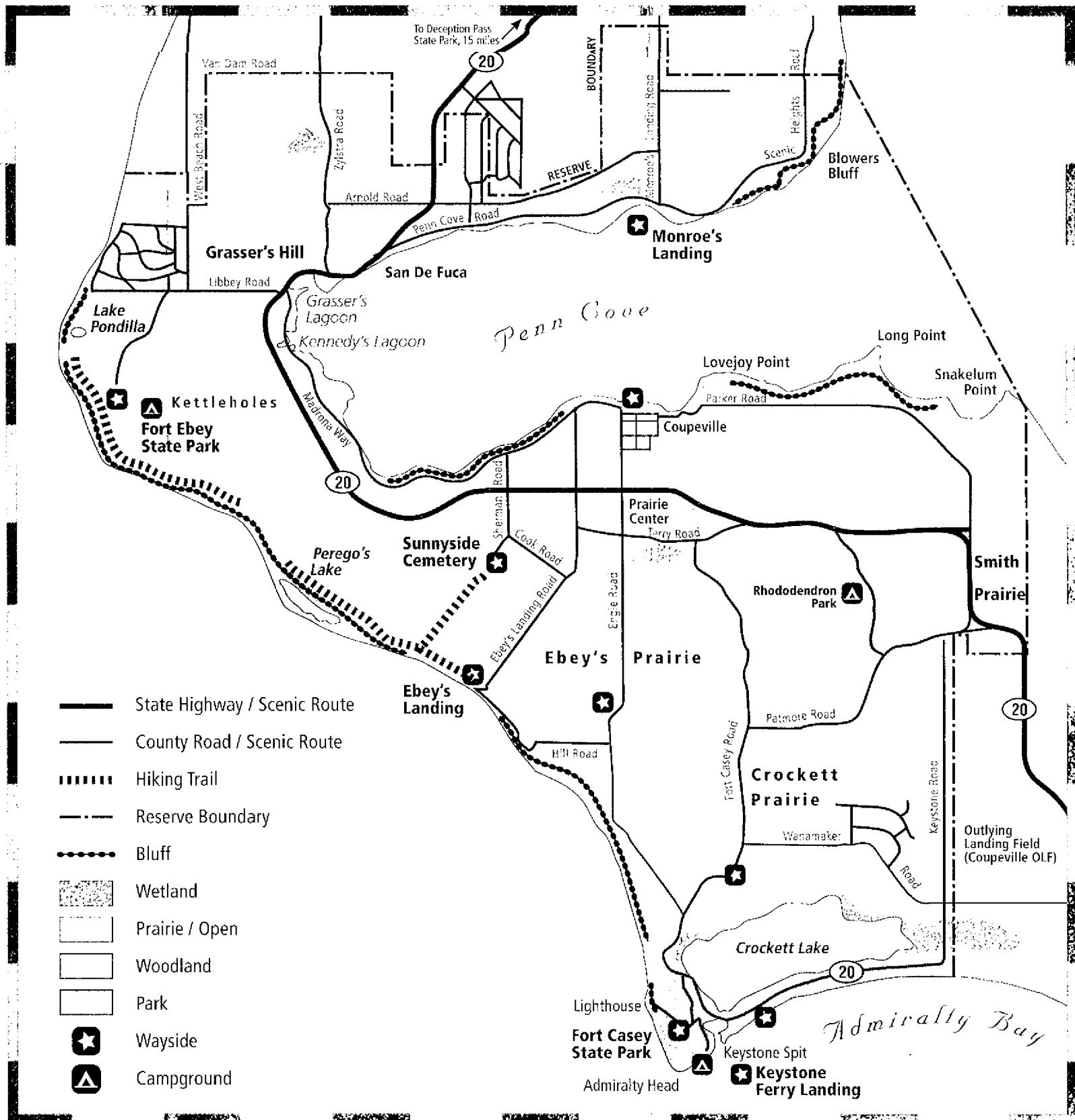
Common plants

- Blue wildrye (N)
- California oat grass (N)
- Coralline alga
- Creeping bent grass
- Dune wildrye (N)
- English plantain
- Green urchin
- Gumweed (N)
- Kentucky bluegrass
- Nootka rose (N)
- Northern saitis (N)
- Orchard grass
- Purple snake root (N)
- Rock weed
- Roemer's (Idaho) fescue (N)
- Sea lettuce
- Sea shore lupine (N)
- Sea shore red fescue (N)
- Snowberry (N)
- Tomcat clover (N)
- Wing kelp
- Woolly sunflower (N)

Rare plants*

- Prickly pear cactus (N)
- Golden aster

* These species are typically found on the dry eastern slopes of the Cascades. It is quite unusual to find them west of the Cascades.



Each spring and summer, Whidbey Island erupts with seasonal color and sound. Flowering shrubs bloom in open prairies, among beach grasses, and along saltwater marshes. As a prime location on the Pacific Flyway, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve attracts many migratory species of shorebirds and waterfowl in search of food and shelter. Gray whales pass by en route to the Bering Sea. And you may even spot an elusive river otter or a harbor seal.

Ample sunshine and cool breezes off Admiralty Inlet create ideal conditions for strolling, birdwatching, and other naturalist activities. To identify specific plants and wildlife in the reserve, use this brochure with one or more of the recommended field guides.

WILDLIFE HABITATS

Within the reserve boundaries, you can experience four distinct wildlife habitats – delineated on the map. Each area supports different vegetation, and thus attracts various populations of birds and mammals.

Bird-watching tips

Move slowly and quietly.

Best viewing times:

First and last hours of daylight

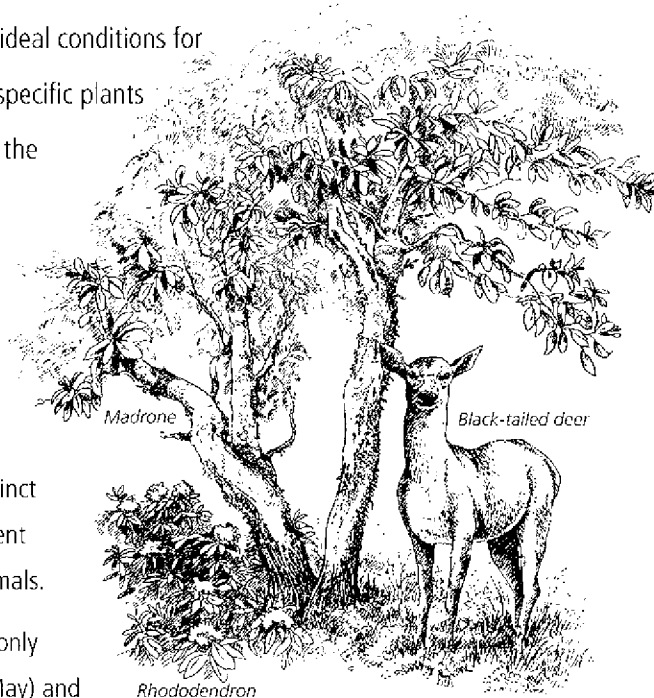
Right after a storm

Use binoculars and field guides.

Use tide tables; some migratory waterfowl feed on tide cycles.

Please don't feed the wildlife.

All species are commonly seen spring (March-May) and summer (June-August), unless otherwise noted. Both native and non-native plants grow throughout Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. The native species generally bloom early in the spring. As summer progresses, more non-native species tend to dominate. Plants marked with (N) are native species.

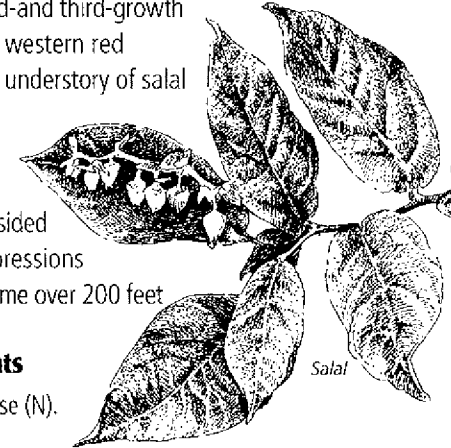


Woodland

You'll find most of the reserve's accessible forest lands in Fort Ebey State Park and Rhododendron Park. These dense forests contain mostly alder and second- and third-growth Douglas-fir and western red cedar—with an understory of salal and rhododendron. Some forested areas are steep-sided with glacial depressions called kettles, some over 200 feet deep.

Common plants

- Bald hipped rose (N).
- Bedstraw (N)
- Big leaf rhododendron (N)
- Bracken fern (N)
- Douglas-fir (N)
- Foamflower (N)
- Grand fir (N)
- Oceanspray (N)
- Oregon grape (N)
- Red alder (N)
- Red elderberry (N)
- Red huckleberry (N)
- Salal (N)
- Snowberry (N)
- Starflower (N)
- Sword fern (N)
- Trailing blackberry (N)
- Twinflower (N)
- Western hemlock (N)
- Western red cedar (N)
- Western white pine
- Willow (N)
- Wining honeysuckle willow (N)



Watch for...

- American crow
- American robin
- Chestnut-backed chickadee
- Dark-eyed junco
- Golden-crowned kinglet (Spr)
- Great-horned owl*
- Song sparrow

- Black-tailed deer
- Douglas squirrel

* *Rarely seen, but commonly heard in spring*