

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Pacific Regional Office
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
Phone: 503/231-6121
Fax: 503/231-2122
<http://pacific.fws.gov>

News Release



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Contact: Susan Saul - 503/872-2728

Trails on Two National Wildlife Refuges in Oregon and Washington to Receive National Trail Recognition

Two trails on national wildlife refuges in Oregon and Washington will be designated on June 3 as National Recreation Trails by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. With these additions, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will administer 44 National Recreation Trails, with 43 on national wildlife refuges and one on a national fish hatchery.

“These trails lead hikers through some of America’s most beautiful deserts, wetlands and prairies that make up our National Wildlife Refuge System,” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall. “The National Recreation Trails designation will help more people discover the many recreational opportunities available on refuges and at national fish hatcheries, helping them understand the conservation mission of the Refuge System and the Fish and Wildlife Service.”

Oregon

Ankeny Rail Trail – Located in Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, near Jefferson, this 1-mile rail-trail takes visitors through a seasonally flooded Oregon ash wetland where various wildlife (such as tree frogs, rough-skinned newts, and black-capped chickadees) can be seen and heard year round.

Washington

Pine Lake Loop Trail – Located in Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, near Cheney, this 1.25-mile loop trail offers an array of opportunities to view 26 species of waterfowl, in addition to moose, elk, and other wildlife.

National Recreation Trails are designated by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture and recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance. These seven trails now become part of America's national system of trails and join more than 900 other trails nationwide.

The refuge trails will benefit from the prestige and increased visibility of being a part of the National Trail System. National Recreation Trails provide for numerous outdoor recreation activities in a variety of urban, rural and remote areas. The trails range from less than a mile to 485 miles in length on federal, state, municipal and privately owned lands.

For more information on the National Recreation Trails program, visit the American Trails website at <http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.