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# NEWS RELEASE



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September 6, 2007

## Columbia National Wildlife Refuge To Host Youth Hunt for Canada Goose, Duck and Coot

Contact: Rick Poetter or Randy Hill (509) 488-2668  
[For release through Friday, September 21, 2007]

The Columbia National Wildlife Refuge will open a popular area south of O'Sullivan Dam for the annual Youth Canada Goose, Duck and Coot Hunt on September 22 and 23. The area, designated Marsh Unit I, includes 8 ponds that are created by diverting Crab Creek into shallow wetlands. Marsh Unit I will be the only area open for the Youth Hunt on the Columbia Refuge.

The Youth Hunt is open only to hunters under 16 years of age. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old who is not hunting. Canada Geese, ducks and coots can be hunted in accordance with regulations issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife two-day Youth Hunts for pheasant, quail and partridge are not available on Columbia Refuge. For additional information about the Refuge, visit the website: <http://www.fws.gov/columbiarefuge/home/>.

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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 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 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.