

# News Release



Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
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## BIRDWATCHING'S MOST SEDENTARY EVENT!

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge will host “The Big Sit” birding event at the Royal Lake Overlook on October 11, 2009, from 8 a.m. to Noon. This event will kick off the first of two events scheduled during National Wildlife Refuge Week, which runs from October 11-17th. The Big Sit is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event to tally as many bird species as can be heard or seen. Interested birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome to participate!

Bird observations take place in a pre-determined 17-foot diameter circle and there is no limit to the number of people occupying the circle (other than obvious spatial limits). Whether you are interested in staying for ten minutes or ten hours, all visitors are welcome to join us for this free event. Royal Lake Overlook is located at the south end of Byers Road on the Adams/Grant County line. Visitors are welcome to picnic during the event, however please keep in mind no open fires are allowed. Items that will be useful include a chair, binoculars, a spotting scope, and all weather gear, although none are required to participate. For further information, please contact refuge staff at (509) 488-2668 or Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, 735 Main Street, Othello, WA.

– FWS –

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).*