

# News Release



Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
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[www.fws.gov/mcriver/](http://www.fws.gov/mcriver/)

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[McKay Creek NWR](#) • [McNary NWR](#) • [Saddle Mountain NWR](#) • [Toppenish NWR](#) • [Umatilla NWR](#)

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## **Mid-Columbia National Wildlife Refuges Education Center & Headquarters Grand Opening**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is holding two grand openings for its new Administrative Headquarters and Environmental Education Center. The first is a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters at McNary National Wildlife Refuge, 64 Maple Street, in Burbank, Washington.

A grand opening for the public, featuring a variety of interactive activities, is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, at the Burbank location from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to take part in bird watching, interpretive walks, planting a native garden, or just exploring the grounds and the Education Center with its expanded taxidermy collection. The Friends of the Mid-Columbia Refuges have many children's activities planned, and children should be dressed to be outside.

“Our new facilities have been a long time in coming,” commented Greg Hughes, Project Leader for the Mid-Columbia Refuges. “With their completion, we will be better able to meet public needs and provide an expanded selection of programs and activities centered around our incredible refuges.” Hughes went on to add that our local national wildlife refuges are one of the best kept secrets around, and he hopes that events such as the grand opening bring the refuges' resources and visitor uses to the public's attention.

The Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Complex) was created in 2008 by bringing together management of the Hanford Reach National Monument; Columbia, Conboy Lake, McNary and Toppenish National Wildlife Refuges in Washington; and Cold Springs, McKay Creek and Umatilla National Wildlife Refuges in Oregon. The Complex covers 279,338 acres, ranging from McKay Creek at 1,837 acres to the Hanford Reach National Monument at 195,719 acres. While the Headquarters is located at the McNary National Wildlife Refuge in Burbank, staff and offices are located at every refuge except Cold Springs and McKay Creek.

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*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).*