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News Release

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***Native Worlds* Photographic Exhibit Makes United States Debut At Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**

For its final event of the season, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge will host the Native American image display titled *Native Worlds* by German photographer Wilfried Schüller on October 24 and 25. This is the first exhibition of Mr. Schüller's works in the United States. Schüller will be in attendance at the exhibition both days from 12 noon until 4 p.m.

Through special arrangement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Chinook Indian Tribe, Mr. Schüller's works will be on display in the historical Cathlapotle Plankhouse located on the refuge in Ridgefield, WA. This is a unique opportunity for visitors to enjoy the artist's photographs in a distinctly native setting. The Friends of Ridgefield Refuge will provide tours of the plankhouse both days of the exhibition.

A resident of Aachen, Germany, Mr. Schüller has for many years had an intense interest in North American Native culture, art and traditions, and has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico to photograph Native life and peoples. As a professional photographer for thirty years, the artist's images have been published in a wide variety of books, magazines and newspapers and have been featured in numerous exhibitions in Europe.

The Cathlapotle Plankhouse is a full-scale Chinookan-style cedar plankhouse located on one of the most beautiful National Wildlife Refuges in the Pacific Northwest. It is a unique site for the interpretation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Chinook Native peoples. Cathlapotle was one of the largest Chinookan villages encountered by explorers Lewis and Clark, and today it is one of the few archaeological sites on the Lower Columbia River that has withstood the ravages of flooding, looting, and development.

The *Native Worlds* photographic display will be open to the public from Noon to 4:00 pm on both days of the exhibit; admission is free. Information on the exhibition is available at www.plankhouse.org or by contacting Katie Harrison, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, at 360-887-4106.

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.

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