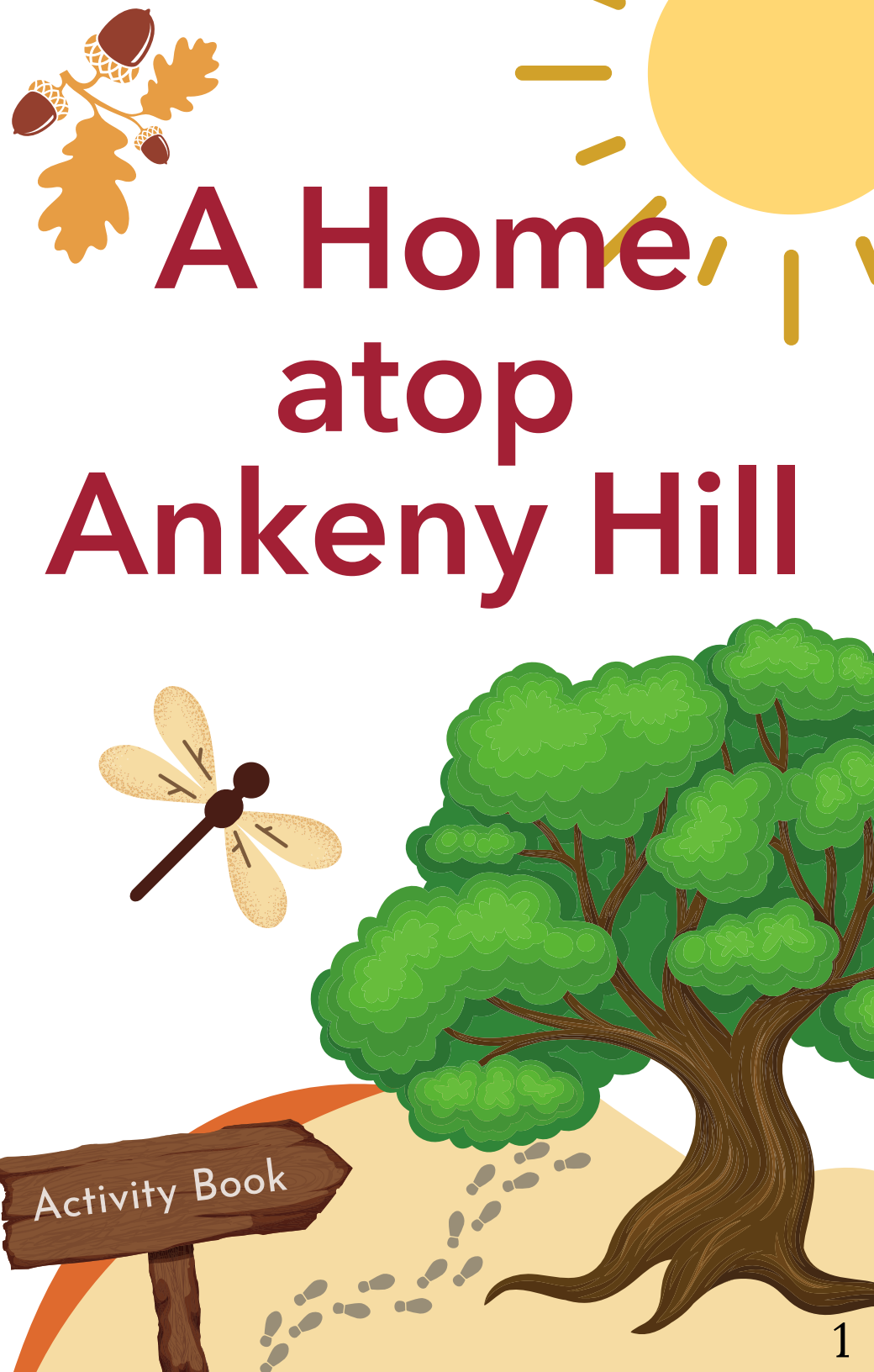
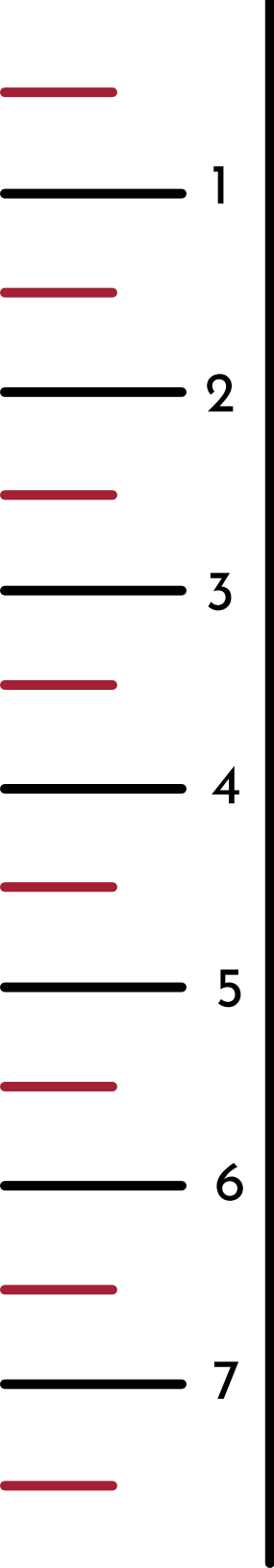
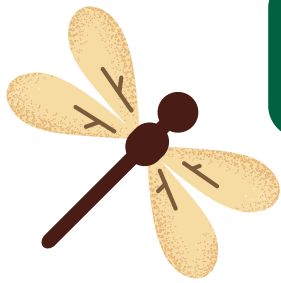


Name: _____





You can use this ruler to
measure the size of
objects you find, like rocks,
leaves, sticks, feathers, etc!



Come back again!

You have now reached the conclusion of the Story Walk. We hope that you had fun learning about the local habitats, and ways that you can contribute to making the environment a safer and healthier place for all.

Let us know what you observed during your Story Walk, share your stories and photos by emailing us at willamettevalley@fws.gov

About the Ankeny Hill Nature Center & Refuge

The Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge is one of three refuges part of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Established in 1965 for the protection of Dusky Canada Geese, it provides a home for thousands of migratory birds as well as threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

The Ankeny Hill Nature Center began as a donation given to Salem Audubon Society, and grew to this multi-dimensional partnership between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Willamette Valley NWRC, and Salem Audubon Society.



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE SYSTEM**



Friends of the Willamette Valley
National Wildlife Refuge Complex



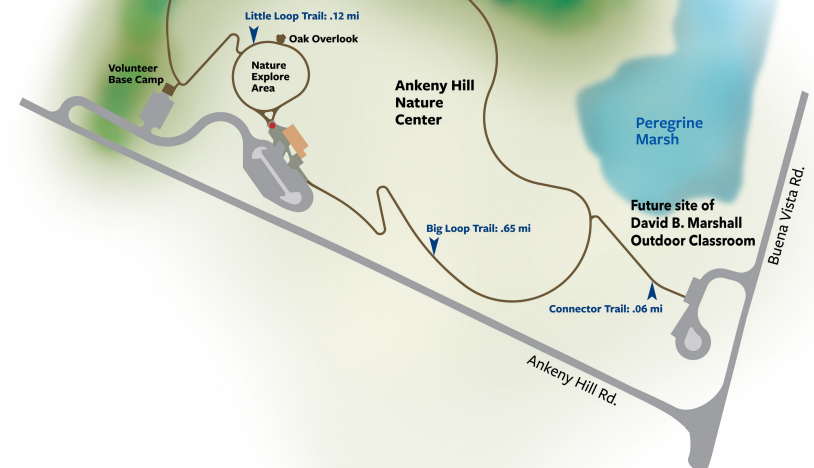
Welcome!



Welcome to the "A Home Atop Ankeny Hill" Story Walk! As you walk along the trail, you will come across a series of signs that tell the story about why Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge and Ankeny Hill Nature Center are here! You can use this activity packet along your journey. There are 5 activities to do at your own pace approximately every 2-3 signs. Have fun!

List of Activities

- Activity 1: Growth of an Oak Tree
- Activity 2: Migration Motivation
- Activity 3: Senses of Nature
- Activity 4: Habitat Bingo
- Activity 5: Ankeny Pledge





American Kestrel

Did you know? I like to nest in cavities but cannot build my own, so I rely on other species that live here too, such as the Acorn Woodpecker who makes holes in trees. I am the smallest falcon in North America, but don't let that fool you, I am very tough!



Did you know? I am a canine, related to wolves and domestic dogs. I can run pretty fast, up to 40mph (miles per hour), but only do so when in pursuit of larger prey or if I get scared! My coat is a brownish-grey, allowing me to camouflage in the prairie habitat.

Did you know? I LOVE WETLANDS! They provide me with so much food and safe places to nest. I am also a very beautiful bird, admired by many for my long pointed tail and smooth brown head. Females are more spotted brown, but still beautiful!



Nature Journal Page

Did you observe anything that you found particularly interesting during your time on the trails? If so, you can draw and write about it below!





Usual Suspects

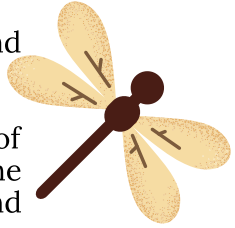


Dragonflies

Diet: Any insects they can catch! They prefer wetland and aquatic habitats.

Size: 1-5 inches in length

Did you know? There are over 90 species of dragonflies just in Oregon, and over 7,000 across the world! They come in a variety of vibrant colors and are a symbol of change and adaptation.



American Beaver

Diet: Bark, stems and twigs of trees, grasses, leaves and roots

Size: Averages 55 pounds

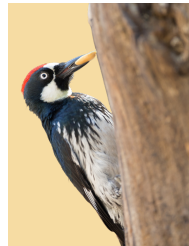
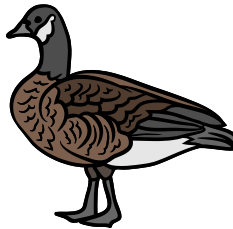
Did you know? I am known as "Nature's Engineer" because I build very elaborate homes for my family along rivers and streams.

Dusky Canada Goose

Diet: Plants (dry & aquatic), seeds, berries, and grains

Size: 6-10 pounds

Did you know? I am a subspecies of Canada Geese, I am darker in color and a little smaller. I come to Oregon for the winter season, primarily to the Willamette Valley.



Acorn Woodpecker

Diet: Insects and acorns

Size: 7-9 inches long

Did you know? I collect acorns and store them in holes that I peck into dead trees and limbs. I have a complex social structure, with various members in my group collecting acorns, while one stands guard.

Western Bluebird

Diet: Insects, fruits and seeds

Size: 6-7.5 inches

Did you know? We use holes in trees for our nest, often created by woodpeckers, such as Acorn Woodpeckers! We also work together to raise our young; some hatchlings have multiple adults taking care of them.

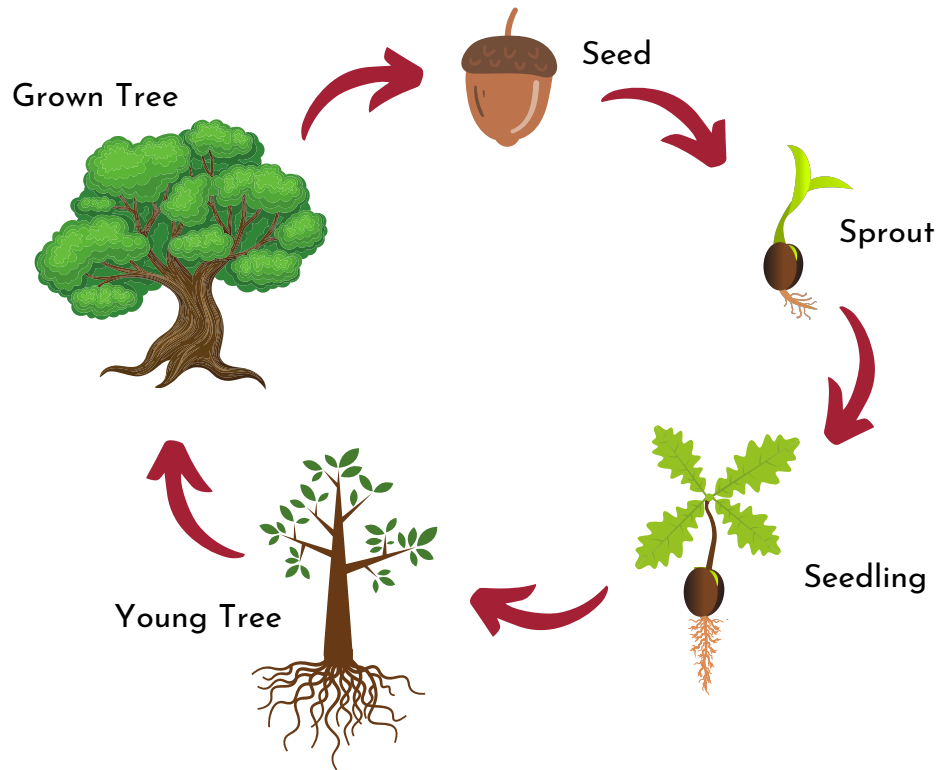




Growth of an Oak



The species of oak tree located here at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge are Oregon White Oak. These trees can live for 500 years, growing upwards of 100 feet tall! It takes a long time for oak trees to grow, starting a small seed (or what we know as acorns!). The diagram below shows the life cycle of an oak tree, follow the circle around starting at the seed stage.



Hundreds of acorns are dropped by grown oak trees each Fall. In the Spring, after it has rained during Winter, the sprouts begin to grow into seedlings. After these first few steps of the life cycle, it takes many years for the oak trees to grow big and tall. Oak trees have big roots that grow out instead of straight down - this helps stabilize the tree and soak up as much water as possible!



Take a different trail!



The best way to learn more about the refuge and see the many plants and animals that live here is to head out and explore another trail! Need a suggestion? The Eagle Marsh and Rail Trail are great places to see birds and other wildlife. Check them out today or come back for another visit. Remember to leave no trace!

Which trail did you take?

Draw or write about something you saw on the trail:

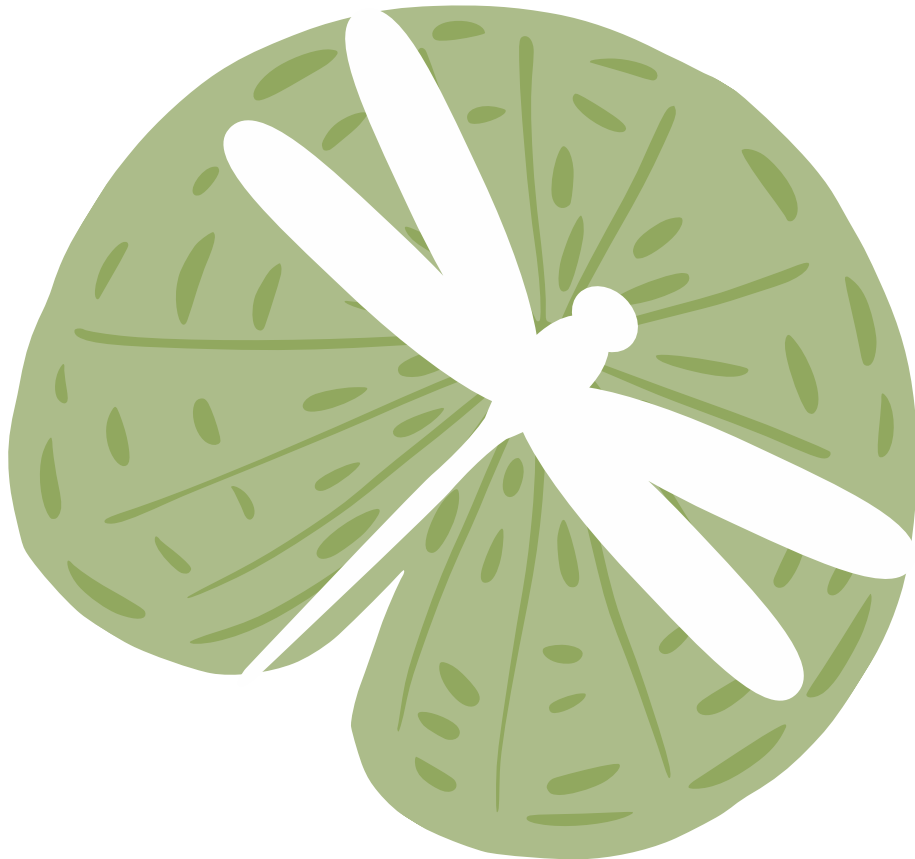


Create Your Ankeny Pledge



Now, it's your turn to make a personal pledge to protect the habitats and wildlife of Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge. What action can you take that will keep the habitats healthy and clean? On the dragonfly below, write down one or two actions you plan to take. If you need some more ideas, think back to what you learned during this walk. Feel free to decorate your pledge, as well!

You can also share your pledge with others so they will see exactly how much you care! By sharing the pledges, we can inspire others to make positive changes, too!



Growth of an Oak

How do scientists know that oak trees can live for hundreds of years? Trees grow new layers each year, resulting in what look like rings inside the tree. Have you ever seen a tree trunk left behind by a fallen or cut tree? The different colored rings each represent one year, so by counting the rings scientists can estimate the age of a tree. Let's try it ourselves! Count the rings in the diagram below. Tips: Each color is a ring, don't forget to count the center, but don't count the outer bark layer.



This tree is _____ years old!

Migration Motivation



What is migration?

Migration is the movement from one place to another. Animals typically migrate seasonally in order to find food resources throughout the year. Depending on weather conditions and food requirements, some animals travel shorter distances and some travel very far distances. Land animals, such as deer and elk, use pathways that follow water sources such as creeks and rivers. Aquatic animals, such as whales and sea turtles, use ocean currents. Birds, like the Dusky Canada Goose, use flyways influenced by wind and thermal currents.

When do birds migrate to Ankeny?

Think about the seasons we experience here in the Willamette Valley. What does Fall and Winter feel like? Spring and Summer? Is there a time of year, or two, when you've noticed more or less birds at the Refuge, in your neighborhood, or other local parks?

Dusky Canada Geese that visit Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge travel between Alaska and Oregon twice a year. When do you think they would be in Alaska, and when do you think they are here in Oregon? Think about where Alaska is, does it get colder there in the winter compared to here? Do you see any geese here now?

Circle which state you think the geese are in during Spring/Summer and then Fall/Winter.

Spring/Summer: Alaska Oregon

Fall/Winter: Alaska Oregon

Ankeny Pledge



Why was the Refuge established?

The habitats in this area are incredibly important for resident and migratory animal species. The Dusky Canada Goose relies on fields, grasslands, and wetlands in the Willamette Valley during winter in order to find food. Their populations declined in the 1950's (before you & even your parents, were born!) due to habitat loss. The refuge provides a safe place for them as they migrate south along the pacific coast to winter in the Willamette Valley.

Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge also provides habitat for many other plants and animals. The forested areas provide homes for large mammals like deer and elk, the wetlands provide an intricate



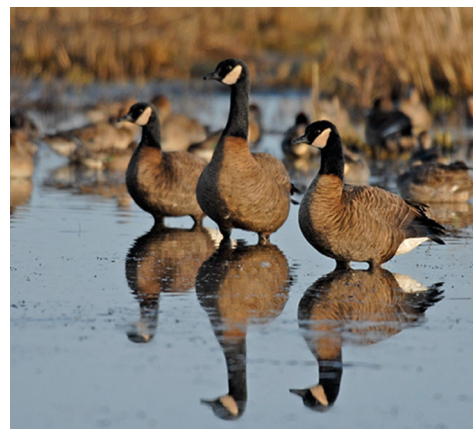
Rail Trail overlooking marsh habitat.
Photo credit: OregonHikers.org

food web for waterfowl (ducks & geese), while the grasslands and large oak trees provide oasis for insects, small birds, and various flowering plants.

What can you do to protect Dusky?

In order for the plants and animals of the Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge to have healthy habitats, everyone must do their part. There are many things you can do to help!

- Pick up trash when you see it loose on the Refuge, in your neighborhood, or at school.
- Reduce your consumption of non-reusable items.
- Carpool or ride your bike.
- Volunteer with us!



Dusky Canada Geese
Photo credit: USFWS













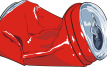













Habitat Bingo



Observe your surroundings to locate the objects that are named below. When you find an object, place an "X" in its square. Complete a diagonal, vertical, or horizontal row to be a winner! But don't stop there, try to find them all!

You can complete this activity as you walk along the rest of the trail.

Deciduous tree 	Nest materials 	Woodpecker cavity 	Flying Insect 	Hear a bird 
A sign about habitat 	Hazard to birds 	Animal tracks 	See a bird preening 	A person excited about birds 
See a bird flying 	Insect on the ground 	Wild Card Write in your own sighting!	Litter [Carry it out, mark one extra box] 	Berries 
Water source 	Two kinds of leaves 	See two different kinds of birds at once 	Seed or seed pod 	Flower 
Newly planted plant 	Birdhouse 	Nest 	See a bird eating 	Predator 



Migration Motivation



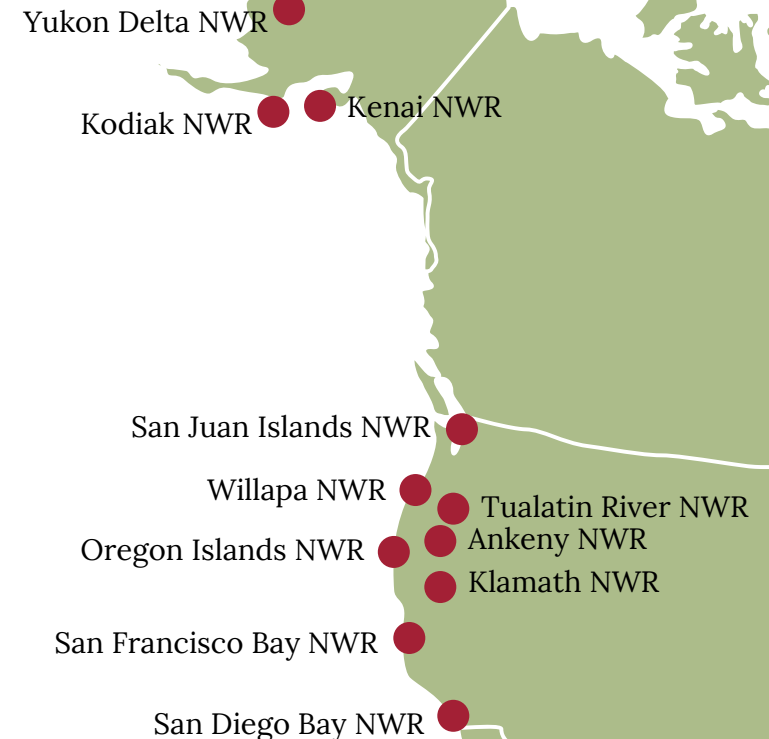
Flyways

Flyways are the invisible "bird highways" that millions of birds use to travel north and south each year. There are four major flyways in North America: Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic. Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge is located within the Pacific Flyway.

Rest Stops

Have you ever been on a road trip, or a really long drive, and needed to stop because you were hungry or tired? Birds need to stop along their journeys too! The map below shows a few other National Wildlife Refuges along the Pacific Flyway that birds rely on in order to successfully make it to their destination.

Does this map make you want to visit other National Wildlife Refuges?!





Senses in Nature



Find a spot to sit along the trail and take a few moments to soak up the sights and sounds of the nature around you. Try to use one of your senses at a time, recording what you observed along the way. You can write it down, or draw a picture!



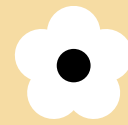
What do you see?

Describe the colors, shapes, movements, and behaviors that you see. Look at the plants close to you and far away. Look for animals, and also signs of animals like scat (poop!) and tracks.



What do you hear? **close your eyes*

Listen for the sounds of nature, but also human-made sounds. Try to count how many different bird calls you are hearing. Can you tell which direction the sounds are coming from?



Senses in Nature



What do you feel? **be careful touching plants*

You can feel things with your hands, like rocks, leaves, and flowers. You can also feel things with your body - close your eyes, do you feel a breeze or the warmth from the sun?



What do you smell? **close your eyes*

Are there any flowers around you that smell good? Or bad? Do you smell anything in the air, like the smell of rain or dust from crops? Describing smells can be challenging but fun!

Do you have any questions based on your observations?