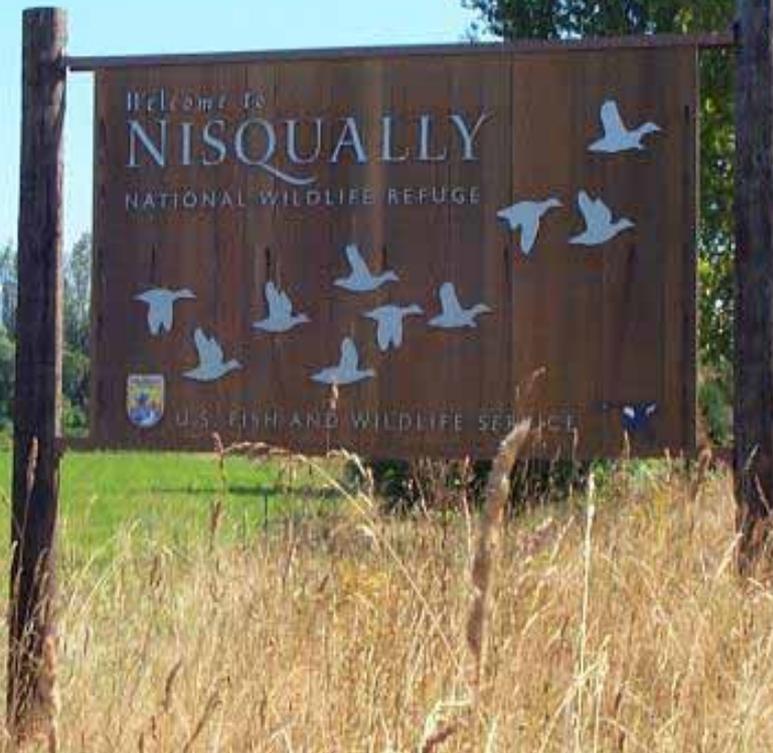


Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge



What is a National Wildlife Refuge?

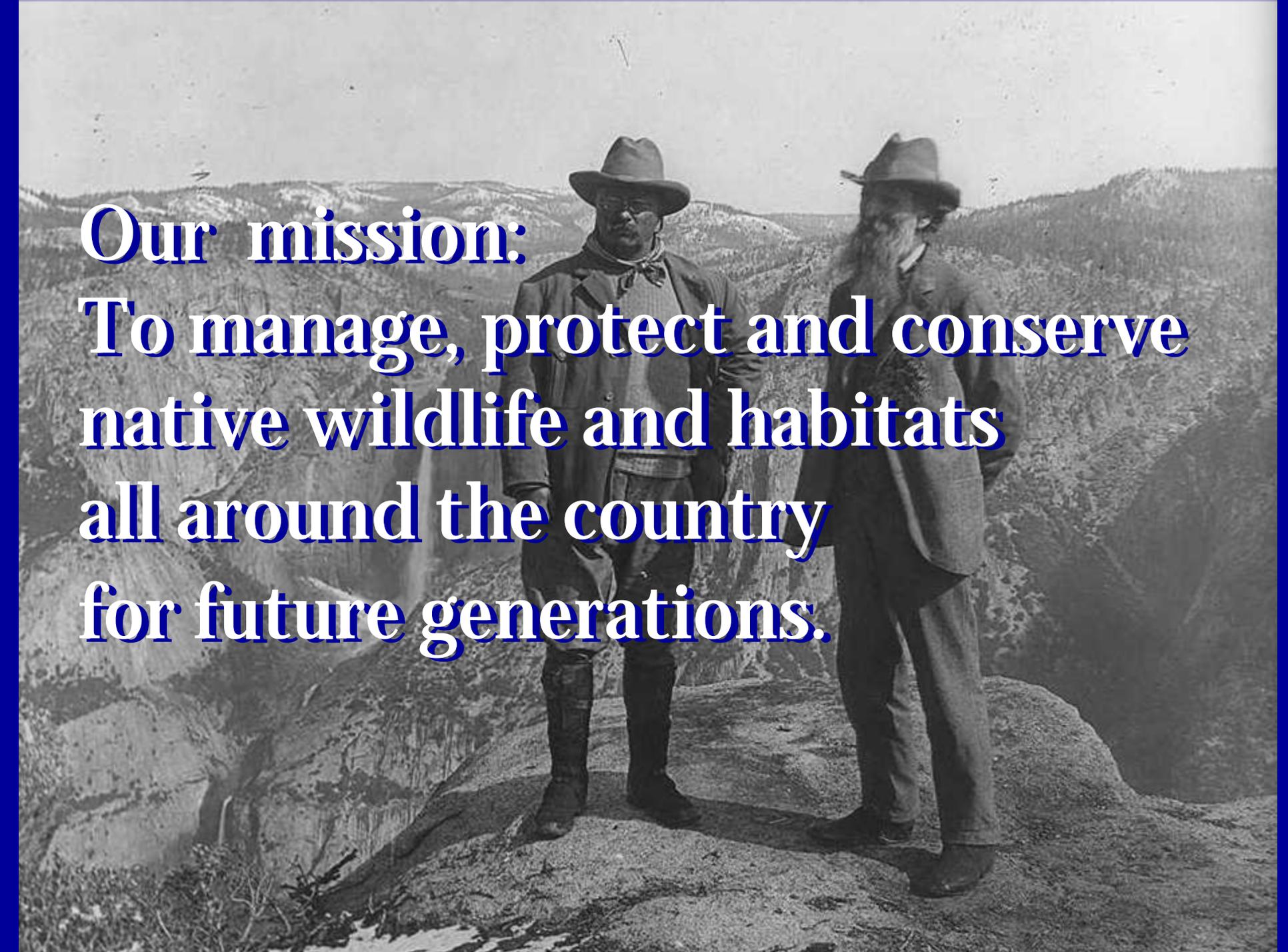
It's not a zoo.

It's not a park.



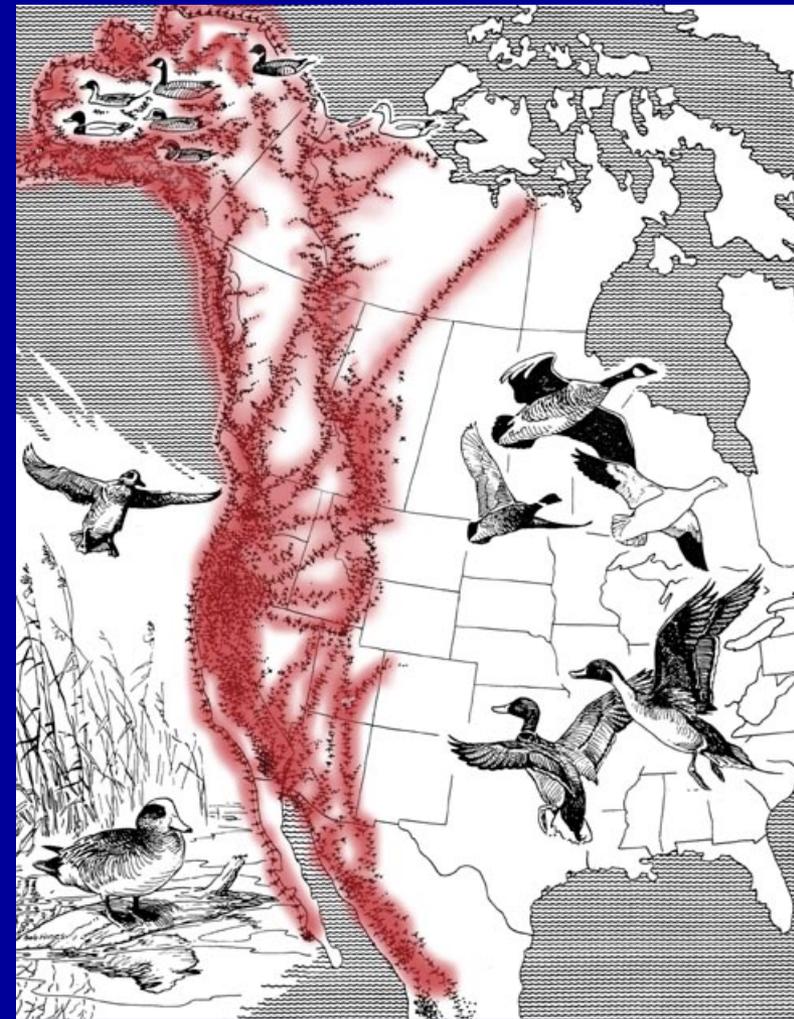


It is a home for wildlife!



**Our mission:
To manage, protect and conserve
native wildlife and habitats
all around the country
for future generations.**



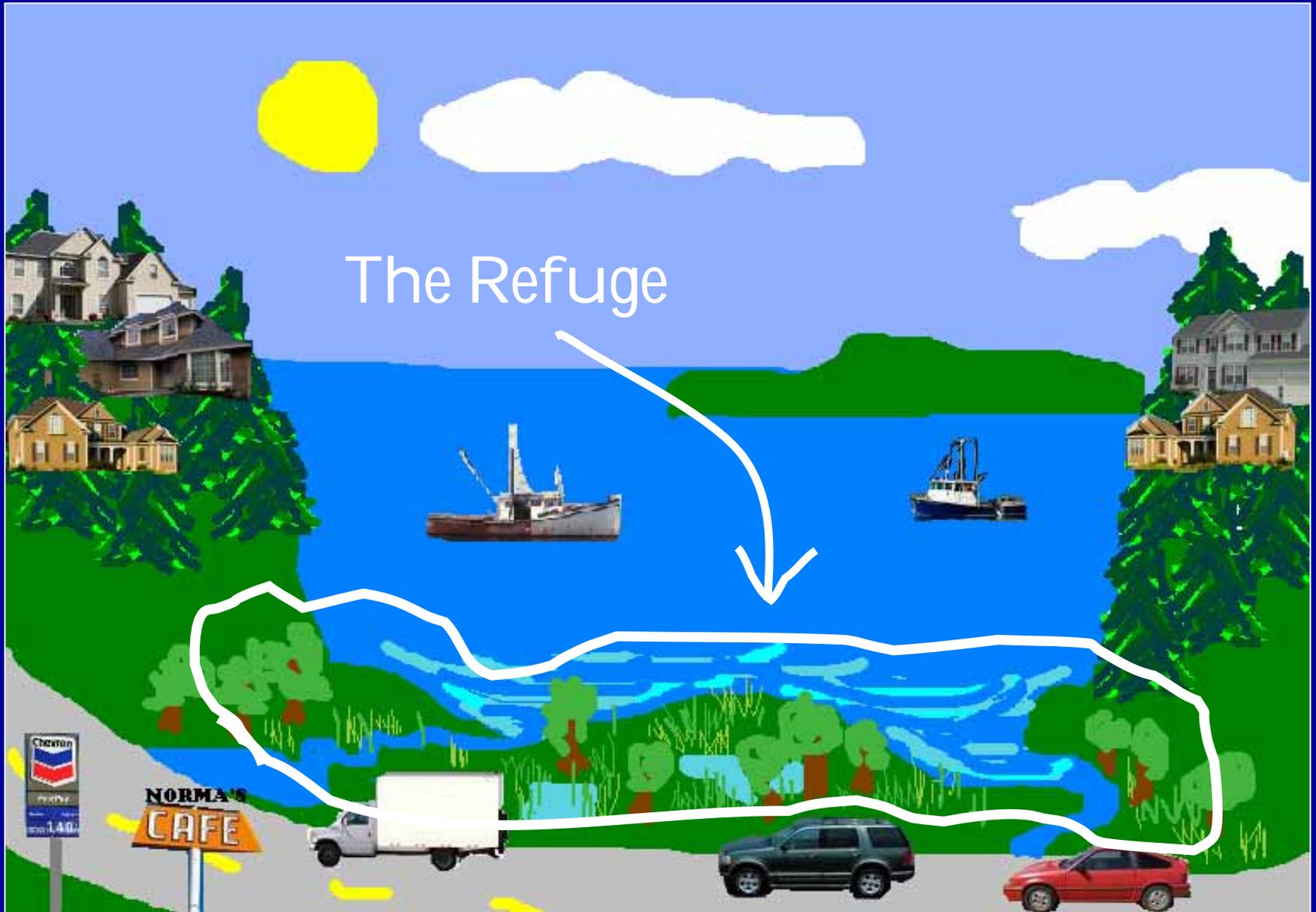


Migratory birds depend on the wetlands.

Salmon depend on the river



The Refuge





Habitats and Wildlife



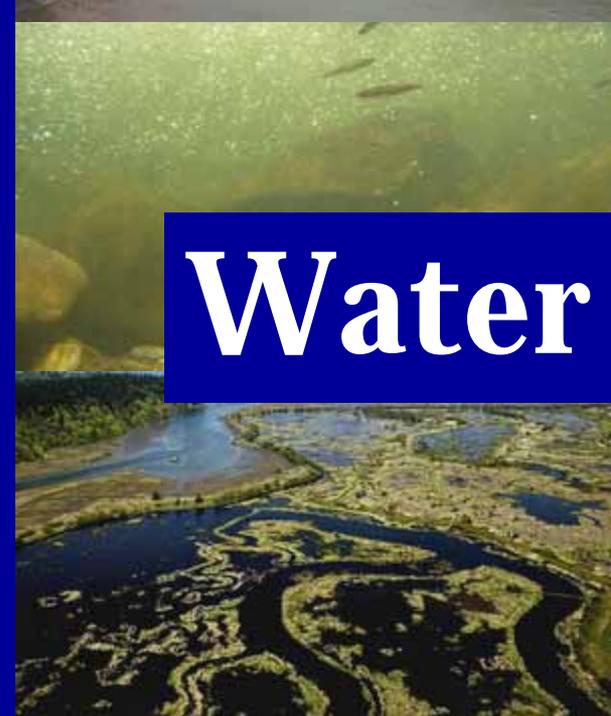
Habitat



Food



Shelter



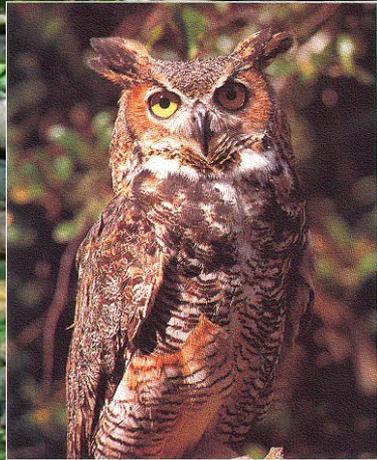
Water



Habitat Diversity = Wildlife Diversity



Riparian Forest Habitat



Great Horned Owl



© Ron Austing

Wood Duck

Woodland Habitat



Pileated Woodpecker



Black-tailed Deer

Shrub and Grassland Habitats



Great Blue Heron



Canada Goose

Fresh Water Wetlands



Photo by Brad Bergstrom

Hooded Merganser



Mallards

Coniferous Forest



Bald Eagle

Salt Water Marsh and Mudflats (estuary)



**Greater
Yellowlegs**



**Western
Sandpiper**

Open Salt Water



Harbor Seal



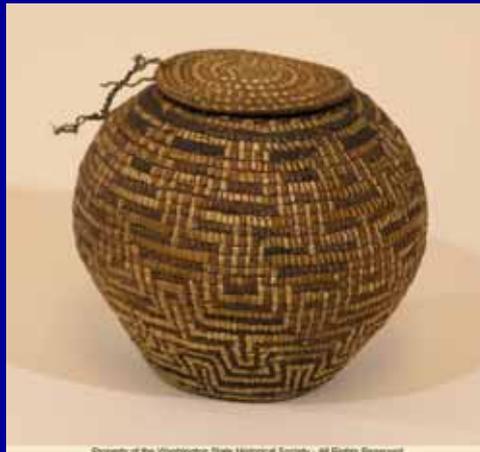
Who has been here before us?



The Nisqually River begins at the Nisqually Glacier on Mt. Rainier.

The Nisqually Delta started forming at the end of the last ice age, about 15,000 years ago. The glaciers in the mountains started melting and forming big rivers that flowed into Puget Sound.

The Squalli-absch people were here first. The Nisqually Indians still fish for salmon in the Nisqually River and work with others to protect the Nisqually Watershed.



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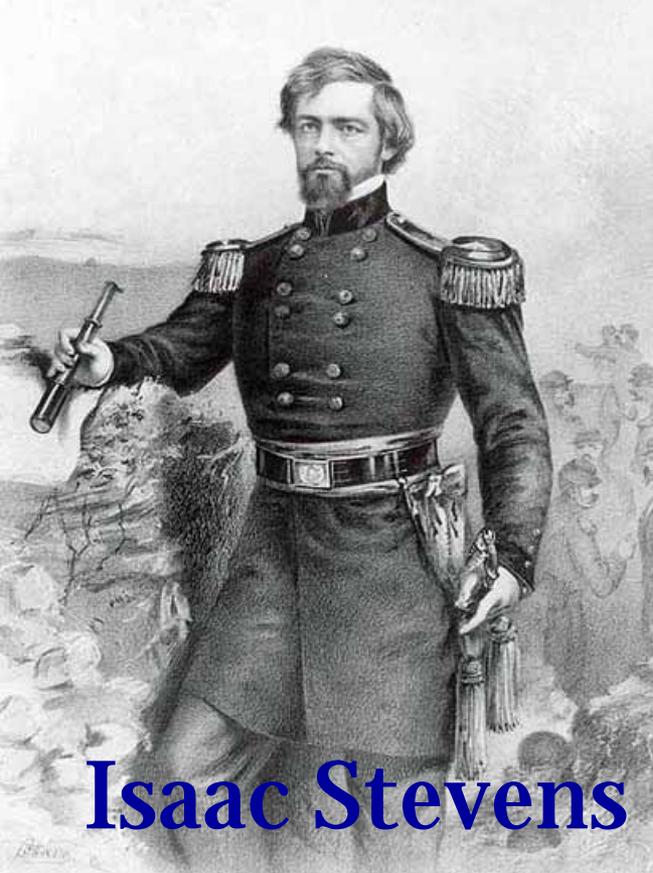


European trappers

Hudson Bay Company, 1833

European settlers

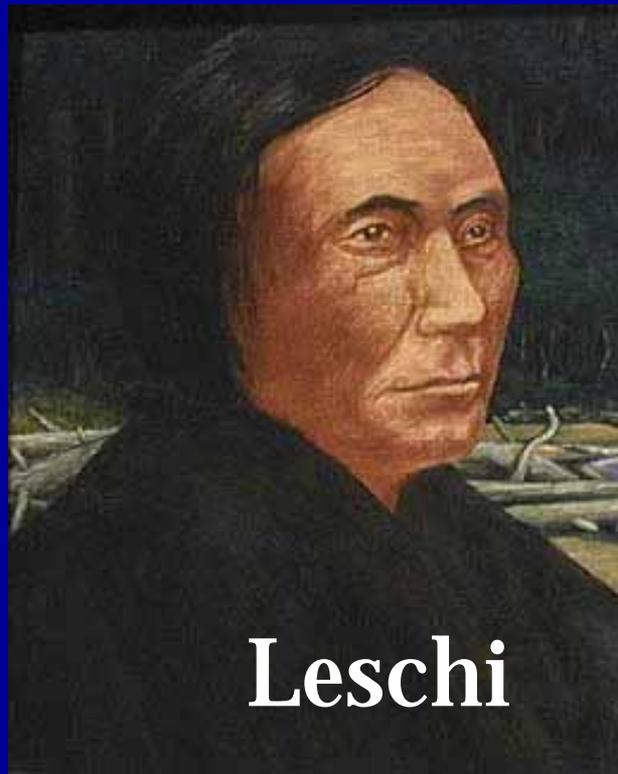




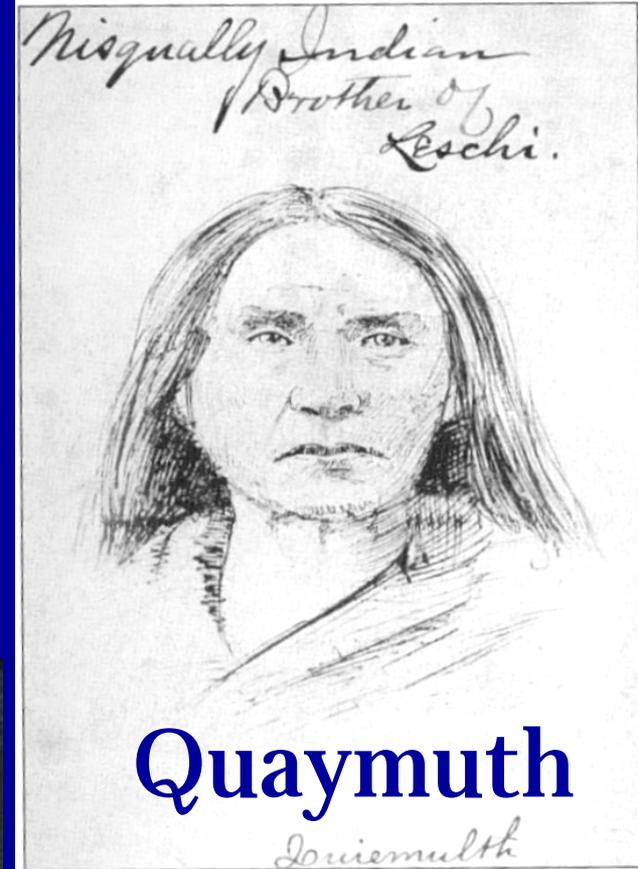
Isaac Stevens

Governor of the
Washington
Territory

Important men in the history of the Nisqually Delta



Leschi



Quaymuth

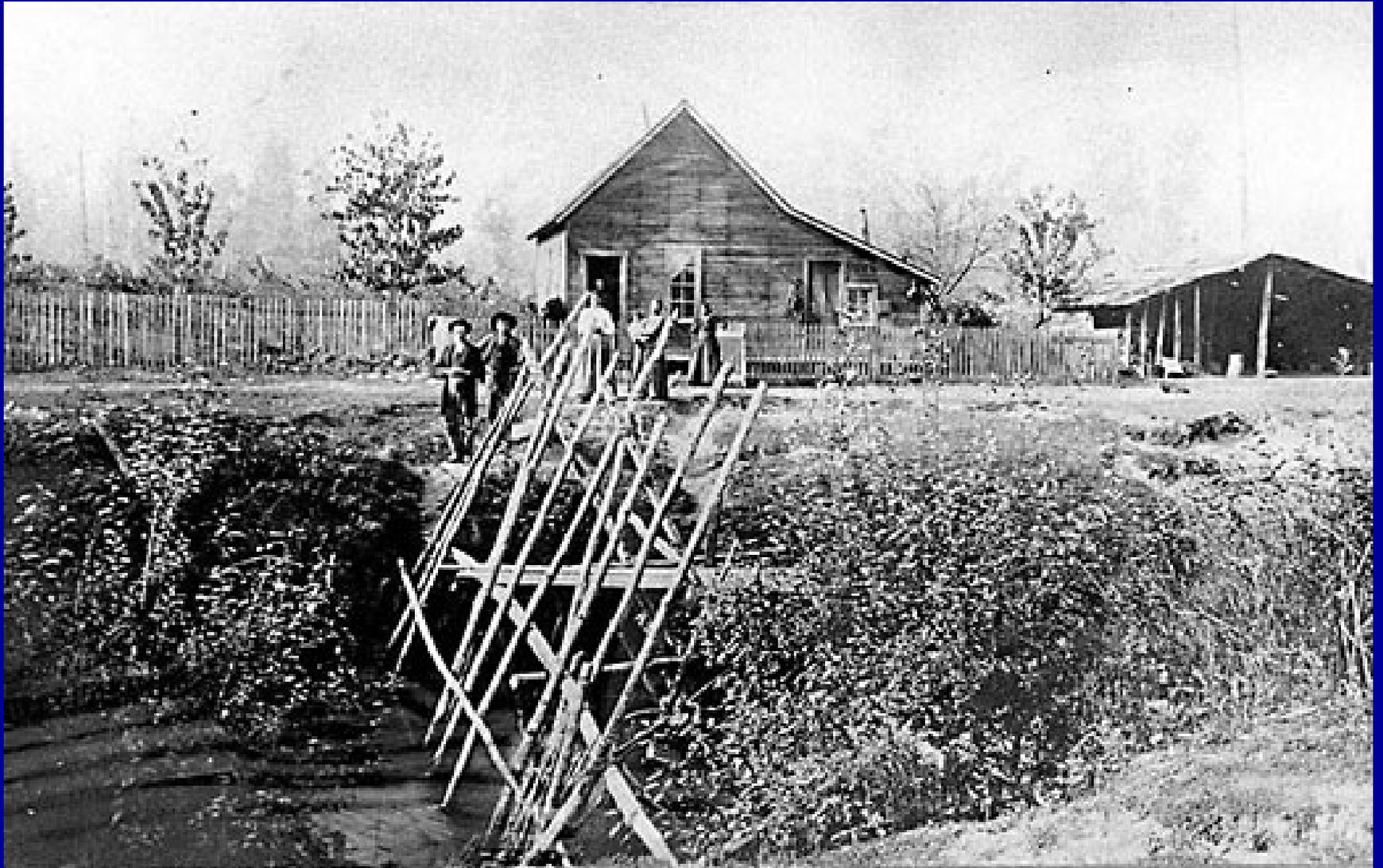
Nisqually
Leaders in the
mid-1800's



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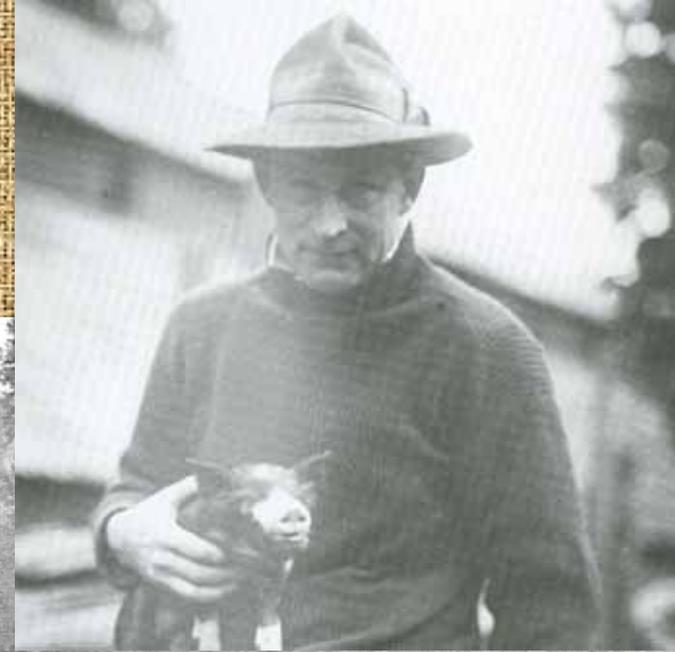
The Medicine Creek Treaty was signed in 1854 in this grove of trees along McAllister Creek.



Yelm Jim's House - Puyallup Reservation.
1885.
Mitchell, PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON. *Yelm Jim's House*

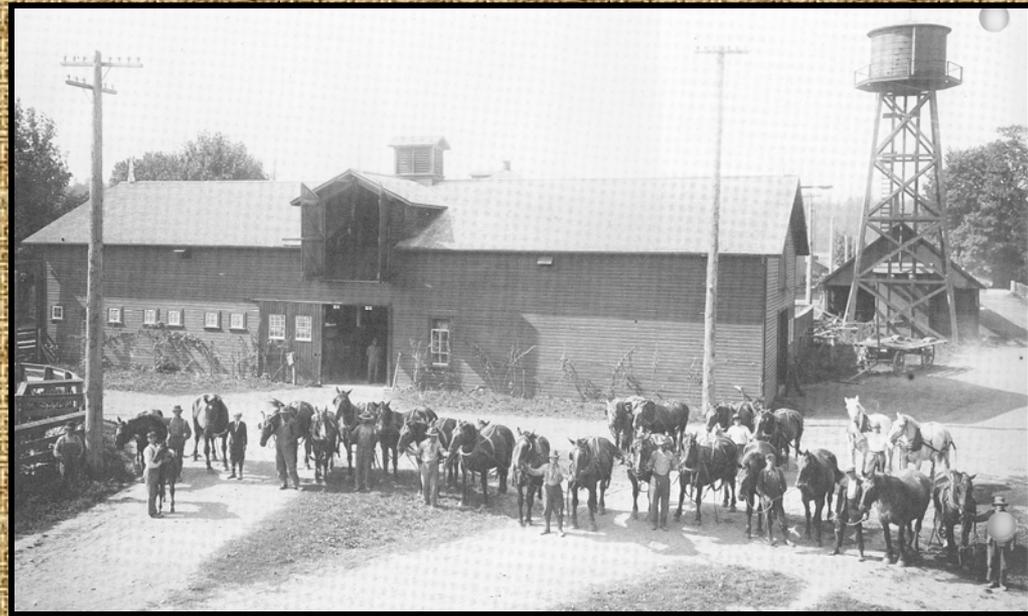
Settler's moved into the area and farmed the land.

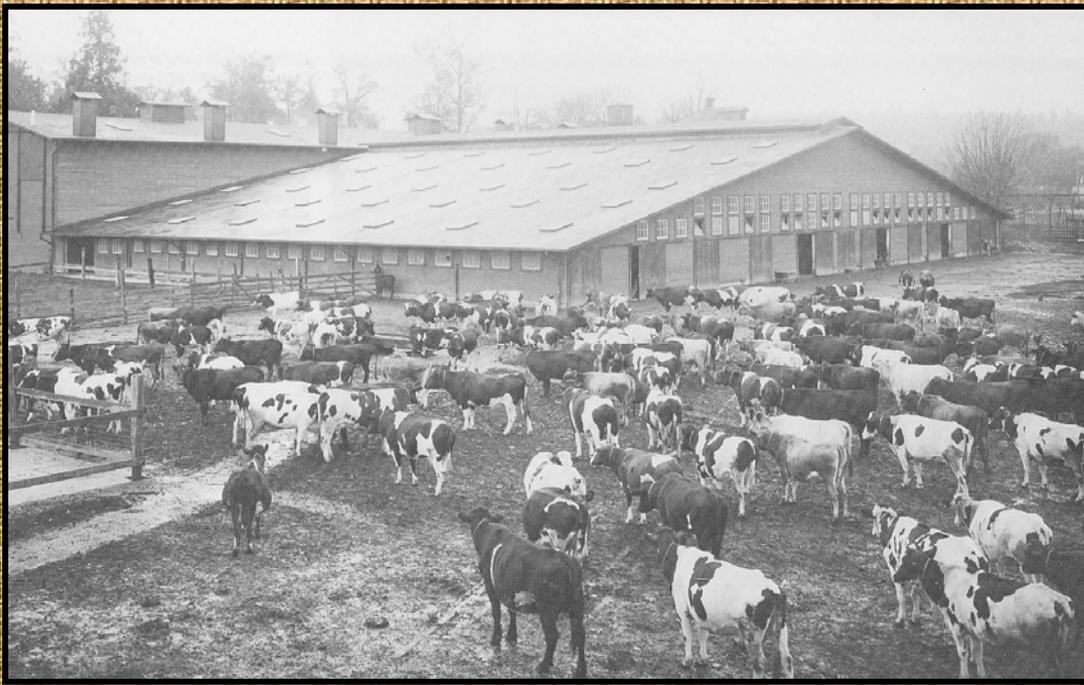
The Brown Farm, 1904



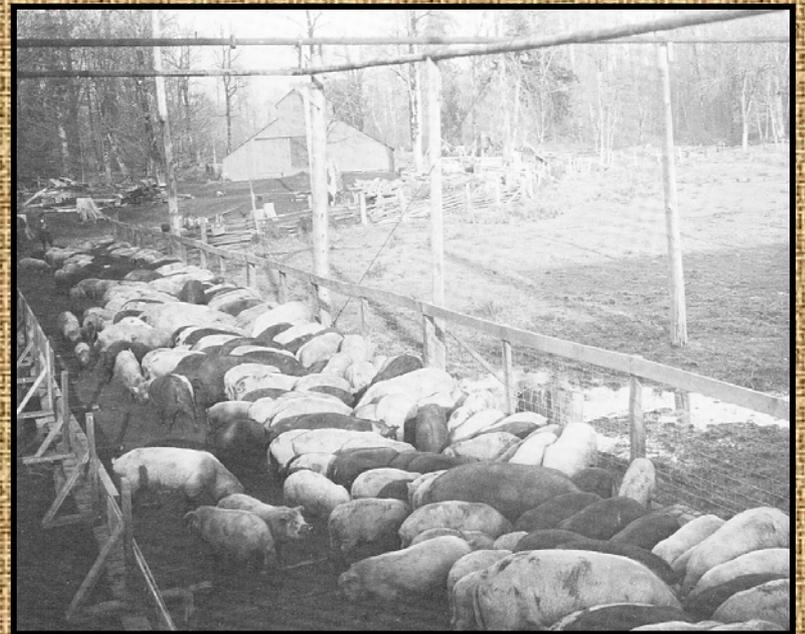
Alson Brown, an attorney from Seattle bought the Nisqually Delta and built a 5 mile dike by hand to keep saltwater out so crops could be grown on the land.

The Brown Farm





**The Brown Farm shipped
farm products on small
barges along the Nisqually
River to Tacoma and
Olympia**





The only buildings left from the farming era are the Twin Barns built in 1932.



In the early 1970's farming on the Delta become economically difficult and the land was up for sale.

Landfill ↓

Deep-water port ↑

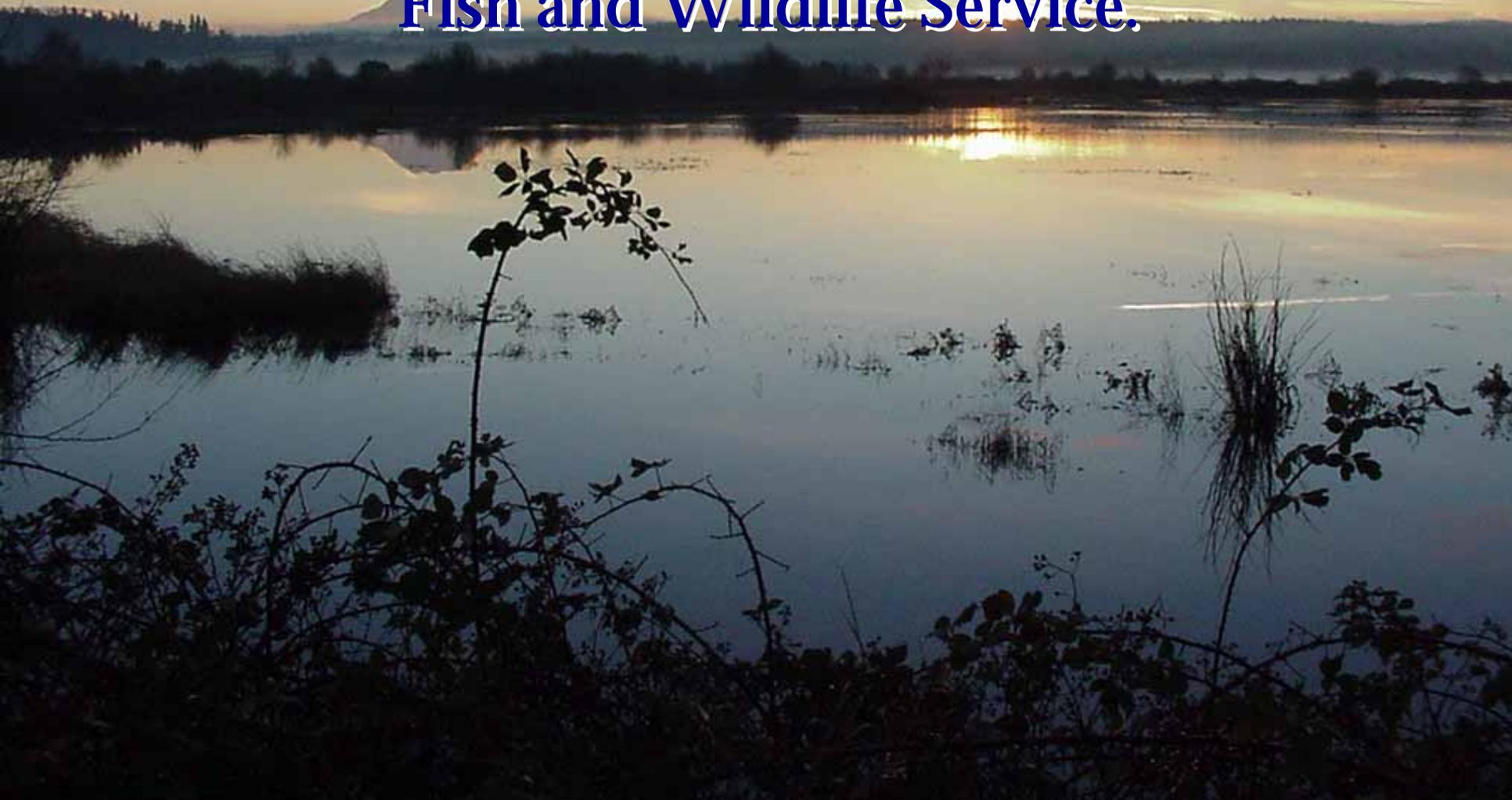
Different things were considered for the land.





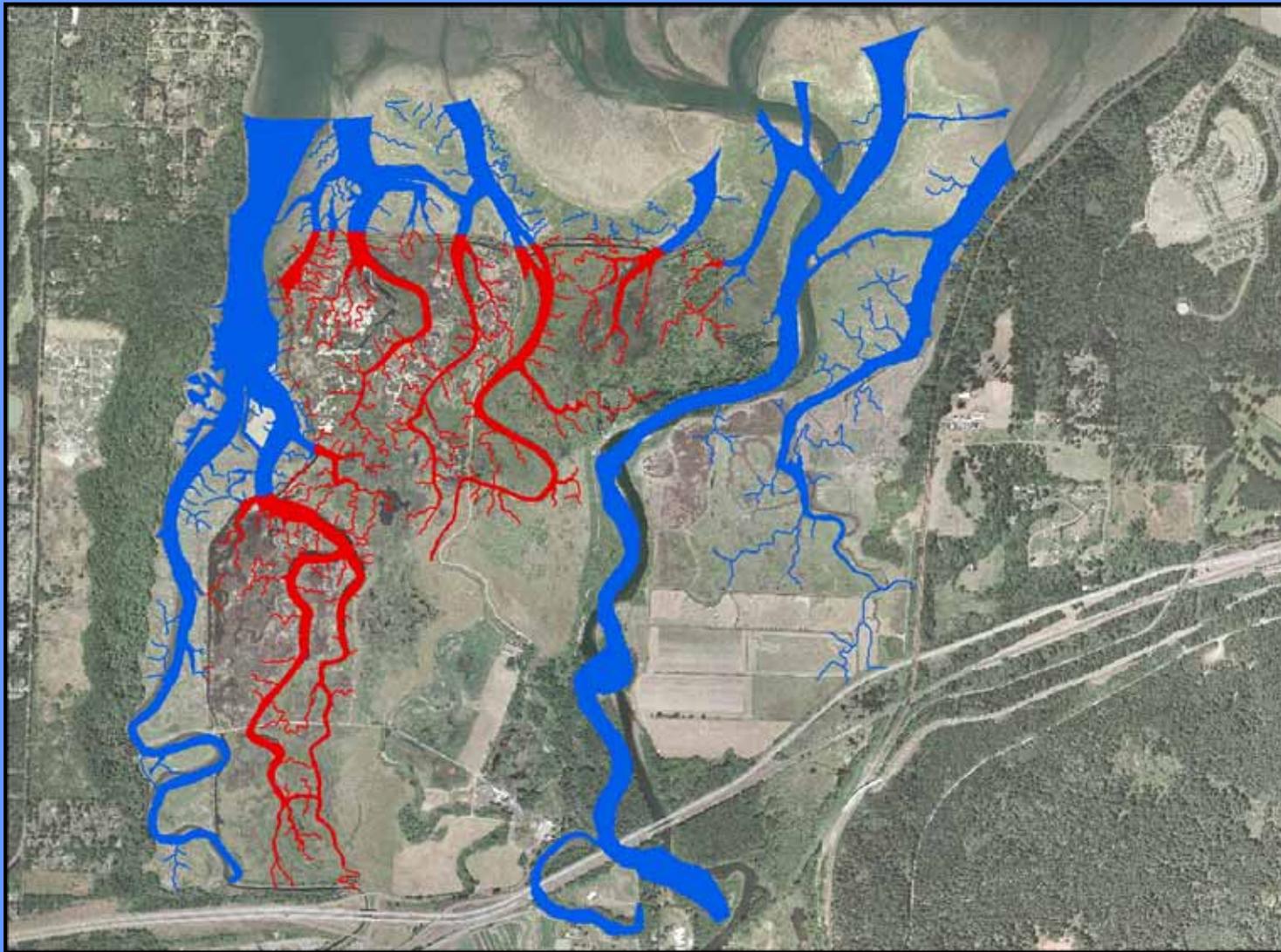
Local conservationist understood the value of the Nisqually Delta to fish and wildlife and wanted the land protected. They worked with State and Federal officials to figure out a way to keep the land from being developed.

In 1974, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge was established to be managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.





From 1974 to 2009, the Refuge kept the Brown Farm Dike in place and managed the area as grasslands and freshwater wetlands. The blue represents salt water outside the dike.



In 2009, 762 acres of diked habitat was restored to tidal estuary reconnecting 21 miles of historic slough channels (red) to the tides of Puget Sound

No matter
when you visit
the Refuge

FALL



WINTER

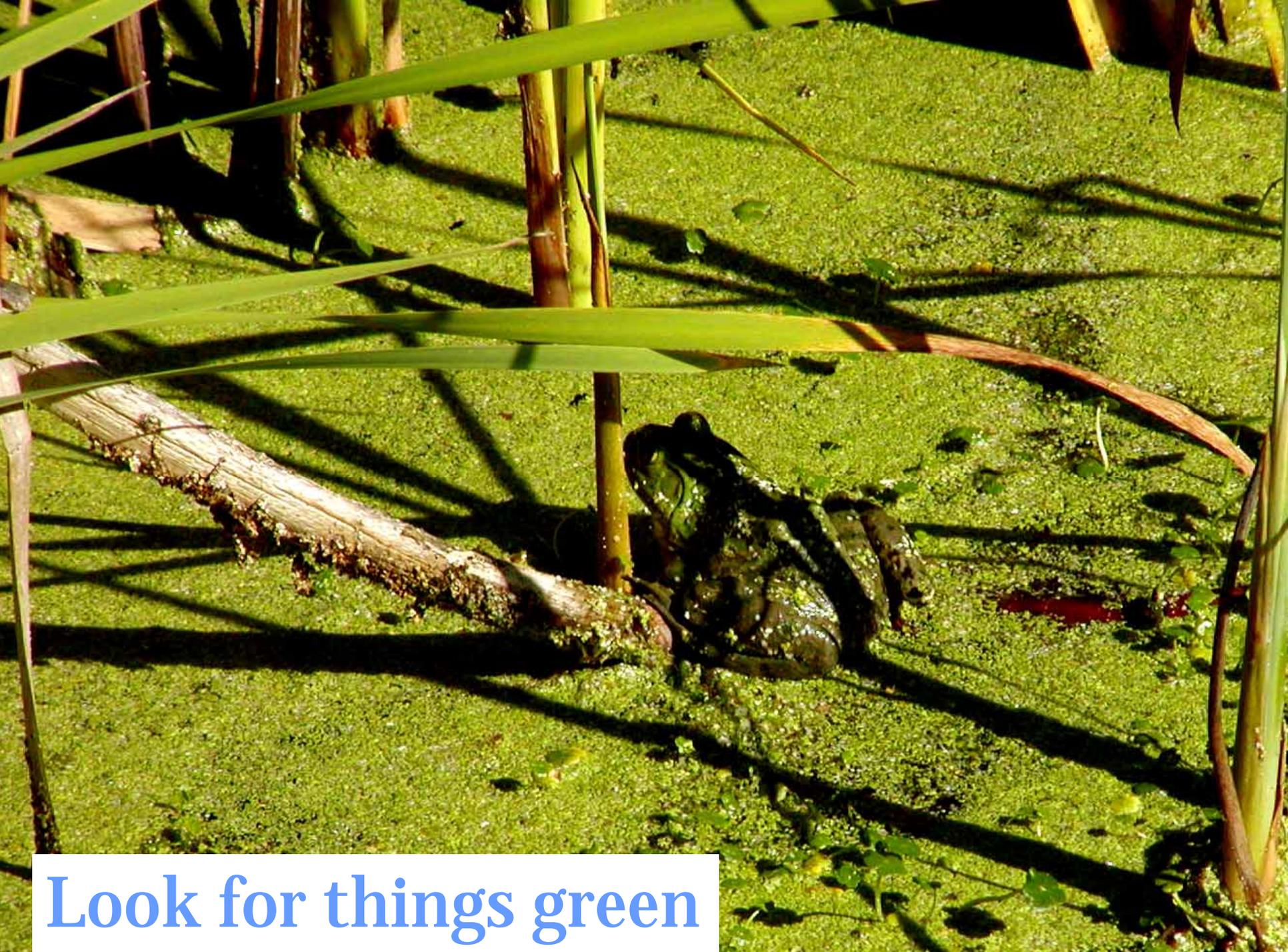


SPRING or SUMMER

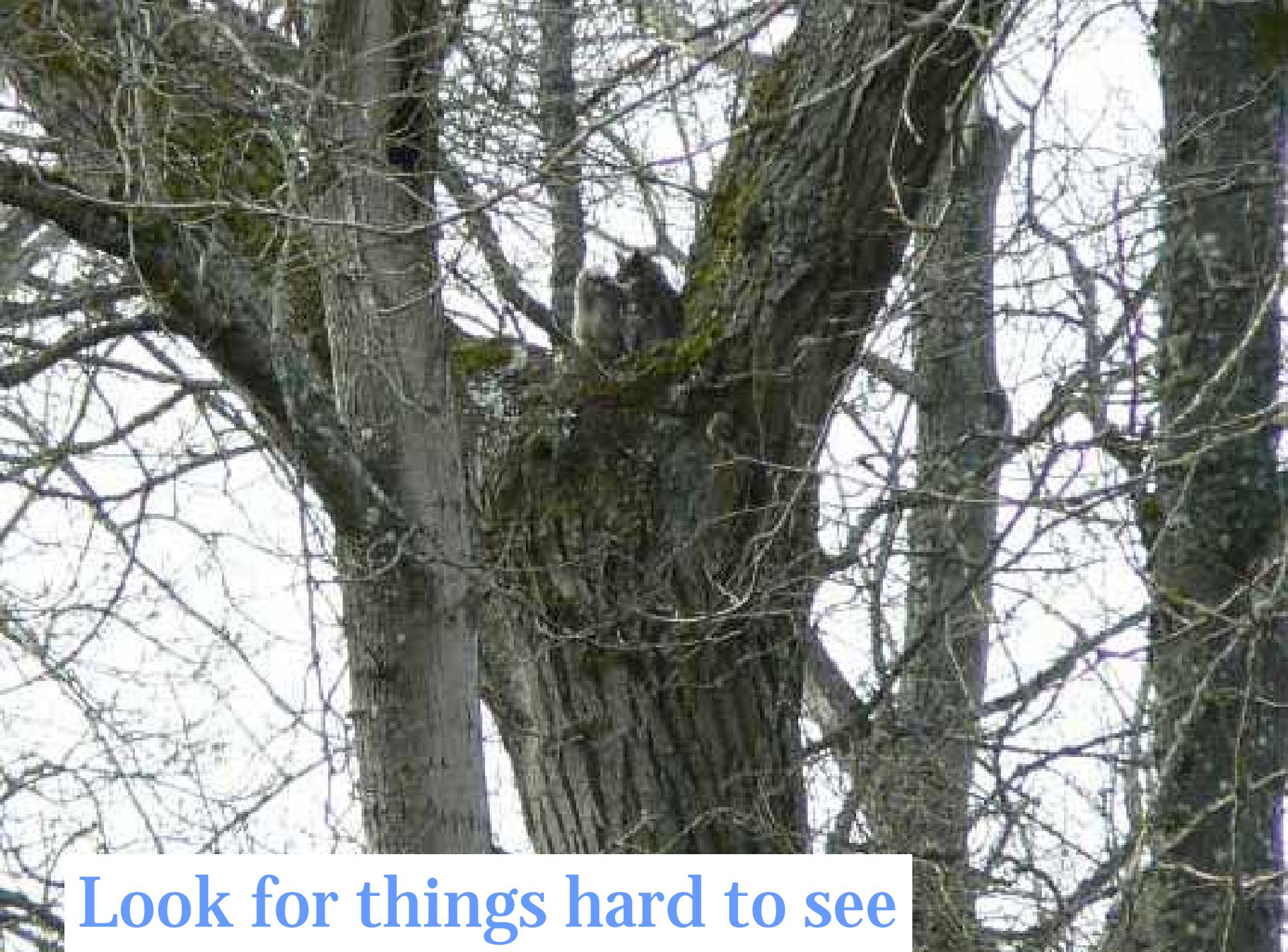




Look for things small



Look for things green



Look for things hard to see

or things bold and beautiful





and evidence of life around you

There is always something to see!

