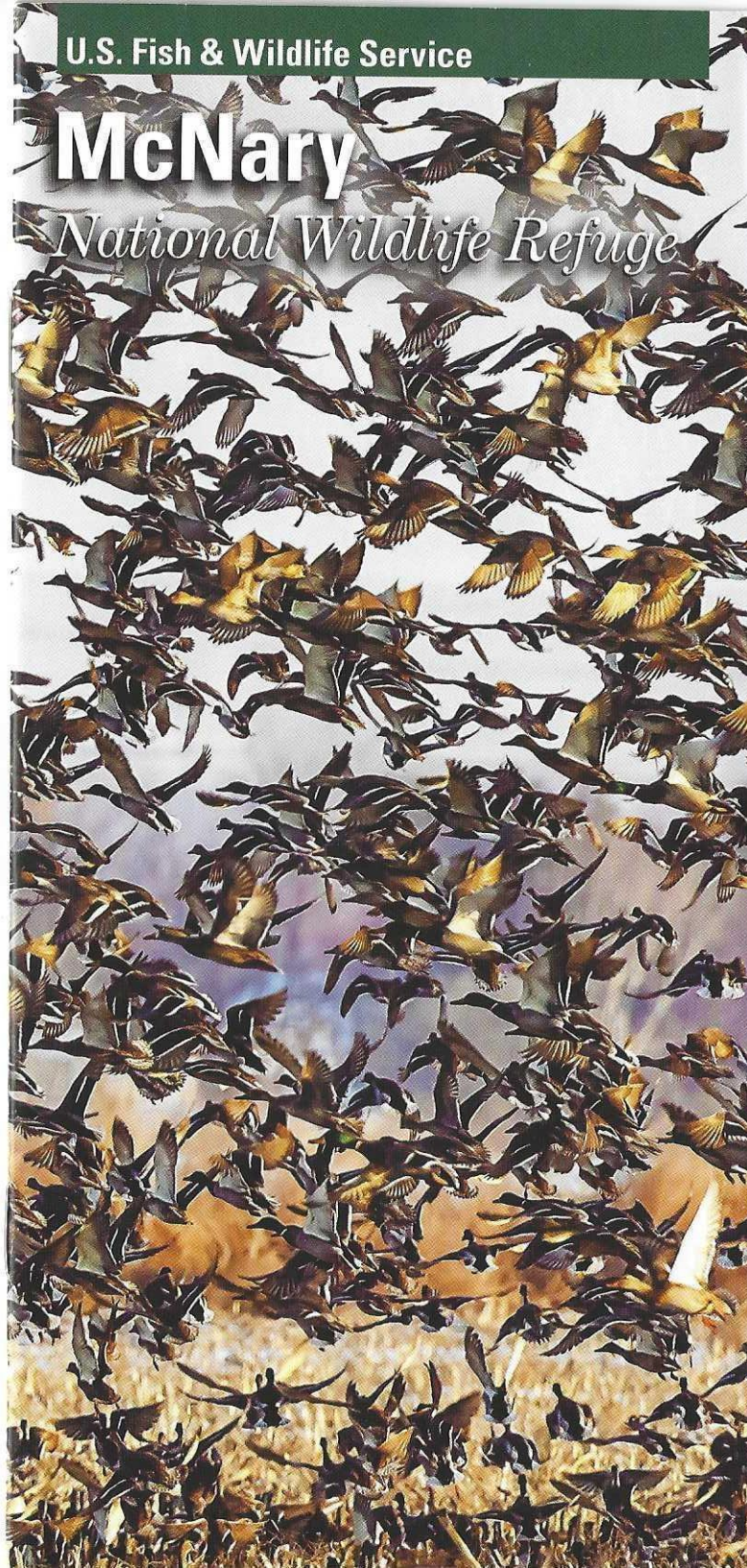


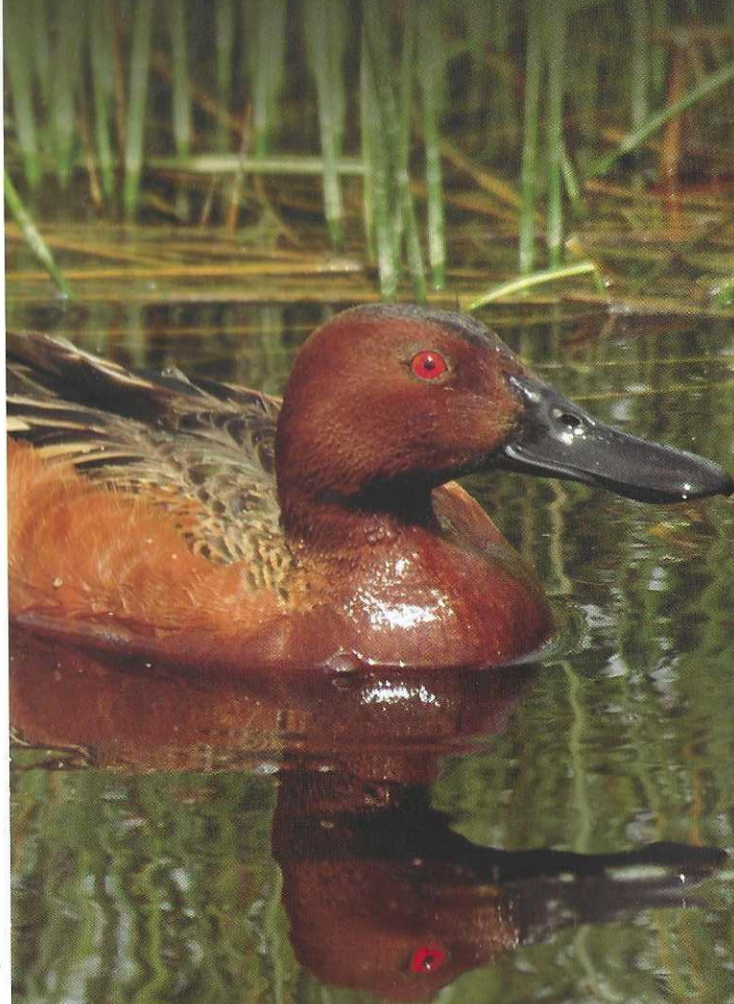
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

McNary

National Wildlife Refuge



Few areas in North America support waterfowl populations in the extraordinary numbers found within McNary National Wildlife Refuge.



Cinnamon Teal Drake
Tom Koerner/USFWS

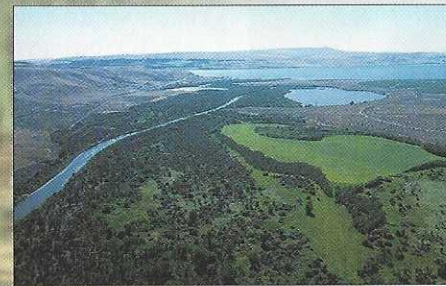
Introduction

Welcome



A unique mosaic of wetlands, uplands, riparian areas, basalt cliffs, streams and rivers combine to create diverse habitats within the refuge.

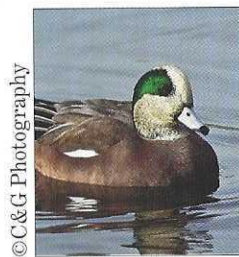
Visitors to scenic McNary National Wildlife Refuge enjoy spectacular concentrations of Canada geese, northern pintails and other waterfowl. More than half the mallards in the Pacific Flyway spend some part of their winter in this portion of the Columbia Basin. In winter, hundreds of tundra and trumpeter swans can be readily seen by birdwatchers. The refuge's location, close to the Tri-Cities, Washington, and major highways, makes it easily accessible to both residents and long-distance travelers.



The McNary National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1956 to replace wildlife habitat lost to the construction of McNary Dam. Additional habitat is being lost to the rapid growth of the suburban area, making McNary Refuge's diverse habitats vital to the wildlife species that reside here year-round and to those passing through en route to breeding or wintering grounds.

The refuge encompasses over 15,000 acres of backwater sloughs, shrub-steppe uplands, irrigated farmlands, rivers, islands, delta mudflats and riparian areas. While the refuge is particularly important to waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds, the refuge's wetlands and bays serve as an important nursery for developing fall Chinook salmon.

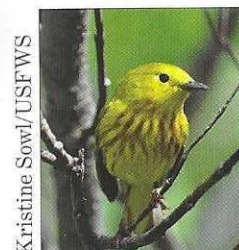
Fall/Winter



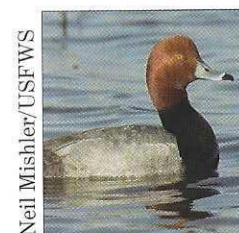
American Wigeon



Mallard



Yellow Warbler



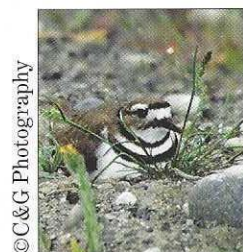
Redhead Duck

Large concentrations of migrating waterfowl can be seen from October through February, usually peaking in December. Tundra and trumpeter swans, Canada geese and mallard, American wigeon, northern shoveler, canvasback and redhead ducks are common species found in refuge marshes and croplands. Since large numbers of waterfowl feed away from the refuge, magnificent flights of ducks and geese are commonly seen departing or arriving at the refuge during morning and early evening hours. By late winter, flocks of thousands of migrating snow and greater white-fronted geese join the waterfowl already here.

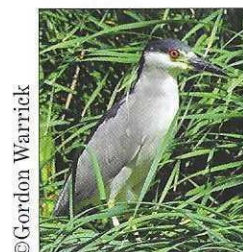
Large numbers of songbirds find food and cover along the west end of Burbank Slough and within riparian forests along the Walla Walla, Snake and Columbia Rivers. Northern flickers and downy woodpeckers forage on insects hidden under tree bark. Yellow-headed blackbirds, orange-crowned and yellow-rumped warblers, cedar waxwings and dark-eyed juncos are among the variety of other bird species present on the refuge during the fall and winter.

Visitors may also see northern harriers and red-tailed, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. Peregrine falcons are occasionally seen, particularly around the basalt cliffs in the Wallula Unit. Bald and golden eagles can be seen in the late winter months of January through March. Great horned owls are already sitting on their nests by mid-January.

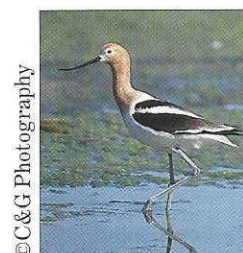
Spring/Summer



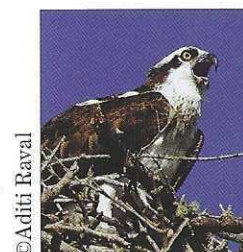
Killdeer



Black-crowned Night Heron



American Avocet



Osprey

As winter gives way to spring, most waterfowl and songbirds depart the refuge for northern nesting grounds. Those that stay to nest at McNary are joined by birds that have wintered farther south. Nesting species include mallards, American coots, pied-billed grebes, marsh wrens and yellow-headed blackbirds. Colorful wood ducks are frequently seen on the water with fuzzy ducklings in tow. Islands in the Columbia River host a great blue heron rookery, as well as nesting colonies of cormorants, black-crowned night herons, Caspian terns and white pelicans. At the Walla Walla River delta, visitors see thousands of migrating shorebirds and wading birds in early spring and late summer.

American white pelicans are a familiar spring and summer sight in the sloughs. American avocets and black-necked stilts probe the water edges, and killdeer are busy luring would-be predators away from their well-concealed nests. Ospreys leave their nesting platforms around open waters to fish from the air, while great egrets wade refuge waters in search of fish and frogs. Muskrats continually refurbish their houses within the marsh in close proximity to visitor facilities. California quail dart through croplands and fields. Northern harriers, red-tailed hawks and American kestrels are commonly seen hunting over open grounds in the summer.

Visitors to the Stateline and Juniper Canyon Units can view falcons, owls and other cliff dwellers around the basalt cliffs where they nest and hunt; bank and cliff swallows nest here by the hundreds. Mule deer are common, and songbirds use the canyons and riparian zones for the summer.

Wildlife Habitats

Managing Habitats For Wildlife

McNary Refuge includes a rich diversity of habitats. To provide for wildlife, refuge staff use a variety of carefully chosen habitat management techniques to maintain, restore, or enhance habitat.



Wetland

Refuge ponds and backwater sloughs serve as year-round resting, nesting and feeding areas for many species of wildlife. Seasonally flooded wetlands provide additional resting and feeding areas and are especially important to waterfowl during fall migration. Management of these seasonal wetlands involves the manipulation of water levels to encourage native food supplies and promote the diverse wetland plant growth that provides a variety of food and shelter for wildlife. Some wetlands are burned and disked to remove undesirable plant growth and create open areas. Shoreline burning and mowing also creates open beach areas that waterfowl use for courting, feeding, resting and raising young.

Common upland plants include sagebrush, rabbitbrush and bunchgrasses. Upland areas provide forage for deer and nesting sites for pheasants, ducks, California quail and burrowing owls. Refuge managers improve uplands through prescribed burning, removal of exotic weed species and planting of native grasses.



Upland

©Chuck and Grace Bartlett



Prescribed burns are used to create open areas for waterfowl.

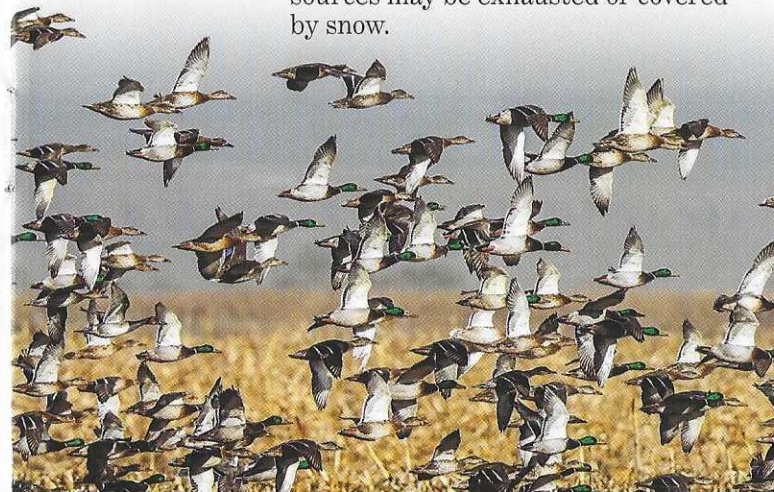
Riparian

Riparian habitat is the soil and plant life that borders a body of water. This habitat supplies food, water, nesting sites and shelter for a wide variety of wildlife. Cottonwoods and willows in riparian areas provide essential nesting habitat for migratory songbirds, like yellow warblers and willow flycatchers. Management practices in riparian areas include planting native willows and cottonwoods.

Croplands

Approximately 700 acres of refuge lands are irrigated croplands, which provide food and cover for wildlife. Local farmers grow corn, wheat, alfalfa and other crops under a cooperative agreement, whereby the refuge's share of the crop is left in the field for wildlife. These crops provide an extremely valuable source of high-energy food for waterfowl, especially in late winter, when other food sources may be exhausted or covered by snow.

Mallard ducks in refuge field.
©Chuck and Grace Bartlett



Did you know...

*Silver-haired
bats are one of
the slowest flying
bats in North
America—only
around 10 mph.*



©Jeff Skrentny

*Virginia rail
chicks are
entirely black
for the first three
weeks of their
lives.*



©Bruce Carmody

*The only U.S.
holiday named
after an animal,
Groundhog Day,
is named after
a marmot.*



©Chuck and Grace Bartlett



Gordon Warrick

*The sex of the painted turtle is
determined by the temperature
during development. Cooler
temperatures result in male turtles.*

*Trumpeter swans are the
heaviest birds in North America,
some weighing over 26 pounds.
These large birds need over 300 feet
of open water just to take off!*

Trumpeter swan. ©Aditi Raval

Enjoying the Refuge

Visiting Hours

Public use areas are open daily during daylight hours, except as modified by fishing and hunting regulations.

Office Hours

The Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex office is located at 64 Maple Street, Burbank, WA 99323. Regular office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday. Refuge staff can be reached at 509/546-8300. Visit our website at www.fws.gov/refuge/mcnary/.

Access and Parking

Please access the refuge only from designated public access areas. Park only in designated parking areas.

Pets

All pets must be kept on a leash.

Wildlife Observation and Photography

A short interpretive trail begins at the McNary Environmental Education Center and winds around the Burbank Slough. Interpretive signs and a photo/birdwatching blind are located along the trail.

Disabled Visitors

The first 845 feet of the interpretive trail leading to the photo/birdwatching blind is concrete and accessible to wheelchairs, as is the blind itself.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is permitted only on roads and designated trails.

Outdoor Classrooms

Teachers are encouraged to use the refuge as an outdoor classroom. The McNary Environmental Education Center is available for wildlife interpretive programs and provides materials for conducting educational activities. Teachers and group leaders should contact refuge staff at 509/546-8300 to arrange visits.

Hunting

Hunting opportunities for waterfowl, deer and upland birds are provided in designated areas in accordance with state and federal regulations. Consult the refuge website for information.

Fishing and Boats

Larry McGowan/USFWS



Fishing is permitted in designated areas of the refuge in accordance with state and federal regulations. Consult the refuge website for information.

Boating is permitted on designated areas of the refuge.

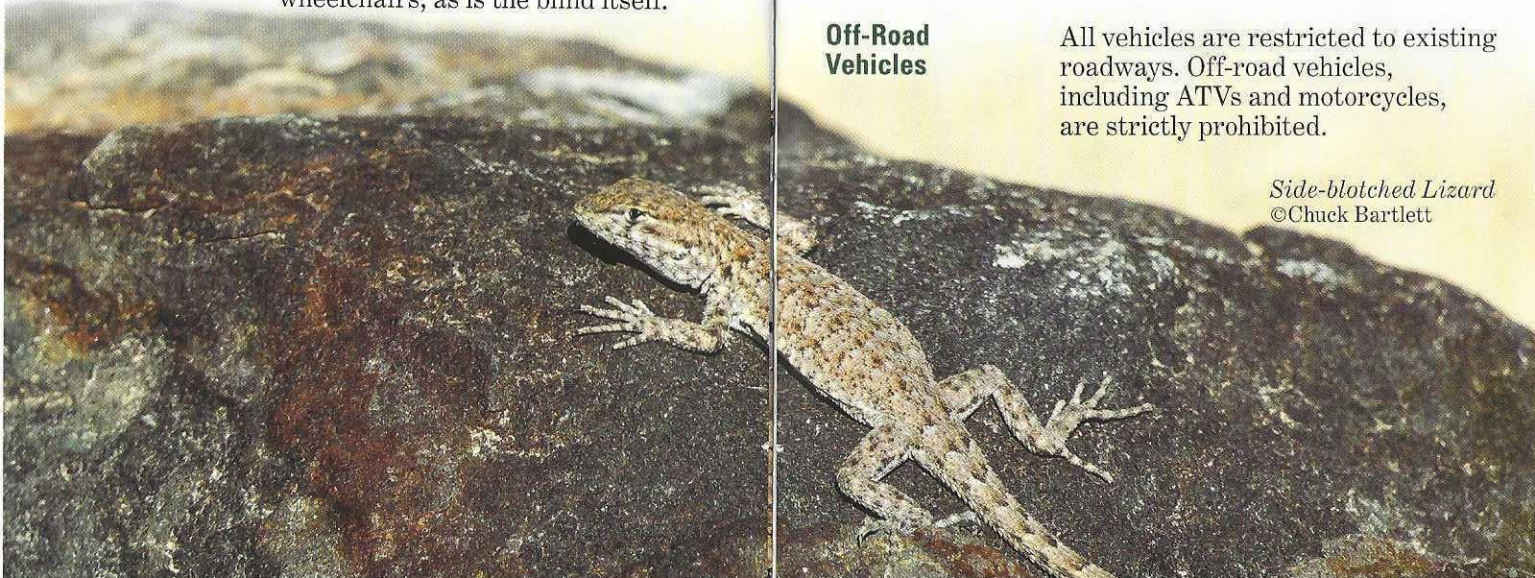
Camping and Fires

Camping and open fires are not permitted on the refuge. Camping is available 1.5 miles from the refuge headquarters at the Army Corp of Engineers' Hood Park. For information, call 509/547-2048.

Off-Road Vehicles

All vehicles are restricted to existing roadways. Off-road vehicles, including ATVs and motorcycles, are strictly prohibited.

Side-blotched Lizard
©Chuck Bartlett



Watchable Wildlife

Observation Tips

Watching wildlife is exciting and unpredictable. You never know exactly what you will see or when you will see it. Increase your chances of seeing wildlife by following these suggestions.

Choose the right time of day and year to visit. Late fall through winter is best for viewing huge flocks of migrating waterfowl, while early spring and fall migrations afford views of shorebirds and colorful songbirds. Remember, wildlife is most active during the dawn and dusk hours of the day.

Be quiet, patient and respectful. Quick movements and loud noises will scare birds and other animals. Though animals often disappear when you arrive, they may return shortly if you are quiet and still.

Take binoculars and a field guide. To observe wildlife without disturbing it, view from a distance with the aid of binoculars and/or a spotting scope. Field guides help you to identify various species, the foods and habitats they prefer and when they are active.



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American White Pelicans



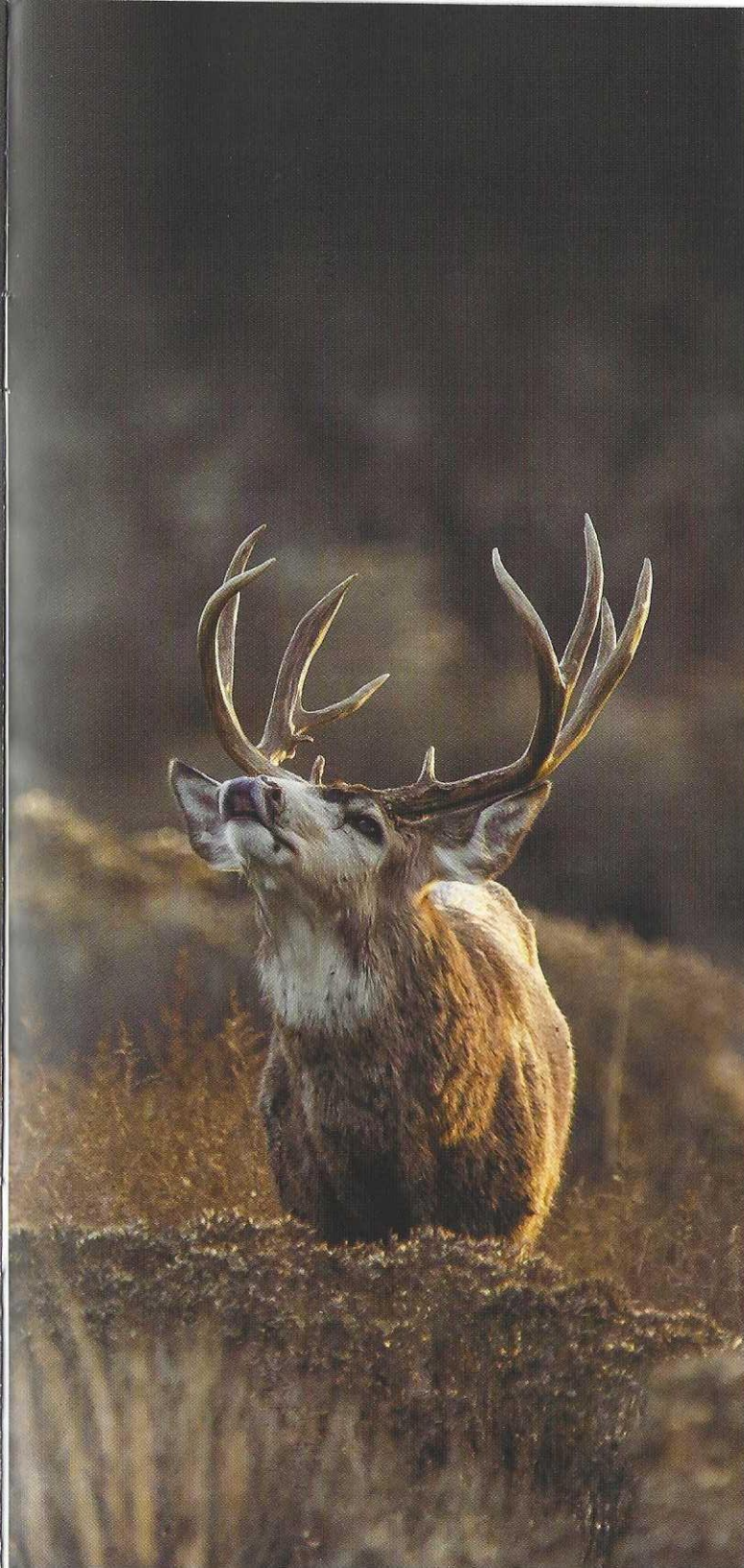
USFWS

Black-necked Stilt



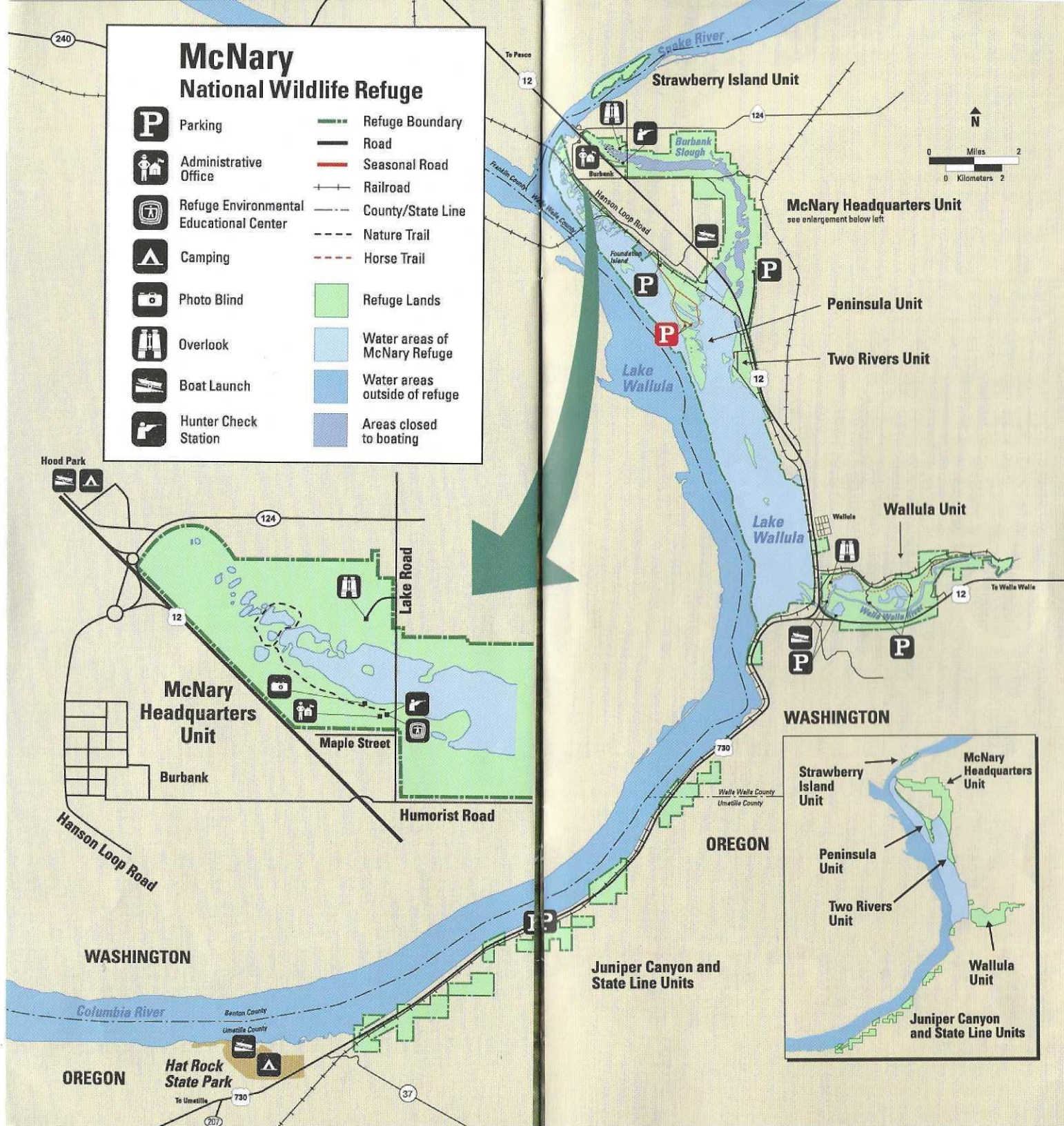
Above: Monarch Butterfly
Tom Koerner/USFWS

Right: Mule Deer Buck
©Chuck and Grace Bartlett



McNary National Wildlife Refuge

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------|
|  | Parking |  | Refuge Boundary |
|  | Administrative Office |  | Road |
|  | Refuge Environmental Educational Center |  | Seasonal Road |
|  | Camping |  | Railroad |
|  | Photo Blind |  | County/State Line |
|  | Overlook |  | Nature Trail |
|  | Boat Launch |  | Horse Trail |
|  | Hunter Check Station |  | Refuge Lands |
| | |  | Water areas of McNary Refuge |
| | |  | Water areas outside of refuge |
| | |  | Areas closed to boating |



McNary National Wildlife Refuge
64 Maple Street
Burbank, WA 99323
509/546-8300
www.fws.gov/refuge/mcnary/

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

National Wildlife Refuge Information
1-800-344-WILD

Washington Relay Service
TTY 1-800-735-2900
Voice 1-800-735-1232
ASCI 1-800-735-0644
SP 1-800-735-3896

Visitors with disabilities may
be reasonably accommodated
upon request, and/or receive an
alternative format publication.

December 2016



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Mallard, Pintail and Green-winged Teal Ducks

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