

PLEASE

- Leash and pick up after your pet.
- Leave your picnic site cleaner than you found it.
- Respect others and behave courteously. If your actions create a problem for others, you will be asked to leave.
- Amplified music is not allowed.
- Lock your car and keep valuables out of sight.
- No skateboarding
- Stay on trails to avoid trampling vegetation and disturbing wildlife.
- DON'T bring glass containers near the river.
- DON'T fish, swim, or wade in waters that are restricted — including at or near the underwater viewing chamber.

**GENERAL INFORMATION AND FEES**

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wildwood Recreation Site is open from mid-March through Thanksgiving weekend (8:00 am to sunset). Upon entering Wildwood, please purchase a daily or annual vehicle permit. Wildwood annual passes can also be purchased at the Mt. Hood Information Center.

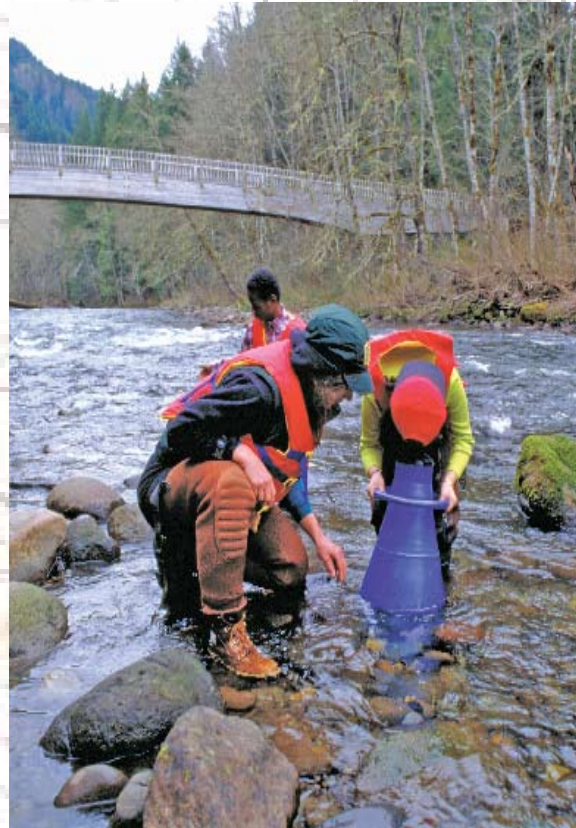
Group facilities can be reserved from mid-March through Thanksgiving weekend. Visitors using group facilities are still required to purchase a daily vehicle permit. For more information about making reservations, contact park staff at (503) 622-3696, the BLM's Salem District Office at (503) 375-5646, or go to [www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/index.htm](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/index.htm)

BLM/OR/WA/GI-07/035-1122.33



# Wildwood RECREATION SITE

*Come Experience the Magic  
of Rivers and the Miracle of Salmon*



*HOME OF  
CASCADE STREAMWATCH  
NEAR SANDY, OREGON*

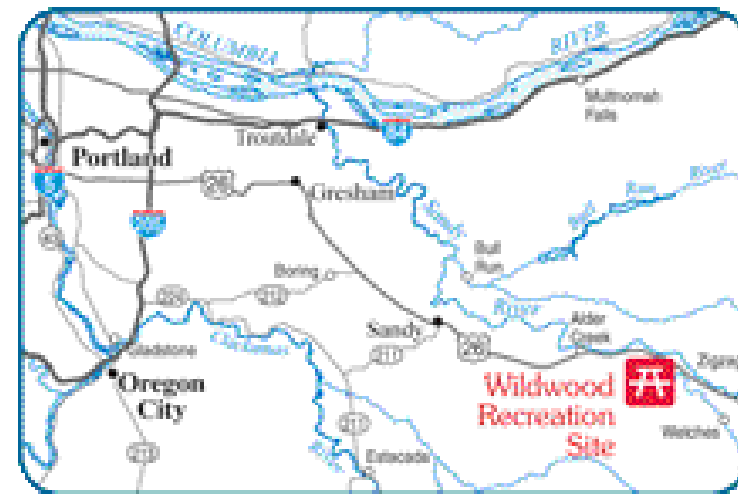


**BLM**  
Salem District



**W**ildwood is nestled in the forested foothills of the Cascade Mountains, along the spectacular Wild and Scenic Salmon River. Wildwood is a day-use facility located 40 miles east of Portland, off U.S. Highway 26, just past the 39 mile marker.

Managed by the USDI Bureau of Land Management, this 550-acre forest park features Cascade Streamwatch and Wetland Boardwalk interpretive trails and offers access to the pristine Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness. Wildwood also provides group and family picnic sites, a playground, and a ball field. Come to Wildwood to explore and learn about nature,



**Table of Contents**

Area History	2
Wild and Scenic Salmon River	3
A Great Place to Start	4
Map of Wildwood	5
Facilities and Activities	6
Cascade Streamwatch Trail	8
Salmon and Science	10
Wetland Boardwalk Trail	12
Wildwood's Web of Life	14

# Area History

Geologically, Wildwood is located on both old and young rocks. The Cascade foothills to the south were formed tens of millions of years ago and many of these ancient volcanic peaks have eroded away. In comparison, Oregon's highest peak, Mt. Hood, is quite young. Mt. Hood was still active when early settlers arrived. Volcanic flow and ash fall occurred in this area less than 200 years ago.

Streams and rivers have long been places where people settle, camp and use local resources. Prior to white settlement, small bands of Native Americans harvested huckleberries, hunted game, and caught fish in the area around Wildwood. Elders of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs identified a traditional campsite along the Salmon River just east of Wildwood. In historic times (early 1900's), tribal members returning to the Warm Springs Reservation from the hops fields of the Willamette Valley, camped at this site and picked ripening huckleberries.

In 1845, Samuel K. Barlow and Joel Palmer looked for a route to the Willamette Valley to avoid the treacherous water descent through the Columbia Gorge. The route they established blazed a trail around the south side of Mt. Hood. Although they had to abandon their wagons, several immigrant families were able to complete the journey on foot. In 1846, Barlow returned to improve the route and establish the Barlow Toll Road. The Oregon Trail alternate route runs through the edge of Wildwood, paralleling U.S. Highway 26 and crossing at the confluence of the Salmon and Sandy rivers. After traveling more than 1,800 miles, the pioneers were relieved to be near their destination.

If you lived in Wildwood in the early 1900's, the present-day U.S. Highway 26 would have been a crude road, providing access to the Columbia River Gorge and the giant Douglas-fir forests surrounding Mt. Hood. Between 1926 and 1944, Wildwood and the surrounding areas were logged. In 1930, the Bruns and Jensrud Logging



Before there were chain saws, the felling of a single old-growth tree could take days. Note the wooden plank (springboard) the logger is standing on. Giant stumps with springboard notches are common throughout Wildwood.

Company built a sawmill complex at Wildwood. The Salmon River was diverted to make holding ponds (now Wildwood wetlands) for timber. The logging company also built a steam-powered sawmill, a bridge, two homes, a machine shop, a cone burner, a cook-house and three bunkhouses near the Old Mill Trail (See map on page 5). Two families and 45-50 employees lived on the site. The steam boilers for the mill were fueled by sawdust. The mill burned down in 1932, but was rebuilt. It operated for several more years before being sold in 1937 to Bell Lumber Company. A year later, it closed and the county auctioned the property for unpaid taxes. The machinery and structures were subsequently removed and the bridge washed out in the 1964 flood.

A partial list of the mammals and birds of the Mt. Hood area has been

## MAMMALS

**AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN HABITATS:** Water Shrew, Pacific Marsh Shrew, Shrew-Mole, Little Brown Myotis (bat), Mountain Beaver, Beaver, Water Vole, Townsend's Vole, Pacific Jumping Mouse, Muskrat, Mink, River Otter

**FORESTS AND WOODLANDS:** Hoary Bat, Long-Legged Myotis (bat), Pika, Chickaree, Western Gray Squirrel, Northern Flying Squirrel, Western Red-Backed Vole, Red Tree Vole, Creeping Vole, Porcupine, Gray Fox, Black Bear, Elk

**MIXED UPLAND HABITATS:** Opossum, Coast Mole, Big Brown Bat, Brush Rabbit, Snowshoe Hare, California Ground Squirrel, Deer Mouse, Bushy-Tailed Woodrat, Western Pocket Gopher, Coyote, Red Fox, Raccoon, Long-Tailed Weasel, Ermine, Striped Skunk, Spotted Skunk, Bobcat, Mountain Lion, Black-Tailed Deer



Douglas Squirrel

## BIRDS

**LAKES AND PONDS:** Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Double-Crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Ring-Necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Osprey, Bald Eagle, American Coot, Ring-Billed Gull, California Gull, Caspian Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Rough-Winged Swallow

**RIVERS AND STREAMS:** Common Merganser, Harlequin Duck, Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Rough-Winged Swallow, American Dipper

**MARSHES AND WETLANDS:** Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Sora, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Red-Winged Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird

**YOUNG FORESTS AND ROADSIDES:** Red-Tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Mountain Quail, Great Horned Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, Black-Capped Chickadee, Bushtit, House Wren, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, American Robin, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-Crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Lazuli Bunting, Brown-Headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch



Pileated Woodpecker



Varied Thrush

**FORESTS:** Northern Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-Shinned Hawk, Blue Grouse, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Western Screech Owl, Northern Saw-Whet Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Barred Owl, Spotted Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-Backed Woodpecker, Northern Three-Toed Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Common Raven, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Varied Thrush, Audubon's Warbler, Black-Throated Gray Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Western Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak

**OPEN SKY:** Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-Tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, Common Nighthawk, Vaux's Swift, Tree Swallow, Violet-Green Swallow

**HIGH MOUNTAINS:** Clark's Nutcracker, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Rock Wren, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch

**BUILDINGS AND NEAR PEOPLE:** Rock Dove, American Crow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, European Starling, Brewer's Blackbird

## Wildwood's Web of Life

The place where a plant or animal lives is called a habitat. At Wildwood, a habitat may be as small as a rotting log on the forest floor where a salamander or a patch of moss may spend its entire life. It may be as large as an entire forest, where a Pileated Woodpecker might range while hunting for termites and carpenter ants. For other species, like the Swainson's Thrush, habitat at Wildwood is mainly a summer home. It will leave its small territory on the forest floor and fly all the way to South America for the winter, then return to raise young again every summer for as long as it lives. Some mammals, like Bobcats and Black Bears, use a variety of habitats over a range much larger than the boundaries of Wildwood.

Habitats at Wildwood change through time as a result of large disturbances, like floods, and small disturbances, like a tree falling, creating gaps in the canopy through which sunlight can reach the forest floor. All energy that fuels the ecosystem at Wildwood arrives in the form of sunlight, driving the cycle of nutrients that move back and forth between upland and aquatic habitats. Sunlight is captured by trees, shrubs and grass, which feed animals and by algae in the Salmon River, which feed fish.



Trillium (left) and Salmonberry (right) bloom in late March

Animals continue to return nutrients to the system to be recycled as they consume plants and other animals, and eventually die. The web of life at Wildwood is constantly converting energy to food and recycling nutrients, through the seasons, and through disturbances that bring about changes in habitats and plant and animal communities.



Bobcats have been observed hunting on the golf course at the Resort at the Mountain in Welches (just a mile east of Wildwood)

As you explore the diverse array of habitats at Wildwood, remember that animals also play an active role in shaping the physical environment and plant communities in which they live. Insects attack trees and weaken them, creating gaps in the forest canopy when the trees fall. Salmon move upstream from the ocean, and when they die, contribute nutrients to the system, which begin the web of life in streams all over again.

Beavers build dams on rivers, streams and ponds. These dams create an aquatic environment that sustains a rich community of companion species including insects, fish, amphibians, waterfowl, herons, otters, and many types of aquatic vegetation. Beaver dams store water in river systems and help regulate water runoff in watersheds .



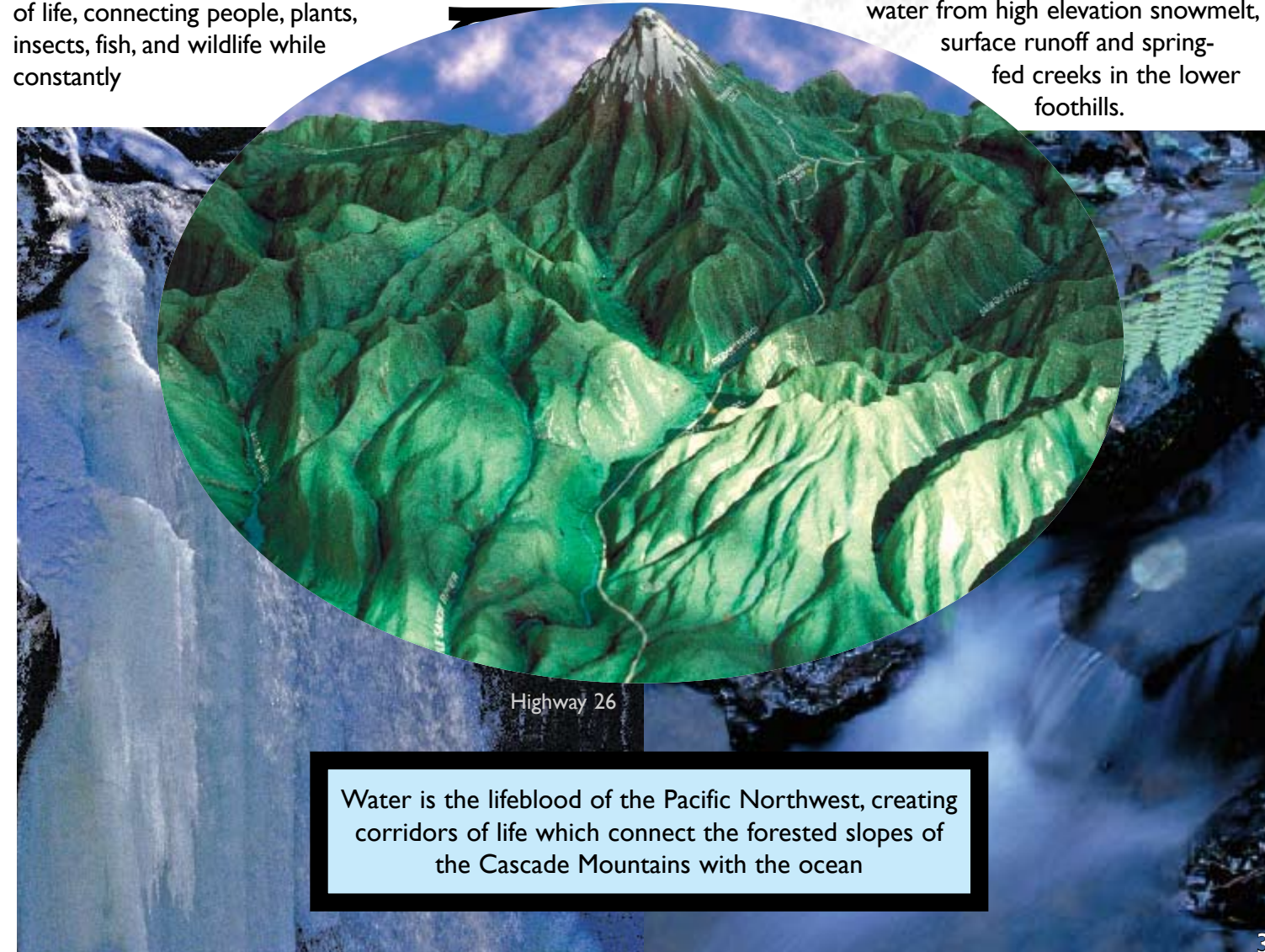
## The Wild and Scenic Salmon River



Experience the spectacular Salmon River - a national treasure - with its abundant anadromous fish runs, many recreation opportunities, and magnificent scenery. The 33-mile Salmon River begins in the Palmer Snowfield on Mt. Hood and ends at its confluence with the Sandy River, two miles downstream from Wildwood. Designated in 1988 as a National Wild and Scenic River, the Salmon River is the only waterway in the lower 48 states for which the free-flowing nature and outstanding resource values are protected for the entire length of the river. The Salmon River is part of the Sandy River Watershed (shown below). Watersheds are intricate webs of life, connecting people, plants, insects, fish, and wildlife while constantly

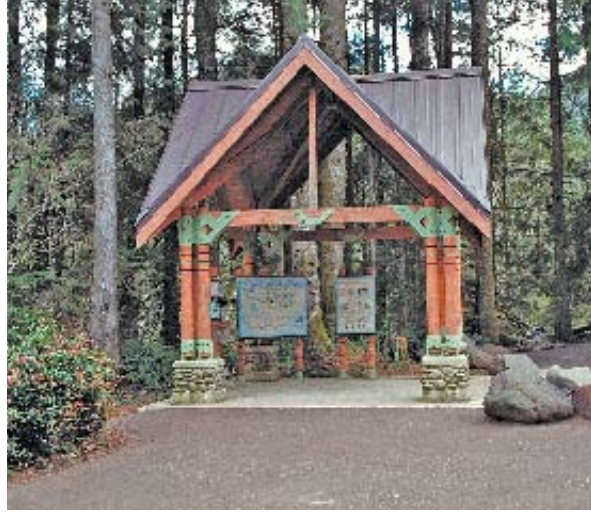
changing in response to both natural forces and human influences.

A watershed is also an area of land that channels water through small streams toward a major stream or river. The water's movement in the watershed changes the shape of the landscape by eroding and depositing soils and other materials. Watersheds vary from only a few acres to thousands of acres in size, each smaller watershed contributing to a larger one. The upper Salmon River Watershed drains about 100 square miles of land upstream from Wildwood, which includes water from high elevation snowmelt, surface runoff and spring-fed creeks in the lower foothills.



Water is the lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest, creating corridors of life which connect the forested slopes of the Cascade Mountains with the ocean

# A Great Place to Start



The information kiosk at the Trailhead Parking Area will provide you with a large map of Wildwood and tips for what to do and see in the park. Wildwood is open from 8:00 am to sunset mid March through Thanksgiving weekend in November.

**4** **CASCADE STREAMWATCH TRAIL** — This .75-mile trail will acquaint you with some of the plants, animals, and fish that live in the Salmon River watershed. Learn about salmon and watersheds from the signs and models along the trail that parallels the Salmon River. Be sure not to miss the fish viewing window that allows you to see the underwater action of a mountain stream (See pages 8 and 9).

**5** **WETLAND BOARDWALK TRAIL** — Cross the Salmon River Bridge and discover the hidden world of a Cascade Mountain wetland along a boardwalk suspended over ponds and marshes. Experience the sights, sounds and smells of a wetland up close (See pages 12 and 13).



**6** **PAVED PATHS** — Enjoy the easy access provided by 2.5 miles of paved paths that wander through the Family Picnic Area and along the Salmon River (See pages 5 and 6).

**7** **OLD MILL TRAIL AND FOREST TRAILS** — These trails do not have firm accessible surfaces, grades or bridges, but do have easy to moderate terrain. Be prepared for uneven or muddy footing. From .5 to 1.5 miles in length, these trails wind through a quiet and scenic forest setting (See pages 5 and 6). The Old Mill Trail still shows remnants of buildings from the park's logging history.

**8** **BOULDER RIDGE TRAIL** — Take a day hike up the Boulder Ridge Trail into the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness. Carefully climb the steep and narrow 4.5 mile scenic switchback path that connects Wildwood to Mt. Hood National Forest's wilderness trail system. Carry water and dress appropriately (See map on page 5).



**9** **Cattail Marsh** — Watch for waterfowl on the pond, rough-skinned newts in the water, red-winged blackbirds in the cattails, and herons feeding in the rushes. The foothills in the distance hide the numerous springs that flow into the wetland.

**10** **Beaver Dam** — An overgrown beaver lodge and a network of dams form the ponds that make up the wetland. Beaver chews, shown below, are common in this area. Maple, willows, and alder saplings are preferred for both food and shelter. Beaver dams and channels have significantly altered the flow of the wetlands. Those, in turn, have increased the number of different habitats for other mammals, birds, amphibians, and fish.



**11** **Ghost Forest** — The rising water from the beaver log jam flooded the forest in this area, killing several trees. Both the standing and fallen dead trees provide important shelter for insects, birds, amphibians, and young fish. Pileated, Hairy, and Downy woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Belted Kingfishers,



Mallards, and Wood Ducks are commonly observed at this site.

**12** **Skunk Cabbage Corner** — Water levels in this wetland rise in the winter and decline in the summer. Skunk cabbage has adapted to thrive in these areas and has a smell that lives up to its name! It is also a favorite food of black bears.



**13** **Wetland Stream** — Notice the transition zone between wetland and stream - this area is critical rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead. Just beyond this stop the boardwalk ends at the intersection of the Boulder Creek Trail (gravel path).



**14** **Trail Intersection** — If you turn to the left (south) you will cross the Sixes Creek bridge and begin a steep climb into the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness. Turn right (north) to return to the parking lot via the gravel loop trail along the Salmon River.

**15** **Large Stumps** — Along the gravel loop trail, stop and investigate the "springboard notches" in the large Douglas-fir and western redcedar stumps.

# Wetland Boardwalk Trail

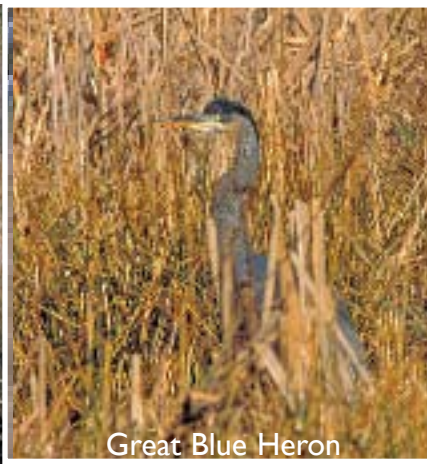
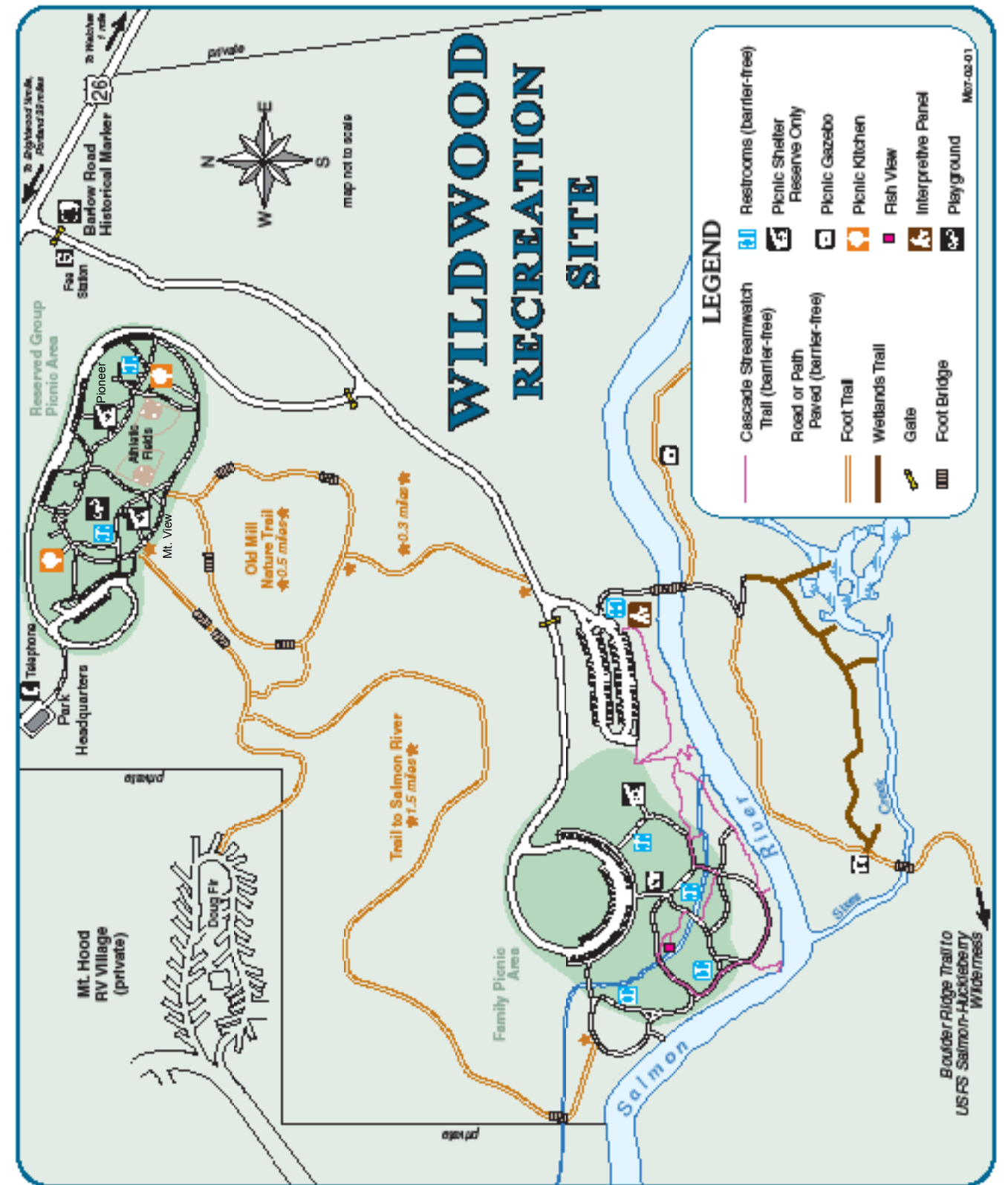
**1 Information Kiosk** — From the kiosk, walk around the front of the restrooms and follow the paved path toward the river. The boardwalk generally has grades of less than eight percent. Gravel portions of the trail may be slightly steeper, so you may want to return on the boardwalk.

**2 Salmon River Bridge** — Enjoy views of the Salmon River and if the season is right, look for fish and redds (nests) of salmon eggs (See page 10). Waters from the Palmer Snowfield on Mt. Hood and the spring-fed creeks of the Cascade Mountains pass beneath your feet.

**3 Wetland Boardwalk** — The wetland boardwalk allows access for people of all abilities while minimizing the impact of thousands of visitors each year.



# Map of Wildwood



# Facilities and Activities

**Picnicking** — Enjoy a quiet picnic in a secluded spot along the paved loop trails near the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. Arrive early and stake out your own place. Picnic sites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Barbecues, fire pits, and tables are available at each site.

**Group Shelters and Kitchens** — Wildwood's group picnic shelters and kitchens can be reserved (See back cover). In the Group Picnic Area, choose one or two large shelters (Pioneer or Mountain View both with 200-person capacity) equipped with fireplaces, barbecues, hot plate units, tables and sinks. Or opt for a half-shelter for less than 100 people. With 50 or fewer companions select the Salmon River Shelter. If rainy Northwest weather doesn't daunt you, pick from two unroofed, patio-style kitchens that supply 65 or fewer picnickers with tables, electricity, sinks and a hot plate.

**Athletic Fields** — With a reserved shelter, you have priority use of softball diamonds, basketball courts, volleyball courts and horseshoe pits. Other visitors may use the athletic fields when they are not in use.

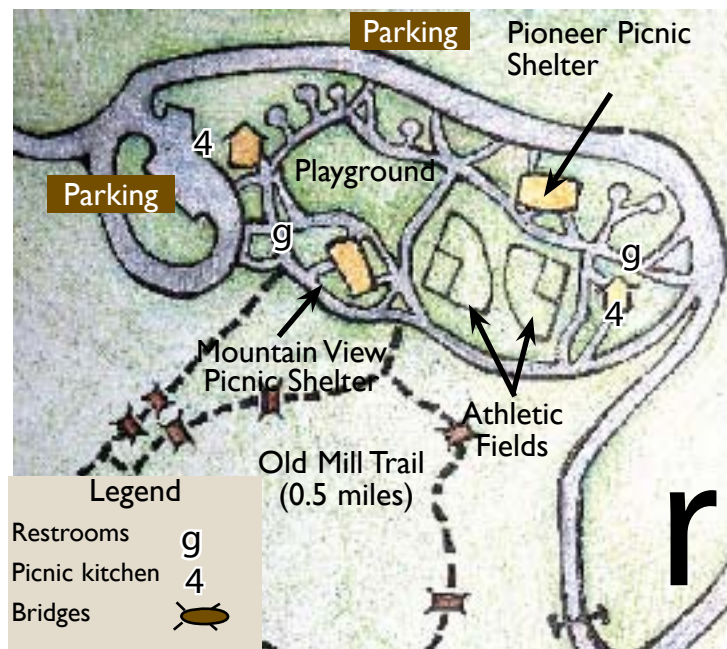
**Playgrounds** — Have fun on the jungle gym, slides, and swings. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.



**Bicycle Riding** — Bicycle riding is allowed on the paved roads and pathways at Wildwood Recreation Site. Please follow these guidelines:

- Obey traffic signs and use hand signals when riding in traffic.
- Be courteous and remember that pedestrians have the right-of-way.
- Please park and lock your bicycles without blocking trails, picnic areas, or other facilities.

## Map of Group Shelters and Picnic Kitchens



Today, the partnership provides hands-on science education programs in watershed ecology for thousands of students and their teachers annually, with the support of hundreds of volunteers from public and private organizations. Wolfree manages the education program by working closely with teachers to establish the best means to meet the needs of their students. Scientists and natural resource professionals guide small teams of students in observation and data collection, using science inquiry techniques. Students investigate the chemical, physical and biological components of aquatic and terrestrial systems in a variety of habitats. Teams then reunite to compare their data and describe the various habitats they studied. Students make presentations about their scientific findings at the end of the day to each other and to their mentors.



Students leave Wildwood with a deeper understanding of the composition, form, and function of these diverse habitats along with a greater respect for these wild places and for themselves.

If you would like to know more about these educational opportunities, Wolfree can be reached at [www.beoutside.org](http://www.beoutside.org).



## WANT TO SEE AND LEARN MORE?

Here are two additional places to explore in the Sandy River Watershed:

**Three Creeks** — is a unique geological site located in the Old Maid Flats area of the Upper Sandy River. Named for the confluence of Cast, Lost, and Short Creeks, this area features distinctive geologic, botanical, and aquatic features as a result of a lahar mudflow that originated from Mt. Hood 200 to 300 years ago. Coming soon are interpretive trails and facilities that will offer opportunities for advanced learning in watershed science.

**Lost Creek Interpretive Trail** — located on the Lost Creek Campground, this fully accessible paved interpretive trail and picnic area along the banks of Lost Creek offers opportunities to explore the wonders of another salmon and trout stream. Interpretive signing, rest benches, and a streamside overlook make Lost Creek a great site for families with strollers and people of all ages and abilities. Sites of interest along the trail include tree stumps buried by the same lahar event seen at Three Creeks, beaver ponds, and frequent overlooks of the stream. Adult salmon returning to spawn can also be seen during the fall. Booklets in Braille explaining the interpretive signs can be obtained at the Mt. Hood Information Center.

# Salmon and Science

Several species of salmonids are represented in the Wildwood area: rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, coho salmon, and chinook salmon. Another fish that is common in these waters, but not related to salmon, is the sculpin. These funny looking, bottom dwellers eat invertebrates and the eggs of other fish, including salmon.

The journey for a Wildwood salmon begins and eventually ends with the creation of a nest (redd) of fertilized eggs in the gravel of the Salmon River or in a tributary stream. After an incubation period, 60 to 90 days, the hatched fry emerge from the spawning gravel to begin a struggle for survival as both predator and prey. They begin a journey that their ancestors have followed for thousands of generations. Some may move downstream to the ocean soon after they hatch, while others may remain several years in the streams, feeding on macro-invertebrates (small insects and crustaceans). Only a fraction of the young salmon survive the first leg of their long trip. Those that do survive eventually join their relatives in the Pacific Ocean as hunters of zooplankton, crustaceans and small fish. They will travel thousands of miles over several years. Their odyssey nears completion when they miraculously find their way back to their natal stream to spawn.



Coho salmon eggs

The spawning process begins when a female salmon finds a place to build her nest. She removes the fine sediments and small gravel with her tail by turning on her side and vigorously flexing her body back and forth. The fine sediments are carried away by the current, but the larger gravel begins to form a small pile (tailspill) just downstream from the growing depression. She continues to dig until she reaches gravel and stones that are too large to move. She deposits her eggs in the depression (pocket). The male moves along her side

and simultaneously fertilizes the eggs. She then moves upstream and begins to dig out another pocket. The current carries the fine sediments downstream below the redd, but the fine gravels fall directly on the pocket of eggs. The ridge formed by the tailspill, causes the water to accelerate as it approaches the depression. The water currents in the depression push oxygen-rich water through the egg pocket.

Salmon are an essential part of a food web that connects insects, amphibians, birds, bears, otters, forests, killer whales, porpoises, anglers, the commercial fishing industry and our dinner table. The Pacific salmon ecosystem is vast and includes most of the North Pacific Ocean and river systems from Japan to western North America.



Students collect macro-invertebrates in the Salmon River

A 10-year collaborative effort by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and WolfTree, Inc., (a non-profit organization based in Portland), created this premier interpretive site that provides opportunities for people to observe, learn about, and appreciate some of the Northwest's foremost natural resources. Cascade Streamwatch is not only an interpretive trail, but is also an innovative science education program.

**Fishing** — Several species of salmon and steelhead in the Salmon River have specific angling regulations. Consult the current Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet on fishing seasons, handling live fish and other angling regulations for the Salmon River, and cast with caution!



Runs of salmon and steelhead attract anglers to the Salmon River

**Swimming** — Cool off with a dip in the refreshing Salmon River. Do not dive from the bridge or shoreline. Be aware that water conditions such as temperature, flow levels, currents, and exposed rocks may change daily, creating hazards for swimmers. There are no lifeguards, so closely supervise your companions — especially children!

**Wildlife Watching Tips** — Visit during the early morning or late afternoon. Walk slowly and speak softly. If you listen and wait, wildlife may appear. Remember to bring your binoculars and field guides.



Raccoon track

**Hiking** — Hikers can access the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness via the Boulder Ridge Trail (783A) at the south end of the park (See Map of Wildwood). This 4.7-mile trail is steep, with an elevation gain of 2,640 feet. It will take about four hours to hike. Take frequent breaks to catch your breath and enjoy the



diversity of plants and animals along this wilderness trail. At the junction of trails 781 and 783, serious hikers can connect to several trail systems and continue on. Be sure to check in with the U.S. Forest Service before making an extended trek into the wilderness area. Carry plenty of water and remember to properly treat any water taken from open sources such as springs or streams.

**Old Salmon River Trail** — Experience enchanting, old-growth Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar trees on an easy 2.5-mile path. The trail winds up the east bank of the Salmon River in the narrow strip between the river and the road. Hikers can continue upriver past Green Canyon Campground for views of even larger trees. To get there from Wildwood, drive back out to Highway 26 and head east about a mile to Welches. Turn south onto the Salmon River Road (Rd 2618). After traveling 2.8 miles, look for the National Forest boundary sign and the trailhead marker — park on the right.



A young student collects insects in the forests of Wildwood

# The Cascade Streamwatch Trail

Cascading water and migrating salmon have long symbolized the bounty of the Pacific Northwest and inspired its people. Immerse yourself in the magical world of wild fish and tune into the water's call. Listen as it lures you along a trail of exciting exhibits.



## 1 Trailhead (Information Kiosk) —

Enter a world of fish, water and forest. Oregon artist Norris Peterson's life-size stainless steel Chinook salmon splash through a cluster of boulders — an important part of Cascade aquatic habitats. Follow the sound of rushing water as the trail leads to a river overlook. Watch for the Cascade Streamwatch signs to help guide the way.



## 2 River Overlook —

Gaze up toward Boulder Ridge and down at the Salmon River. At its lowest flow during the summer months, the Salmon River runs at 100 cubic feet per second (cfs). This would fill an Olympic-sized pool in five minutes! Imagine the river's power during periodic peak floods when flows can reach up to 10,000 cfs.



Life-size Chinook Salmon

**3 Watershed Watch** — A short spur trail along a terrace just above the river leads to a 3D-scale model of the 508 square mile Salmon and Sandy River watersheds. Trace the way water flows down Mt Hood and past where you now stand, then view this Cascade peak for yourself through the trees by way of a short trail to the river.

**4 Hidden World of Small Streams** — Follow the trail to a side channel of the Salmon River. This side channel is important habitat, providing shelter and food for young salmon and steelhead. Adult coho salmon also prefer small streams like this for spawning and may occasionally be observed in October and November. Steelhead may be observed from February through May. Coho salmon are one of several fish species that are anadromous (spending much of their lives feeding in the ocean and migrating to freshwater to spawn).

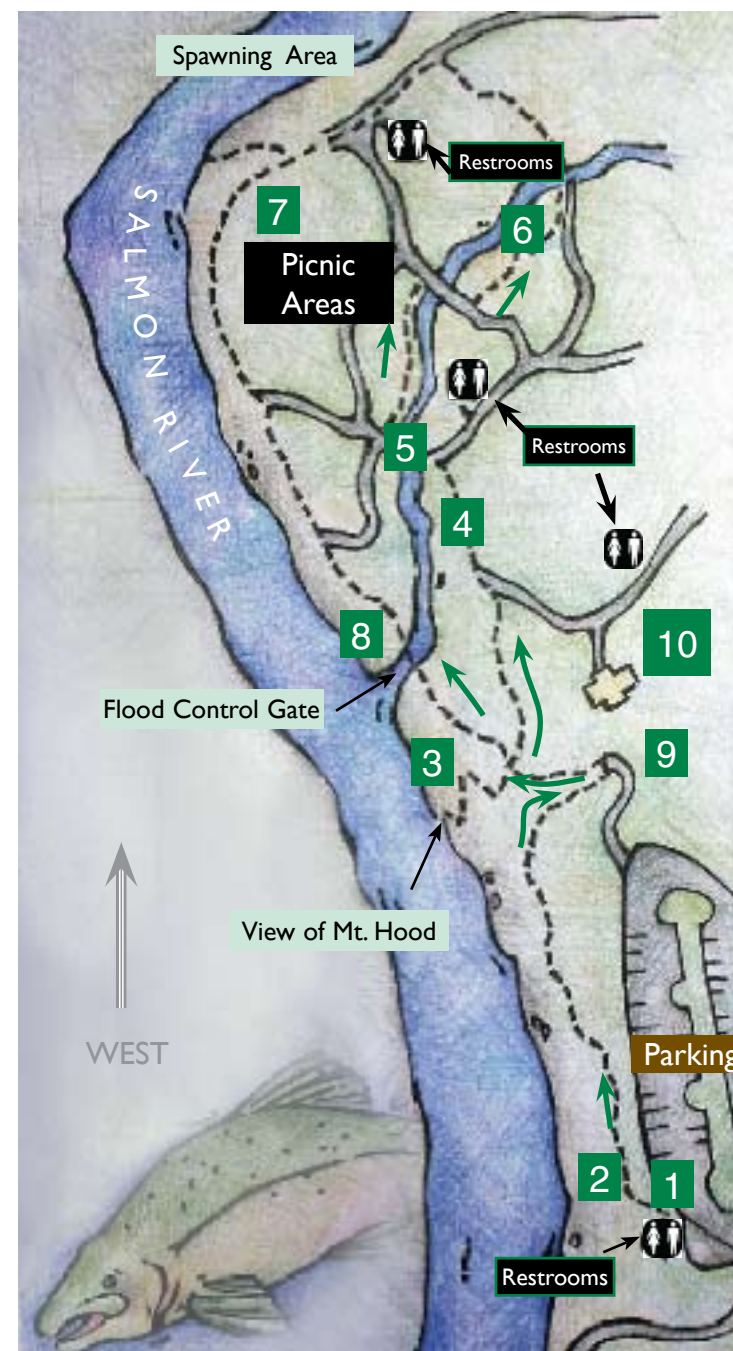
**5 Forest Gifts** — Watch leaves drift lazily into the water. Insect larvae eat the leaves and fish eat the insects. Watch for story poles, along the trail that narrate the role of salmon in the Pacific Northwest's life and culture.

**6 Underwater Viewing Window** — Look for fingerling and juvenile salmon and trout swimming, feeding and resting in the shelter of logs and roots. Find crayfish, sculpin, insects, larvae, and snails thriving in the rocks of the stream bottom. In the late fall you may catch a glimpse of an adult coho salmon.

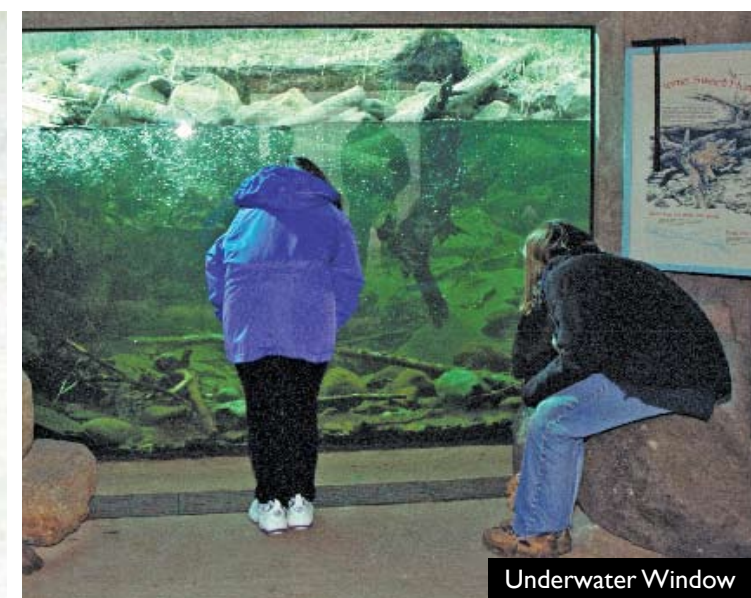
**7 Big Fish of the River** — During the late summer/early fall, you may see spawning spring Chinook salmon in this bend of the river. Look for:

- spring Chinook salmon — late August to late September
- coho salmon — October through November
- winter steelhead — mid February to mid May

Imagine being a salmon and returning to your place of birth by using your sense of smell. A salmon's sense of smell is a million times better than that of a human.



**8 Stream Keeper Stories** — Prior to 1992, this side channel flowing from the Salmon River into Wildwood was blocked off to prevent flooding. As part of the Cascade Streamwatch Project, the channel was opened up, providing critical habitat for thousands of young salmon and steelhead. Other projects placed log jams in the Salmon River to provide more shelter for fish.



Underwater Window

**9 Return Trail** — To reach the upper parking lot, travel back along the boardwalk, or take the short cut trail to the west end of the parking lot.

**10 Salmon River Group Shelter** — Reserve the 50-person Salmon River Group Shelter for a picnic or special occasion. In the spring and fall, WolfTree and other groups use this shelter during the week for their education programs.



Salmon River Shelter