

News Release



Pacific Region

Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex

2127 S.E. Marine Science Drive
Newport OR 97365-5258
541-867-4550
www.fws.gov/oregoncoast

Contact : Lila Bowen, Volunteer Coordinator
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Paddling the Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Interested in getting on the water this summer? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invites you to explore Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge through a series of fourteen guided paddle trips offered between June and August. These roughly two-hour trips will take visitors through the heart of Siletz Bay all the while learning about the Refuge's wildlife and natural history.

The guided trip is free, however reservations are required and participants must provide their own canoe or kayak. During the summer, the area of Siletz River nearest the mouth of the bay often has unpredictable winds and waves. For this reason the trip is not recommended for beginners; paddling experience is strongly recommended. For your safety, please dress appropriately for paddling in all weather conditions. Wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) is mandatory.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can provide binoculars, field guides, and PFDs to use during the trip if requested. Trips are limited in size and scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call or e-mail to make a reservation, and include the total number of boats in your party. Once you are registered additional details, including launch site, will be provided. All trips will launch within 15 minutes of the time listed. Visit our website events calendar http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Siletz_Bay/Events.html for updates and space availability.

Siletz Bay is one of numerous estuaries located along the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway. On either side of Highway 101, starchy skeleton trees jut forth from the estuary and are reminiscent of a time when the salt marsh was diked for pasture. Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, and occasionally Bald Eagle can be seen roosting at the top of these snags. A variety of estuarine-dependent birds including Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and some species of waterfowl can be seen foraging in the tidal waters. Songbird choruses accompany paddlers throughout their trip, including Purple Martin, Song Sparrow, Marsh and Pacific Wren, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and Cedar Waxwing.

For more information or to register for a trip, contact:

Lila Bowen, Volunteer Coordinator: Lilamarie_Bowen@fws.gov, (541) 867-4550

June		July		August	
Fri. June 1	4:30 – 6:30 pm	Sun. July 1	4:00 – 6:00 pm	Thur. August 2	5:00 – 7:00 pm
Sat. June 2	4:30 – 6:30 pm	Mon. July	9:45 – 11:45 am	Wed. August 15	4:00 – 6:00 pm
Sun. June 17	4:30 – 6:30 pm	Tues. July 17	4:45 – 6:45 pm	Sat. August 18	7:00 – 9:00 am
Mon. June 18	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Fri. July 20	7:00 – 9:00 am	Sun. August 19	8:00 – 10:00 am
Thur. June 21	7:00 – 9:00 am	Tues. July 31	4:00 – 6:00 pm		

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. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/oregoncoast.