



Prior to settlement, the Grande Ronde Valley held an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 acres of wetlands. The historic marsh, known as Tule Lake, and the associated wetlands covered over 20,000 acres. In 1891, a single canal drained most of Tule Lake. Smaller projects continued to drain remnants of Tule Lake until the late 1940s. In 1949, a local landowner approached the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, offering to sell his 240 acres of the last remaining 400 acres of wetlands. The purchase was made and the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area was born. Since that original purchase, 22 other acquisitions and trades have been made. Now, at just over 6,000 acres, Ladd Marsh holds the largest remaining wetland in northeast Oregon.

Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area is managed to provide a variety of quality habitats for numerous wildlife species. Habitat types include grain fields, tree and shrub areas, native prairie and conifer forest as well as marsh and open water areas. Wet meadows and grassy uplands provide safe nesting areas. Grain fields serve up a bounty for migrating waterfowl. Hayfields provide winter feed for deer and elk as well as spring foraging for sandhill cranes.

More than 200 species of birds, 40 species of mammals, and 10 species of reptiles and amphibians either visit or live permanently at Ladd Marsh. During spring and fall migrations, several thousand ducks, geese, swans, and shore birds stop to feed and rest at the marsh.

Wildlife Viewing on Ladd Marsh

Most of Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area is closed to public entry to minimize disturbance to wildlife during critical periods of nesting, rearing young and overwintering. Open areas and the times they are open are described below. An ODFW wildlife area parking permit is required. Dogs are not permitted except during authorized game bird hunting seasons. If you have questions, please contact Ladd Marsh Headquarters:

541-963-4954.



- ⇒ Tule Lake Public Access Area—Open as described on the front of this brochure. Located off Peach Rd. about 1 mile north of Hwy 203.
- ⇒ Glass Hill Management Unit—Open April 1 through January 31 to foot and horseback traffic only. Located on Foothill Rd with parking at the large tan and white barn.
- ⇒ Foothill Road Viewpoint—Open year-round. No access beyond developed viewing site. Located on Foothill Rd. about 1/4 mile north of the tan and white barn.
- ⇒ The Nature Trail—Open year-round to foot traffic only. Located just east of Exit 268 on Interstate 84.
- ⇒ All areas except posted refuge areas open to foot traffic only Sat., Sun., Wed. & federal holidays Aug. 1—Jan. 31.



LADD MARSH WILDLIFE AREA

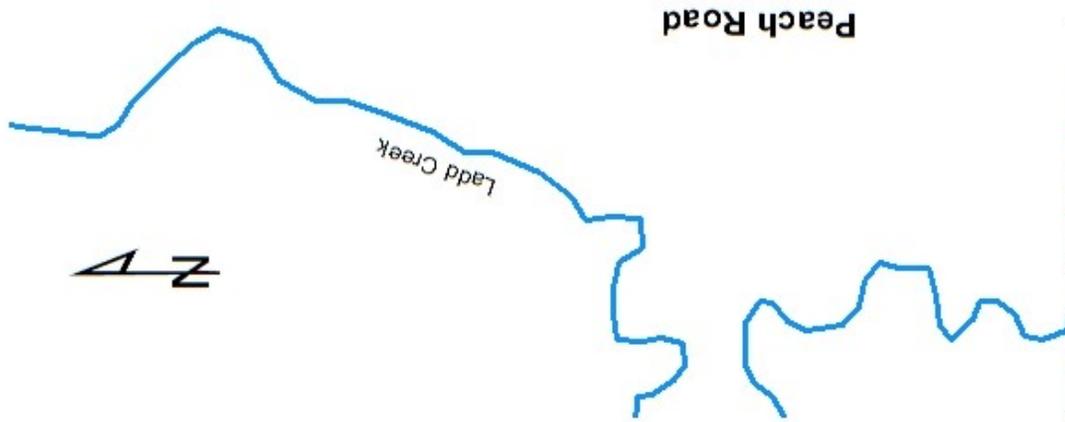
TULE LAKE

PUBLIC ACCESS AREA

The 400 acre Tule Lake Public Access Area and auto route are open to public entry from dawn until dusk seven days a week March 1 through July 31. Trails are open to foot traffic only; please, no horses, bicycles or motorized vehicles. The area is also open to foot traffic Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and federal holidays Aug. 1 - Jan. 31.

The wetlands in this area benefit from a collaboration between ODFW and the City of La Grande using treated wastewater to create quality habitat for numerous wetland dependent species.

Foot trails are mowed dikes that allow visitors access to wetlands with varying water depths and vegetation communities. Birds that may be observed on the area include numerous species of duck, Canada and Greater White-fronted geese, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-winged and Yellow-headed blackbirds, Marsh Wren, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Yellowthroat, Red-tailed and Swainson's hawks and many more. Long-tailed Weasel, River Otter and Columbian Ground Squirrel may be present some times of the year and Western Painted Turtles bask on sunny days. Butterflies are abundant in summer and include Western Pygmy Blue, North America's smallest butterfly.



Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area
Tule Lake Public Access Area

LMWA - Public Access Area

Auto Route

Loop and segment lengths are approximate

Entrance ↑



Dogs are not permitted on the wildlife area except during authorized game bird hunting seasons

