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Raul Moreno

Image credit: Raul Moreno, 2017, 2nd Place, Adult Category, Pro Photo Supply Refuge Photo Contest

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The latest updates & news | December 2024

The Ridgefield NWR Admin Office is open weekdays, as staff availability allows: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Office phone number: 360-887-4106

[Official Refuge Website](#)

RIDGEFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

RIVER 'S' UNIT & CARY UNIT

1071 S Hillburst AVE
Auto Tour Route
Kiwa Trail

28908 NW Main AVE
Admin Office
Walking Trails
Cathlapotle Plankhouse

From the Refuge Thank you from Refuge Staff...

As previously furloughed staff return to their offices across the country, we are reconnecting, recalibrating, and making lists - so many lists! Here at Ridgefield, Steigervald Lake, Franz Lake and Pierce Refuges we are reminded at how well our communities love and take care of these places. We did have Service staff checking on and ensuring that visitor facilities and essential wildlife services were kept healthy and safe throughout the last month. However, we all know we didn't have the ability to do all the things we normally do to keep things running. Because of you, our neighbors and visitors, our refuges continued to be used and loved with honor and respect. I believe that is because of the culture we have all been building with each other - Connection to nature is for everyone, even when our needs and interests are different. And conservation is a community effort.

As the Visitor Services Manager of the Ridgefield Complex, I have the immense privilege to work with all user groups that use these spaces. Through that I get to hear the beautiful stories of your connections and the ways that recreation is essential to your quality of life. I am honored to be a small part of the larger community stewarding this space for all of you. I have thanks to give every day all year round. Today I want to say a hug thank you for listening and taking care of each other while we all connect with this land.

-Josie Finley, Ridgefield NWR Complex Visitor Services Manager

From the Friends Thank You for a Wonderful Giving Tuesday

Thank you to everyone who participated in GivingTuesday! We are excited to share that we raised \$2,616 to support the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, the Community Nature Center, and the Nature Exploration Area. Your generosity fuels our efforts to connect people with nature and protect the wildlife we all love. We are so grateful for your partnership!

Missed the big day? The season of giving is just getting started! You can still help us end the year strong by making a contribution.



Every bit helps!



Leave Your Legacy: Buy a Brick - Sale Extended!

The engraved brick sale has been extended and will now continue until we officially hit our fundraising goal. This is your final opportunity to guarantee your personalized brick is installed, but don't wait—once the goal is reached, this chance is truly gone!

By purchasing a brick, you can create a permanent tribute to honor a loved one, celebrate your family, or simply cement your dedication to wildlife conservation. Your names will be installed right at the foundation of the new Community Nature Center (CNC) Nature Exploration Area, welcoming visitors for decades to come.

Every dollar raised through this initiative directly supports the Nature Exploration Area and ways for children and families to connect with nature. Leave your unique mark on the Refuge and help us build a lasting foundation for the future!

Learn about the CNC project, and order your brick, today!

Please note: ONLY NAMES will be engraved on the bricks.

Your 2026 Calendar is Here! And on sale - 10% off - through December 17!

Give the gift of the Refuge all year long with our brand-new holiday collection! Our 2026 Calendar is hot off the press, featuring the stunning winners of the Pro Photo Supply Ridgefield NWR Photo Contest, plus all the key Refuge dates and fun facts you need. Even better: Get 10% off your calendar purchase if you order before December 17th!



But that's not all—we've added some serious



personality to the store! Check out our new 2025 Photo Contest items, including our fresh "I Like Bird Butts" merch and the groovy "Dancing Queen" Sandhill Crane gear! Whether you want breathtaking photos or a good laugh, we have the perfect gift for every nature lover on your list.

Don't miss the 10% calendar discount—shop now and bring the wild indoors!

[Order Your Calendar Now!](#)

[OR Shop Our Merch Store](#)

From the Contact Station We Are Back. Yahoo!

We are so glad to be back. It will take us a bit of time to be up and running full steam, but it is great to be at our "Happy Place" as some of us refer to the Refuge. Many of the volunteers took advantage of the down time to enjoy the Refuge as a visitor, but we always kept our eye on things as best we could. Thank you to all our visitors who also kept a watchful eye. A huge shoutout to...[keep reading...](#)



-Susan Setterberg, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Contact Station Volunteer

Image of a Brown Creeper by James Bradley

Birding Enthusiasts



Check out what bird species are being seen on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge - both past and current archives - on our website, [here](#).



A Bee Story: Bee Right Back – After Winter!

Here in Washington State, the outdoors is beginning to feel cold. When the sun does shine, it's more comfortable, but otherwise I find myself wanting to stay inside under a blanket, shielded from the chill. Shorter days make me feel slower, ready to sleep earlier and wake later.

Our native bees are also tucked away from the elements....[keep reading...](#)

-Anne Bulger, Friends of Ridgefield NWR Board Member, & OSU Master Melittology Lead Instructor for the RNWR

Image of Female (left) and Male (right) Mason Bee Cocoons, by Anne Bulger



Ridgefield First Saturday Hometown Celebration Saturday, December 6, 2025

Celebrate the Holiday season in the Ridgefield tradition with Hometown Celebration!

Enjoy the hometown holiday spirit of historic Downtown Ridgefield where you will find twinkling lights, decorated businesses, gifts, food, and holiday specials.

Find the Friends table to say hi, get some free stickers, and more!

[Get the Schedule and More!](#)

Stay Involved:

Join the Friends - Become a Member

Our new membership program means that all members will receive a digital member card, a free optional tote bag, a sticker, and more!

Members over \$60 also gain access to the Soar into Wellness Program, & Members giving over \$1000 are also included in a special website highlight!



[Learn More, Join, or Renew Your Membership Today](#)

Support While You Shop

Whether you're looking for gorgeous nature and wildlife photography on mugs, tote bags, t-shirts, or jigsaw puzzles, gifts for loved ones, or a treat for yourself, we have you covered!

[Main Webstore](#)

[Puzzle Shopping](#)



Friends Amazon Wishlist- You can directly support our work and the Refuge's initiatives! Whether it's habitat restoration or BirdFest & Bluegrass, we'll feature items essential to our many efforts toward achieving conservation and community outreach goals. Purchase from our list, and Amazon takes care of the rest! [Get started, HERE.](#)



When you link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Friends, you help us earn donations from Fred Meyer Community Rewards. It's easy to sign up. [Just click here.](#) Or search, Friends of Ridgefield NWR #PK822

Friends Board Meetings

Join the Friends of Ridgefield NWR Board for their monthly meeting. Meetings start at 5:00 PM every second Monday of the month and will be either virtual or in-person with a virtual option. Please [contact us](#) to find out how to join in!

Board Meeting Dates 2025:

December 8
January 12, 2026



Become a Business Alliance Member

As a member of the Friends of the RNWR Business Alliance, you invest in one of our urban metropolitan area's most unique and diverse natural and cultural resources. [Find out more.](#)

Sponsors:

Business Alliance Members:

In-Kind Support:



BirdFest & Bluegrass:



Granting Organizations & Partners:



[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#)

Want regular updates on Refuge events & happenings? Follow the Friends on social media by clicking the logos below to stay connected even when you are off the Refuge.



Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge | PO BOX 1022 | Ridgefield, WA 98642 US

NOTE: Unsubscribing will remove you from membership renewal reminder emails as well.

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