

Guided

Docent Led Tour

Learn about the wildlife on Gray Lodge!

A docent will teach your group about the plants and animals found along a 0.85-mile walk (round trip) to our Viewing Platform. At the platform, spotting scopes give students the opportunity to view wildlife up close. Tours can be adjusted to meet your curriculum. Most tours run approximately 2 hours. Reservations are required.



Exploring the Wetlands

Environmental Education Program

The Exploring the Wetlands program takes groups through a discovery of birds, mammals, invertebrates, and vegetation. To enhance this stationed education, add a drive around the Auto Tour Route or a walk with the students. Programs can be adapted to accommodate groups from 1st - 6th grade. Held October - February, dates are limited so make your reservation early.

Self-paced

Wetland Discovery

Self-guided Nature Trail

This self-guided walk will introduce you to many aspects of habitat management utilized on Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. You may observe the remarkable array of life along this 0.85-mile looping trail, which leads to a wheelchair accessible, viewing platform. Fourteen stations correspond to an illustrated pamphlet, available at the trailhead. This is a self-paced tour. Reservations are requested for groups over 25 people. This helps us minimize group overlap.

Auto Tour Route

Self-guided Auto Tour

This 3-mile auto tour runs through the heart of the Gray Lodge Designated Viewing Area. During the winter months, the number of migratory waterfowl in this vicinity can be breathtaking. This graveled road can accommodate buses. A wildlife identification guide and binoculars are recommended.



Additional

Observation Hides

Positioned along the Flyway Loop Trail, accessed from Parking Lots #14 and #18 are two wildlife observation hides. These buildings overlook seasonal ponds and provide great opportunities for viewing and photographing wildlife. With benches and standing room, each building is large enough to accommodate a small class. These are available year-round without reservation.



Wild About Wetlands

Classroom Resource Kits

Gray Lodge offers environmental education kits for the classroom, sponsored by CWA. Teach your students about wetlands and wildlife with this collection of hands-on activities which correlates with your classroom lessons – English, social science, math and biology. In addition to group activities that support wetland education, these kits contain a collection of easily accessible resource materials. A one-time, 45-minute educator workshop is required for kit check-out. For more information, contact the Naturalist Office.

General Information

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Migratory Waterfowl

The migratory waterfowl are abundant from late October through early February. Hunting activities occur in addition to wildlife watching activities, and as regulated in the Designated Hunting Area only. This can increase the viewing opportunities in the Designated Watching Area. During this time of peak public use, make group reservations at least one month in advance.

Cost to Visit

There is a day use fee for visiting Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. On-site registration is required for all public. Fees are waived for persons possessing a CDFW Lands Pass, valid CA sport hunting license, fishing license, or trapping license, or visitors that are under 16 years of age. A tour by an organized youth or school group is exempt from the fees with written authorization. Visit the website or contact the area Naturalist Office for further information. Self-led visits are allowed but notification of the visit is requested to help stagger the use of this resource and allow a better experience for all groups.



Website:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/Gray-Lodge-WA>



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