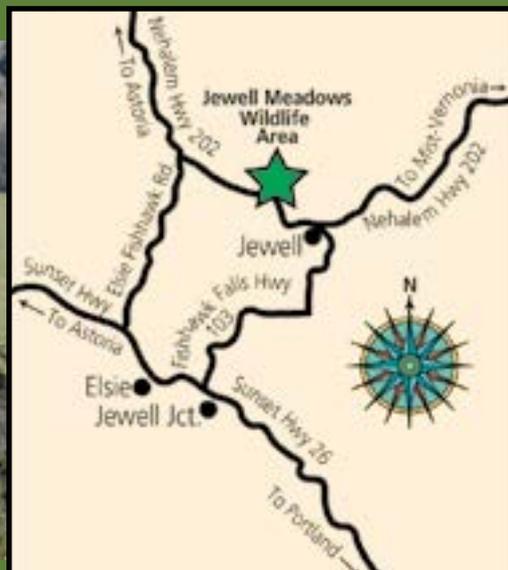


How to reach Jewell Meadows

From Portland, travel west on Highway 26 (Sunset Highway) to the Jewell Junction, just west of Elderberry Inn. Continue north on Highway 103 for nine miles along the Nehalem River to the community of Jewell. From Jewell, travel 1.5 miles west on Highway 202 to the refuge area on Fishhawk Creek.

From Highway 101 on the coast, take Highway 26 east from the Seaside area and continue to the Jewell Junction. Follow directions from Jewell Junction above.



The production of this guide was made possible by funding from the Wildlife Restoration Program and hunting license and tag fees. Created in 1937 with the passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act, the Wildlife Restoration Program is the nation's oldest and most successful wildlife restoration program. Funding for the program is derived from federal excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and arrow components.



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Seaside, OR 97138
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MyODFW.com

JEWELL MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA



Roosevelt Elk

Visitor Guide



West Region Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Welcome to the JEWELL MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA

The Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area is located in the northern Coast Range in Clatsop County. The 1,114-acre wildlife area is made up of three parcels of land within the Fishhawk, Beneke and Humbug Creek valleys. The wildlife area provides food and habitat for wintering Roosevelt elk and other native wildlife species. It is also a perfect place for viewing and studying wildlife in their natural surroundings. Jewell Meadows is one of 17 major wildlife areas managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Jewell Meadows' flagship animals are elk. On most winter days visitors can see up to 200 elk feeding and resting in the meadows. Additional elk that use the meadows along Beneke Creek can be seen from the road. ODFW provides the wintering elk with food through supplemental feeding programs which the public can view December through February each year. (More details are under "Frequently Asked Questions".)

The Jewell Meadows Wildlife area is lush with coniferous forest (Douglas fir and Western hemlock); hardwood forest (red alder and big leaf maple); riparian areas and streams; seasonal wetlands; and permanent pasture or meadow areas. While elk are the most viewed wildlife at Jewell Meadows, many other animals favor the habitat provided and are visible to the patient observer. Because viewing opportunities vary with the month and time of day, use the table on the inside page to help identify several common species.

Bird species vary and change with the habitat and season of the year. Hooded mergansers and wood ducks are among the most colorful. In the spring, summer or fall, you may look overhead and spot red-tailed hawks. Listen and look for over 40 songbird species that nest in, feed on, or migrate

through the area during the year. Shorebirds and waterfowl use the meadows and seasonal wetland areas as well.

Several Oregon Conservation Strategy species for the Coast Range Ecoregion are found at Jewell Meadows including olive-sided flycatchers, coastal tailed frogs, and Northern red-legged frogs. Oregon coastal coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout are prevalent in the three creeks.

Look also for telltale signs of wildlife not seen. That croaking you hear in the forest probably belongs to the Pacific tree frog. A simple mound of fresh dirt in a meadow or small tunnels in roadside grass may be the work of a coast mole or a meadow vole. Inspect the ground for the tracks of black-tailed deer, coyotes, raccoons, or bobcats.

History

The name Jewell is taken from the logging community located at the junction of Fishhawk and Beneke Creeks. Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area began in 1969 with the purchase of 183 acres, the area that now comprises the main viewing area. An additional 119 acres were purchased over the next two years to complete what is now the Fishhawk tract. The Beneke tract was purchased in 1973 and the Humbug tract in 1976.

Management

Jewell Meadows receives funding from the Wildlife Restoration Program and from the sale of Oregon hunting licenses and tags. Of the total acres managed as the Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area, 1,114 are owned by ODFW. An additional 1,826 acres are owned by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Weyerhaeuser Company and Stimson Lumber Company. These lands are under a cooperative land use agreement and provide additional refuge for wildlife. Public access is not allowed in these areas.



A herd of Roosevelt Elk

When visiting

Visitors to Jewell Meadows will find other attractions nearby. Lee Wooden Park, a county park named after an area pioneer, is located three miles west of the Fishhawk tract and is the site of the 100-foot high Fishhawk Creek Falls. Saddle Mountain, with an elevation of 3,283 feet, is visible to the west of the Fishhawk parking areas. Saddle Mountain State Park can be reached from Highway 26 west of Elsie.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are there farming operations at Jewell Meadows?

Visitors to Jewell Meadows may notice that some meadows are being tilled and seeded. Such efforts are part of an ongoing ODFW project to maintain the meadows to produce the nutritious food the elk rely on during the winter months. Reseeding of meadows occurs every 7-10 years with a few fields being revitalized each year. Hay is removed from the fields each summer to stimulate tender forage for fall and winter wildlife use.

Why does ODFW feed elk at Jewell Meadows?

ODFW feeding programs are designed to keep elk in areas where they can be viewed and enjoyed by the public. The feeding program helps keep elk off adjacent private agricultural property where they could cause damage. Feeding also aids in elk capture and relocation efforts. Elk from Jewell Meadows have been used in reintroduction and repopulation programs in the Cascade and Coast Ranges and as far away as Northern California and Alaska.

How can I take part in the elk feeding programs?

ODFW offers members of the public an opportunity to view the elk feeding on tours that run from December through February each year. These popular wagon excursion trips begin at 9 a.m. and last for one hour. To reserve, call Jewell Meadows at (503-755-2264) beginning Dec. 1. Be aware that spots fill up very fast!

When are calves born?

Calves are born about June 1 each year. Typically, 100 adults produce 40-50 calves. Nutrition and other factors can affect reproductive success.

When is the breeding season?

Mid-September is the peak of the breeding season or “rut” for elk. Visitors to Jewell Meadows may hear bulls bugling, emitting a high-pitched whistle that the bulls use to establish their dominance over other bulls and the herd.

When do bulls shed their antlers?

Bulls annually shed their antlers during March and April and re-grow a new set in just about four months, in time for breeding season. Antlers can grow up to seven or more points and weigh 15 pounds each.

How much do elk weigh?

The average adult female usually weighs between 550 and 650 pounds while adult males average slightly more at 750 pounds and can weigh as much as 1,200 pounds.

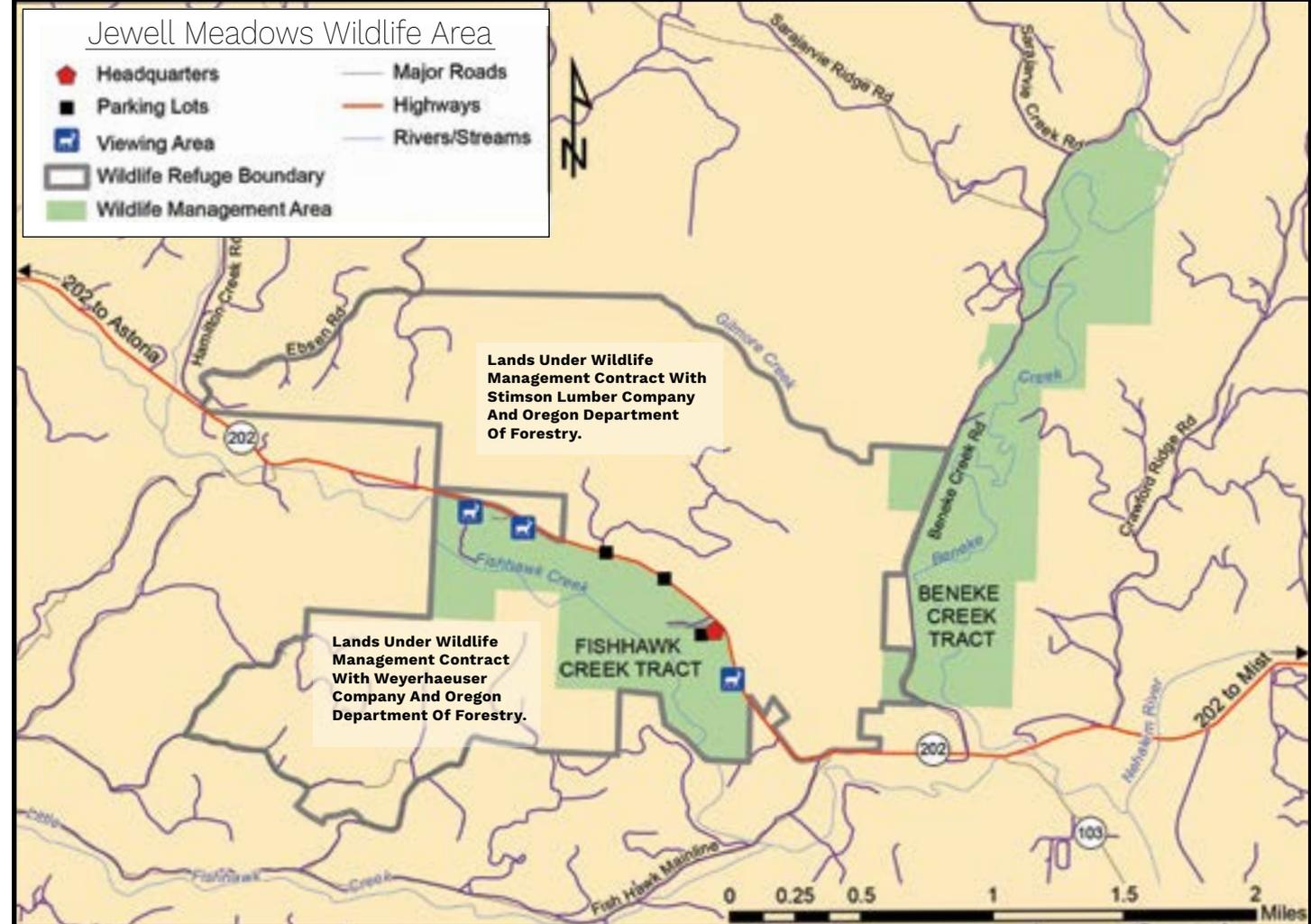
AREA RULES

These rules help protect the beauty of the area and ensure minimal disturbance to wildlife. Please obey the signs that are posted throughout the area.

- Parking permits are required to park within the Wildlife Area.
- Keep vehicles off of meadows and closed roads.
- Don't go beyond signs restricting access or public use.
- No hunting in or entering the refuge or posted “safety zones.”
- No discharging of firearms except as authorized during hunting seasons.
- Camping is only available in areas designated for use and by permit.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.
- The Beneke Tract is closed to entry during any open Saddle Mt. elk season. See big game regulations for exception.
- No cutting of trees or shrubs.
- No littering.



Pacific Tree Frog



COMMON WILDLIFE SPECIES	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	VIEWING POTENTIAL
Roosevelt Elk	Green	Excellent											
Black-tailed Deer	Green	Fair											
Coyote	Green	Fair											
Red-tailed Hawk	Green	Good											
Songbirds	Green	Excellent											
Band-tailed pigeon	Green	Good											
Bald eagle	Green	Fair											
Swallows (4 species)	Green	Excellent											

Legend: All Day (Green), Occasionally AM and PM (Light Green), Early AM and PM (Yellow), Not Present (Black)



Roosevelt Elk