

Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area

Dean Creek is a mosaic of pasture, woodland, and wetland providing a variety of viewing experiences. A herd of 60 to 100 Roosevelt elk are year round residents. Numerous birds can be seen in the area and waterfowl are visible in the wetlands.

Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area (EVA) totals 1,040 acres. The 440 acres of bottomland consist of pasture and wetlands, and the 600 acre of woodlands contain hardwood and coniferous forest. Dean Creek is managed to provide optimum viewing opportunities. Pastures are mowed, grazed, and fertilized to improve the nutrition and palatability for the elk. Portions of the wetland have been enhanced to provide more standing water for a variety of waterfowl.

The best times to view elk are early mornings and before dusk. Elk roam the area freely, and their numbers fluctuate with the seasons. The cows seek seclusion in the uplands to calve in mid-May to June. Calves and their mothers become visible on the area by mid-June. Bugling and harem gathering are signs of the breeding season, which occurs from mid-September to early October.

You can help to keep the area as enjoyable as you found it. Please observe the following:

- Observe all posted regulations
- Observe all access restrictions
- Deposit litter into trash cans
- Avoid noise and activities that frighten wildlife
- Keep all pets on a leash
- Hunting is not allowed
- There is no overnight camping
- Pull completely off the road to view wildlife



Photo Credit: Thomas Cunningham

Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area is jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The area stretches along a 3 mile section of Oregon Highway 38, with 2 viewing areas and several pull-outs to observe wildlife in the area. *Please pull completely off the road to view wildlife. The viewing areas provide a safe area, off the highway to enjoy the wildlife. Interpretive displays are also located here.*



For More Information Contact:

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DEAN CREEK ELK VIEWING AREA

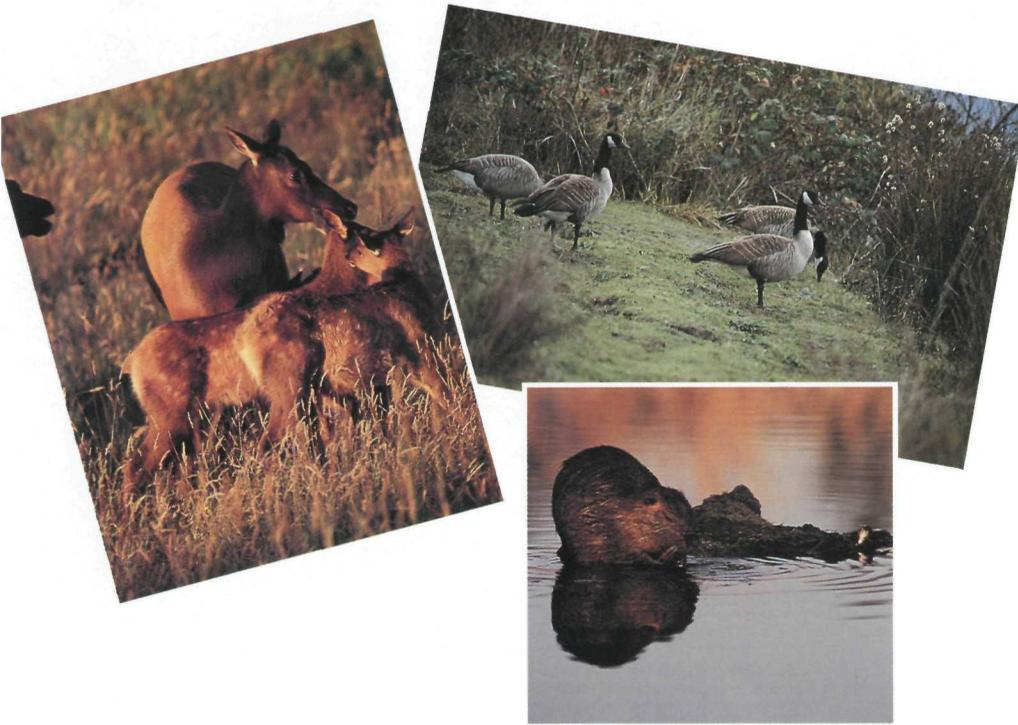


Cover Photo: David Michael Jones



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Pasture



Elk

Photo Credit: David Michael Jones

Roosevelt elk may be seen grazing anywhere on the area; woodlands are used for calving and for shade during hot days; wetlands provide cool ponds during the summer and wallows during the rut; and pastures provide nutritious forage.

Canada Geese

Photo Credit: C.W. Telford

Canada geese winter and nest on the pastures at Dean Creek EVA; some are becoming year-round residents. Geese prefer short grasses in the managed pastures.

Nutria

Photo Credit: David Michael Jones

Nutria look just like a beaver, except they have rat-like tails. Nutria are an introduced species, and have spread rapidly through the United States. Nutria build their homes in the banks of ditches and many can be seen at Dean Creek.



Woodland



Western Bluebird

Photo Credit: Marty Cordano

Patient viewers will be rewarded with seeing a variety of small birds that occupy many of the habitats at Dean Creek EVA. The western bluebird above, nests in the woodland, along with nuthatches, warblers, and woodpeckers. Blackbirds, sparrows and finches can be seen in the rushes, brush and woodland edges.

Black-Tailed Deer

Photo Credit: David Michael Jones

Black-tailed deer occupy the uplands, feeding mainly on browse and forbs. Black-tailed deer are not as readily seen as the elk, but may be viewed near the forest edge.

Osprey with Nest

Photo Credit: C.W. Telford

Osprey are common along the Umpqua River and build their nests on broken tree tops. The "fish hawk" is migratory and leaves the area during the winter season.



Wetland



Great Blue Heron

Photo Credit: C.W. Telford

Great blue herons can be seen in the shallow water of the sloughs and ditches; their main diet is fish. Great blue herons stalk mice in the open pastures, and will also eat many types of reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

Mallard

Photo Credit: Marty Cordano

Mallards are year round residents; they nest in the grass of the ditch banks. Wetland enhancement has improved habitat for many waterfowl species including wood ducks, hooded mergansers and great egrets.

Rough-Skinned Newt

Photo Credit: John Applegarth

The rough-skinned newt, along with garter snakes, frogs and several other reptiles and amphibians are common at Dean Creek. Due to their size and secretive nature, most will not be seen by visitors.

