

Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area

Experience the wildlife of Dean Creek! While some animals are secretive, requiring both patience and knowledge to see, Dean Creek's elk are usually within a camera's reach. They are drawn to the lush meadow grasses and are accustomed to passing cars and sightseers. But elk are only part of the picture here. Dean Creek's mosaic of mountains, meadows, and marshes is home to many animals. Come to see the elk and challenge yourself to discover some of the other residents. Sniff the wind, listen to the sounds around you, and taste the air. Wildlife is everywhere.

Services

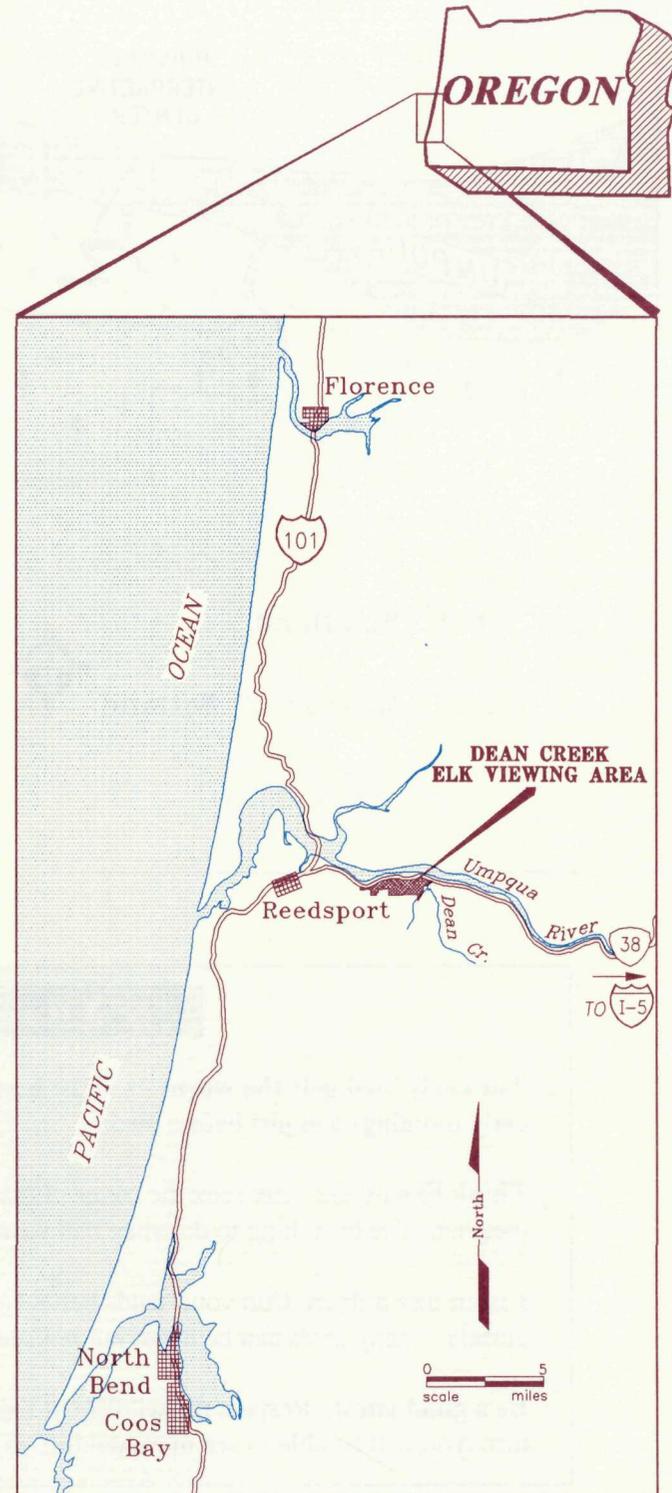
The O.H. Hinsdale Interpretive Center is an attraction to all wildlife lovers, especially those interested in elk. Interpretive panels, including a life-size mural of a Roosevelt elk, describe life for an elk through four seasons. At the Wetland Viewing Area, just west of the Center, you will learn about the riches of the marsh and the habits of its inhabitants.

Restrooms, benches, and a spotting scope are available onsite.

Getting There

Several routes lead to the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area. From Reedsport and Coastal Highway 101, travel about three miles east on Highway 38 until you see the Elk Viewing Area signs. From Interstate 5, Highways 38 and 138 lead west to Reedsport and the Elk Viewing Area. Travel time from Roseburg or Eugene is about 1½ hours.

The Elk Viewing Area stretches along a 3-mile section of Oregon Highway 38, with two viewing areas and several observation pull-outs.

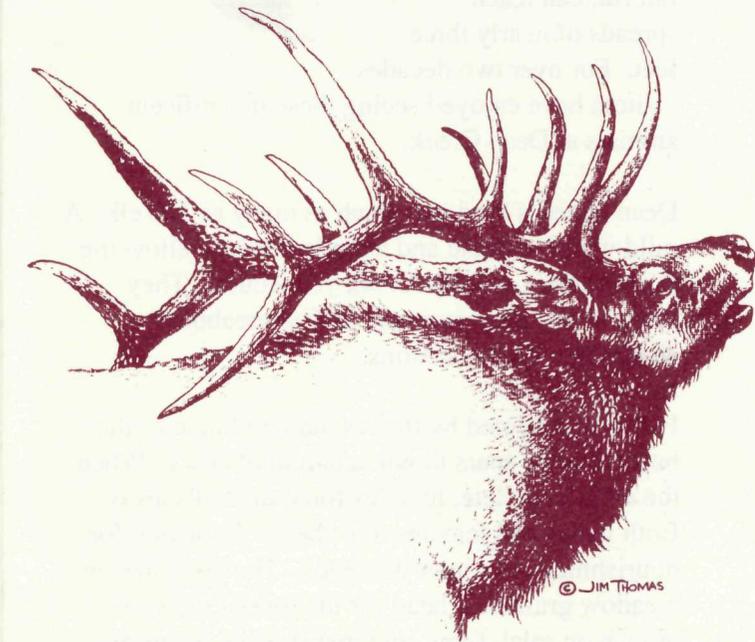
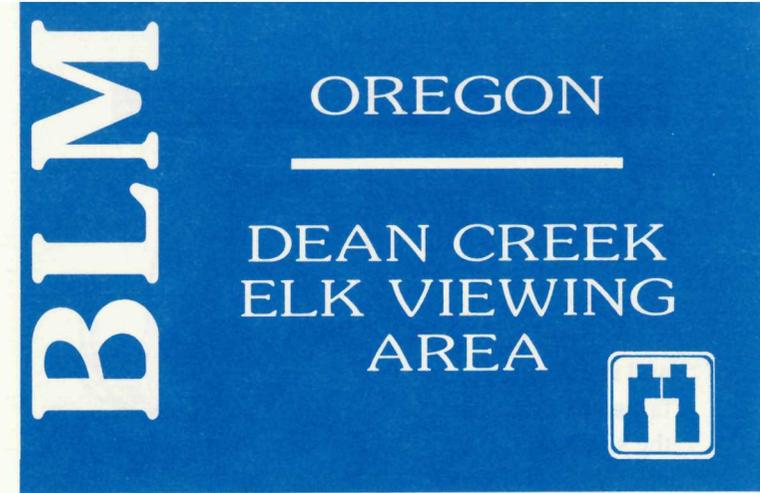


For more information:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast District Office, Charleston
P.O. Box 5430
4475 Boat Basin Drive
Charleston, Oregon 97420
(503) 888-5515

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459
(503) 756-0100

BLM/OR/WA/GI-94/42-1122.32



Dean Creek's Elk

Roosevelt elk are Oregon's largest land mammal, weighing up to 1,100 pounds and standing as tall as five feet at the shoulder.

Antlers of Roosevelt elk, which are status symbols during the fall rut, can reach spreads of nearly three feet. For over two decades, visitors have enjoyed seeing these magnificent animals at Dean Creek.



Dean Creek's herd can reach as many as 120 elk. A mild winter climate and abundant forage allow the elk to remain at Dean Creek year-round. They roam freely, their numbers and whereabouts changing with the seasons.

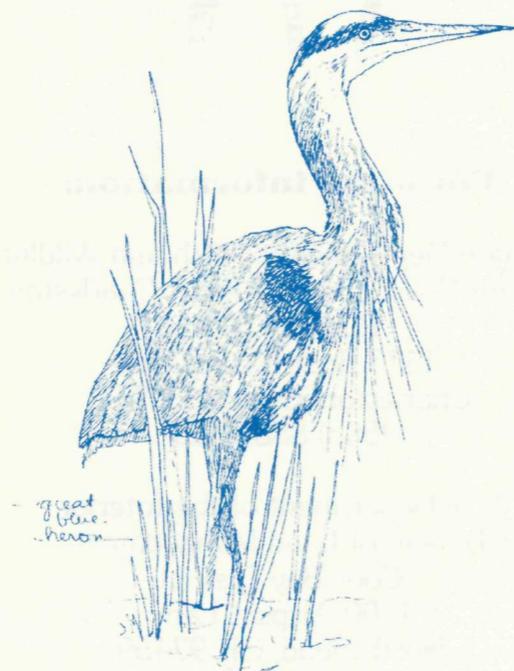
Fall is proclaimed by the resounding bugle of the bull elk as he spars to win a harem of cows. When the rut is complete, females force the bulls away. Both males and females must begin the search for nourishment as winter descends. The elk graze on meadow grasses or head for the forest edges to munch on salal, ferns, and tree shoots. In spring, pregnant females seek the seclusion of the upland forest to have their young. Calves and their mothers return to the meadows by June.

Ongoing projects enhance Dean Creek's meadows and assure the health of the herd. Some meadows are hayed and fertilized each summer to stimulate growth and raise forage quality. Management plans also includes reseeding meadows. Tilling and seeding small sections every 5-10 years helps to keep forage quality high.

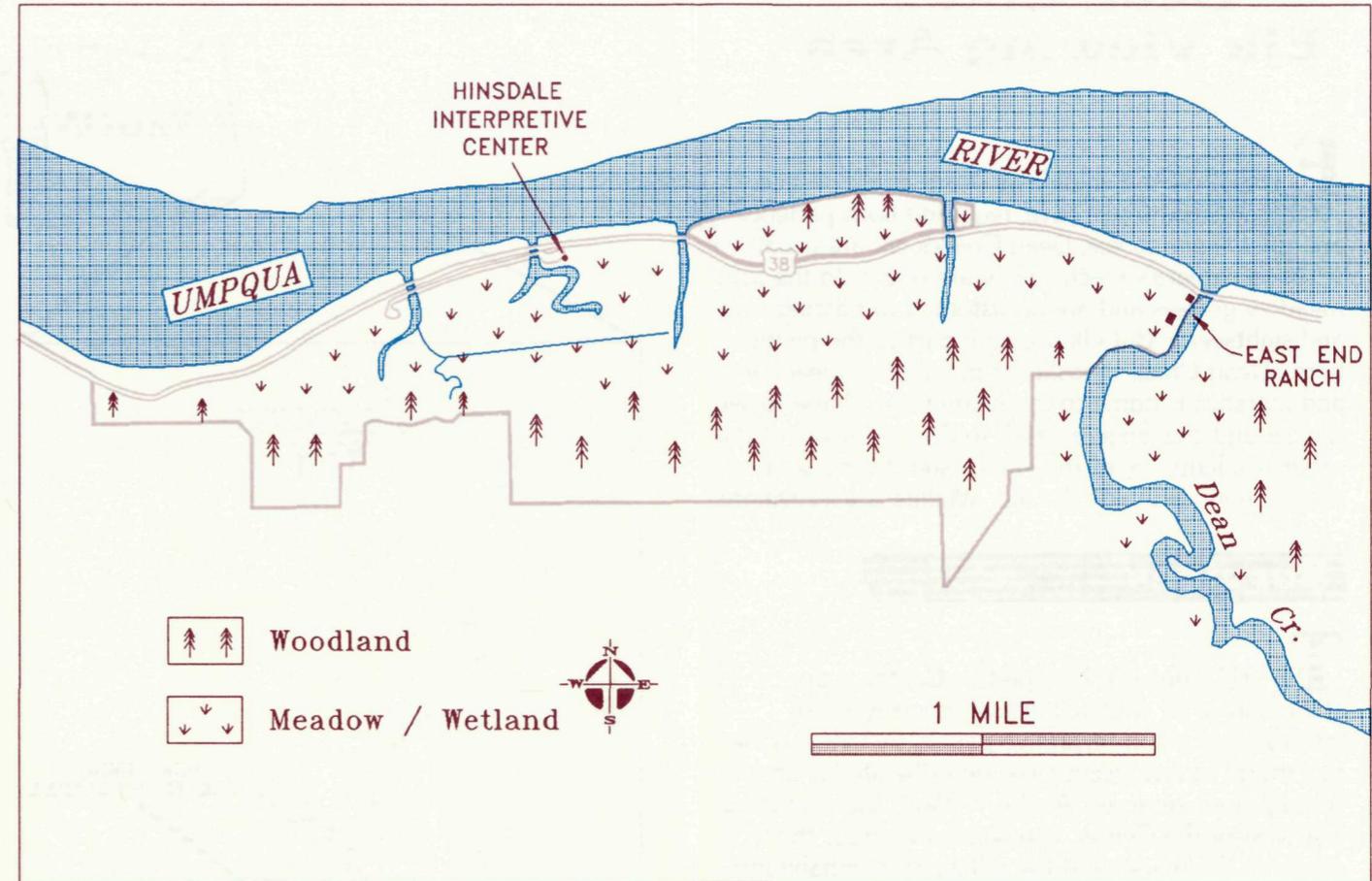
Wetlands and Wildlife

Dean Creek's wetlands hum with life. Beaver, muskrat, mallards and Canada geese all spend some time here. A patient viewer might spot the adaptable coyote, a stately great blue heron, or a quick-tongued red-legged frog scanning the wetlands in search of an easy meal.

Once dismissed as messy, unprofitable places, wetlands are now recognized as one of the richest ecosystems on earth. Portions of the Dean Creek wetlands have been enhanced to provide needed habitat for wildlife that depend on wetlands - particularly waterfowl. Migrating ducks use Dean Creek as a rest stop on their long journeys between winter and summer home, and resident waterfowl use Dean Creek's plentiful water all summer to raise their young.



great blue heron



Viewing Tips

The early bird gets the worm - and the best photos. Best times to view most wildlife are early mornings and just before dusk.

Think like an elk. Elk seek the cover of the forest during hot summer days and stormy weather. The best thing to do when bad weather looms is follow suit!

Listen like a deer. Cup your hands behind your ears to amplify natural sounds. Listen closely - many birds can be heard but not seen.

Be a good guest. Respect the wildlife of Dean Creek by limiting your noise and activities. In turn, you will be able to see more wildlife as they eat, play, and rest in the area.