



# HANDS ON THE LAND

A National Network of Field Classrooms Connecting Students, Teachers, and Parents to Their Public Lands and Waterways

## FEATURED SITE

At **Wildwood Recreation Site**, Portland area students come to study stream and wetland habitats. The Salmon River's 33.9-mile reach is entirely protected as a National Wild and Scenic River and runs through the heart of Wildwood, which is located about 30 miles downstream from its headwaters on Mt. Hood. It is the only fully-protected river in the contiguous 48 states.

Wildwood, administered by the Bureau of Land Management, offers a variety of trails and a wetlands boardwalk for students and general visitors to enjoy. Explore Sixes Creek and a quarter-mile side channel of the Salmon River which provide habitat for steelhead, cutthroat and chinook salmon. Nearby wetlands and Huckleberry Mountain are the source of Sixes Creek, both of which provide habitat for juvenile salmon, waterfowl, amphibians, and other migratory species.

Wildwood's maritime climate is characterized by mild temperatures, wet winters and a long frost-free period.



Visitors enjoy watching juvenile and native salmon through the accessible in-stream viewing window.

## Cascade Streamwatch

### Watershed Science Education with Wolfree

The idea for Cascade Streamwatch was conceived in the 80's by US Forest Service fisheries biologists who recognized the need for the public, especially school children, to have the opportunity to view and learn about native northwest salmon and steelhead in their natural habitat. In 1990, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management joined together to pursue this endeavor. The key was to find a place close enough to Portland that would support a multitude of hands-on science-based field activities focused on watershed science. In 1994, Wolfree, a Portland-based non-profit science education organization joined with the agencies to help bring the local area schools to this 600-acre site nestled in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains of western Oregon.

Today, visitors can learn about terrestrial and aquatic habitats as part of an award-winning interpretive trail system coupled with a watershed science education curriculum. The site's most unique feature is an accessible in-stream viewing window where visitors can see native northwest salmon and steelhead living in their natural habitat. Students, with help from private and public natural resource specialists, master skills in science inquiry, applied sciences, and geography. Cascade Streamwatch has become one of the most successful outdoor educational sites in the Northwest, hosting more than 80,000 visitors from all over the world annually.

**More information:**  
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A Student at Wildwood observes benthic macroinvertebrates and other stream habitat characteristics of the Salmon River.



US Forest Service biologist provides instruction and mentoring to a Cascade Streamwatch student.