

## Southwest Washington Loop Distance: 171 mi | 4h 45m

From the Columbia River Gorge to Mount St. Helens, enjoy a drive and a hike with a view.



The map shows a loop route through the Southwest Washington region, starting from the Columbia River Gorge and ending at Mount St. Helens. The route is marked with six stops, each with a corresponding inset image and details. The stops are: A (Skamania Lodge), B (Nelli Corser Wildlife Area Unit), C (Vancouver Hatchery), D (Shillapoo Wildlife Area), E (Merwin Hatchery), and F (Merrill Lake Wildlife Area Unit). The map also shows major roads, cities like Vancouver and Portland, and mountains like Mount St. Helens and Mount Hood. A QR code is provided for more details.

Washington Department of FISH & WILDLIFE

### Southwest WA Loop

Distance: 171 mi | 4h 45m

From the Columbia River Gorge to Mount St. Helens, enjoy a drive and a hike with a view. Scan the QR code for more details, activities, and more.

**Access Passes** Some locations may require access passes. Scan QR code for details.

- A Skamania Lodge**  
1131 Skamania Lodge Dr, Stevenson, WA 98648  
9 mi Highlights: hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing
- B Nelli Corser Wildlife Area Unit**  
Duncan Creek Rd, Stevenson, WA 98648  
25 mi Highlights: hiking, wildlife viewing
- C Vancouver Hatchery**  
12208 SE Evergreen Hwy, Vancouver, WA 98683  
18 mi Highlights: fish viewing, waterfront
- D Shillapoo Wildlife Area**  
NW Lower River Rd, Vancouver WA 98660  
41 mi Highlights: fishing, walking, wildlife viewing
- E Merwin Hatchery**  
Merwin Hatchery Dr, Ariel, WA 98603  
23 mi Highlights: hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing
- F Merrill Lake Wildlife Area Unit**  
Merrill Lake Rd, Cougar, WA 98616  
66 mi Highlights: hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing

WAFWA 100th Anniversary  
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies | 2024 Summer Meeting

### Nelli Corser Wildlife Area Unit (9 mi from Skamania Lodge)

**Address:** Duncan Creek Rd, Stevenson, WA 98648

**Access Passes:** [Day-use Discover Pass](#)

**Highlights:** hiking, walking, wildlife viewing

The Nellie Corser Unit is more than 50 acres of mature Douglas-fir forest with several unique waterfalls. A short trail leads to a waterfall on Duncan Creek. Search for potential birding opportunities on or near a wildlife area unit by using [eBird Northwest](#), a citizen science database portal that provides freely-shared bird lists at 'hotspots' and interactive maps plus other birding information updated daily.

## **Vancouver Hatchery (25 mi from Nelli Corser Wildlife Area Unit)**

**Address:** 12208 SE Evergreen Hwy, Vancouver, WA 98683

**Access:** 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. | [Website](#)

**Highlights:** educational

The Vancouver Trout Hatchery was built at this location in 1938 for a very specific reason: Spring water bubbling up at the base of the Columbia Slope provides a constant supply of cold, clean water that's ideal for raising trout and salmon. Like most hatcheries, the trout and steelhead raised here are planted in local waterways to provide recreational fishing opportunities.

## **Shillapoo Wildlife Area (18 mi from Vancouver Hatchery)**

**Address:** NW Lower Rd, Vancouver, WA 98660

**Access:** [Day-use Discover Pass](#)

**Highlights:** hiking, walking, wildlife viewing

The approximately 2,420 acres Shillapoo Wildlife Area, located within the floodplain of the Columbia River in Clark County, is managed as three separate units. The Shillapoo North Unit and Vancouver Lake Unit are major wintering areas for waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway as well as an important staging/wintering area for Sandhill cranes. The Shillapoo South Unit includes more than 1,000 acres of wetlands, pastures, and agricultural fields that were historically used for dairy production.

## **Merwin Hatchery (41 mi from Shillapoo Wildlife Area)**

**Address:** Merwin Hatchery Dr, Ariel, WA 98603

**Access:** On-Site Parking

**Highlights:** educational

Located near Merwin Reservoir, the Merwin Hatchery provides picnic, boat ramp and fishing access.

## **Merrill Lake Wildlife Area Unit (23 mi from Merwin Hatchery)**

**Address:** 12208 SE Evergreen Hwy, Vancouver, WA 98683

**Access:** [Day-use Discover Pass](#)

**Highlights:** hiking, walking, wildlife viewing

The Merrill Lake Unit is bordered by Merrill Lake to the south and the Kalama River to the north. A waterfall on the Kalama River is a popular site for hikers. The unit includes old-growth forest located primarily on an ancient lava flow — tree casts can be found in the lava flow — and also has a large stand of lodgepole pine, a unique feature. The Merrill Lake Unit is primarily managed for elk and black-tailed deer habitat.