

## Hwy. 12 (I-5 to White Pass)

This guide is designed not only to key in on certain species, but to point out places on where to look for birds within Lewis County.

The Hwy. 12 corridor offers the most diverse habitats in Lewis County. This section will explore open farm fields, wetlands, rivers, ponds, lakes, clear cuts, second growth forests, mature forests, and mountain alpine regions. Over 85% of all the recorded bird species seen in Lewis County have been seen along this section. Note: The miles for distance in the directions are approximate, but as close to accurate as possible. Never leave any valuables in your vehicle at any site.

Places discussed in this section are as follows:

Lewis and Clark State Park  
Cowlitz Trout Hatchery  
Hidden Pond  
Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery/Barrier Dam  
Salkum Cemetery  
Mayfield Dam  
Mayfield County Park  
Mossyrock Fish Hatchery  
Ike Kinswa State Park  
Ike Kinswa State Park Boat Launch  
Flynn Road Pond and Field / Hafer Road / Larson Road  
Mossyrock Sewer Ponds  
Mossyrock Area  
Swofford Pond / Riffe Lake (West End Access)  
Mossyrock Park / Cowlitz Wildlife Area / Mossyrock Dam Day Use Area  
Mossyrock Dam Overlook  
Peterman Hill Trail (Cowlitz Wildlife Area)  
Riffe Lake (East End)  
Taidnapam Park Boat Launch  
Taidnapam Park  
Glenoma Community Park  
Lake Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Park)  
Falls Road  
Kiona Creek Trail (Cowlitz Wildlife Area)  
Peters Road Wetlands / Cowlitz Falls Campground  
Morton Fields  
Mt. Adams Mill Pond (Randle)  
Spears Road

Cispus River  
Woods Creek  
Cline Road Wetland  
Stover Road  
Forest Road 21  
Forest Road 48  
Packwood Irrigation Ditch  
Packwood Airport  
Packwood Lake  
Evergreen Cemetery (Packwood)  
Packwood Ball Field  
Thompson Road (Packwood)  
Knuppenburg Lake  
Forest Road 1284 (White Pass Burn)  
White Pass  
Gifford-Pinchot National Forest

## LEWIS AND CLARK STATE PARK

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east. At Jackson Hwy. (stoplight), turn right. Go about 2 miles and turn right into day use area.

This state park has a large tract of old growth forest with hiking trails, and is great for woodpeckers, Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, chickadees, kinglets, and Pacific Wrens. An entrance fee or a Discover Pass is required. This park is closed from October to mid April. Check the Washington State Parks website for exact dates.

## COWLITZ TROUT HATCHERY

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 7.7 miles. At Brim Rd. turn right. Continue to a 'T' at Spencer Rd. and turn right. Go .8 miles to Osprey Ln. and turn left.

As you head for the hatchery, check the snags in the open field for perching raptors, and stop along the road to check the riparian area for wintering sparrows, and passerines in the spring. Park at the hatchery parking lot and walk into the facility. Walk past the concrete holding tanks to the back where you will find an open gate that allows entry into the holding ponds. Most of the ponds have netting over them to protect the fish from Double-crested Cormorants, gulls, Belted Kingfishers, and Ospreys, but two are open where waterfowl like to hang out. In the back right corner is access to Blue Creek where American Dippers can be seen. Don't worry about seeing waterfowl inside the netted ponds, there is an open gate where they can fly in and out. This area is great for Ospreys, including over wintering ones, and year round Spotted Sandpipers. Back outside the facility, the road will continue on to the Blue Creek boat launch. Drive or walk along this road. Bullock's Orioles are usually seen in the trees along the river during the late spring and early summer and most likely nest here. Do not trespass into the residence areas that are on both sides of the hatchery. This site is good year round. If you have questions ask for Clint.



## HIDDEN POND

As you leave the hatchery, stop and park on the right side of the road near the stop sign. Walk out to Spencer Rd. and turn right. Continue walking for about 600 ft or so. On the left side you will see a metal gray gate across a dirt road. Note: the shoulder by this gate is soft and narrow and not advisable for parking. Follow this dirt track through the woods to the end, where a fairly good sized pond awaits. This pond is great for lots of waterfowl, especially in the late fall through spring. A scope would be handy here.





## COWLITZ SALMON HATCHERY/BARRIER DAM

From the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery, turn right onto Spencer Rd. Drive to the stop sign at Fuller Rd. and continue straight. At the 'Y' stay to the right.

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 11.9 miles. At Fuller Rd. turn right. At Spencer Rd. turn left. At the 'Y' stay to the right.

As you start to drive down the hill, find pullouts along the road. Red-eyed Vireos have been seen and heard in the trees here during the month of June and July. Drive on past the hatchery visitor center, and on the left, find a gravel parking area by the Barrier Dam. Walk up to a view point and scope the water above the dam. A backwash of calm water is great for waterfowl especially in the late fall to spring. Barrow's Goldeneye is usually present during the winter. For another view, go back to the visitor center and walk up the hill inside the hatchery grounds. At the end of the road is the boat launch. Check along the road for Bullock's Oriole and spring passerines. This site is good year round.



## SALKUM CEMETERY

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 12.4 miles. At Wilcox Rd. turn right. Follow to the end of the road. The cemetery is on the left.

There is a nice stand of mixed riparian forest that border on three sides of the cemetery. Look for Townsend's Warblers and Red-breasted Sapsuckers here. This site is good year round.



## MAYFIELD DAM

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 14.1 miles. At Gershick Rd. turn right. The road comes to a parking area above the dam.

Below is the southwest corner of Mayfield Lake. A scope is necessary for viewing. Look for grebes, loons, and waterfowl. Good from fall through spring.



## MAYFIELD COUNTY PARK

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 17.1 miles. At Beach Rd. turn left. The road ends in the parking area.

This park allows great views of the center of Mayfield Lake. Look for grebes, loons, and waterfowl. Spotted Sandpipers sometimes can be found here in the winter. A row of blackberry brambles line the back parking lot near the boat launch and are good for sparrows. Good from fall through spring.





## MOSSYROCK FISH HATCHERY

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 18.8 miles. At Birley Rd. (across from the DeGoede Bulb Farm) turn left. Go to Fish Hatchery Rd., turn left and follow to the end of the road.

This is a small hatchery on the east end of Mayfield Lake. The Cowlitz River enters into the lake further east and creates this small arm of the lake. Walk across the road from the hatchery to view this section. Look for loons, grebes, and waterfowl. Fairly good from fall through spring.

## IKE KINSWA STATE PARK

Directions from the Mossyrock Fish Hatchery: go back up to Birley Rd. and turn left. Go to Harmony Rd. (Hwy. 122) and turn left. Continue for 2.6 miles and turn right into the day use area of the park.

Directions from I-5: take exit 68 and head east for 20.4 miles. At the stoplight in Mossyrock, turn left on Harmony Rd. (Hwy. 122). Continue for 3.7 miles and turn right into the day use area of the park.

This section of the park is where the Tilton River enters into the northeast end of Mayfield Lake. Look for wintering waterfowl and passerines in the spring through fall. A 1.5 mile trail follows the river upstream. This site is good year round. An entrance fee or a Discover Pass is required. This park is open year round.

An additional stop along the way to the park is a pullout on the left side of the road. This is 1.7 miles after crossing the Cowlitz River. Check the lake for wintering waterfowl here.



## IKE KINSWA STATE PARK BOAT LAUNCH

Directions from Ike Kinswa State Park day use are: go back to Harmony Rd. (Hwy. 122) and turn right. Go .5 miles and turn left into the entrance.

Directions from I-5: take exit 68 and head east. At the stoplight in Mossyrock, turn left on Harmony Rd. (Hwy. 122). In 4.2 miles turn left into the entrance.

Walk down to the lake to view the north end of Mayfield Lake. Look for wintering loons, grebes, and waterfowl. A Clark's Grebe has been seen from here during the winter. Good from fall through spring.



## FLYNN ROAD POND AND FIELD / HAFER ROAD / LARSON ROAD.

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 20.4 miles. At the stoplight in Mossyrock, turn left on Harmony Rd. (Hwy. 122). Continue for 3.3 miles and turn right on Flynn Rd. In .6 miles you will come to the volunteer Lewis County Fire Dept. Parking is possible here as long as you don't block access to the facility. There is a large grassy field with a pond here and is good for wintering geese, waterfowl and raptors. Meadowlarks can be found here as well. Continue on for another 2.6 miles and make a sharp left on Kjesbu Rd. Continue to Hafer Rd. and turn right. You will pass through some fields and come to private timber land. In less than .5 miles you will see a clear cut. Check this in the spring. Note: As of 2016 this is still a good clear cut, but not sure if foot access is available.

Backtrack back down to Flynn Rd. and stay left. Continue to Larson Rd and take a left. There are farm fields and some shoulder parking along this road. Look for wintering raptors and geese. Note: Larson Rd. will meet up with Hwy. 12 in 2 miles.



## MOSSYROCK SEWER PONDS

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 19.4 miles. Just past Birley Rd. and the DeGoede Bulb Farm fields, look for where the trees start on the left side of the highway. Pull off on the wide shoulder near the ponds. There is usually one pond that has water and the other is seasonal that accumulates rain water. Check these ponds from the shoulder or walk down the access road. Shorebirds are possible during the fall and spring.

## MOSSYROCK AREA

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 20.4 to the stoplight in Mossyrock.

Mossyrock consists mostly of farming fields, access to Riffe Lake, Swofford Pond, and several other great places to bird. Check the town itself for Eurasian-collared Doves. Birding by car can be done by driving some of the various roads within the farm fields.

One good driving route during the winter and spring is to turn right on Birley Rd. (off Hwy. 12), then go left on Mossyrock Rd. W. passing the DeGoede Bulb Farm. April is a good time to see the tulip fields in bloom. Continue .5 miles to Aldrich Rd. and turn right. The road will bend to the left and comes back out onto Mossyrock Rd. W. Go right here for .3 miles to Isbell Rd. and turn right. Go .4 miles to Swigert Rd. and turn left. The road will bend right and then back left and then will 'T' into Blankenship Rd. Turn left here and go .5 miles back to Mossyrock Rd. E. Turn right to continue on to the birding sites.

## SWOFFORD POND / RIFFE LAKE (WEST END ACCESS)

Directions: At the stoplight in Mossyrock turn right on Williams St. At the 'T' turn left on E. State which will become Mossyrock Rd. E. Go 2.5 miles to a 'Y' and veer right onto Swofford Rd. The road will bend to the left and become Green Mountain Rd.

From this bend, find a paved pull-off in .3 miles to view the west end of the pond. Look for waterfowl in the fall through spring. Large numbers of Ring-necked Ducks winter here, and Ruddy Ducks are possible as well. Marsh Wrens can be found in the wet grasses below. Continue down the road for another .3 miles to a gravel pull-off and another view of the pond. To view the east end of the pond and access to the west end of Riffe Lake, continue down the road for another .5 miles and park in a pull-out on the left side. This is before the dam where Swofford Pond empties into Riffe Lake. There is additional parking on the opposite shoulders or just past the dam. Note: when the water level on Riffe Lake is up, then foot access is not possible. Walk on the old road or cut over to the creek, and walk out to the lake. American Dippers can be found in the creek during the winter. Look for California Gulls, Common Loons, Horned and Western Grebes, and other waterfowl on the lake. Red-necked Grebes have been seen from here during the fall. For a good spring or early summer hike, continue past the dam for less than .1 mile and park on the right shoulder. Look for a small open area with a green trail sign. A 2.5 mile round trip trail can be hiked through the trees. Look for Warbling Vireos, warblers, and other passerines. This site is good year round.



Swofford Pond (west and east ends)



Riffe Lake (west end access when the lake is low)



## MOSSYROCK PARK / COWLITZ WILDLIFE AREA / MOSSYROCK DAM DAY USE AREA

Directions: At the stoplight in Mossyrock turn right on Williams St. At the 'T' turn left on E. State which will become Mossyrock Rd. E. Go 2.5 miles to a 'Y' and stay left. Continue straight into the Mossyrock Park entrance.

Drive to the boat launch at the end of the road. Walk down to the lake and look for loons, grebes, waterfowl, and gulls. California Gulls usually winter here. Continue to explore the park for other views of the lake.

The park is closed from December 20 – January 1 and there is a \$5.00 day use fee on the weekends and holidays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.



To continue onto the Cowlitz Wildlife Area, exit the park and turn right on Young Rd. Go .6 miles and turn right into a small gravel parking lot. When you walk into this area, you will see a large open field and some trails.

Take the trail to the right and walk .2 miles to a marshy area and pond. Look for Marsh Wrens, Blue-winged Teal in May, and American Bittern is possible. Continue on the trail just past the pond and it will come back out to the road. Cross the road and continue on the trail past the yellow gate and find another pond and marshy area.

The trail to the left is an interpretive trail and skirts along the open field passing bat boxes at the far end.







The Mossyrock Dam day use area has several areas to check. Turn right out of the Cowlitz Wildlife Area parking lot. The road becomes Switchyard Ln. There are pull outs along this road for forest birding. When you come to Onion Rock Ln., stay to the right. It will take you to the dam. Here you can view the lake. Take Onion Rock Ln. to go through the open area and by the maintenance facility. Check this area for Chipping Sparrows in the spring. This road will come to unmarked crossroads. Turn right (Hydra Vista Ln.) and follow to the day use park and view of the back side of the dam. House Wrens and Hutton's Vireo are possible here in spring. Continuing straight on Onion Rock Ln. will take you to the base of the dam. There are pullouts along the road, and it's good for Barred Owls. There is a small turnaround at the end of this road. These sites are good year round.







### MOSSYROCK DAM OVERLOOK

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east. Drive approx 23.5 miles. Turn right into the parking lot.

Scope this section of Riffe Lake for loons and waterfowl. Fairly good from fall through spring.



### PETERMAN HILL TRAIL (COWLITZ WILDLIFE AREA)

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 27.4 miles. Turn right onto Highland Valley Rd. and stay straight to the end of the paved road.

The trail starts in the far end of the parking area and travels through mostly forested areas with some clear cuts, and is good for woodpeckers and Ruffed Grouse. Check clear cuts for flycatchers, sparrows, and possibly Western Bluebirds. At the parking area is a map of the trails and roads open to the public. Download Google Maps of the area if you want to explore the roads. This site is good from spring through early fall. Note: beware of logging activity and hunting, and this area will be closed if there is high fire danger.

### MORTON FIELDS

This is a driving route with pull outs to look for winter waterfowl and spring migrants in the open fields of Morton. From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 31.8 miles, and turn left onto Temple Rd. Go to Davis Lake Rd. and turn right. Go 2 miles to Priest Rd. and turn right. Go to Hwy. 12 and turn right. In 1.5 miles turn right onto Gun Club Rd. Walk the access road to Davis Lake. Access is limited and muddy in the winter and early spring.

### RIFFE LAKE (EAST END)

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 36.4 miles. Turn right onto Kosmos Rd.

Riffe Lake, when the water level is low, exposes a large open area with a few small ponds. It is divided into three areas caused by creek flow that cuts through the exposed lake bed. Trying to cross these creeks is not advisable. The first section is created by Frost Creek and can be accessed from the Kosmos Boat Launch. After turning on Kosmos Rd., continue straight to the boat launch. The gate to the boat launch is closed when the lake is low enough not to be functional, so park outside the gate and walk in. The ease or difficulty of access to the lake depends on the water level. The lower the lake level, the longer the walk, but it's still doable.

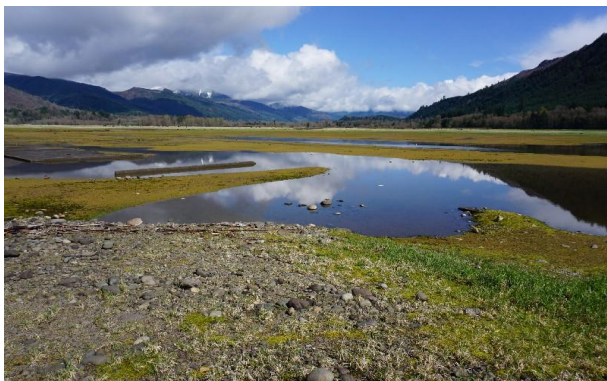




The second section is between Frost Creek and Rainey Creek. After turning onto Kosmos Rd., go to Champion Haul Rd. and turn left. At the crossroads with Glenoma Rd (.8 miles), turn right. Park at the gate, and walk out into the exposed lake bed which can be muddy in places.

The third section and best, is between Rainey Creek and the lake itself. After turning onto Kosmos Rd., go to Champion Haul Rd. and turn left. Stop at the bridge over Rainey Creek (1.3 Miles) and check the pond and marsh on the left. Look for Wood Ducks and other waterfowl. Marsh Wrens and American Bittern are possible here. Continue another .5 miles to the parking lot on the right. Walk out to the lake and look for waterfowl, loons, grebes, and gulls. A few small ponds remain in the exposed lake bed when the lake drops, and is good for waterfowl and shorebirds. This area is also muddy in places. The flat open areas are good for American Pipits and Horned Larks during the fall migration. Caspian Terns sometimes can be seen in the spring. This section is best from mid August to November, with September being the most productive in species. The east end of Riffe Lake is a fall migrant trap, but spring time can be just as good.

All three sections are good from fall to spring, and has had the highest number of code 4 and 5 birds seen anywhere else in the county.



### TAIDNAPAM PARK BOAT LAUNCH

After turning onto Kosmos Rd., go to Champion Haul Rd. and turn left. Go 3.4 miles and turn right into the boat launch parking area. Look for waterfowl, loons, grebes, and gulls from the fall through spring. Look for sparrows in the fall and spring by walking out and to the left through the grasses. Good from fall through spring.



### TAIDNAPAM PARK

Continue .4 miles past the boat launch and turn right on to Cayuse Ln. and into the park. Stay left for the day use area. This is where the Cowlitz River enters the lake. Look for waterfowl, loons, grebes, and gulls from the fall through spring. There is a \$5.00 use fee on the weekends and holidays.



## GLENOMA COMMUNITY PARK

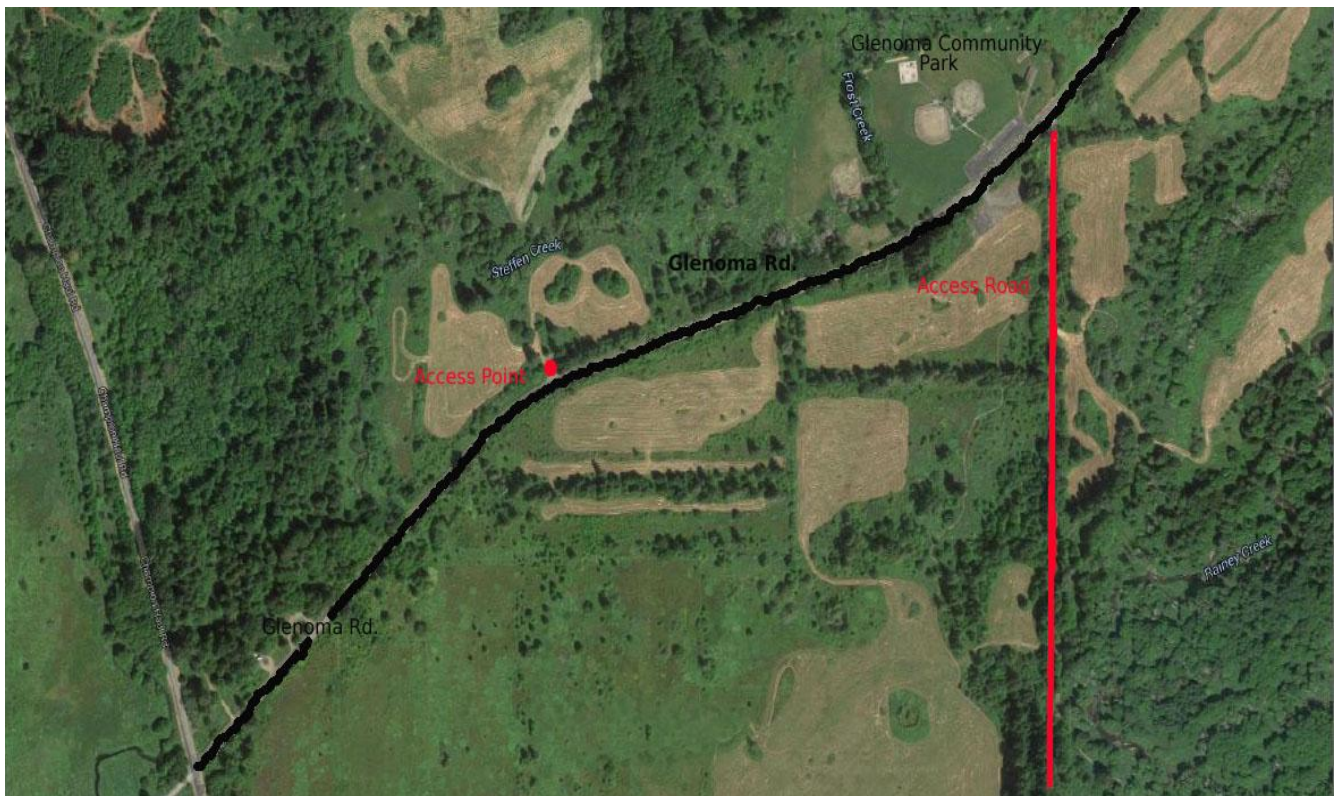
After turning onto Kosmos Rd., go to Champion Haul Rd. and turn left. At the crossroads with Glenoma Rd. (.8 miles) turn left. Go .6 miles. The park is on the left.

Frost Creek flows through the back of this sports recreation park and cuts back in, splitting the park into two sections. Walk the outer perimeter to check riparian areas for passerines from the late winter through fall. If the park is closed you will have park on the outside. The parking lot is closed during the winter time.

To bird the mixed open forest and fields, look for a paved access road, on the right side of the road, with a yellow gate. It's across from the east edge of the park. There are some well defined trails that meander through the fields. These trails are very wet and muddy during the winter and early spring. Walk the paved road down to Rainey Creek, where a foot bridge crosses the creek and starts a new trail. Look for passerines from late winter through fall.

Another area to explore is .3 miles after turning onto Glenoma Rd. Park on the left side by the yellow gate and walk in to check the riparian areas for passerines from the late winter through fall.

Note: These fields are open to hunting.





## LAKE SCANEWA (COWLITZ FALLS PARK)

From Kosmos Rd., go to Champion Haul Rd. and turn left. Go 3.4 miles and turn left onto a dirt road. This road is open to the public, but the lands on either side are private property and usually open to the public. Check the clear cuts for Willow Flycatchers, Western Bluebirds, and White-crowned Sparrows. The road is closed in the summer time when the fire danger is high. At the end of the road, the pavement returns. For a quick side trip to the Cowlitz Dam and river, stay right and follow Falls Rd. to the end. For the lake, go left on Falls Rd. and go 2.2 miles and turn right. Follow to the parking area. On the right, there's a boat launch and a view into the main lake. A trail follows the edge of the lake allowing more views of the lake. This trail starts at the brown fishing access sign next to the boat launch. On the left are manmade dikes creating coves, and calms the flow of the river. Walk out on them to view these areas of the lake. Look for Ruffed Grouse in the forest, wintering waterfowl, passerines and Purple Martins in the spring through summer. Purple Martins were discovered in the summer of 2013 and were using the snags in the lake for nesting. Unfortunately the snags cannot be seen from here.

This site is good year round.

Note: If the dirt road is closed, then use these directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 44.4 miles and turn right on Savio Rd. Go 1.2 miles to Kiona Rd and turn right. Go 2 miles to Falls Rd. and turn right. Go 3.6 and turn left.

For the Cowlitz Dam and River, stay on Falls Rd. for another 5 miles to the end.



## FALLS ROAD

From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 44.4 miles and turn right on Savio Rd. Go 1.2 miles to Kiona Rd and turn right. Go 2 miles to Falls Rd. and turn right.

After the first mile you will come to private timber lands that are usually open to the public, unless otherwise stated. These lands will be closed when the fire danger is high. For the next 1.5 miles, you can explore these logging roads by foot. Check the clear cuts for House Wrens and Western Bluebirds in the spring. Note: there are some private residences from mile 2.5 to 3.5, approximately. Then the next 1.5 miles after that are back to private timber lands. Good in the spring and summer.

## KIONA CREEK TRAIL (COWLITZ WILDLIFE AREA)

From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 45.9 miles and turn right on Savio Rd. This is the second Savio Rd. you come to. Take the first quick left onto Savio Rd E. Stay to the left, passing a white mobile home, and look for a gate across a road with a Cowlitz Wildlife Area sign. There is a small parking lot here.

The trail is the road. This site is good from spring through summer.

Note: This area is open to hunting.

## PETERS ROAD WETLANDS / COWLITZ FALLS CAMPGROUND

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 47.4 miles and turn right onto Peters Rd.

Continue .6 miles to a pullout on the left.

This flood plain consists of large open fields and wetlands. Look for Lazuli Buntings, American Bitterns, Bank Swallows, Soras, Virginia Rails, Cinnamon Teal, and Blue-winged Teal here in the spring and summer. Waterfowl are present during the winter. This site is good year round. Note: This area can flood during heavy rains making the road impassable at times.

Continue another 3.3 miles along Peters Rd., passing more open fields before coming to the Cowlitz Falls Campground. This park is also known as Leonard 'Bud' Allen Park. The park is open from late May through mid September, and has a free day use area with some short nature trails and river access. Check the website for exact opening and closing dates.

[HTTP://WWW.LCPUD.ORG/RECREATION/COWLITZ-FALLS-CAMPGROUND](http://www.lcpud.org/recreation/cowlitz-falls-campground)





## RANDLE AREA

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 47.4 miles to Randle.

This is one of the main entry points to the Gifford-Pinchot National Forest. FR 23 and FR 25 offer access to good hiking trails and birding. I recommend using Green Trail maps when exploring. Not only do they have the roads and trails marked, it shows where the county lines are. The Lewis/Skamania County line is approximately 10.5 miles due south as a crow flies. I will only mention a few noteworthy sites in these areas.

## MT. ADAMS MILL POND (RANDLE)

Directions: At Randle turn right onto State Route 131. Stay right at the 'Y' and go 1.3 miles and look for a large parking on the left.

A trail (dirt road) goes around this pond and is good for waterfowl and Red-winged Blackbirds. Check the trees for passerines in the spring and summer. The open fields across the road are a good place to look for Mountain Bluebirds in the late winter through spring. This site is good year round.



## SPEARS ROAD

Directions: At Randle turn right onto State Route 131. Stay right at the 'Y' and go 2 miles and turn left on Spears Rd. Go .7 miles to a pullout.

This wetland is created by Siler Creek and has adjacent open fields. Swans are known to use this during the winter along with other waterfowl. This site is good year round.



## CISPUS RIVER

Directions: At Randle turn right onto State Route 131. Go 1 mile and veer left at the 'Y' onto FR 23. Go 8.1 miles to Cispus Road, turn right, and park at the bridge.

This is the place to look for Harlequin Ducks from the late spring through summer.

Note: I have seen a female with young on 6/30/15, upstream at the bend in the river.

For more areas to check, then cross the bridge, and turn left on to FR 2801. This road parallels the river for .9 miles. Or, continue on the main road passing the Cispus Learning Center. This road will become FR 76 (single lane paved road) and will 'T' into FR 25 at the Iron Creek picnic area. There is at least 3 miles of road that parallels the river, and has pullouts to check for Harlequin Ducks.



## WOODS CREEK

Directions: At Randle turn right onto State Route 131. Stay right at the 'Y' and continue on FR 25 for 5.8 miles. Turn left onto FR 2305. The parking lot is on the left side.

There is a trail that loops through a riparian forest, and passes a small wetland. Look for Hammond's Flycatchers and other passerines in the spring and summer. Ruffed Grouse are here year round. This site is good from late spring through summer.

Note: A Northwest Forest Pass is required at the trail head.



## CLINE ROAD WETLAND

Directions: At Randle turn right onto State Route 131. Go 1 mile and veer left at the 'Y' onto FR 23. Go .3 miles to Cline Rd. and turn left.

Cline Rd. parallels the Cowlitz River to the south and skirts the northern border of Gifford-Pinchot National Forest. It has some pull offs and passes large open fields towards the end. Private timber companies own some land along this road and allow public access. Look for the orange gates that designate these areas. In 2.2 miles you will come to the wetland on the left side of the road. Look for the small pull out on the right side, at an orange gated road, and park. Walk along the road to check this wetland out. In 3.3 miles you will come to a backwash slough created by the river. Continue to Bennett Rd. and turn right. You will pass another large open field before returning to Hwy. 12. This is good from late winter through summer.



## STOVER ROAD

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 59 miles and turn left onto Stover Rd. Red-eyed Vireos have been seen and heard here in the summer.

## FOREST ROAD 21

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 61.8 miles and turn right onto FR 21.

Though mostly forest birding, this is the way to Chambers Lake and the trails into the Goat Rock Wilderness. Two trails are worth mentioning here, the Goat Ridge Trail and the Snowgrass Flats Trail. Both enter into the alpine regions where high elevation birds can be found. Look for Cassin's Finches, Mountain Chickadees, Pine Grosbeaks, Black Swifts, Clark's Nutcrackers, American Pipits, Golden Eagles, and Mountain Bluebirds. Mountain Bluebirds are most likely nesting on the Pacific Crest Trail at Snowgrass Flats. I have seen them in the area every time I've hiked there. White-tailed Ptarmigan, Calliope Hummingbirds, and Prairie Falcons are all possible. Note: The trails are at least 5 miles one way and usually snow free by mid July. A Northwest Forest Pass is required at the trailheads.

## FOREST ROAD 48

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 63 miles and turn right onto FR 48.

This offers mostly forest birding, but the clear cut at the beginning of the road is good for House Wrens, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Western Bluebirds are possible. This clear cut is still good as of 2016.

One trail worth mentioning is the Lily Basin Trail. This enters into the Goat Rocks Wilderness alpine area near Johnson Peak. Look for Cassin's Finches, Mountain Chickadees, Pine Grosbeaks, Black Swifts, Cassin's Finches, and Clark's Nutcrackers. The trailhead is 10 miles up this road. Note: The trail is at least 5 miles one way and usually snow free by mid July. A Northwest Forest Pass is required at the trailhead.

## PACKWOOD IRRIGATION DITCH

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 63.9 miles and pull off the highway on the right side next to the irrigation ditch.

This irrigation ditch runs on both sides of the highway and should be checked in early spring through early summer for the odd flycatcher. Eastern Kingbirds and Say's Phoebes have been seen here. For another section to check, go another 400 ft. and turn right on to Riffe Rd. This road will dead end after crossing the bridge, but park before the bridge and check the canal.





## PACKWOOD AIRPORT

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 64.4 miles and turn left on Willame St. W. Go .2 miles and find the east end of the airport on the left. Park on the right side.

There is an 8 foot chain link fence that surrounds the field. Check the fence for flycatchers in the early spring through early summer.



## PACKWOOD LAKE

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 64.7 miles and turn right onto Snyder Rd. (opposite Skate Creek Rd.). This road becomes FR 1260. Continue for 10 miles to the end and parking lot. You can either hike the trail or the road for 4.5 miles to the lake. Look for forest birds and Olive-sided Flycatchers. At the lake, look for Vaux's Swifts and Common Loons. For a better birding opportunity, hike the road towards the lake for the first mile. The road is on the left, just before entering into the parking lot. Note: The trail is snow free by mid July. A Northwest Forest Pass is required at the trail head.

### EVERGREEN CEMETERY (PACKWOOD)

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 64.7 miles and turn left onto Skate Creek Rd. Go .8 miles to Cannon Rd. and turn right. Go 1 mile and turn left into the cemetery.

Large numbers of swallows can be found here in the summer. Look for Vaux's Swifts and sometimes Black Swifts, and Common Nighthawks a little before sunset. This site is good in the spring and summer.



### PACKWOOD BALL FIELD

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 64.7 miles and turn left onto Skate Creek Rd. Go 1.4 miles to Silver Rd. and turn right.

Check the trees around the field for Cassin's Vireos, Chipping Sparrows, and warblers in the spring. This site is good in the spring and summer. Note: The ball field is open from 9:00 am to dusk starting Memorial Day weekend, through Labor Day weekend, and cannot be accessed when closed. The field is completely surrounded by a fence; however, you can walk the outer perimeter.





### THOMPSON ROAD (PACKWOOD)

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 66.3 miles and turn right onto Thompson Rd. Explore the clear cuts along this road. The land belongs to a private timber company and allows day use access onto the lands. Look for House Wrens, MacGillivray's Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, Cassin's Vireos, and Common Nighthawks. Continue further along this road to FR 1266. Hermit Thrushes and Olive-sided Flycatchers are possible along this road. Good in the spring and summer. Note: The clear cuts are still good as of 2016.



### KNUPPENBURG LAKE

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 82.8 miles and turn right into the parking lot. This is a small lake next to Hwy. 12 and should be checked for Barrow's Goldeneye, which have been seen here on occasions. Look for warblers, American Dippers, Varied Thrush, and Hammond's Flycatchers. Good in the late spring through early fall.

### FR 1284 (WHITE PASS BURN)

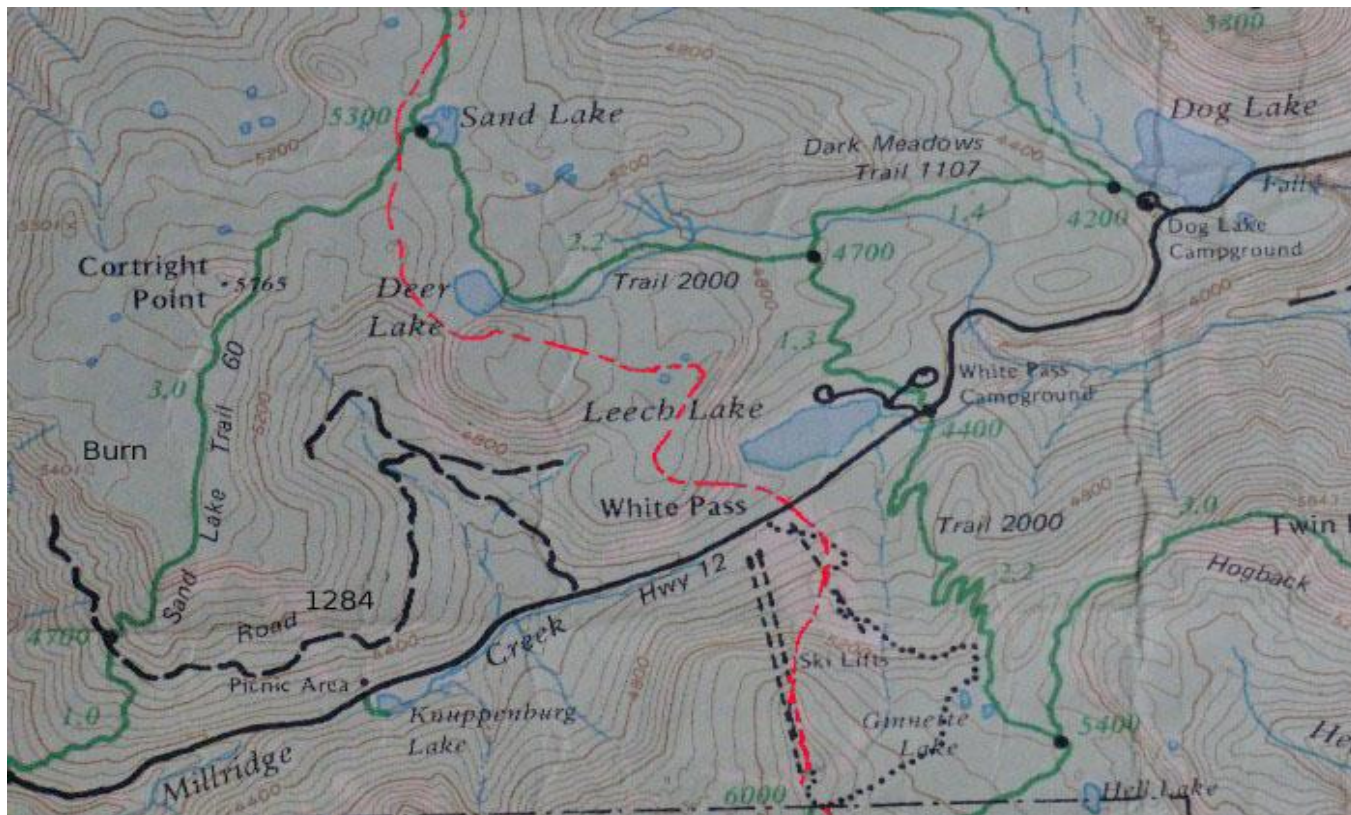
Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 83.6 miles and turn left on FR 1284. Go approximately 2.8 miles to the Sand Lake trailhead. Hike the trail for less than a mile to an old burn. Look for Townsend's Solitaires, Gray Jays, Nashville Warblers, and American Three-toed Woodpeckers. Northern Goshawks are possible in this area. The trail is usually snow free by mid July.

## WHITE PASS

Directions: From I-5 take exit 68 and head east for 84.4 miles to the White Pass ski area.

Look for Pine Siskins, Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks, warblers, thrushes, and flycatchers. The county line is a bit tricky here. Just know that most of the open slopes for the ski area are in Lewis County, and Leech Lake is in Yakima County.

The picture below shows the county line in red.



## GIFFORD-PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST

If birding roads or hiking trails interests you, then Gifford-Pinchot is the place to go. There are lots of entry points, and roads and trails, starting in Glenoma all the way to White Pass. I always recommend having maps when exploring. Green Trail Maps are the best for roads, trails, and county lines.