

HORAN NATURAL AREA

We want to hear from you to help us preserve this natural area for future generations!



Chelan County PUD and Washington State Parks have a collective vision for the long-term management of the Horan Natural Area (HNA) in the Horan Natural Area to sustain a functioning ecosystem, while providing recreational access for enjoyment, education and interpretation of its historical and natural resources for future generations.

OWNERSHIP:

- Ownership and stewardship of the land is complex.
- The HNA is owned by Chelan PUD and managed by Washington State Parks.
- The radio tower footprint is owned by the PUD and actively managed by Vertical Bridge CCR.
- The islands to the east of the HNA are owned by Washington Department of Natural Resources and managed by Washington State Parks.
- The HNA is managed to meet specific requirements of the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project license and the Washington State Parks Confluence Area Management Plan.



TRIBAL & LOCAL HISTORY

- Native peoples have inhabited the Wenatchee area for thousands of years.
- Historically, the area around the confluence of the Columbia and Wenatchee Rivers was used by Native American tribes for gathering, ceremonies and trade.
- Plants, fish and wildlife were used by Native Peoples for subsistence, medicinal and ceremonial purposes.
- The HNA was home to the area's first trading post in 1866, and settlers began to move into the Wenatchee

Valley in significant numbers in the late 1880s.

- The Great Northern Railroad arrived in Wenatchee in 1892 and allowed produce growers to ship their products across the country.
- The area that is now the HNA was established as a pear orchard and cattle pasture, before it was purchased by the PUD in the 1980s as recreational and wildlife development for the Rock Island hydroproject.
- The PUD developed a series of connected, steep-sided ponds along with a gravel trail system that extends throughout the area as part of the recreation plan.

We value your input on how to best sustain the HNA's unique characteristics and the uses you enjoy:

- How do you use the Horan Natural Area?
- What are the things you most value about the area?
- What could make your experience better?



WILDLIFE, PLANTS & HABITAT

- The area supports a wide variety of plants and wildlife.
- The Rare Plant and Vegetation Survey of Wenatchee Confluence State Park conducted by the Pacific Biodiversity Institute identified 13 species of noxious weeds within the area.
- Active weed control has limited the spread and density of many noxious weed species.
- The area has evolved over time due to natural and human influences, reducing the amount of open water habitats and increasing marshlands.
- While there are no fish species that permanently inhabit the open water ponds of the area, there are a number of fish species in area rivers, including salmon and Steelhead.
- Resident animals can include:
 - Deer
 - Raccoon
 - Coyotes
 - Songbirds
 - Snakes
 - Skunk



RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- The North Central Washington Audubon Society Friends of Horan hosts monthly bird walks in the natural area.
- School groups and other local organizations use the area for educational tours.
- The site offers self-guided interpretation with 15 interpretive kiosks.
- The area is connected to the Apple Capital Loop Trail System.
- There are several amenities in the HNA including restrooms, benches, interpretive kiosks, and several viewing platforms throughout the area for wildlife viewing.
- Runners and walkers benefit from the trails.
- The sloughs along the east edge of the area provide a pleasant water-based trail system for canoes and kayaks.



MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

- Washington State Parks and Chelan PUD treat the area for noxious weeds and conduct mosquito control.
- Vegetation is managed along the trail.
- The restroom, informational kiosks, and benches are maintained by Washington State Parks.
- Washington State Parks also does hazardous tree assessment to identify and remove trees that may fall on the trail.
- The trail closes from December 1 to April 1 for bald eagle and other wildlife protection as required by the PUD's federal license.
- In years past, Chelan PUD brought in large equipment to create ponds and open water areas for birds and wildlife. These proactive human-made system changes require ongoing maintenance. Left to nature, these ponds will evolve into more marsh like environments.
- Chelan PUD and Washington State Parks continue to work with stakeholders to preserve, maintain and enhance the HNA.

Visit our website at www.chelanpud.org/horan to provide comments. You can also call or email

