

A Service-Learning Leader

The Wildlife and Aquatic Education Program led by Nevada Division of Wildlife in partnership with Washoe County School District and Americorps volunteers became nationally recognized with the **2000 Presidential Award for Service-Learning** for its outstanding achievement in improving education and strengthening communities through Service-Learning. Middle school students peer taught aquatic and wildlife education to elementary school students arriving for field trips at the Oxbow Nature Study Area.



2000 Presidential Award for Service-Learning

This program enhanced academic growth and the wildlife awareness of both the middle school students who became volunteer community leaders and the elementary school students who participated in the program. In addition, NDOW, the Opportunity School middle school students and Americorps volunteers worked together to design an educational booklet, *Oxbow Nature Study Area Field Guide*, which is now given to all students who visit Oxbow. A delegation, which included Opportunity School students and agency partners, flew to Washington, D C to accept this prestigious Presidential Award and attended the conference for National Service-Learning Leadership Schools. The booklet is a model for other aquatic and wildlife educational programs in the State of Nevada.



Nevada Division of Wildlife
January 2003



To schedule a Wildlife Education program in the Western Region for your school, contact:

**Nevada Division of Wildlife
Regional Wildlife Education Coordinator**

1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
775.334.3808

E-mail: Wildlife-Ed@ndow.state.nv.us
www.ndow.org

Martin Slough Nature Trail (continued)

Directions: Follow Highway 395 to the town of Gardnerville, and turn east at Gilman Road. The Martin Slough Trail head is located at the entrance to the Chichester Estates.

Hours

Open year round from sunrise to sunset.

Incline Village Nature Trail

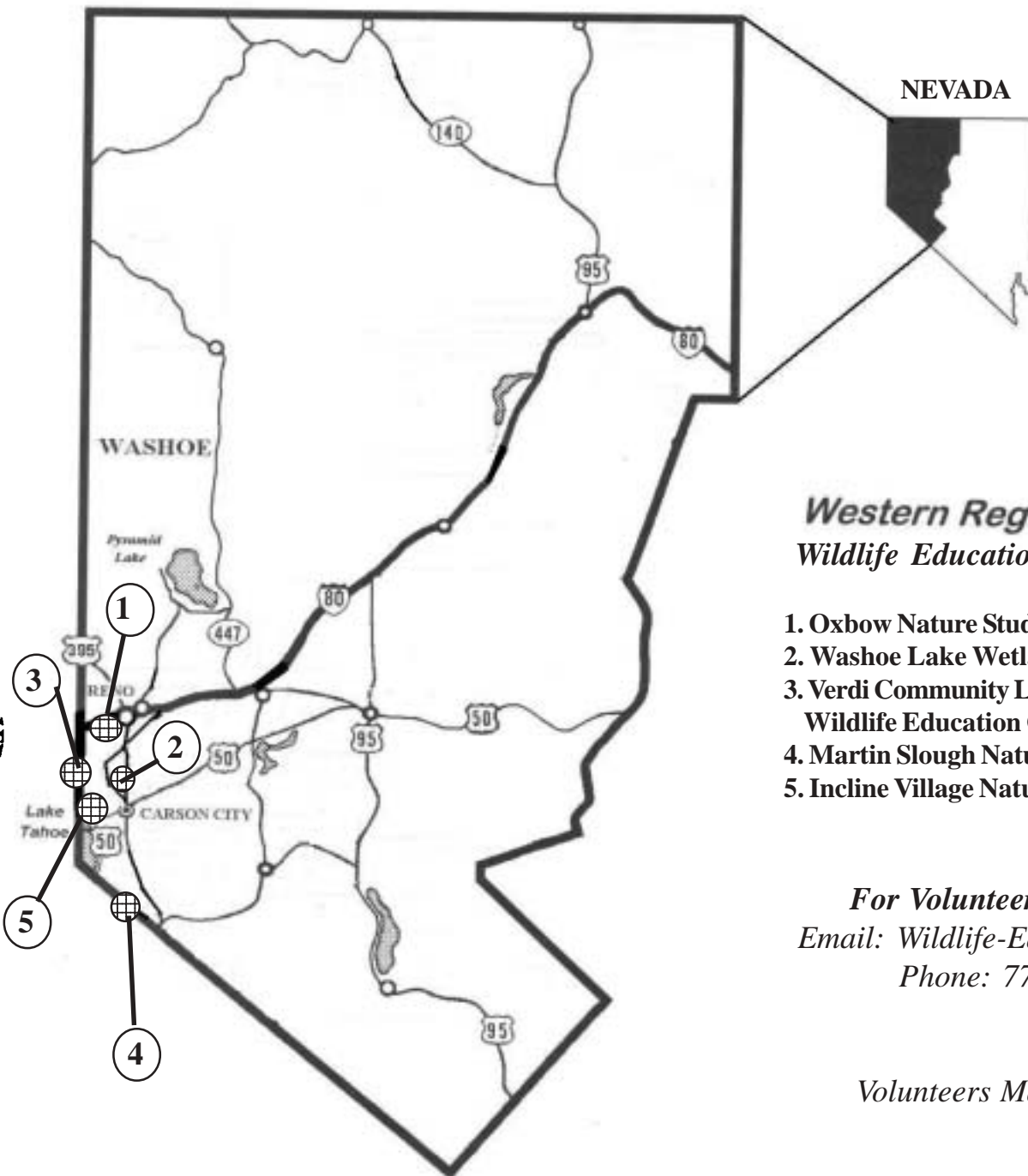
This future site is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountain located near beautiful Lake Tahoe at the new Incline Elementary School, scheduled to open for the 2003-2004 school year. Wildlife and Aquatic Education opportunities for students and the surrounding communities of Nevada and California will be available at this future site!

Directions:

The Incline Village Nature Trail will be located at Village Boulevard in Incline Village.

Trout in the Classroom Program

NDOW provides all the tools needed to bring the classroom alive. Fourth and fifth grade students raise Rainbow trout from eggs to fry in an aquarium in their own classroom. Each spring, students bring their fry to the Truckee River and other NDOW approved locations for release. Nevada Fly-Fisher organizations and other local volunteers help as "Trout Buddies" for each class. Trout in the Classroom connects students to Nevada waters through stewardship!



Western Region Wildlife Education Sites:

1. Oxbow Nature Study Area
2. Washoe Lake Wetlands
3. Verdi Community Library and Wildlife Education Center
4. Martin Slough Nature Trail
5. Incline Village Nature Trail

For Volunteer Opportunities

Email: Wildlife-Ed@ndow.state.nv.us
Phone: 775.334.3808

Volunteers Make It Happen!



*Connecting people
to wildlife in a
positive way....*



WESTERN REGION WILDLIFE EDUCATION SITES

Western Region Wildlife Education!

Introduction

The Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) offers Wildlife Education and Aquatic Education field trips at a variety of Wildlife Education Sites in Western Nevada that includes diverse areas such as desert, sagebrush steppe, river, riparian, wetlands and mountain habitats. Nevada wildlife make their home in these diverse habitats, and the Wildlife Education Program helps to foster NDOW's mission: "Connecting people to wildlife in a positive way!"

Field Trip & Activities

Upon student arrival at a Western Region Wildlife Education Site, Wildlife Education Docents present programs in Wildlife Education and Aquatic Education. Students participate in outdoor hands-on activities using field equipment such as microscopes, binoculars and field guides. Students learn about Nevada wildlife through interactive activities using hides and skulls and making casts of wildlife tracks. Students and teachers are also given a site specific self-guided *Wildlife Education Field Guide* to enjoy while walking along the site trail. Teachers may also select a variety of *Project WILD* or *Aquatic WILD* activities to lead with their students, according to the education standards teachers address at the educational field trip.

Make a Reservation for a Field Trip

Schedule field trips in advance with the Western Region Wildlife Education Coordinator. Send an email reservation request to Wildlife-Ed@ndow.state.nv.us or phone 775.334.3808 to reserve a field trip. You may also leave a voicemail message to request the date and Wildlife Education Site you would like to reserve. *Please confirm your school group reservation before scheduling your bus.*

Maximum number of students per field trip: **60**

Cost: Free

Facilities: Restrooms and water fountains are available at all sites year round. Lunch may be enjoyed outside at the picnic tables at each site, but please do not feed the wildlife. Trash containers are provided at each site.

Dress For A Variety of Weather Conditions!

Due to Nevada's variable weather, it is advisable that appropriate layers of clothing be worn while attending the field trip. Water bottles, sunglasses, sunscreen, hats and jackets are advisable at all times.

Western Nevada Wildlife Education Sites

Oxbow Nature Study Area

Oxbow Nature Study Area is located on the Truckee River, one mile from downtown Reno. This site serves the public as the State of Nevada model for Wildlife Education and Aquatic Education programs offered by the Nevada Division of Wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also recognizes Oxbow Nature Study Area as a national model for a successful urban nature center. Students attending school field trips enjoy walking the 1/3 mile-long wheelchair accessible nature trail, actively following the student guidebooks with teachers, parents and Wildlife Education Docents.

Students also participate in hands-on wildlife and aquatic education programs.

The Oxbow Nature Study Area is home to the Great blue heron, California quail, Cooper's hawk, mule deer, beaver, rainbow trout and more! The Oxbow Nature Study Area is a partnership between the Nevada Division of Wildlife and the City of Reno Parks Department. The park is officially adopted by the SBC Telephone Pioneers who help keep this park beautiful. NDOW is also assisted by Truckee River Fly Fishers at Oxbow with the Trout in the Classroom riverside release.



Wildlife Education Docents connecting students to wildlife!

Location

The Oxbow Nature Study Area is located one mile from downtown Reno.

Directions

Exit I 80 at Keystone Avenue and travel south. Turn right at West 2nd Street, follow West 2nd about 3/4 mile and look for the Y intersection before the Railroad Bridge. Turn left at Dickerson Road and follow Dickerson Road to the end where you will find the entrance and parking area for the Oxbow Nature Study Area.

Hours

Oxbow Nature Study Area trails are open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to sunset including holidays.

Verdi Community Library & Wildlife Education Center

Located at the transition zone between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Great Basin Desert, the Verdi Community Library and Wildlife Education Center welcomes you! The 8-acre nature trail highlights the uniqueness of the transitional wildlife habitat between the mountains and the desert. The Verdi Community Library & Wildlife Education Center is a partnership between the Nevada Division of Wildlife, Washoe County Public Library System, Washoe County School District, and the Verdi Community. Students enjoy hands on aquatic education activities at the 200- gallon native fish aquarium while inside the Wildlife Education Center. Outside, the Verdi Nature Trail activities include wildlife habitat studies and track identification.



Oxbow River Deck along the Truckee River



Verdi Community Library and Wildlife Education Center

Location

The Verdi Community Library and Wildlife Education Center is located adjacent to the Verdi Elementary School in Verdi, 12 miles west of Reno, Nevada.

Directions

Follow I-80 west to Exit 5 Verdi. Follow old Highway 40 from the exit ramp 2.2 miles. Turn right turn at Bridge Street, and pass the Verdi Elementary School on the right. The Verdi Community Library and Wildlife Education Center parking lot is located on the right, north of the Verdi Elementary School parking lot.

Hours

The Verdi Nature Trail is open year round sunrise to sunset. The Wildlife Education Center is open to the public six days a week during the following hours:

Monday: 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday- Friday: 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please note: The Verdi Community Library serves as a school library during the school day and is closed to the public. The public library hours are as follows:

Tuesday: 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday –Monday: Closed

For library questions please phone the Verdi Community Public Library @ 775.345.8104 after 3:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday or Saturday after 10:00 a.m.

Washoe Lake Wetlands

Washoe Lake Wetlands provides educational opportunities for students and other visitors to learn about the importance of Nevada wetland habitats. This wetlands mitigation site is a winter habitat for the Bald Eagle and a spring nesting habitat for many shore birds along the Pacific Flyway. Students attending Washoe Lake Wetlands field trips learn wildlife and aquatic education, while local community sportsmen enjoy the trails improved for access to the shoreline.

Watersheds, wetlands, aquatic insects and Pacific Flyway birds are the focus of the field trips to the Washoe Lake Wetlands site. While

at the wetlands, students observe migratory birds from the viewing platform or the observation tower. Students use field microscopes to identify aquatic insects. Binoculars, spotting scopes and field guides are also provided to student groups for bird identification. The Washoe Lake Wetlands is a partnership between Nevada Division of Wildlife, Nevada State Parks, and Nevada Department of Transportation. Lahontan Audubon Society members assist students at the Wildlife Education program site with bird watching activities.

Location

Washoe Lake Wetlands is located in Washoe Valley.

Directions

Follow Highway 395 South to Exit 42, turn left at Eastlake Blvd., proceed 9/10 mile to the Wetlands Mitigation Site, and turn left at the entrance.

Hours

Washoe Lake Wetlands provide nesting habitat for migratory and resident birds and is open to the public July 16- January 31. The site is closed to the public from February 1 through July 15th annually for bird nesting season. Wildlife Education field trips provide access to this site year round and can be scheduled by contacting Wildlife-Ed@ndow.state.nv.us or by calling 775.334.3808.

All visitors are asked to be aware that hunting is open at Washoe Lake Wetlands. Please visit the Nevada Division of Wildlife web site @ www.ndow.org and see *Waterfowl/Migratory Bird Seasons and Regulations* for further information.

New Sites

Martin Slough Nature Trail

Eye-opening Wildlife Education activities and hands-on Aquatic Education benefit the Gardnerville community and local school districts at the Martin Slough Nature Trail. Families and school groups learn about birds, wildlife and the importance of water quality at the slough and ponds amidst urban sprawl.



Wildlife Education Docent demonstrating water quality testing



Wildlife Education at Washoe Lake Wetlands

