

Woodard Bay Conservation Area

☐ Your Mission: Take a photo of one of the habitat features such as log haul out site, rookery, bald eagle nest or the pier where where the bats live and send end it to us!

Woodard Bay is a wildlife sanctuary providing essential habitat for shorebirds, harbor seals, river otters, bald eagles, peregrine falcon and a large colony of bats.

☐ Tree Observation: How many different trees can you identify?

Western red cedar, Western hemlock, Douglas fir, big leaf maple

☐ Forested Loop Trail: What can you identify in the deeper woods. Can you identify the drumming of the downy woodpecker tapping on the tree trunks to find insects to eat?

Downy woodpeckers make lots of noise with their whinnying call and by drumming on trees.

☐ More about trees: Fact! Most conifer trees don't reach maturity until they are around 80-90 years old and a Western red cedar tree can live for nearly 1,500 years and provide habitat dead and alive for over 2000 years!

Can you think of animals that may use a Western red cedar living or dead?

☐ Cormorants: Find the bench along the trail. It is overlooking the large colony of cormorants across the bay. There are now over 800 nests! **How many do you count?**

☐ West Shoreline: If you trek past the logging foremans office you can see the entire cormorant colony.

Some days the bald eagles harass the noisy colony looking for a snack. Have you seen one?

☐ East shoreline and bats: Woodard Bay is the largest known colony of bats in Washington.

The females migrate back to this site every spring to have their pups. At night they feed at Capitol Lake, sometimes making two very long trips to nurse young.

☐ Log rafts: Can you identify who uses the log rafts out in the bay? Can you hear their grumbling stomachs? What are they? Harbor seals!

Harbor seals haul out of the water to rest and warm up. Seals have multiple layers of blubber to provide insulation and heat loss.

☐ Bird houses: Find the pilings out in the bay with bird houses attached. These are for the purple martins.

Purple martins are the lagest swallow in North America. The boxes are part of a conservation effort to bring back their populations.

☐ Birds: Woodard Bay is home to many shorebirds and also birds of prey like the peregrine falcon and bald eagle. **Keep an eye out. Did you see any?**