

Wetlands are the home to many species of plants and animals in the Northwest. A *Kingfisher* hovers above *Hardhack* and *Cattails* awaiting an *Olympic Mudminnow* who hides in the shade of a *Yellow Water Lily*. A *Bittern* points its beak skyward to camouflage itself in the *Sedges* and tall wetlands grasses. A *Great Blue Heron* wades through the shallow marshes looking for a *Three-Spined Stickleback*, a young *Coho Salmon* or even a *Crayfish*, all pursued by a *River Otter*. A carnivorous *Sundew* plant awaits small unsuspecting insects as a *Red-Legged Frog* leaps out for a *Dragonfly* whose larger size is too much for the sundew's sticky leaves. The quiet flight of a *Tiger Swallowtail* butterfly is vivid contrast to the *Marsh Wren's* noisy chatter. A *Redwing Blackbird* calls from the *Rushes* while, poised in flight above, the endangered *Peregrine Falcon* readies itself for a kill. In the wetland below, *Muskrat* and *Beaver* share their world with the *Painted Turtle*. In Spring, as the days grow longer, the *Skunk Cabbage*, *Bog Orchid* and *Yellow Iris* bloom while mats of *Duckweed* begin to form on the pond surface. Waterfowl such as *Bufflehead* and a colorful *Wood Duck* are at home on the wetland pond, as are dabblers such as the *Pintail Duck*, who turns bottoms up to feed on *Pondweed*, or an occasional insect such as a *Toe Biter* beetle. Below the surface, the cooler temperature creates perfect conditions for a *Rough-Skinned Newt*, who surfaces periodically for a look at the common and yet spectacular world of the wetland.



WETLANDS