

**Washington Native Plant Society
South Sound Chapter
Native Plant Hike**

Date: Sunday, October 13, 2019

Title/Location: Morse Wildlife Preserve (MWP), 25415 70th Ave E., Graham, WA.

Hike Leader: Mary Sue Gee
Cyndy Dillon

Contact Information cpdillongh@comcast.net
253 225-9284

Departure Time from trailhead: 10:30am Estimated Return Time to trailhead: 12:30pm

Departure location: MWP parking lot Number of people: 20
please RSVP cpdillongh@comcast.net

Hike Description: The Forterra site says the Morse Wildlife Preserve was established in 1995 by a donation of land from Lloyd and Maxine Morse. Situated near the headwaters of the north fork of Muck Creek, the 238-acre preserve is a mosaic of conifer forest, wetlands, oak savanna, and prairie. For over fifteen years, Forterra and others have been restoring the property to its original state with the prairie and oak savanna that were once common in this area. Many species of mammals, birds and insects adapted to this type of terrain saw dramatic population decline as their native habitat was replaced by agricultural and urban development. Thousands of hours of volunteer work have been applied to seed gathering, tilling, planting, watering and shielding seedling oaks and indigenous prairie plants. With several different types of habitats on the property, it is an ideal home for many bird species, from owls and other raptors to aquatic fowl and (as of 2007) the uncommon western bluebird. The wetland, covering about half of the Preserve, includes a large pond and several open channels. Both migrating and resident birds use the wetland, which changes configuration regularly because of beaver dam building. Other mammals, such as deer, coyote, bobcat, rabbits, and a variety of rodents live here or make foraging visits. Cougar, bear, and elk are more infrequent visitors, but are present in the area

Any special requirements: Preserve is free on second Sundays. Parking is limited so please carpool if possible. Wear good hiking shoes. Water and cookies will be provided at end of hike.

Directions: From I-5 take Exit 127 onto WA 512 East

From WA-512 East take the Pacific Ave/WA 7 Exit.

Turn right (south) onto Pacific Ave/WA 7.

At the Roy "Y", bear left, staying on WA 7.

Turn Left at 224th St E (at the Fred Meyer)

Turn Right onto 70th Ave E (at the light)

Property is on the left at the 25415 mailbox