

# Wildlife Habitats & Refuges

*Wildlife is everywhere in the Bitterroot Valley, but these are some of the places that have been set aside and dedicated as animal habitats.*

## **Calf Creek Wildlife Management**

1296 Hamilton Heights Road, Corvallis MT

A winter range for elk that offers hiking, biking and horseback riding along the foothills of the Sapphire Mountains just east of Corvallis. Set out in search of an elk herd in the grasslands and ponderosa pine forests or watch for songbirds and raptors. The Wildlife Management Area is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

Open: April 15 - December 2; No dogs allowed October 15 - May 14

Directions: From Eastside Highway between Hamilton and Corvallis turn east on Hamilton Heights Road. Drive to the end of the road.

## **Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge**

Wild Fowl Lane, Stevensville MT | [fws.gov/refuge/lee\\_metcalf/](https://fws.gov/refuge/lee_metcalf/)

Home to wrens, blackbirds, herons, osprey, ducks, eagles, swans, owls and more. This refuge is the place to experience Montana wildlife and is a representation of the diverse native wildlife habitat once found abundantly between the Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains and along the ever-changing Bitterroot River. The refuge road bisects two ponds from which you can watch the wonders of nature from your car. Or choose to stroll on any of the 2 1/2 miles of trails that wander around ponds through cottonwood forests and along the Bitterroot River. Elevation ranges from about 3,225 feet on the north end of the Refuge to about 3,314 feet on the southern end. This floodplain refuge provides a diverse mosaic of western mountain valley habitats including gallery and riverfront forest, wet meadow, wetlands, and grassland benches.

Open: Refuge open year-round; Visitor Center open Monday-Saturday 8am-4:30pm

Directions: Just north of Stevensville, the refuge can be accessed from Wild Fowl Lane off of Eastside Highway.

## **Teller Wildlife Refuge**

1288 Eastside Highway, Corvallis MT | [tellerwildlife.org](https://tellerwildlife.org)

The Teller is a wildlife sanctuary running for 4 miles along the Bitterroot River near Corvallis. The land is managed by a private, non-profit organization working to conserve riparian habitat. Of the 1200 acres nearly 40 acres is open to the public, called the Teller Trail. Enjoy Teller's National Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) status while you walk along the banks of the Bitterroot River and wander through approximately 40 acres of riparian habitat. Moose, deer, mountain lion and over 145 species of birds have called Teller home. The approximate mile long trail loop can be used for hiking, bird watching and fishing the Bitterroot River.

Open: Office open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Closed major holidays

Directions: Located on Eastside Highway approximately one mile north of Corvallis, Montana. Look for the historic house at the intersection of Quast Lane.

## **Threemile Wildlife Management Area**

Stevensville MT

This area encompasses 6,089 acres. The area may be accessed by two-wheel drive vehicles whenever roads are dry between May 15 and November 30. The area lends itself to mountain biking in summer, but motorcycles and ATVs are prohibited at Threemile. Few elk inhabit this Wildlife Management Area during summer, but they are often observable nonetheless. The most likely observations are of songbirds and raptors commonly found in upland grasslands and ponderosa pine forests.

Open: May 15 - November 30

Directions: Threemile Wildlife Management Area is located in Ravalli County, 9 miles east of Florence. From Florence, take the Eastside Highway (Route 203) east and then south for 6.1 miles; at Threemile Creek Road turn left (east) and proceed 3.3 miles; after passing Lone Rock School, turn left (north) and go 4.1 miles (passing Brown Valley Ranch) to where the road crosses Threemile Creek; immediately after this, take the right-hand fork of the road and follow signs to the Wildlife Management entrance.