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## PORTA Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance

### Press Release

## Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance Birding Map

**Newport, WA, June, 2008:** Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA) is pleased to announce the release of the Pend Oreille County Birding Map. It is available on the websites of PORTA [www.porta-us.com](http://www.porta-us.com) and is linked from the PORTA banner on the Pend Oreille County Home Page [www.co.pend-oreille.wa.us](http://www.co.pend-oreille.wa.us). The 40-site map and descriptions with driving directions are printable from the website.

The Pend Oreille River Valley is a bird-rich area in Northeast Washington. The River Valley is part of the Pacific Flyway, the migratory route for thousands of birds each year with 267 species sighted in the County. The species list also is available on the PORTA website.

Each of the sites is identified by numbered rank, site name, site ownership, available facilities, names of the birds at the location, and includes driving directions to reach the site. Parking is available at some places. At other settings, the birds can be viewed from the road. As it becomes available, additional information will be added to each site description: Kalispel Salish text of bird names, seasons when each bird is visible, and pictures.

Calispell Lake is ranked as an Important Bird Area. Three other sites are under consideration for the designation. The link to Audubon Washington documents the significance of IBA's ([www.audubon.org/chapter/wa/wa/PDFs/IBA-93-102\\_Cascade\\_Mountains.pdf](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/wa/wa/PDFs/IBA-93-102_Cascade_Mountains.pdf)). Pend Oreille County will be included on the Audubon 2009 Great Washington State Birding Trail Map of Eastern Washington when it is published. ([www.wa.audubon.org/birds\\_GreatWABirdingTrail.html](http://www.wa.audubon.org/birds_GreatWABirdingTrail.html))

The map project was created in partnership with the Washington State University Extension Office in Newport, the U.S. Forest Service, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Natural Resources Department of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. Special acknowledgement and recognition for their extraordinary work is due to Carol Mack (WSU Extension, Newport), John Stuart (Spokane Audubon Society), Mike Borysewicz (USFS), Steve Zender and Howard Ferguson (WDFW), and Ray Entz (Kalispel Natural Resource Department).

The *2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Related Recreation* notes the strategic importance of wildlife viewing to Washington's economy. Between 2001 and 2006, spending on wildlife viewing activities in Washington increased 51.4% compared to a 2% increase nationally. In 2006 spending was nearly \$1.5 billion. These expenditures are greater than those for fishing and hunting combined. While this is not intended to downplay the importance of fishing and hunting to the state's economy, it does underscore the changes in recreational preferences brought about by the baby boom demographic. (*Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Bureau of Census.*)

Pend Oreille County welcomes watchable wildlife and birding enthusiasts. We hope you will find the map and directions useful during your visit.

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**For Immediate Release, June 20, 2008**