

CONFLUENCE BIRD BLIND

at the Sandy River Delta

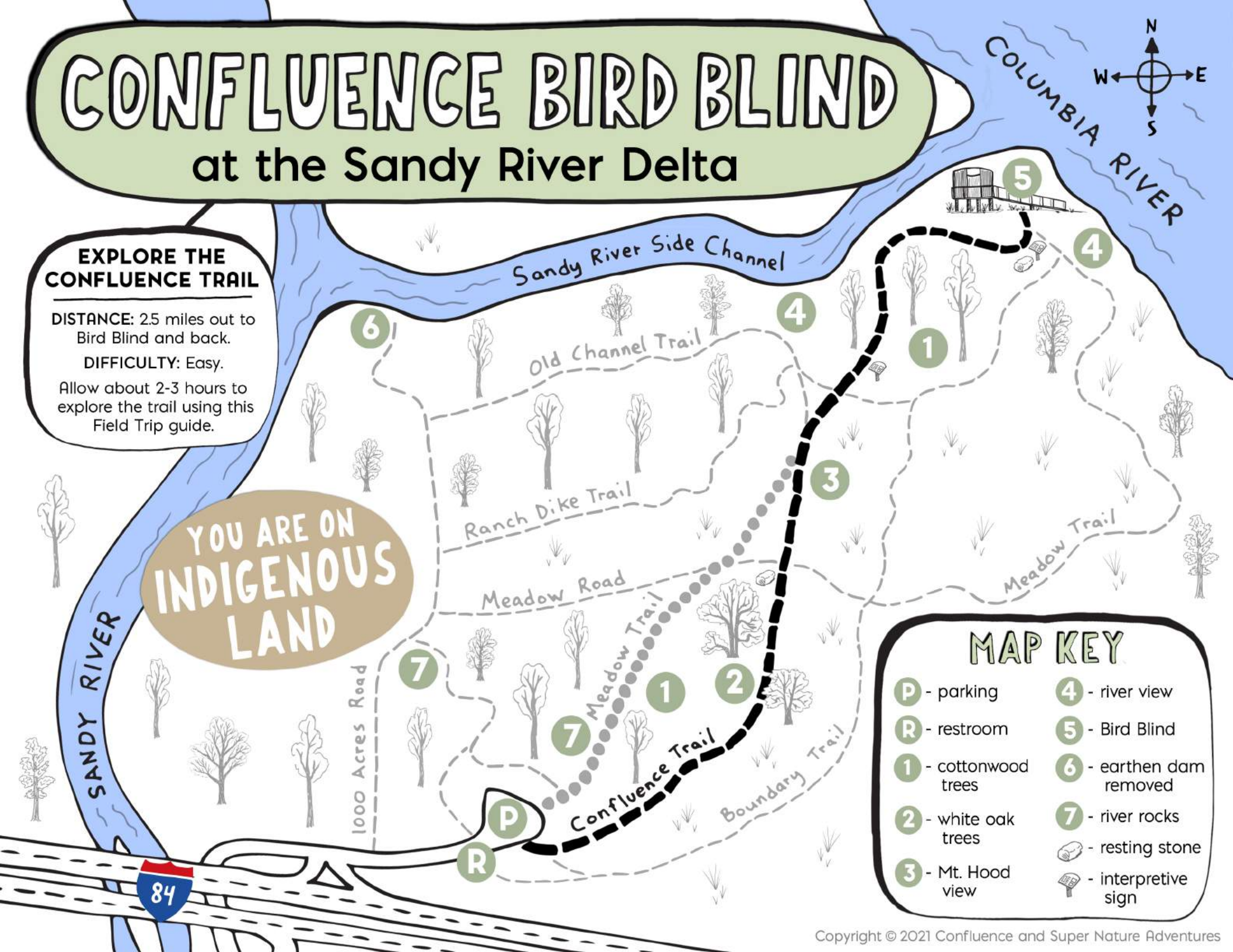
EXPLORE THE CONFLUENCE TRAIL

DISTANCE: 2.5 miles out to Bird Blind and back.

DIFFICULTY: Easy.

Allow about 2-3 hours to explore the trail using this Field Trip guide.

YOU ARE ON
INDIGENOUS
LAND



MAP KEY

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| P - parking | 4 - river view |
| R - restroom | 5 - Bird Blind |
| 1 - cottonwood trees | 6 - earthen dam removed |
| 2 - white oak trees | 7 - river rocks |
| 3 - Mt. Hood view | - resting stone |
| | - interpretive sign |

JOURNEY ^{TO} THE RIVER

As you leave the parking lot and move toward the river, choose a few spots to pause & carefully notice everything around you.

LOOKING FAR

Stop along the trail & imagine a big circle that expands all around you.

What do you notice at the edges of this circle? What sounds can you hear that might be far away?

Draw & write down what you notice in the space on the right.

LOOKING CLOSE

Now, bring your imaginary circle in to just around your feet.

What do you notice? What do you feel?
What do you hear?

What if this place was your responsibility to care for? What would you do?

What do you see and hear in the distance?

What do you see, hear, and feel near you?



EXPLORE & OBSERVE

Find a spot where there is a river view, such as the locations marked with a **4** on the map in this guide.

Take a moment to observe the river. What do you notice?
What do you hear?

Volcanic eruptions from Mt. Hood created the rock & sand you see here at the delta. Find these rocks at the locations marked with a **7** on the map.

How might future eruptions change the river & the landscape of the delta?

In 2007, the Marmot Dam was removed upstream, which allowed the Sandy River to flow freely for the first time in more than 90 years. Later, in 2013, an earthen dam at the delta was also removed, opening up the Sandy River Side Channel. Find the location of the earthen dam marked with a **6** on the map.

How do you think removing these dams changed the river you see today?

RIVER OF CHANGE

“My ancestors have always viewed the River, not as a border, but part of our center of existence.”

— Clifton Bruno, Wasco Tribe

PROTECT & RESTORE

The removal of the two dams are part of a process led by local agencies in partnership with Indigenous communities to restore the Sandy River basin and its habitats.

Additional restoration efforts, like planting trees and protecting wetlands, focus on ways that industry, farming, and recreation have changed the river and the land over the past two centuries.

How do you think human use is changing this place today?

Reflect on some ways that you can help protect and restore the river and the land.

AT THE CONFLUENCE BIRD BLIND

NOTICE

Each wood slat on the inside of the Bird Blind is inscribed with the names of wildlife that Lewis and Clark's team encountered along their journey in 1804-05 as they traveled from St. Louis to the Pacific Northwest. Each slat also records its current environmental status.

What do you notice in these inscriptions? What has changed?

LOOK & LISTEN

As you move inside the Bird Blind & look through the wood slats, what do you see?

Close your eyes & listen. What do you hear?

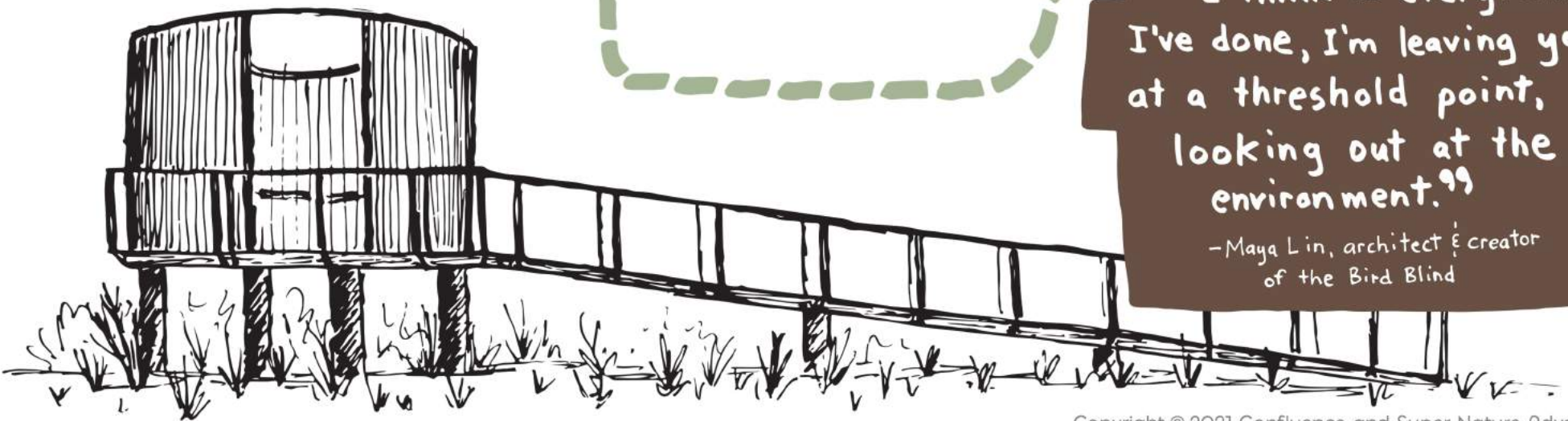
REFLECT

What do you think this place might have looked like & sounded like in 1805?

What do you think it might look & sound like in another 200 years?

“I think in everything I've done, I'm leaving you at a threshold point, looking out at the environment.”

—Maya Lin, architect & creator of the Bird Blind





Oregon
white oak

GIVING BACK

What are some ways you will give back to this place & keep it special for future generations?

GRATITUDE

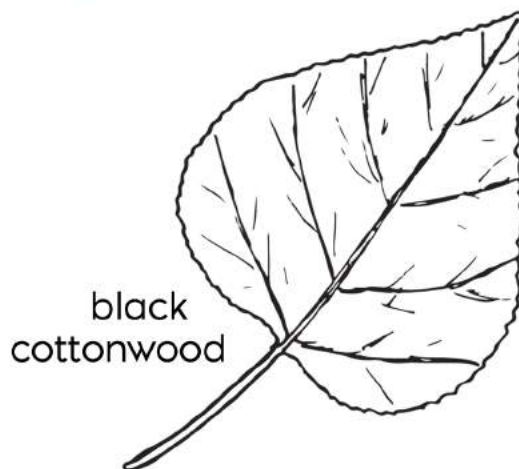
We offer thanks to the many Indigenous Tribes and Bands who have traveled, traded, fished, and lived along the Columbia River system.

These include people whose descendants are now members of the Chinook Indian Nation, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation.

We encourage you to offer gratitude & learn more about the unique living cultures, customs, and people from the Indigenous Nations who have called this land home since time immemorial.

*"To love a place
is not enough.
We must find ways
to heal it."*

*— Robin Wall Kimmerer, botanist &
member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation*



black
cottonwood

LEARN MORE

Connect with additional resources, videos, and information about the history, culture, and ecology at the Sandy River Delta by visiting the Confluence Project's website.



Scan this QR code or
visit the website below:

confluenceproject.org/srdresources

GET INVOLVED

You can help the Sandy River! Learn about the Sandy River Watershed Council and help restore and protect this special place:

sandyriver.org

CREDITS

This guide was created as part of Confluence's education programs connecting students with the history, culture, and ecology at the Sandy River Delta. Support provided by Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods program.

Project Team: Clifton Bruno (Wasco), Christine Bruno (Comanche, Basque, Irish, and English), Heather Shá xat k'ei Gurko (Tlingit and Dutch), Bill Weiler, and Courtney Yilk.

Designed and illustrated by Mike Murawski & Bryna Campbell with Super Nature Adventures.

