

## **WASHINGTON WOMEN WALK ON WILD SIDE**

One way to connect people with nature is to make nature seem less intimidating. Washington Outdoor Women (WOW), a program run by the Washington Wildlife Federation, an NWF affiliate, does just that: It offers workshops on outdoor skills such as fly fishing, gun safety and map and compass reading to women. Most of the course instructors are also women.

"When you bring all these women together there's such energy," says Ronni McGlenn, who helped found the group eight years ago. "This is such a great catalyst to get people outdoors and to invite them into a sense of stewardship."

McGlenn and her colleagues run a weekend-long workshop on the Snoqualmie River each September, offering nearly two dozen classes in which participants learn skills from archery to backpacking to preparing meals from wild plants. Dandelion pesto, anyone?

Next up for the group is a program—known as Wee WOW—that will allow women to bring their children and grandchildren along for wilderness training. It's a natural evolution, says McGlenn.

Outdoor programs like WOW are offered by affiliates across the country. For more information, see [www.nwf.org/about/affiliates.cfm](http://www.nwf.org/about/affiliates.cfm).