



# \*NEWS ALERT\*

## **Trail and Road Improvements Planned This Summer at Willapa National Wildlife Refuge**

**Long Beach, WA** – Multiple maintenance and visitor facility improvement projects are scheduled at Willapa National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) this summer and fall. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will temporarily close the Art and Cutthroat Climb Trails, located along U.S. Highway 101 north of milepost 24, while critical repairs, maintenance and improvements are completed. Additionally, road and parking area improvements will limit access to the new Refuge Headquarters, located at 7112 67<sup>th</sup> Place in Long Beach, from late June through August.

At Cutthroat Creek, the Art and Cutthroat Climb trails will be temporarily closed starting on June 6 and continuing through fall. Damage from harsh environmental conditions necessitates this closure while the Service performs maintenance and infrastructure improvements on both trails.

Also at Cutthroat Creek, the former headquarters office, public restrooms and maintenance shop will be demolished beginning in June. These facilities were replaced because of their advanced age, deteriorated condition and lack of reliable utilities. The septic tanks and public restrooms will be removed due to their proximity to environmentally sensitive habitats along Willapa Bay and Cutthroat Creek. The boat launch to access Long Island and parking area will remain open as will the trails and campgrounds on the island. Removal of these older buildings makes room for expanded parking for refuge visitors accessing the nature trails at Cutthroat Creek and on Long Island.

From mid-June through mid-August access to the new Refuge Headquarters is restricted while road and parking lot improvements occur. Surrounding nature trails will remain open and accessible from the South Bay parking area, located west of the Refuge Headquarters entrance gate on 67<sup>th</sup> Place. The Refuge, along with the Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, will showcase the new and expanded visitor facilities at the annual Wings Over Willapa Festival to be held September 22-25, 2022.

Visitors can also call the refuge at (360) 642-3860 for information.