

During the 1950's two Land for Timber Exchange Agreements were completed with Weyerhaeuser to consolidate the refuge's holdings. These two exchanges resulted in clearcutting about 700 acres of refuge timber and the construction of the road system on the island.

In 1960, a timber management plan for the refuge was developed with the goal of sustained-yield even-flow management. Before any timber could be harvested, however, a major windstorm in October of 1962 felled many trees. Both the refuge and Weyerhaeuser began accelerated harvest programs to salvage the downed timber, with the refuge cutting about 500 acres and Weyerhaeuser cutting some 600 acres.

All timber harvest on Long Island stopped after 1968. The refuge's management of Long Island's timber changed to a custodial program without any further timber harvesting planned. Weyerhaeuser began making plans to logs its remaining timber on the island, but reconsidered because of public concern about timber harvesting, particularly in relation to the old growth cedar grove.

Current Land-Timber Exchange

Ever since its inclusion in the refuge, the goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been to acquire all private land on Long Island. Approximately 64 percent of the island is now federally owned, with The Weyerhaeuser Company being the other major owner.

Since adequate federal funds were never made available for purchase, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Weyerhaeuser signed an agreement in 1975 to exchange land and timber which would result in total federal acquisition of the company's holdings on Long Island. Weyerhaeuser agreed to exchange all of its timber, including the 264-acre cedar grove, for an equal value of federal timber on Long Island.

The land/timber exchange is proceeding under the guidance of a timber-wildlife management plan developed jointly by the two parties. The plan specifies 19 cutting units to be harvested in six sequences over a period of 12 years, beginning in 1984. In each sequence, there are two or more cutting units. To avoid large, contiguous clearcuts, at least one sequence interval separates the cutting of adjoining units.



Old-growth cedar grove on Long Island

Visiting Long Island

BOATS—You must supply your own boat transportation to Long Island. Tidal flows and fluctuations can make getting on and off the island difficult and occasionally dangerous. Carry a tide table and check the map for tide levels necessary to reach campgrounds. Mooring facilities are not available.

BOAT LAUNCHING—Boat launching facilities are available at the Nahcotta Mooring Basin and on U.S. Highway 101 across from the refuge headquarters.

OBSERVE AND PHOTOGRAPH WILDLIFE—Opportunities abound: visit High Point Meadow in the morning and evening to see deer and elk, keep alert for a glimpse of a bear as you hike the trails and roads, and watch for birds on the bayshore, in the forests and at the Smoky Hollow marsh. Walk among the awe-inspiring 400-600 year-old trees in the cedar grove or stroll along the beaches.

CAMPING—Five primitive campgrounds are located around the perimeter of the island. Camping is permitted only in the campgrounds. Sites are available on a first-come basis, and leaving equipment unattended to hold a campsite for future occupancy is prohibited.

FIRES—Minimize your impact: burn dead wood only; build fires only in the fire grills; carry out all garbage that cannot be burned.



WATER—Most Long Island streams are dry during the summer months so you should carry your own water. All water on the island should be boiled or chemically treated before drinking.



HUNTING—Long Island is open for hunting by bow and arrow ONLY for either-sex bear, deer, elk and grouse. See State Regulations for open season. Permanent tree stands and baiting for bears are prohibited.



FIREARMS—Firearms are prohibited on Long Island.



SHELLFISHING—Private tidelands are closed to public shellfishing (gathering of oysters and clams). Certain state tidelands are open to public clamming; consult the State Shellfish Lab at Nahcotta for maps and regulations. All oysters in Willapa Bay are private property.



MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT—Power equipment and motor vehicles are prohibited on Long Island.



DOGS—Dogs and other pets must be kept on a leash. Dogs and cats can harass and kill wildlife; their mere presence can often scare animals, making wildlife viewing difficult.



SAFETY ZONES—Because of the land/timber exchange, you may encounter flagging, paint on trees, marked lathes, steel posts with tags and signs.

This sign means "Do Not Enter." Timber harvest activities are being conducted in that area and you are requested to keep out for your own safety.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—For more information, contact:
Refuge Manager
Willapa National Wildlife Refuge
Ilwaco, WA 98624
Telephone: (206) 484-3482



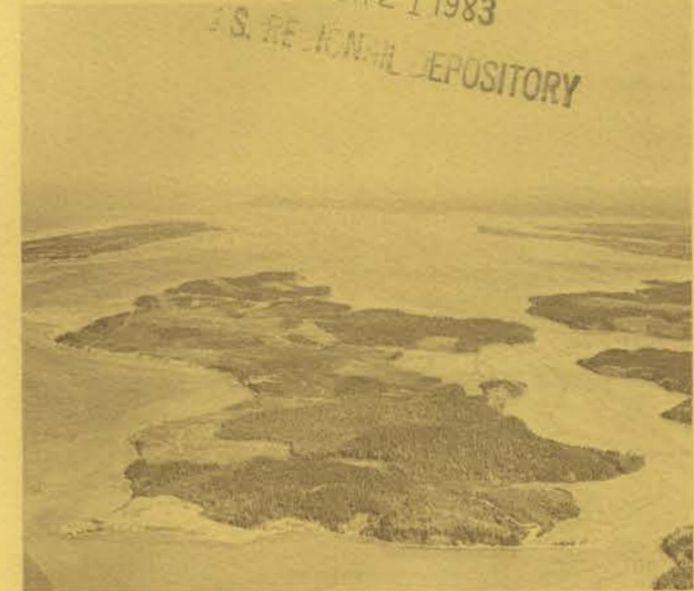
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FAM FILE

Long Island

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Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Washington



Examining shells on a Long Island beach

A Place of Solitude

Long Island, the largest estuarine island on the Pacific Coast, is a refuge for both wildlife and the human spirit. It is an oasis of quiet: frequently, the only sounds that disturb the silence are the sigh of the wind as it races over the bay and meets the forest, the rhythmic drip of raindrops on leaves, and the cries of birds flying overhead. Here are damp, cool coastal forests, sandy beaches, saltgrass tidal marshes and muddy tidal flats richly populated by land and estuarine wildlife.

Located in Willapa Bay in the southwestern corner of Washington, Long Island has been a part of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge since 1939. It contains approximately 4,800 acres of tidelands and uplands, of which about 3,100 acres are in federal ownership while the remainder are privately owned. The island and adjacent tidelands attract 177 species of birds, while the island uplands support 29 species of mammals, including black bear, Roosevelt elk and coastal black-tailed deer.

Rich in Resources

The rain-drenched coastal forest is dense and rapid-growing. Elderberry, salal, huckleberry, salmonberry and ferns form so thick an understory beneath the forests of western hemlock, Sitka spruce, western red cedar, Douglas fir and alder that off-trail travel is nearly impossible. The forest is home to deer, bear, elk, beaver, blue and ruffed grouse, bald eagles, and numerous song birds and small mammals.

Bountiful Willapa Bay surrounds the island and is dependent on the environmental integrity of the island to maintain its richness. Through the actions of tide and wind, the water of the bay mixes and changes with the ocean, while at the same time, the bay is also being fed by fresh water from the uplands. Complex and dynamic biological, chemical and physical forces interact to produce a nutrient-rich environment that supports oysters, clams, crabs, fish and other marine organisms. Vast beds of eelgrass at the lower levels of the intertidal zone form a staple in the diet of black brant.

The tidal marshes around Long Island supply energy to the bay system. Large mats of vegetation convert solar energy to food, change natural wastes to a usable form and filter out sediments and pollutants. Ducks, herons, shorebirds and small mammals inhabit the tidal marsh zone.

People and Long Island

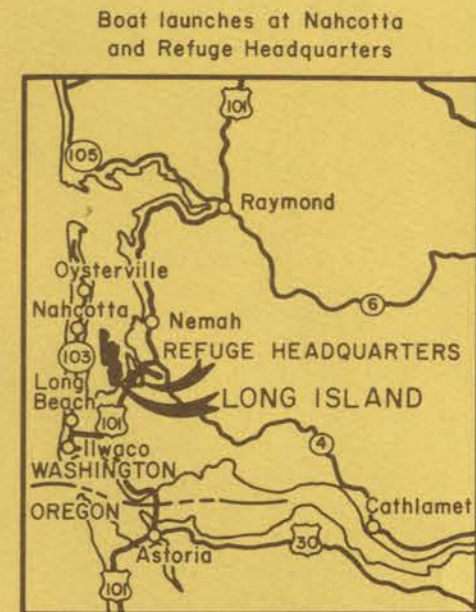
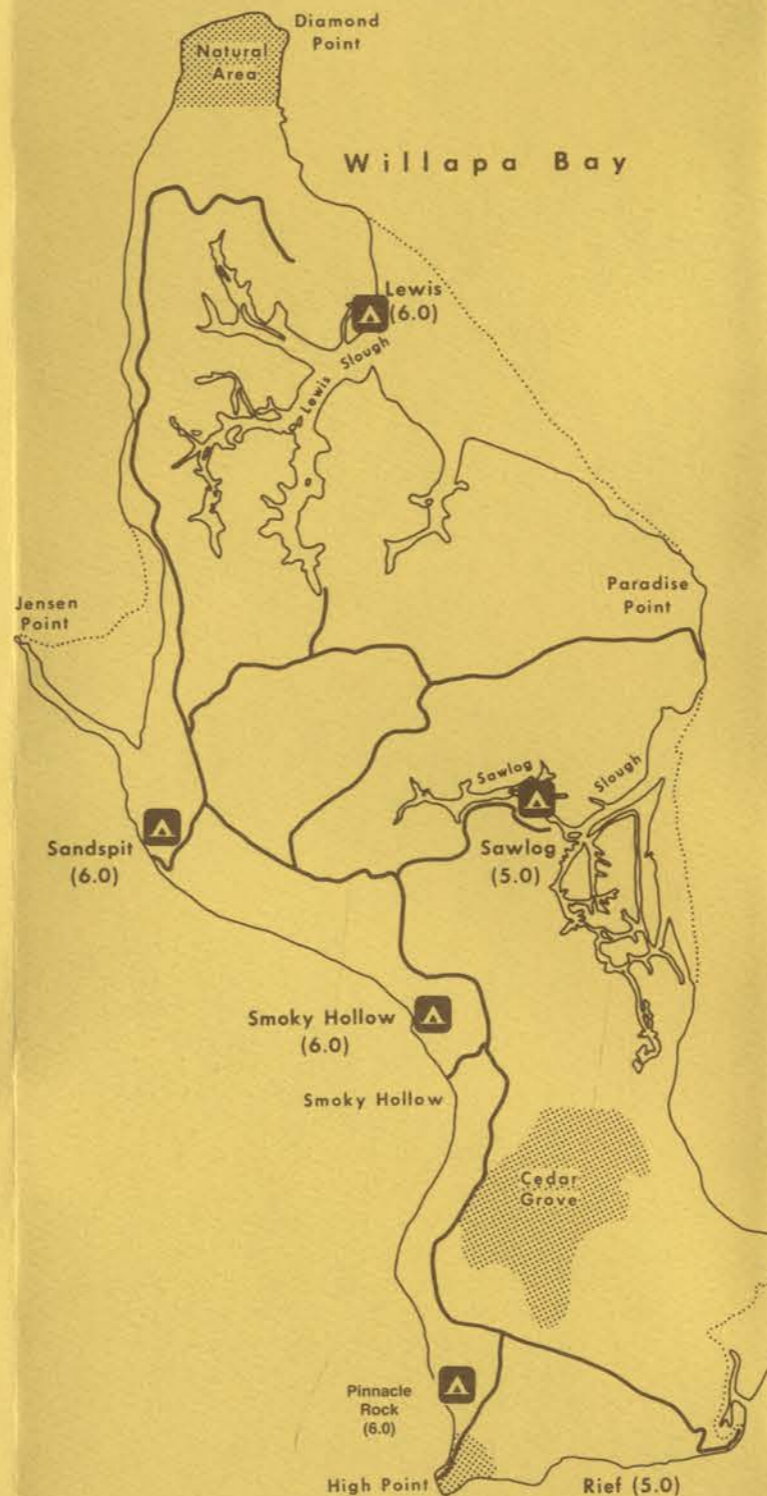
For centuries before the coming of white settlers, the Chinook Indians camped, fished, dug clams, harvested oysters and hunted on and around Long Island. They were undisputed masters of a land of plenty.

The first white settlers came to Long Island for only one purpose—oysters. Diamond City, a shanty-town with a population of 75—mostly single men—employed in harvesting oysters, was built at the northern tip of Long Island in 1867. The town was named Diamond City because “when the setting sun shone on banks of white oyster shells, they glittered like diamonds.” When the oyster beds were depleted, the inhabitants moved away. By 1878, Diamond City no longer existed.

Long Island’s timber resource began to attract interest about that time. In 1900, The Weyerhaeuser Company acquired 1,600 acres on the island as part of a huge real estate transaction involving Pacific Railroad land grants. At first, however, the timber corporation was content to let the trees grow.

Independent loggers did the first extensive cutting on the island. The loggers lived in a string of floathouses moored in Sawlog Slough, and rafted the logs in booms to mills around the bay.

The refuge acquired most of its present ownership of Long Island in the early 1940’s. By then the old-growth spruce and cedar had already been harvested, and the remaining hemlock was considered unmarketable.



LEGEND

- Trails
- ▲ Campgrounds
- (6.0) Access tide levels
- Special interest areas
- Tidal marsh



LONG ISLAND
WILLAPA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE