



THE BRANT

VOLUME 1

FRIENDS OF DUNGENESS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

WINTER 2019

Will There Be a Commercial Oyster Farm on the Refuge?

The Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe has done many positive things for our community. They have worked with Friends and the Refuge for environmental restoration and other beneficial projects. We do not object to their commercial aquaculture efforts. However, we do object to the proposed location for their commercial oyster farm within a closed area of the Refuge.

Our concerns about the proposed oyster farm location:

- The Refuge was established in 1915 by President Woodrow Wilson to protect wildlife. It was not established to conduct commercial aquaculture operations with non-native species. If allowed, what precedent would this set for the future?
- The proposed location is a high use area for waterfowl and shorebirds, especially for winter foraging. The area also has eelgrass, which provides habitat for forage fish and shellfish.
- The level of proposed activity would present a great disturbance to wildlife.
- The proposed location could negatively impact the view and experience of the 100,000 annual Refuge visitors with the visual pollution of up to 80,000 plastic mesh bags, and boats and workers in the area.
- Plastic debris from the mesh bags is a concern. Wildlife could potentially get trapped in the mesh or ingest the plastic debris.
- Bags anchored to the ground could prevent native eelgrass from growing and may disrupt natural habitat on the seabed.
- Noise pollution from workers, boats, and equipment may scare wildlife, disturb visitors and neighbors on the bay.

You can voice your concerns to the Army Corps of Engineers until March 4th. Clallam County will take comments until April 4th. See the links on the next page to learn more about the proposal and submit your comments.

REFUGE EVENTS

March 4th

Final day to submit comments to Army Corps of Engineers.

March 28th

Final day to submit comments to Clallam County.

April 4th

Public Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
Clallam County Courthouse
Room 160
Port Angeles, Washington.

Beach Clean Up Saturday, May 4th

Meet at the Refuge at 9:00 am at the old caretaker cabin site. No RSVP is necessary. Please wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, bring gloves and water.

This is the first beach clean up of the year.

Volunteer Training

The annual volunteer training and refresher will be scheduled soon, sometime in April. Dave will send an email once the date is finalized.

Learn More About and Comment on the Proposed Oyster Farm

Army Corps of Engineers – Comments Due March 4th [CLICK HERE](#)

<https://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>

Click on the link above, then click on the “NWS-2007-1213” at the bottom of the list of public notices. Here you will find a PDF with basic project information and how to submit a comment to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Comments must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: **Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe; NWS-2007-1213**

E-mail comments should be sent to pamela.sanguinetti@usace.army.mil

Conventional mail comments should be sent to:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch,
Attention: Pamela Sanguinetti
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755**

All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses.

Clallam County – Comments Due March 28th [CLICK HERE](#)

http://websrv2.clallam.net/tm_bin/tmw_cmd.pl?tmw_cmd=StatusViewCase&shl_caseno=SHR2017-00011

Click on the link above, then find several detailed documents regarding the proposal, exhibits, and public comments. On the top right of the page you will find links to submit a comment by email or fill out a an online form. There will be a public hearing on **April 4, 2019 at 1:00pm in Room 160** of the courthouse.

Public Information Forums

Protect Peninsula’s Future will be hosting two forums so the public can learn more about oyster farming and its impacts to shorelines and marine systems.

Wednesday, March 13, 6:00 p.m.

Carter Room, Port Angeles Library, Lauridsen & Peabody, Port Angeles

Thursday, March 14, 6:00 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 100 South Blake Street, Sequim

If you are interested in getting involved with PPF please send an email to:

oec@olympus.net Subject line should read: USFWS Refuge

CONTACTS

**Friends of Dungeness
National Wildlife Refuge**

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Sequim, WA 98382

Web Site

<http://www.fodnwr.org>

Friends Email

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Refuge Phone

(360) 457-8451

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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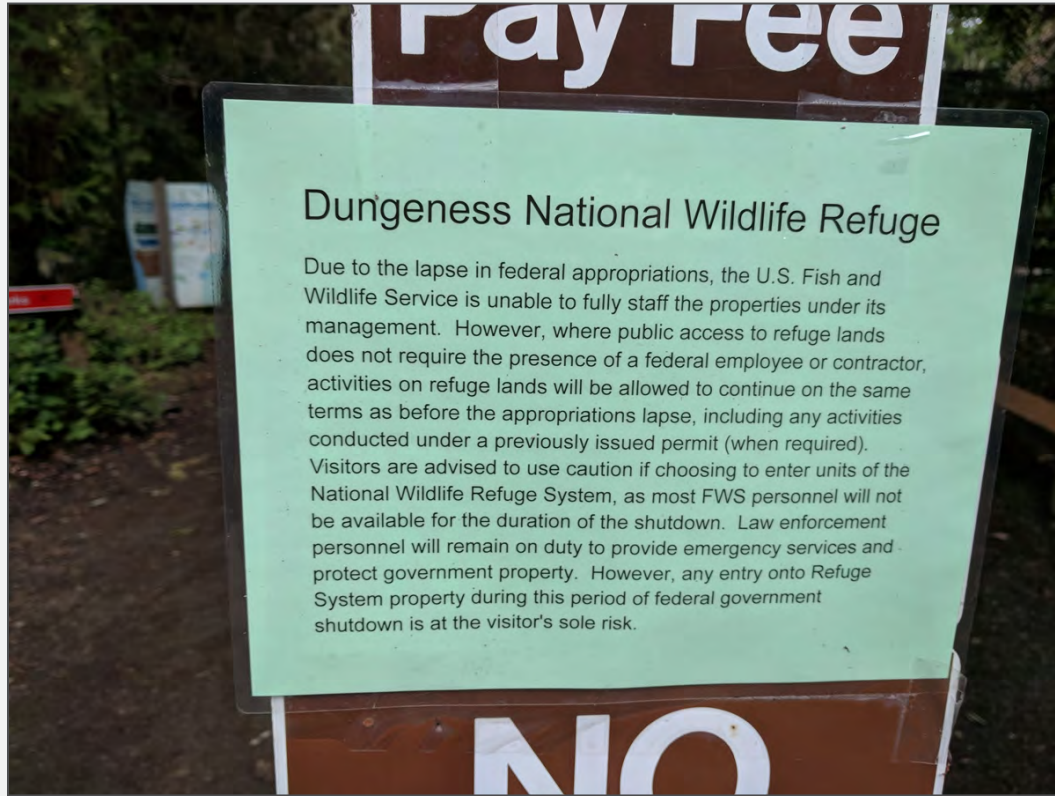
Outreach

Jason West

Refuge Protection

Shutdown Finally Over

The longest government shutdown in history is finally over. While the trails remained open to the public, the shutdown had impacts. Staff could not work. Volunteers could not volunteer. Planning for programs was interrupted and productivity halted. One example is Dungeness Discovery Day 2019 has been canceled for this year.

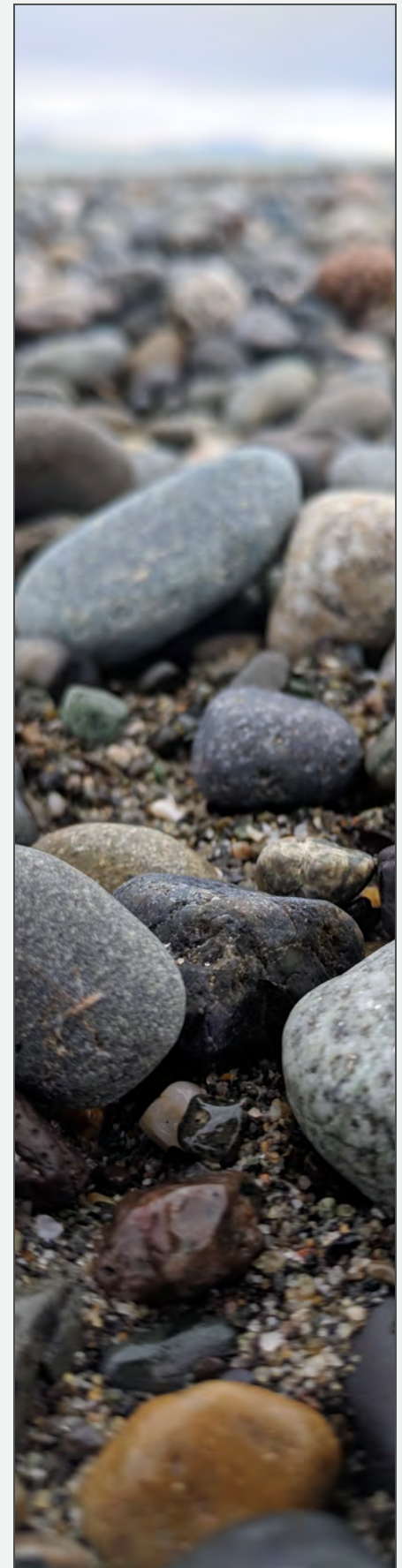


Notice posted at the trail informing visitors of the impacts of the shutdown.

Volunteers visiting the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge in January on O’ahu, Hawaii were disappointed to learn they would not be able to go on their planned tour because of the shutdown.



Guided tours were cancelled at James Campbell NWR.



Snow Days at the Refuge

February brought about a foot of snow to the Refuge. Photos taken after a few days of melting.

