

## **DELAURA BEACH**

<b>Location</b>	End of DeLaura Beach Road, 2 miles west of Hwy. 101, southwest of Warrenton
<b>Size</b>	164.48 acres
<b>Ownership Status:</b>	County owned recreation lands site
<b>Land-use zone:</b>	Recreation Management (RM)
<b>Classification:</b>	Natural Area

### **Description/Natural Features:**

This 164-acre county-owned recreation land provides ocean access and dune recreation opportunities for pedestrians, equestrians and off-road vehicles. This landscape consists of sand, beach grasses, wetlands, pioneer plant species and pine and spruce forests.

### **Geological Significance:**

Relatively young landscape is created by the Columbia River south jetty and dune stabilization efforts. This area includes an active sand fore dune running parallel to the Pacific Ocean, an interdunal valley that is seasonally flooded, an inland stabilized sand dune, and localized wetlands and forests.

Recreational use is dispersed and not managed. There are no facilities or developments. DeLaura Beach Road does provide access to the beach; however, the beach is only accessible by high clearance vehicles.

Current recreational uses include hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, mushroom picking, paintball and beach activities. Fort Stevens State Park is the main supplier of designated recreational opportunities in the coastal dune land and shore pine settings. While these areas will continue to supply designated recreational facilities, there is a lack of free or low cost primitive recreational areas near the coast.

### **Facility Inventory:**



- Undeveloped
- Extensive primitive and equestrian trail system connects with trails in Fort Stevens State Park and Camp Kiwanilong.



**Cultural/Historical Significance:**

In 1882, a British ship, the “Cairnsmore” beached on the Clatsop Spit. The ship lies on county owned land and is buried under the sand. The ship was visible as late as 1914 before being completely covered by moving sand dunes. The construction of the south jetty at the mouth of the Columbia River caused the shoreline to move several hundred yards west. The area where the Cairnsmore beached is now a forest of shore pine and spruce.

In 1942, an artillery shell fired from a Japanese submarine landed near DeLaura Beach road. A monument was erected at this location.

**History:**

In 1935, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) planted beach pine, Scotch broom and European beach grass and installed fences to stop the movement of sand which was encroaching on lakes and pastures. The development of the Warrenton Dune Soil and Water Conservation District in 1941 continued the CCC efforts. The stabilization of the dunes significantly altered the landscape and made possible the development of Fort Stevens State Park.

**Acquisition by County:**

Beginning in 1932, a variety of land purchases and trades occurred, resulting in the acquisition of DeLaura Beach.

