



NEWS RELEASE – for immediate release

Media Contact: Deborah Rudd, Public Involvement Coordinator

South Slough Reserve

Phone: (541)-294-9866

Email: Deborah.rudd@dsl.oregon.gov

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South Slough Reserve Announces Upcoming Commercial Thinning Activity in Wasson Valley Uplands

CHARLESTON, Ore. – The South Slough Reserve is notifying the public of upcoming commercial thinning operations scheduled to begin as early as next week in the Wasson Valley uplands. While the exact start date may vary, work is expected to begin no later than the week of June 8, 2026.

These forest management activities are part of long-term stewardship efforts to promote healthier, more resilient forest stands within the Reserve. The thinning work will occur intermittently from June 1 through August 31, 2026.

Visitors should be aware of the following during the project period:

- Increased activity along Hinch Road: Logging trucks and forestry equipment will be present at various times throughout the summer.
- Intermittent flagging may appear along Hinch Road to support safe operations and guide equipment access.
- Trail access updates: Areas within the thinning units remain closed to the public, as indicated on the South Trails map.
- Nearby trails remain open, including the Fredrickson Trail Loop and the boardwalk, but visitors may hear or observe forestry activity in the vicinity.
- The Reserve asks all visitors to respect posted closures, remain on designated open trails, and use caution when traveling near active work zones.

“These stewardship activities help maintain the ecological integrity of the forest, improve habitat conditions, and reduce long-term wildfire risk,” said staff at the South Slough Reserve. “We appreciate the public’s patience and cooperation while this important work takes place.”

Interested members of the community can visit the Reserve website at southsloughestuary.org or following South Slough Reserve on Instagram or Facebook. The Visitor Center can also be reached by phone at (541) 888-5558.

About South Slough Reserve: South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve is a protected estuary and natural area located on state-owned land in the Coos estuary on Oregon’s southern coast. It is managed in partnership by the Oregon Department of State Lands and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The first of 30 National Estuarine Research Reserves around the nation, South Slough Reserve is a leader in improving understanding of estuaries and coastal watersheds. The Reserve manages and studies nearly 7,000 acres of natural area, including open water channels, tidal and freshwater wetlands, riparian areas, and forested lands. A portion of this area includes waterways, trails, and a visitor center that are open to the public.