

Dick Thomas Trail closure

Please help us spread the word

As a popular access trailhead in the western Columbia Gorge will soon be closing with little being publicized, we are asking for your help in spreading the word before the hiking season begins this year...

The closure at hand involves the Dick Thomas Trailhead located in North Bonneville WA (oregonhikers.org/field_guide/Dick_Thomas_Trailhead).

Background

The Dick Thomas trail was used by many hikers to access the popular Aldrich Butte/Table Mt/PCT network in the western Columbia River Gorge. While there are other trailheads also providing access, the Dick Thomas trail provided by far the shortest distance to these areas and thus became a well published trailhead location.

However, this trailhead is located on private property which for many years was the location of the Bonneville Hot Springs Resort. The resort did allow public use of their parking facility for trail access, but in December the property was sold, and due to the new use of the facility, public access will be restricted. Additionally, the old access point a short distance away at Shelley Lane also remains closed leaving no public access of entry from the south side to the Table/Aldrich/PCT trail network.

What is being done

As a result of this closure, the Bonneville Trails Foundation (BonnevilleTrails.com) and the Foundation Recovery Network (new owners of the trailhead property) are partnering in an effort of not only getting the word out of this closure, but in creating a long-term solution for access to this area. An entirely new trail that would begin near the North Bonneville city center is indeed being planned and proposed.

Additionally, Adam Marion, the new general manager of the property is eager to meet in person to discuss ways to best go forward with this trail closure. We are scheduling a trails meeting in North Bonneville on Feb. 21st and we hope you might be able to make it to discuss this issue. Please check out the Bonneville Trails Foundation Facebook page for details, or simply e-mail us with any questions.

What you can do to help

In the near-term, there will not be any way of accessing the Dick Thomas trail. **So we are asking your help in revising all related publications and websites that you control to show this access location now closed. Additionally, while plans are being worked on for a new trail, access to this area must now be made from the current "Bonneville Trailhead" located immediately off of Hwy 14, across from the Bonneville Dam.**

For questions and more info, please contact the Bonneville Trails Foundation at BigfootTrails@outlook.com

Thank you for your help!