



Courtesy Oregon Parks

Trees block a portion of the North Neah-Kah-Nie Mountain Trail in Oswald West State Park.

North Coast trails closed for three years due to wind damage

Portions of three trails on the North Coast will remain closed at least two more years while crews remove dangerous trees left in the wake of a September 2020 windstorm.

The trail at Cape Lookout State Park and two sections of trails at Oswald West State Park are impassable due to downed trees and will require extensive work to reopen, according to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The agency is working with FEMA and other federal partners, Oregon Department of Forestry, private consultants, South Fork Forest Camp and volunteers to map the damage and plan for a safe reopening.

“We want to thank visitors for their patience as we work as quickly as possible to reopen these historic and culturally important trails,” said Justin Parker, North Coast district manager. “In the meantime, we encourage visitors to explore one of the many open trails along the north coast.”

SPECIFIC CLOSURES

Cape Lookout: The entire

North Trail, which connects the day-use area to the Cape Trail.

Oswald West: The 1.4-mile section of the Arch Cape to Cape Falcon Trail, from the north trailhead to the crossing at U.S. Highway 101.

Oswald West: A 1.6-mile section of North Neah-Kah-Nie Mountain Trail from U.S. Highway 101 to the summit.

The trail segments have been closed since Labor Day 2020, when the winds that fueled wildfires in other parts of the state caused extensive blowdown on about 185 acres within the two state parks.

An especially wet and stormy fall and winter followed, knocking down more trees that had been weakened by the windstorm.

In the hardest hit areas, up to 90 percent of the trees — made up of hemlock, Douglas fir and giant Sitka spruce as tall as 140’ — are down or in danger of falling.

The closed sections are all part of the Oregon Coast Trail that stretches along the 362-mile coastline.

Keep Oregon Green sponsors billboard contest

Keep Oregon Green celebrates its 80-year history with the first billboard poster art contest.

Oregonians of all ages can share their vision for keeping Oregon free of wildfire.

“We are excited to celebrate our important milestone by offering this fun opportunity to all Oregon residents,” said Kristin Babbs, president of the Keep Oregon Green Association.

“As over 70 percent of Oregon’s wildfires are human-caused, the power of prevention is ... our shared responsibility.”

Contest deadline is 5 p.m. Aug. 9 (Smokey Bear’s birthday).



In 2022, Oregon will become an open-air art gallery, the group vowed, as the winning artwork in three age categories (adult, grades 6-12, and grades 1-5) appears on billboards at major intersections, highways and

interstates.

Cash prizes and certificates will be awarded to the first three people who place in each age division.

For more information, go to keeporegongreen.org and click on “art contest.”

New map shows locations of sensitive fish species

The state released an updated salmonid habitat map last month.

The map identifies streams that are critical habitat for Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and other sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species.

In Warrenton, the Skipanon River, parts of Alder Creek, and Adair Slough, which runs beside the airport, all are on the list. Other sensitive streams are in Astoria, Gearhart, Seaside and unincorporated Clatsop County.

Oregon law requires protection of the streams during construction projects. Removal-fill permits must be obtained for most projects that remove or add materials near streams on the map.

“Knowing which streams are essential habitat helps property owners do their part to protect fish,” said Vicki Walker, Department of State Lands director. “More streams have been identified as essential, so now is a good time to check the map.”

The map was created using Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife data and includes 1,700 more stream miles than the previous map released in 2015. DSL’s recent requirement to update the map also created a

process to ensure the map reflects current data. The map will be updated annually in a process that includes a public review and comment period.

The map can be found at oregon.gov/dsl/WW/Pages/ESH-permits.aspx.

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