



COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

KATIE FRANKOWICZ/EO MEDIA GROUP

Tanya Gephart starts her trip on the Tillamook Head Trail portion of the Oregon Coast Trail. Many hikers are moving off the Pacific Coast Trail due to inclement weather.

Ryley Delgado and the group of three people he's hiking with walk along U.S. Highway 101 to reach the next section of the Oregon Coast Trail.

## Hikers discover a path less traveled, and it leads through Cannon Beach

By Katie Frankowicz  
EO Media Group

At the end of June, a woman picked up three young backpackers walking along the highway near Gearhart.

They had been hiking the Pacific Crest Trail — a 2,650-mile-long path that twists up the West Coast from the Mexico border to Canada — but heavy snowfall in the Sierra Nevada mountain range stopped them 700 miles in.

Rather than stop hiking, they decided to hop over to the lesser-known Oregon Coast Trail. And they aren't alone.

"Everyone is coming here," they told their driver.

This spring, dozens of hikers snowed out of California's mountains or, as the snow melts, faced with dangerous river crossings, have abandoned the Pacific Crest Trail and jumped over to the Oregon Coast Trail.

But the trail isn't ready for them.

### 'PCT refugees'

As he stretches next to a sign pointing back toward Arch Cape, Ryley Delgado has just been voted his group's sweatiest hiker. Again. He shrugs. The hikers gather at the edge of a road off U.S. Highway 101 to eat a late breakfast in the shade before continuing on to Falcon Cove in Oswald West State Park. Bri Hochadel sits cross-legged and looks around at the forest on either side of the road. Peter Carpenter ventures a couple of steps down the trail and then unfolds his sleeping pad to make a more comfortable seat on the ground next to Hochadel. Tanner Annichiarico, the only Oregonian in the group, remains standing, loosening his heavy pack and stretching his arms.

The four hikers started on the Pacific Crest Trail this spring. They hiked more than 500 miles before they hit snow. They heard it was even worse farther ahead. They didn't want to split up, but they weren't sure they wanted to push through the mountains. Should they just wait for the snow to melt?

They hadn't expected to finish the PCT anyway. At the leisurely rate they were going, hikers who started two weeks after them had already caught up and passed them by. They



KATIE FRANKOWICZ/EO MEDIA GROUP

From left, Peter Carpenter, Bri Hochadel and Ryley Delgado, all from the East Coast, stop for a break outside of Arch Cape while hiking the Oregon Coast Trail. Like dozens of other backpackers this spring, the group abandoned the Pacific Crest Trail and started walking the Oregon Coast Trail.

were the only hikers they encountered who had packed games: Yahtzee and Frisbees. They were put off by PCT hikers obsessed with mileage, whose first question was, "How many miles did you make today?"

Then Annichiarico and Carpenter stumbled on the Oregon Coast Trail

while researching alternative routes online. The group canceled a grocery run and started figuring out how to get to Astoria. They began their hike at South Jetty in Fort Stevens State Park and plan to walk the approximately 400-mile-long trail all the way to where it ends near Brookings at the California border.

The trail has been heaven after weeks of California's deserts, they say. It hugs the Oregon Coast and there are long stretches of flat beach, cliff sides thick with trees, green woods dense with mosses and ferns. But there are also challenges.

### Closing gaps

The Oregon Coast Trail was officially declared "hikeable" in 1988, a legacy of the state's landmark 1967 Beach Bill that granted public access to all of Oregon's beaches, writes Eugene author Bonnie Henderson in her guidebook to the trail. The trail is a work in progress.

Unlike the world-famous PCT, which winds through remote backcountry, the Oregon Coast Trail is what hikers call a "civilized" trail. In

Clatsop County, sections of the trail are popular as day hikes at Fort Stevens, Ecola and Oswald West state parks. In a single day's trek, a hiker might start on the beach, cross a highway, dive deep into quiet woods, climb in and out of ravines and end up in a town packed with tourists trying to escape the heat in Portland.

The trail is not set up for backpackers, or thru-hikers. Legal campsites are few and far between. Different sections of the trail are maintained at different levels. Gaps exist where hikers must trek along highways or down neighborhood roads, or hitch rides with friendly boaters to get across waterways.

Oswald West State Park, for example, is made up of numerous parcels of land. Some parcels come with deed restrictions attached that allow or forbid certain activities and limit the department's options.

The dilemma of where they are going to sleep each night weighs on Annichiarico and the others.

"The worst thing we could do is give rangers a reason to kick everyone out," he said.

**DUANE JOHNSON**  
**REAL ESTATE**  
Number "1" Office Since 1990

*Active Members of RMLS*

What is RMLS? As the Northwest's largest REALTOR®-owned Multiple Listing Service (MLS), RMLS serves approximately 10,000 Real Estate Professionals in over 2,200 offices licensed in Oregon and Washington.

<p><b>AFFORDABLE CANNON BEACH CONDO</b> \$279,000</p>	<p><b>NEW PRICE!</b></p> <p><b>CANNON BEACH</b> \$302,500</p>
<p><b>CANNON BEACH OCEANVIEW LOT</b> \$485,000</p>	<p><b>CANNON BEACH OCEANVIEW CONDO</b> \$489,000</p>
<p><b>CANNON BEACH OCEANVIEW</b> \$624,900</p>	<p><b>CANNON BEACH DOWNTOWN</b> \$649,500</p>
<p><b>CANNON BEACH VACATION RENTAL</b> \$750,000</p> <p><b>EXTRA LOT</b></p>	<p><b>CANNON BEACH OCEANVIEW</b> \$795,000</p> <p><b>EXTRA GUEST HOUSE</b></p>
<p><b>ARCH CAPE OCEANFRONT</b> \$1,099,000</p>	<p><b>CANNON BEACH CUSTOM OCEAN FRONT</b> \$1,895,000</p>

**296 N. Spruce St. • PO Box 924 • Cannon Beach, Oregon 97110**  
 (503) 436-0451 • (503) 436-2913 FAX  
[www.duanejohnson.com](http://www.duanejohnson.com)

**Making Sweet Memories for over 54 Sweet Years!**

Freshest Homemade:  
Saltwater Taffy  
Chocolates  
Caramel Corn  
Caramel Apples  
& MORE!!  
Wedding Treats & Gift Baskets Available!

**TWO LOCATIONS**  
Downtown Cannon Beach & Seaside Outlet Mall

**THE ONLY TAFFY MADE IN CANNON BEACH!**

Making Sweet Memories Since 1963

**Bruce's Candy Kitchen**

**WE CAN SHIP CANDY DIRECTLY TO YOU!**

www.brucescandy.com • 503-436-2641 • 503-738-7828

Find us on Facebook

**LOTS OF PLACES YOU CAN PICK UP A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF THE CANNON BEACH GAZETTE**

<p><b>CANNON BEACH</b> Cannon Beach Bakery Cannon Beach Book Company Cannon Beach Beach Store Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce Cannon Beach City Hall Cannon Beach Conference Center Cannon Beach Family Market Cannon Beach Historical Center Cannon Beach Hotel Cannon Beach Liquor Store Cannon Beach Property Management Cannon Beach RV Resort Cannon Beach Vacation Rentals Cascade Sotheby's Realty Duane Johnson Real Estate Ecola Creek Lodge EVOO Hallmark Inns &amp; Resorts Inn at Cannon Beach Inn at Haystack Rock Mariner Market Martin Hospitality Mo's Restaurant</p>	<p>Picnic Basket Pig 'N Pancake Purple Moon/Morris' Fireside Restaurant RE/MAX Coastal Advantage Sea Ranch RV Park Sea Sprite at Haystack Rock Sea Sprite on the Estuary Surfcrest Market Sweet Basil's Cafe &amp; The Wine Bar The Land's End Motel The Ocean Lodge The Stephanie Inn The Waves Motel Tolovana Inn US Bank/La Luna Loca Windermere Stellar Real Estate</p>
<p><b>SEASIDE</b> Providence Seaside Hospital Rite Aid Safeway Seaside Outlet Center Seaside Signal/Cannon Beach Gazette Office</p>	<p><b>GEARHART</b> Windermere Stellar Real Estate</p>

**4,000 COPIES DISTRIBUTED EACH MONTH**