

Trail Advocates

of the Clackamas River Ranger District of the Mount Hood National Forest

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Fanton Trail

Topic: Fanton Trail

Author: Rob Williams

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Fanton Trail

[Edit this Page](#)

Rob Williams : 6/15/2008; 11:00:43 AM

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I got out yesterday and went and hiked most of the Fanton Trail. The 4614 road (Squaw Mountain rd) is impassible a little ways past the 4613 turnoff due to snow, but 4613 was clear to the trailhead. The snow is really odd this year. It seems to be deepest in a pretty specific elevation. Either higher or lower it is clear, but from about 3400-3600', it can still be 18-24" deep or more. The weird thing is how quickly the snow comes on. The trail is basically clear, and then all of a sudden it goes fro nothing to over a foot deep. This was the first time I hiked the lower section of the trail, so I wasn't quite sure where it went, but it was pretty easy to follow, until the snow came. Fortunately, at the lower elevation, someone had gone before me, so I followed the old footprints through the snow. After that stretch, the trail cleared for a while, and it was easy going. Then the snow returned, however there were not any footprints to follow, and I couldn't find the trail. Couldn't see any obvious paths, and couldn't see any blazes. I probably could have keep going in the general direction, but I decided to turn around. I made it probably 3.5 miles up the trail. The lower section of the trail has been cleared, however there are still a couple of downed trees over the upper section I hiked. None of them are difficult to traverse, and the trail is in very good shape. I did some trimming of vegetation and threw some branches off the trail to help a little bit.

I was hoping to make it up to Squaw Mountain, but that will have to wait for another day. Someday that snow will melt!

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[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Trail Index](#)
[Get Involved](#)
[Hikes](#)

Discussion

[Chronological](#)
[By Topic](#)

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[Sign Out](#)

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