



Frequently Asked Questions: Sandy River Delta Closure – Fall 2025

1. What is happening at Sandy River Delta?

The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) owns approximately 50 acres within the Sandy River Delta near Troutdale. This property is adjacent to approximately 1,500 acres owned by the U.S. Forest Service and known as the Thousand Acres recreation zone, a biologically rich and ecologically sensitive landscape.

Over time, the state-owned lands have been used for long-term, unauthorized overnight camping by people experiencing homelessness. While DSL recognizes the complex challenges of unsheltered homelessness, this land is not suitable for habitation due to wildfire risk, flooding, and environmental degradation. The closure is necessary to restore the land and return it to safe, sustainable public use.

2. How long is the closure in effect?

The current closure, which began in May 2025, will be extended through at least January 31, 2026. Enforcement of the closure for all users has not yet begun but will begin in fall 2025.

3. Why is this happening now?

Over the past six months, outreach teams have worked to connect people staying at the site with shelter and services. At the same time, environmental damage has continued to worsen, and the risks to human safety have grown, especially with the approach of colder, wetter months.

This fall marks a critical window: Outreach efforts have been underway for the last several months, service connections are available, and conditions on the ground demand action. Moving forward now allows DSL and our partners to restore the land before winter, while continuing to prioritize safety, dignity, and voluntary compliance.

4. Who is leading this effort?

The Department of State Lands owns the 50-acre area and is leading the closure and restoration effort. The Department is working in close coordination with:

- The Governor's Office
- Oregon State Police
- Multnomah County Homeless Services Department
- The Salvation Army
- Other partners, including Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Metro, the U.S. Forest Service, and the City of Troutdale

5. What happened during the initial cleanup attempt?

In June 2025, tensions escalated between protesters and cleanup crews, resulting in multiple confrontations and safety incidents. Cleanup was paused to reassess the approach.

6. What's happened since the pause?

Since pausing operations, DSL has worked closely with the Governor's Office, Oregon State Police, Multnomah County, and other partners to reassess and rebuild our approach. Key steps include:

- **Listening and Learning:** The project team has engaged with partners, advocates, and service providers to understand what went wrong and how to move forward more effectively.
- **Hiring a New Contractor:** DSL is hiring Rapid Response, a contractor with extensive experience in trauma-informed engagement and field operations. This team is trained in de-escalation and respectful communication. They will work closely with outreach providers to ensure a coordinated, compassionate approach.
- **Strengthening Partnerships:** We've entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Multnomah County to continue funding The Salvation Army's outreach work through the fall. The outreach team remains active on-site, offering support and helping people connect with available shelter, housing and related services.

7. What support is being offered to people?

The outreach team from The Salvation Army has been actively engaged with individuals camping overnight at the site for the past six months. They are offering:

- **One-on-one conversations** to understand people's goals, needs, and willingness or ability to relocate.
- **Shelter interest surveys** to help match individuals with available shelter options.
- **Connection to services**, including transportation, housing referrals, and other supports.
- **Distribution of basic resources**, such as food, water, and hygiene supplies.
- **Clear communication** about the upcoming restoration efforts and what to expect.

While shelter beds are often available, individual preferences—such as location, privacy, or pet accommodations—can be a barrier. Outreach teams are working to coach individuals through these decisions, emphasizing that relocation is not the end of the journey, but a step toward greater stability.

8. How much time did people have to move?

For the past six months, the Department of State Lands has partnered with Multnomah County and the Salvation Army to engage people experiencing homelessness at Sandy River Delta, informing them of the need to move, offering assistance moving, and providing connections to services and shelter. Any people remaining at the Delta will be provided with a five-day legal notice to vacate the area, exceeding state requirements under [ORS 195.505](#).

9. What are the risks of overnight camping at the Sandy River Delta?

There are risks to both people and place:

- Wildfire risk during dry summer months.
- Flooding risk during wet winter months.
- Environmental harm to sensitive wildlife habitat.
- Health and safety concerns for people camping in the area without access to hygiene services and other supports.

10. What will restoration involve?

Restoration will include:

- Damage assessments.
- Removal of debris and unoccupied campsites.
- Natural restoration.
- Reestablishing the area for safe public recreation.