

Dog Creek / Delta Toll Road

Easy, dirt road, 2WD (dry) or 4WD



Dog Creek Road, once known as the Delta Toll Road, is an exploration of an old supply wagon and stagecoach road from the Sacramento River Valley to Old Trinity Centre. Today, as a county dirt road, this excursion takes you from the intersection of East Side Road and East Fork Road some 24 miles through the mountains east of Trinity Lake to I-5 at the Vollmers/Delta exit.

In the springtime, this is a very delightful trip with numerous dogwood and redbud, wildflowers, streams and even small waterfalls on Clear Creek. The road is mostly forested, but there are a few view spots. Watch for wildlife as there are bears, mountain lions, deer and many smaller animals in these mountains.

As you drive along this road, imagine making the trip in an old, horse-drawn wagon bouncing along the rocks and ruts. It was said to take two days one-way to get from Trinity Center to the river town of Delta. And that was after paying the toll for the privilege!

Vehicle Notes

- ♦ Jeep, SUV, or pickup ok.
- ♦ 2wd if it's dry, 4wd if it's muddy
- ♦ Occasional trees cleared to minimum vehicle width

Day Trips

- ♦ **Dog Creek Rd to I-5, north to lunch in Dunsmuir or Mt Shasta, then return to the North Lake via**
 - Ramshorn / Castle Creek Road
 - IP / Stewart Springs Road
 - Callahan-Gazelle Road
- ♦ **Dog Creek Rd to I-5, south to lunch (or pick up a picnic) in the Redding area, then return to the North Lake via**
 - French Gulch Road
 - Hoadley Peaks Road

Topo Maps for Dog Creek Road

- ♦ *Damnation Peak*
- ♦ *Lamoine*

Directions to Dog Creek Road

From the North Lake area: Take Hwy 3 north from Trinity Center about 5.5 miles to East Side Road. Cross the bridge and go 7.75 miles to the East Fork Road intersection. Reset your trip odometer at this intersection since all mileage along the route is based from this point.

From I-5: Exit I-5 at Delta/Vollmers (Exit 707) and head west on Dog Creek Road.



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Mile 0: Begin your trip at the intersection of East Side Road (CR 106) and East Fork Road (CR 120). If you return to this point at the end of your trip, you can head up to the end of East Fork Road and relax and unwind from your trip with a glass of wine on the lawn at Alpen Cellars Winery. But for now, continue south.

Mile 4.6: CR 119 heads off to the east. This is the road to Jackass Springs campground and Hay Gulch.

Mile 5.6: The 6-way intersection of East Side Road (CR 106), Dog Creek Road (CR 8G012), and a couple of FS roads. The sign for Dog Creek Road points the way to Clear Creek Campground. Make the left turn towards the campground. This stretch of road descends all the way to Clear Creek. As you start down the grade, you have passed into Shasta County.

Mile 7.2: At this point you have arrived at the creek. The road turns right to follow the creek, and to the left is a private ranch. Note that this is the same Clear Creek that flows into Whiskeytown Lake. 1/3 mile past the turn the road turns left and crosses a modern bridge across the creek. Just beyond the bridge is the Clear Creek Campground. This campground is rarely full, and you might even have it to yourself.

Mile 8.4: You have been paralleling Clear Creek, climbing south along its east flank. At this milepoint the road makes a left turn to the east and you leave Clear Creek behind. You will now be climbing up along Damnation Creek, a tributary of Clear Creek. You are headed up to Damnation Pass on your way to the Dog Creek drainage.



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Mile 11.6: At a tad under 4,400 feet above sea level, this is the high point of the trip. You are crossing a saddle between Damnation Peak to the north-northeast and Onion Creek Ridge to the southwest. East of Damnation Pass, the road is in worse condition with more ruts from runoff and generally more trees down.

At several milepoints you will pass FS roads. Some of these can be explored for a side trip with 4wd or OHV. Always be sure to pick up a USFS OHV map.

Mile 19.7: You encounter pavement. The last 3.5 miles of Dog Creek Road is paved with some very nice rural properties.

Mile 23.3: You have arrived at I-5. You can explore the small subdivision of Delta across the freeway, or you can head north or south to your lunch spot or next stage of your trip.

History of the Delta Toll Road

Delta was a railroad town established in the same general area where Dog Town previously existed at the mouth of Dog Creek on the Sacramento River. Railroad officials turned the site into a temporary railhead terminal, laid out the townsite and named it Delta because of the similarities of the townsite terrain and the Greek letter delta. Redding and Shasta merchants flocked to the area to open stores believing it would be another red-hot railhead town as Redding had previously been. By late 1884, the railroad went as far north as Delta.

Delta was laid out in approximately 20 blocks in lots with 25-foot frontages. Minimum prices were \$150 for corners and \$75 to \$100 for inside lots. The lots sold like hot cakes. Delta soon thrived with several hotels, saloons, stores and became the urban center of the Sacramento River Canyon. Railroad amenities included a 2,462-foot siding, a combination passenger and freight house, an engine house, a wooden turntable, and a 50,000-gallon water tank.

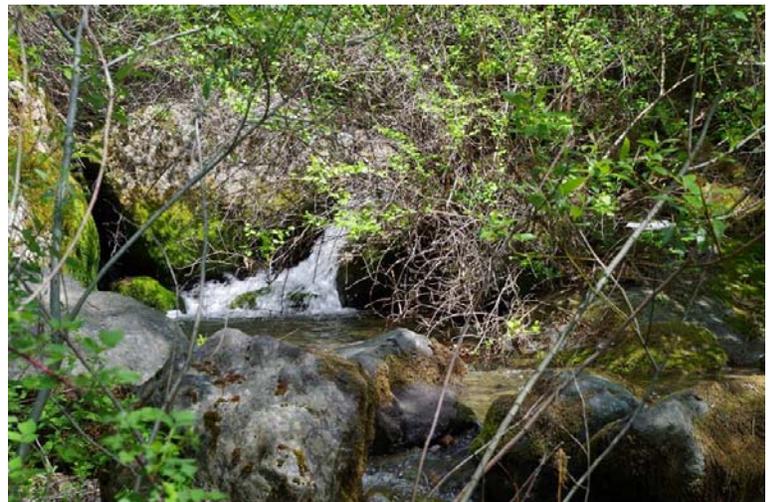
Track-laying resumed northward in late 1885 and Delta disappeared almost as fast as it had appeared. What little remained became a stopover for steam engines to take on water for the rest of the climb through the canyon.

Railroad availability in Delta provided the impetus to push a road through to Delta from Trinity Center to shorten the distance required to ship goods into the Trinity River valley. The Northern Trinity Toll Road company built the road. By 1902, the Delta Toll Road had been constructed along portions of Clear Creek and Dog Creek, crossing the saddle between Damnation Peak and Onion Creek Ridge. The western terminus of the road is now under Trinity Lake.

The road was some 28 miles long, and was one of the last toll roads constructed in California. Toll taking ended in 1926 when Shasta County took over the road east of the county line, and Shasta and Trinity Counties incorporated it into their county road systems. The tollhouse is marked on topo maps near the summit, but it no longer exists.

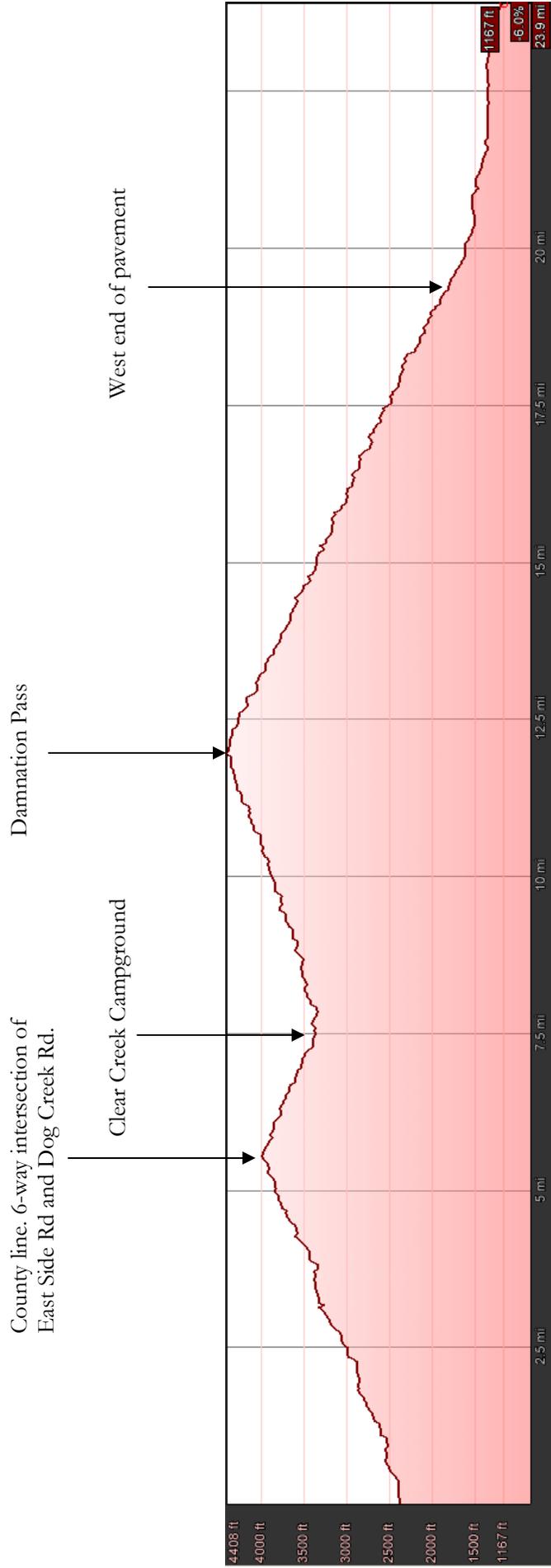


The dogwood along Dog Creek Road is spectacular in the spring, but the flora along this route is beautiful year-round!



Clear Creek Campground is about 7½ miles from the 6-way intersection with East Side Road. This is a USFS campground that is little used, especially outside the busy weekends. It is a delightful spot, right on the upper reaches of Clear Creek, and this charming little waterfall is just upstream from the campground. It is first come-first served, no fee, with vault toilets. There are six campsites.

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Vertical bars are 2.5 miles. Horizontal bars are 500'. Maximum elevation is 4,408' at Damnation Pass.. West end elevation is 2,388' at East Fork Rd. East end elevation is 1,340 at I-5.

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Dog Creek Rd from the 6-way intersection with East Side Rd on the west to I-5 on the East.