

Kennedy Creek

Destination: Kennedy Creek

Terrain: Hilly. On the 5 scale for difficulty - trails are a 3.

Corrals/High line: N/A.

Campfires: Use LNT principals

Permits: None. (Private property!) Gate closes at 4 pm if it is open.

Directions: Google Map link to the road in. For those with GPS - 47.092171N, 123.084641W (Latitude: 47 5' 31.816" N Longitude: 123 5' 4.708" W or UTM Zone: 10 Easting: 493576 Northing: 5215410)

It's 0.7 mile from the highway if you are coming from the south. From the north it's 0.8 mile. It's in the trees along the southern edge of a large open field.

Take US Highway 101 north from Olympia to mile post 357.07. (the mileposts are going in reverse) Go past Steamboat Island Road interchange, past Holiday Valley Road at milepost 358 and get ready to turn left at the next intersection - Old Olympic Highway. It's about 4.4 miles from where State Route 8 takes off from 101 just the northwest side of Mud Bay. Make sure you stay to the right or you'll be heading to the coast (not that you won't be able to turn around.) Follow Old Olympic Highway north 0.7 mile to the road with the orange gate.

Coming south towards Olympia - Past Kamilche, past the Hurley-Waldrip Road. Turn right onto the next road south of Hurley-Waldrip - Old Olympic Highway at mile marker 356. (about 6 or 7 tenths of a mile south of Hurley-Waldrip.) Follow Old Olympic Highway south 0.8 mile to the road with the orange gate.

Info: Trails are rocky and dry with one location being the exception (good winter riding). There is a small lake that could be fished if desired, and Summit Lake may also be ridden to. Remember to bring a chair and lunch. Private timber lands. Parking for 80 rigs (using the field).

"Kennedy Falls is a remote gem of a waterfall, two-tiered and perhaps 50'-75' high, located on Kennedy Creek in Thurston County. Kennedy Creek flows from Camp Thunderbird on Summit Lake down to innermost Totten Inlet where Highway 101 crosses its mouth just before climbing the hill to Kamilche." For those brave souls, at one time there existed a small alcove or cave behind the falls. It may still exist. The local scouts from Camp Thunderbird on Summit Lake made this one of their many hikes.

The basin is named for Judge Franklin Kennedy. He was the first Sheriff of Thurston County and was appointed by the Governor, not elected, in 1854, serving one year. Sheriff Kennedy had arrived in this area by covered wagon in 1853 (the year Washington Territory was created) and owned property in the Kamilche area. He later served as a judge in Mason County.

