

# You can report Trail Conditions

Shasta-Trinity National Forest



## National Forest Trails

Trails are a key part of many outdoor recreation experiences but their condition can be taken for granted. National Forest trails are built and maintained by the US Forest Service, but dollars and people to do the work are in short supply.

You can help keep the trails open and safe by reporting trail conditions, especially early in the summer when little is known about the past winter's damage. Reports taken late in the fall, or anytime, are useful in planning the next years work.

## Adopt-A-Trail

Another way to help with trails is to become involved in the Adopt-A-Trail program, in which interested clubs or organized groups take on volunteer maintenance responsibility for a portion of a trail. If you are interested in the program, contact the District Trail Manager.

## How to Report

The most efficient method to report trail conditions (and have them posted quickly for other users to access) is to e-mail your report to [jholmes@fs.fed.us](mailto:jholmes@fs.fed.us) or call Jim at 530 623-1725. Jim authors the Web-based Trinity Alps Trail Condition Report every Thursday and disseminates the updated information to all the Shasta-Trinity's Ranger Districts. Information can also be reported to Ranger District Offices, the Forest Supervisor's Office or to Forest Service personnel in the field. If you can, be sure to include the trail name and number (if available), the condition of the trail, and approximate locations of damage or obstructions, and the date observed.

Also we've found that photos are very useful for us in determining the best method for trail repair.

Use the back of this brochure or any piece of paper, or report in person.

### Things you should report

- Damage to a stream ford, switchback, trail tread, waterbar, or cross drain.
- Impassable boggy areas.
- Trees down across the trail.
- Dangerous Stream crossings.
- Snow Conditions.
- Damaged or missing trail signs.
- Damaged or destroyed bridges.
- Anything else worth reporting.

## In the Meantime

While hiking trails for pleasure, you can remove debris from the trail and scatter it on the lower or downhill side. You can remove rocks over three inches in diameter, but be sure not to endanger anyone who might be on the trail below you. Where cairns are used to mark the trail, you can help keep them intact. Picking up people-caused litter is in order any time and greatly appreciated.

## Terms you should know

**Cairn** - A constructed mound of rock located adjacent to a trail to mark it in the open, alpine areas.

**Ford** - A natural stream-crossing that has been improved sufficiently for use by saddle or pack animals and hikers.

**Switchback** - A sharp, short-radius curve in the trail, used on hillsides to reverse the direction of travel and to gain or lose elevation.

**Abandoned or relocated** - Debris (limbs, rocks, etc.) placed deliberately across a trail means the trail is no longer in use.

**Trail tread** - The surface portion of the trail upon which the traffic moves as distinct from a backslope ditch or shoulder.

**Waterbar** - A device for turning water off the trail. They are usually made with logs, stones, or soil cement and installed at about a 30° angle across the trail.

**Cross drain** - A dip constructed by contouring the material of the trail itself. It serves the same purpose as a waterbar.

**Washouts** - Where a trail-tread has been obliterated by heavy water flow from whatever source.

**Slide or rockfall** - Earth or rocks that have fallen across the trail or taken out a portion of the trail.

**Windfalls** - Trees or heavy branches that have been blown down on the trail, usually during winter storms.

