

## Trinity Alps Wilderness Trail Condition Report September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

***Attention Wilderness users!!*** In the last few weeks there have been three Wilderness fires started by campers that haven't extinguished their campfires properly. Be advised, that it has been a full four months since it has rained here in the Alps. The conditions are tinder dry. If you must have a campfire, make it a small one in a pre-existing campsite and **BE SURE** to put it out properly whenever it is unattended. The appropriate way to extinguish your campfire is by pouring on copious amounts of water while stirring with a stick. Do not attempt to put the fire out by covering it with dirt. That does not adequately extinguish the fire and it seriously compromises fire ring clean-up. Thankfully, our Fire Department was able to extinguish these escaped campfires before they got out of control, but the expense for these activities is passed on to the negligent campers...

I thought it would be good idea to mention that our report is only as good as our information. If you notice, the reported watersheds for which we have this year's information usually give a date in which we received that information. If that date is two-weeks old (or longer!) you have to use your imagination a bit to visualize what the conditions may be today. In fact, at this point in the season, snow or high water is no longer an issue anywhere in the Alps relative to trail conditions.

It is also worth noting that usage has really spiked this year. Believe it or not, Canyon Creek had 308 back Packers on Memorial Day and 275 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Yikes! Similar record-breaking numbers have been materializing, additionally, each weekend for Grizzly Lake, the Four Lakes Loop, and Granite Lake up Swift Creek. It may be time to start considering other locations in the Alps if privacy and solitude are experiences that are important to you. And I hope that all of you realize, virtually every Lake in the Alps has something to offer that will 'Make Your Day'. Some of my most insightful and relaxing experiences have been at lakes that aren't burdened with the above identified 'Popularity Cache'. Take it from a Ranger that has been hiking the Alps now for over thirty years, spending an afternoon quietly and alone by a lakeside—simply watching the insect life!—can be a humbling, mind-expanding, and yet an exhilarating experience... A mind-eraser occurrence that is just what you are seeking in today's over-amped culture.

This year our staffing levels are slightly better than last year! Having six Wilderness Patrol staff definitely beats last year's staffing level of two persons. However, our duties still include: trail recons, visitor contact, signage, trailhead bulletin boards, invasive weed surveys, the Chief's Ten-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge, campsite cleanup, visitor education, trailhead bathroom clean-up, permit oversight, and Law Enforcement responsibilities for our 535,000 acres, 700 campsites, and 510 miles of trail.... I mention this just so that you will understand that, if things still don't seem quite up to snuff, and the trails and roads still have logs across them, it's not because we don't care, it's simply because there still aren't enough personnel left to adequately cover these duties. I also mention it in attempts to solicit your help! If you have the time to throw off an obstructing trail branch or small down tree please feel free to do so. Additionally, be sure to practice the highest order of 'Leave No Trace' camping techniques. Be sure to use only pre-

**existing campsites, have only small fires, put them ‘dead out’ with copious amounts of water, and definitely haul out everything that you bring in. Everyone should feel free to consider themselves ‘Honorary Wilderness Patrol Persons and Trails Staff’ AGAIN this season.**

**Last year a Beaver moved onto Upper Canyon Creek Lake. Amazingly, the Beaver lived through the winter. This is particularly surprising since there isn’t an overabundance of suitable vegetation for he/she to live on. One of our Forest Service Biologists is following this Beaver’s progress, and the progress of any Beavers found within the National Forest. If anyone is fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of a Beaver or any Beaver signs (i.e. chewed branches, trees, or dams) please contact Carla De Julio at (530) 623 1715 or [cmdejuilio@fs.fed.us](mailto:cmdejuilio@fs.fed.us)**

**If you do not see adequate information here within this report for the watershed that you hike into, feel free to keep a record of trail conditions during your hike and e-mail them to me when you return home. I will then post your information in the next week’s Trail Condition Report prefaced by the statement ‘Hikers Report that...**

**Simply informing us about the number of downed trees (and how many of them seem to be stock stoppers) and where you found the snowline to be (i.e. the snow started in earnest about one mile from the lake) is all that is necessary. My e-mail address is clearly posted at the end of this report. With your help in 2016 we will do everything possible to keep this one of the best Trail Condition Reports on the west coast...**

*\*\*From now on I am going to change the font color within this document each week for that week’s newly reported trail entries. This will make it more convenient for return users to identify our newly reported changes in trail conditions.*

Additionally, due to reduced budgets, some of our trails are becoming hard to follow. These trails are now indicated by the phrase “A GPS Unit Helps!” at the beginning of a trail’s write up.

## **CANYON CREEK (WATERSHED)**

*The road to the Canyon Creek trailhead is paved and free of snow and debris.*

*Remember, the current Forest Order for Canyon Creek specifies that there are **NO CAMPFIRES ALLOWED AT ANY OF CANYON CREEK’S LAKES!** It is a \$375 fine (absolutely no exceptions) for anyone caught in violation of this Forest Order.*

**Bear Creek Trail #10W06** – We haven’t surveyed this trail yet in 2016, but in 2015 Hikers reported: “There are many trees across the trail. At least one of them is a stock stopper.” However, the CCC’s did finish the trail brushing and trail clearing from Canyon Creek to the junction with the Alpine Lake trail in 2013.

Accessing Alpine now from the **Stuart Fork** trailhead is now much more practical because the creek flows are down in Stuart Fork. You can get to Alpine Lake via this Bear Creek trail out of the Canyon Creek trailhead, but be prepared for a punishing uphill climb getting out of the Canyon Creek watershed and then a punishing downhill trek back down into the Stuart Fork watershed –as well as the above mentioned trees...

Stock users should take note that this trail is not suitable for stock usage *past* the ridge-top coming from the Canyon Creek side of the ridge. The last pitch up to the ridge-top (on the Canyon Creek side of the ridge) is on a 30 to 40% slope that gains 1200’ in the last 1/3 mile. Even day-riders intent on gaining the view at the ridge-top should be prepared to walk their stock while traversing this steep gravelly trail segment. It is even steeper on the Stuart Fork side of the ridge...

**Boulder Creek Lakes Trail #10W02** – The trail is now free of snow and the campsites are free of snow also. There is one small tree across the trail. The CCC's finished brushing out the trail in 2013, but it is beginning to show signs of re-growth. It is still easily passable, but if it happens to be raining while you travel the trail, be prepared to get wet! Also be sure to pay strict attention to the cairned route across the bare granite just before the lake. If you simply follow your intuitions you will probably end up at the base of the cliff below the lake. The cairns lead you higher and more to the north than you would expect, but they also lead you to the only spot that makes it possible to access the lake without the use of ropes and pitons!

**East Fork Lake Trail #9W22** – *A GPS Unit Helps!* There is a 24" tree across the road blocking vehicular access to the trailhead. Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016 but, at the end of 2013, the trail had finally been cleared of downed trees and brush to within one mile of the lake. ...However, that last mile is a very brushy trail section.

**Canyon Creek Trail #10W08** – The trail is now clear of snow to all of Canyon Creek Lakes and the campsites are now melted off. The trail has been cleared of downed trees to Upper Canyon Creek Meadows, but 10 trees remain to the trail junction. They are technically stock passable but a few of them will be difficult for stock to get around. Stock users should note however that all of Canyon Creek's lakes are stock inaccessible. The rocky granite slabs blocking each set of lakes makes stock passage impossible. The last report indicated that the trail was clear of downed trees all the way to the trail junction. Sorry about that --if it caused any inconvenience for stock users. Unfortunately, that was an inaccurate report given to us by hikers.

Attention! The beaver at Upper Canyon Creek Lake did make it through the winter. However, please do not disturb the beaver by trying to 'get a closer photo'. If he is hassled too much, he will simply move away... If you do get lucky enough to see the beaver feel free to give wildlife biologist Carla De Julio at (530) 623 1715 a call to report the siting. In fact, if you see a beaver in any of the Alp's waterways Carla would like to know about it. The best time to catch a glimpse of the Canyon Creek beaver is right before sundown near the outflow of Upper Canyon Creek Lake. There is an obvious open ridge near that spillway (about 50' above the lake) from which to get a clear view of most of the lake. From that location you can watch him work without disturbing him at all.

If you are continuing on to Upper Canyon Creek Lake from Lower Canyon Creek Lake take note that the trail actually takes a turn to the left, away from the Lower Lake, just as you come over the last granite rise and the Lower Lake becomes visible. Your intuitions are to walk over to the Lower Lake shore and walk along it toward the Upper Lake. If you do this, you will end up in a tangle of step brush at the end of the Lower Lake. When continuing on to the Upper Lake be sure to follow the cairns that veer to the left (the west) just as you get to the Lower Lake. The trail to the Upper Lake is actually about 80' vertical and 400' west of the Lower Lake's shoreline.

## COFFEE CREEK (WATERSHED)

*The road is clear of snow and debris all the way to the Big Flat Campground.*

**Adams Lake Trail #9W73** – There are approximately 15 trees down blocking the trail, making it impassable for stock but still easily passable for humans and dogs. The sign at the trailhead is clear but there is essentially no parking space. Folks simply park on the side of the road. Just be sure to get your vehicle as far off the road as possible. The lake is high and full and great for swimming. Parts of the trail are difficult to navigate where the shrubs are overgrown across a creek, but those sections are small. There are essentially no creek crossings.

**Battle Canyon Trail #9W59** – Trail conditions are not known in 2016. However, in 2015 Hikers Reported that there was a potential stock stopper on the Union Creek side of the ridge. They reported that the trail is easy to follow up to the ridge from the Union Creek side however, the trail is quite hard to follow through Battle Canyon itself. In 2012 the CCC's finished a stint up on the Battle Canyon trail (08/20/2012). They were able to re-tread the washed out sections and establish enough trail definition that you can find your way along the trail on the Union Creek side of the ridge. Coming up from the Sugar Pine side of the ridge at Cabin Flat hikers reported on 9/13/2015: "There's one stock-stopper within a few minutes, a couple smaller downed logs, & lots of debris (sticks, pine cones, etc.) We lost the trail at one

point & went up way too far, got into a mess of shrubbery, steep loose dirt, & rock jumbles-- found a kinder route back down through a meadow & re-connected with the trail, which was clearly visible. Found our way up over the ridge (some areas of erosion on the trail) down into the canyon & up to the Union Creek side of the ridge. There's a little growth on the trail down in the canyon, but not enough to lose the trail. Going back, we found where we lost the trail going up & put up a couple cairns & moved some debris. It only took 5-10 minutes to get through the section of trail we bypassed (lost) for over an hour :) all part of the adventure! Thank your crew for cleaning up the logs that were down on Sugar Pine trail!"

**Billy's Peak Trail #7W08** – Accurate trail conditions are not currently known for this trail. In 2011 there were about 20 trees across the trail in the first mile and a half. Of these about four are stock stoppers, larger than 20" diameter. The trail is brushy throughout, long sleeves recommended. The trail is easy to follow and is quite passable to foot traffic. However the trailhead is hard to find, if you don't know where it is. It is marked only with a sign post that has the trail name written on it in black sharpie marker. Finding the trailhead is made more difficult by the fact that there are many more roads in the area than are marked on our maps, and these are not well labeled.

**Boulder Creek Trail #8W08** – (Goldfield Campground Trailhead) – Hikers Report: “There are 9 logs across trail 8W20 between the Boulder Lakes trailhead and the Boulder Creek junction and 5 logs on Trail 8W12 between the junction and Lion Lake. One of the switchbacks on trail 8W12 was completely taken out by a fallen tree shortly after the junction. Of these 14 trees, approximately half were large enough to need to be crosscut. Twelve logs were present on trail 8W08 between the Boulder Creek trailhead and the junction, with one very large (about 3-4 ft diameter) log about a mile in from the trailhead. Some spots had water running down the trail and were overgrown, but not to the point of being difficult to navigate.”

***PLEASE, NO CAMPFIRES AT CARIBOU LAKES!***

**Caribou Lake #9W180** – The trees have now been removed on both the ‘New’ and the ‘Upper’ trail to Caribou Lakes out of the Big Flat Campground.

All the campsites are melted off at all of the Lakes. The trail to Upper Caribou from Snowslide is easy to follow and is snowless. The trail over to Stuart Fork still has minor snow on it, but folks are now making their way over to Stuart Fork.

I also got this interesting Hiker Report in the fall of 2015: “When we got to the basin we rehabbed a few campsites on the Big Caribou Lake area. We basically just broke down fire pits, spread the ashes on the plants to work like compost, and tried to make it look like there was never a fire pit there to begin with. I am appalled that people either don't read the trail report or don't care, but there was a group of college aged kids up there who we had to stop from cutting down a tree because they wanted to have a fire. It almost got real ugly. They finally relented because I was being kind of a jerk and they stopped hacking.” Due to the lack of firewood in the Caribou Basin, responsible hikers should refrain from having a campfire.

**East Boulder Lakes Trail #8W02** – The road to the East Boulder Trailhead (via Tangle Blue Lake) is passable but has a number of deep ruts that require caution to negotiate.

The trail is known to be clear of downed trees to both Tangle Blue Lake and onward to Big Marshy Lake. Be aware that the trail actually empties onto an in-holding road and travels along this dirt road for approximately 2/3rds of a mile before Big Marshy Lake. Be sure to make note of this intersection because the signing is scarce and can be easy to miss on a return trip toward Tangle Blue. Going toward the Marshy Lakes you follow this road to its terminus where the trail simply continues on (it crosses a year-round creek at this point, with a visible cabin 200' off to the east.). There are carsonite trail signs along the road, but they are in an ill state of repair. The junction to Big Marshy Lake is not signed, but the most obvious piece of the trail leads you directly to the lake. The trail continuing on to the PCT is quite faded. It can still be easily followed however, if you pay close attention. The trail continuation to East Boulder is obvious and easy to follow.

Hiker's Report that, on the trail coming up from the trailhead on the Scott Valley side of the ridge: "On 5/24/16 one of our Range Technicians hiked to East Boulder Lake and reported the trail was in good condition. There were a few trees down, but they are not Stock Stoppers."

**East Fork Coffee Creek Trail #8W06** – The downed trees have now been removed from the trail.

**Big Boulder Lake Trail #8W20** – The road is passable, but there are about five short sections that are rough, so drive with caution. The trail is now clear enough for stock usage and the snow is gone.

**Deadman Peak Trail #9W16** – No Information.

**Doe Lake Trail #8W05** – The Stoddard Lake road (38N22) is now passable with some caveats. There are two trailhead access roads off of the Eagle Creek Loop road. We just got up (6/11/2016) to the worst offending road rut (on road number 38N22) and filled it in with enough gravel that a two wheel drive vehicle can now make it up to the trailhead. The road is Quite rough though, so be-prepared to drive slowly in a variety of spots. However, getting a stock truck up to the usual parking spot (½ mile below the Stoddard Lake trailhead) is now more compromised by bad rutting this past winter. You can probably still make it as long as you have four drive wheels on your rig. Sorry about this situation but, due to budget cuts over the last few years, there is only a skeletal road crew left.

The Stoddard Lake access road that passes by the Eagle Creek campground (the northernmost access road 37N27) is accessible only to the Eagle Creek campground and the Eagle Creek trailhead. Overflow in Eagle Creek this winter has washed out a section of road at the hardened wet crossing of Eagle Creek itself.

The trail to Doe Lake now has the downed trees removed. Sections of the trail between Doe and Granite Lake, because of the burn in 2014, are almost impossible to follow. A GPS unit here would be very helpful (it is almost essential). If the 2014 burn wasn't enough to make things difficult, there was a Violent Thunderstorm over Granite Lake that caused thousands of cubic yards of dirt and ash to pour down the side creeks and into the East Fork of Coffee Creek and the North Fork of Coffee Creek. Both creeks were severely impacted along with Coffee Creek itself. This flooding essentially obliterated much of the recognizable trail between Doe and Granite Lakes.

**Dorleska Mine Trail #9W65** – The trail was logged out from Union Creek to the top of the ridge in 2015. Hikers Report: "There are three blow downs from the Dorleska Pass down to the Yellow Rose mine. Two are stock stoppers. Sizes range from 18 to 36 inches."

**East Fork Saloon Creek Trail #9W03** – *A GPS Unit Helps!* Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016 but, at the end of 2013 there was one tree down (12") and it was stock passable. Take note however, the trail is very difficult to follow.

**Lady Gulch Trail #9W05** – In 2016 the trail conditions are not yet known. In 2015 the trail was clear of downed trees to within a ¼ mile of the McNeil Creek trail junction. However, hikers reported on 7/15/2015: "Just went to Rush Creek Lake from lady gulch trail. 6 trees down 12-24 inches. Lots of debris on the trail but I could follow the trail ok."

**Granite Creek Trail #8W09** – In 2015 the trail was known to have approximately 30 trees down from the Granite Creek Bridge to the trail junction with the Doe Lake Trail. Several are stock stoppers. The section from Wolford Cabin to the Bloody Run trail is now known (in 2015) to have several stock stopper trees and branches across the trail.

**Lion Lake Trail #8W12** – The trail is free of snow but there are several trees down to the lake. One of them is a large diameter stock stopper tree covering both parts of a trail switchback just a bit after the junction with the Boulder Creek trail and the Boulder Lakes trail.

**Little Boulder Lake Trail #8W11** – The road to the trailhead is passable. The trail is clear of snow and downed trees.

**Long Gulch Trail #9W60** – The trail is now clear of offending trees to Long Gulch Lake. Hikers Report: “A minor glitch: when you head towards Trail Gulch Lake from Long Gulch Lake, there is a trail sign just across the meadow at the east end of the lake. It starts hikers about 10 yards north of the trail. Until you search pretty far south, you don't find the trail, because it angles to the south. For the long haul, it might be good to take that sign down or (dreaming here) move the trail into line with the sign, off the meadow and into the woods. We hiked out yesterday (Monday). It looked like a horse had come in to the lake and come out on Sunday. There was one tree down that I would have thought would stop a horse, but no!”

**Trail Gulch #9W15** – See the above report for Long Gulch Lake to fill out info for lake connections between Trail and Long Gulch Lake. The trail to Trail Gulch now is free of offending trees.

**North Fork Coffee Creek Trail #9W02 – A GPS Unit Helps!** --on the northern most portions of the trail. Now, in 2016, there are two stock stoppers before Hodges Cabin. In 2015 there were 4 non-stock stopper trees down from Hodges to the Granite Creek Bridge. From the bridge to Saloon Creek there were two non-stock stopper trees down. The signs at the first Junction at Saloon Creek are in good shape. There are no signs at the second Saloon Creek Junction (less than a 1/4 mile from the first). Between this junction and the Trail Gulch Junction (9W60 trail) there were 22 logs across the trail. Two of them are Stock Stoppers. At this junction the sign is on the ground and is very confusing. The trail in either direction from this junction is difficult to find. In fact, the trail towards Trail Gulch can now be considered ‘non-existing’. The junction at the Steveale Creek Trail is also very confusing with signage on the ground. From here going back toward Trail Gulch (on trail 9W02) there are 4 known downed logs: 12", 24", 24" stock stopper, and a 12".

There was a Violent Thunderstorm near Granite Lake that caused thousands of cubic yards of soil and ash (from the 2014 Granite Fire) to wash down Lick Creek and Little Lick Creek. The amount of erosion is catastrophic. As you walk up the North Fork you will notice that there is a prodigious amount of silt built up in the creek bed itself. In places the gray ash/soil watermark is eight feet up the creek banks. At the confluence of Lick Creek and the North Fork, Lick Creek was running close to 16 feet deep during the event. I mention this not so much because it has any direct bearing on your potential back packing trip, but as a nugget of knowledge that will help you understand what you are seeing. For instance, at Hodges Cabin there are several mud flows that ran past the cabin that poured sediment into the North Fork. The impact pretty much ends at Hodges Cabin because, it is at this point that the worst of the scorching forest fire abated.

**Packers Peak Trail #9W06** – The road is open to the Packer’s Peak Trailhead. Hiker’s Report: “Packers Peak was clear enough to follow, except a little downfall at the bottom portions. Passed two more hikers coming up and they found their way ok.”

**Saloon Creek Trail #9W01 – A GPS Unit Helps!** Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016 but, at the end of 2013, there were 6 trees down on the trail ranging from 12” to 30” in diameter. Two would be somewhat difficult for stock to get around but they were passable.

**South Fork Coffee Trail #9W04 – A GPS Unit Helps! Hikers Report:** “We hiked South Fork Coffee Creek trail 5/28/16. Notes: The trailhead situation was weird! From Coffee Crk Rd, a “Trailhead” sign pointed farther up the road, so we went up there, found a “Trail” sign leaning against a tree. We started up the trail, quickly lost it in fallen trees & debris, took a cross-slope track (easy to follow but not a real trail) across a couple drainages, finally joining with an old road, which we followed up the hill. There we discovered an old USFS trail sign indicating we were on S.ForkCoffeeCk Trail, telling directions to Steveale Meadow & Coffee Ck Rd. So we continued south. The crossing of S Fork Coffee Creek in sec 17 was raging, so we turned around. On the way back we just stuck to the old road, all the way to CC Rd. Where we reached the county road was where that original “Trailhead” arrow sign directed us elsewhere, so that didn’t make sense. Also there was a trailhead bulletin sign, except all the notices were torn off, whether by bear or human”.

In 2015 the trail was clear of downed trees to within ¼ mile of Steavele Meadows. However, at the end of 2012, Hikers Reported: “After wading the South Fork (1.5 miles up the trail), the trail is a mess

with much downfall up to the trail junction to Steveale Meadows. I consider the trail from there up to the top of the ridge, the entire way, mess! This was my second time I had walked this trail, the other was many moons ago. Additional cairns, tread work and pruning are necessary for anyone below the level of Daniel Boon to make it. I lost the trail on so many occasions I lost track, but fortunately for me, I had a fairly good idea where to look for it again. There is some downfall but it's mostly a matter of just finding the tread. Cairns work just fine on that very open upper stretch however. Some lower sections of the trail were almost soupy, with no way to avoid sinking in or bypassing short of raising the tread with rock."

**Steveale Creek Trail #9W61 – A GPS Unit Helps!** Specific trail conditions in 2016 are not known. However, in 2014 there were many tress down on the trail. As of July 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 Hikers Reported: "I decided to head north (from the South Fork Coffee Creek/ Steveale Creek junction) to the divide above Trail Gulch Lake, as it traverses the upper reaches of the North Fork Coffee Creek (I took the upper or west branch trail; I never saw the junction that goes down the North Fork). There is much downfall here and places where the tread is indistinct and with no cairns that I saw to mark the trail. Partially due to snow, which was still plentiful, I must have lost the trail for 50-100 feet in several places. The last stretch to the top is pretty good." \*\*See write up for the North Fork of Coffee Creek for a bit more clarity.

**Stoddard Spur Trail #8W24** – The trail is now free of snow. It is passable for hikers even though there are several trees down.

**Sugar Pine Lake Trail #8W07** – [The stock stopper log has now been removed from the trail. The trail is cleared to the lake.](#)

**Tracy Trail #8W26** – In 2015 there was one non-stock stopper tree down about ¼ mile from the Poison Canyon trail junction and one across the trail near Big Boulder Lake. In 2016 Hikers Report: "There are some major blow downs on the south end of the trail."

**Yellow Rose Trail out of Big Flat** – The Yellow Rose trail is free of downed trees from the Big Flat up to the ridgetop.

**Union Lake Trail #9W64** – Coffee Creek road is passable to the trailhead. However, what used to be the trailhead parking area has come under dispute between a local landowner and the Forest Service. The landowner has placed large rocks along the road blocking access to the parking area. Hopefully we will get this situation straightened out soon. Essentially, parking along the road is not a hassle for automobiles, but the situation could be problematic for stock rigs. If you are a stock user you will still be able to access the trailhead, but you may have to park a bit further up (and along the side of) the road.

The trail is now passable all the way to the lake and onwards to the top of the Parker divide on the way to the Parker Creek trail. The trail is also passable over to Landers Lake for all users. There are two trees across the trail but neither of them are much of an issue for stock users. Campsites are melted off at Union and Landers lakes.

**Wolford Trail #8W03** – In 2013 there were 4 trees down on the trail. None were reported as stock stoppers. Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016.

## MAIN STEM TRINITY RIVER

**Bear Gulch Trail #9W23 – A GPS Unit Helps!** Hikers Report: "Hiking up Bear Gulch to the saddle, the trail is very overgrown in places, particularly at the creek crossing, making it difficult to follow - had to backtrack a few times hiking both up and down the route to ensure I stayed on track. GPS would have been helpful!"

**Dolly Ditch Trail #10W12** – No Information

**East Weaver Creek Trail #9W23 – A GPS Unit Helps!** Hiker's Report: "I met a couple who had hiked up from East Weaver Creek campground to East Weaver Lake (7/4/2016) - they said the trail was heavily overgrown in a few places, particularly at creek crossings, which made it difficult to stay on course." Also, some brush stobs have been reported at eye level so proceed with caution.

**East Weaver Lake Trail #10W11** – The trail is now clear of snow and trees to the lake.

**Rush Creek Lakes Trail #10W10** – The trail is dry for the first 6 miles, so be sure to bring ample water to negotiate this steep 4000' elevation gain without dehydration. The trail is clear and easy to follow for the first six miles. At that point (about 1 mile from the lake) the trail comes out of the trees into a relatively open area (a draw) and takes a hard left hand turn. If you look on your Wilderness Map it clearly does show this turn. At that point the trail goes steeply downhill to the east (and there should be an evident cairn there). The trail is quite indistinct in this next ¼ mile downhill section. It has been cairned though (8/25/2016) and there are some blazes on the trees to help indicate the trail location. After that ¼ mile downhill stretch the trail heads south again and crosses the bottom of the draw that you were descending. Follow the cairns through the relatively dense vegetation. The trail becomes more evident on the south side of this draw. From there to the lower lake the trail is quite brushy, but it is still readily evident and easily passable. It is not 'force your way through' brush. It is simply brush and Oak encroaching on a narrow trail. Take the time to find (and stay) on the trail in this described section, because losing the trail at this point means either a six mile walk back to the trailhead (the chance to get some water...) or a Very Difficult cross country trek through thick brush to get to the lower lake.

**French Creek Trail #8E03** – Hikers Report: "French Gulch is completely unpassable. Poison oak, raspberry, and many downed trees. We turned back after less than one mile, and saw two other groups give up as well. Green Mountain Trailhead was much better. Some clearing and chainsaw work has been done on the first half mile. After that there are some large fallen trees to get around - would be hard for horses, but not too bad for hikers. We made it to the top of Brushy Mountain. A lot of the area burned, but many trees survived. Fireweed is blooming.

**Green Mountain Trail #12W09** – In 2016 the logs have been cleared off the trail from the Green Mtn. Trailhead to Pony Camp. The trail is stock passable through to Ladder Camp, however some sections are quite brushy. From Ladder Camp to Pony Camp the trail is likely not stock passable because of erosion and crumbly cliffs but the trees have been cleared from it.

**Oak Flat Trail #12W16** – No Information

**Manzanita Ridge Trail #12W15** – No Information

**Treloar Ridge Trail #12W17** – Hiker's Report: "On Oct 18th 2015, we attempted to hike the Treloar Ridge Trail. The trail gets lost in brush and downed trees about 1.5 miles from the trailhead, we turned around at this point. The trail is not passable for stock. There is extensive fire damage from a fire long ago, but the views are very lovely."

## NEW RIVER (WATERSHED)

*Visitors should be advised that the New River area was affected by a massive wildfire in the summer of 2006 and 2008. Many trails throughout the area may still have hazardous conditions for hikers and stock users. All visitors should **ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!***

**Battle Creek Trail #8E19** – Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016. In 2014 however, there were many down trees and, due to a lack of funding, this trail is now an unmaintained trail.

**Cinnabar Trail #12W06** – Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016. In 2014 however, this trail had a major slide and is not suitable for stock use. Additionally, due to lack of funding, it has not been brushed for several years.

**Eagle Creek Trail #8E11 – A GPS Unit Helps!** The CCC cleared to a mile up from the New River junction. Hikers claim that the rest of the trail is completely impassable. Due to lack of funding, the trail

has not been brushed or logged out since the 2006 fire. Also, due to a lack of funding, this trail is now officially an unmaintained trail. The CCC's were up that way in 2012 however, and did clear the first 1.5 miles of downed trees. Most of the trail though is completely indistinguishable and has returned to its natural state. Our Wilderness Patrol did manage to follow the old route on 7/23/2014 and found 26 downed trees, many were stock stoppers. The Patrol Person also concluded that the trail was VERY difficult to locate and had pretty much returned to its natural state.

**East Fork New River Trail #12W08** – The CCC has cleared from the trailhead past Lake City to Emigrant Creek and Semore Gulch Trail Junction. However, in 2015 the trail had approximately 32 trees down to Limestone Ridge. Many are stock stoppers. The Blue Ridge section is quite overgrown and hard to follow.

**Emigrant Lake Milk Camp Trail #8E16 – A GPS Unit Helps!** In 2016 the CCC crew has cleared from East Fork trailhead to Milk Camp. They also cleared from Milk Camp to Slide Creek.

**Lipps Camp Trail #6E01 – A GPS Unit Helps!** Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016. Due to lack of funding, the trail has not been brushed or logged out since the 2006 fire. There are at least 40 trees down on the trail, and several lengthy sections of trail tread were obliterated in the fires of 2008.

**Jim Jam Trail #12W1 – A GPS Unit Helps!** Specific trail conditions are not known in 2016. Hikers reported in 2014 that the trail was clear to Jim Jam Spring. After that there are lots of blow down trees and the trail is not stock passable. In 2011 the Wilderness Patrol reported that the trail past the Semore Gulch trail junction was burned over badly several years ago and it is very tough to follow.

**Mullane Corral Trail #12W04 – A GPS Unit Helps!** Trail conditions in 2016 are not known at this time. Due to a lack of funding, there has been no trail maintenance since before the 2006 fire. Also, due to the lack of funding, this trail is now an unmaintained trail.

**Milk Camp Trail #8E16 – A GPS Unit Helps!** Hikers Report: “Milk Camp trail from Pony Creek trail to Milk Camp: two small trees across trail, stock passable. Trail easy to follow up to Milk Camp. Trail enters burned area at Milk Camp and is brushy and hard to follow for a couple of hundred yards around Milk Camp.”

**New River Trail #7E05** – In 2016 the CCC crew has cleared this section of trail to Emigrant Creek.

**Pony Creek Trail #12W07** – Hikers Report: “Pony Creek trail to Milk camp trail: trail in good condition, no trees across trail.”

**Salmon Summit Trail #12W02** – Specific trail conditions are not known in 2016. However, as of 7/24/2014 Hikers Report: “There are three downed trees from the Salmon Summit trailhead to Rock Lake. They are stock stoppers. The trail is in good condition other than the trees. From Rock Lake to Mary Blaine Meadows --“Trail is in extremely poor condition and does not truly exist, even as a secondary trail. There are over three dozen downed trees. The trail is extremely brushy and at points completely disappears in front of head-height brush, thus making route-finding difficult to impossible. Other portions of trail are very rocky and narrow above ledges. Bushwhacking and off-trail navigating are necessary.”

“The trail from Mary Blaine to Election Gap has several trees down that are very difficult for stock to get around, and the trail is rocky, but can be followed. From Election Gap to the Cecil Lake Trailhead the trail is narrow, brushy, and hard to find. This trail section is not recommended for stock or inexperienced hikers. When the trail leaves the Wilderness near the Cecil Lake trailhead it follows a logging road and passes recent logging operations. Water is scarce along the entire route. There is a spring at the upper portion of Mary Blaine Meadows and at Rock Lake, but be sure to carry ample water along other sections of the trail.”

**Semore Gulch Trail #8E08** – Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016.

**Slide Creek Trail #12W03** – In 2016 the trail has been cleared from New River to just short of Emigrant Creek by the CCC. From Maysville to the Cinnabar Mine the tread is barely visible and the trail is overgrown with vegetation. The trails in the general area around Mary Blaine are hard to follow and overgrown.

**Soldier Creek Trail #7E01** – Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016 however, in 2012, Soldier Creek was cleared of debris to the Devil’s Backbone Ridge trail.

**Virgin Creek Trail #7E03** – In 2016 the CCC crew has cleared the trail from the New River side to the junction with trail 7E01.

## **NORTH FORK TRINITY RIVER (WATERSHED)**

*The road is clear of snow and debris all the way to the Trailhead.*

**Backbone Creek Trail #11W07** – Specific trail conditions are not known in 2016. However, in 2014 the trail was been cleared of logs all the way to Russell’s Cabin site. Some thick brush half way to the cabin did remain though, and consequently the trail may not be stock passable.

**Backbone Ridge Trail #11W40** – Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016, however in 2011 the CCC’s re-worked this trail to within 100 yards of One-Mile Camp and that last 1-mile brushy section that was left in 2011 was cleared in 2012.

**Bob’s Farm Trail #11W03** – *A GPS Unit Helps!* Specific trail conditions are not known in 2016. Hikers Reported in 2014: “There are trees down, but all are stock passable except a couple on the North side of the ridge. At the end of 2012 the trail from Bob’s Farm to specimen Creek had 12 downed trees between 10” and 30”. Several were stock stoppers. On 07/07/2012 Hikers Reported: The trail from Specimen Creek up to the ridge where Bob’s Farm is located was a different story. I think your report mentions the numerous downed trees. In addition, there was a spot on the ascent where the trail disappeared into what appeared to be a solid growth of bushes. I went around and discovered the trail again on the return of a switchback further up. Also, once I reached the ridge, the trail totally disappeared. It was only with the help of my GPS app that I was able to figure out where the trail was”.

**China Gulch Trail #11W08** – The slide that was across the access road has now been cleared for access for two-wheel drive vehicles. The trail (see the following Hiker’s Report) will be cleared by the Scott River Ranger District on September 6-8<sup>th</sup>.

Hiker’s Report: “The China Gulch Trailhead is in dire need of maintenance. I hope the Shasta-Trinity District and the Klamath District can work together to clear out the overgrown brush and remove fallen logs across the China Gulch trail. Both the uphill and downhill sides of the trail are in need of attention. There were probably 100 or so trees down across the trail with the brush completely overgrowing the trail in many spots. In numerous areas there were 3-6 trees piled on top of one another blocking the trail completely. This forced hikers to make a new trail around the blockage. Likewise the overgrown brush caused hikers to reroute the trail or when there was dense uphill brush it forced hikers down below the trail causing the trail tread to be eroded away. Several of the trees are stock stoppers.”

“From the junction with the Grizzly Lake trail to Grizzly Meadow, the trail was in good condition. It appears someone with an axe or hatchet had cut and removed a number of downed trees. There were only a couple areas with downed trees across the trail requiring hikers to reroute the trail. Also there were a couple of areas where the brush had grown thick across the trail but nothing like what was encountered on the China Gulch Trail.”

**Green Mountain Trail #12W09** – In 2016 the logs have been cleared off the trail from the Green Mtn. Trailhead to Pony Camp. The trail is stock passable through to Ladder Camp, however some sections are quite brushy. From Ladder Camp to Pony Camp the trail is likely not stock passable because of erosion and crumbly cliffs but the trees have been cleared from it.

**Morrison Gulch Trail #11W04** – Specific trail conditions are not known in 2016. However, in 2014 the trail had several small trees down including one 12 inch stock stopper. The trail is narrow and exposed in some places near the ridge so I would recommend walking your stock instead of riding for the last 1/4 mile.

**Moliter-Cold Spring Trail #11W02** – Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016.

**North Fork Trinity Trail #12W01** – Hikers Report on the last four-mile section of the trail: “From the trail forks (11W08 and 12W01), the trail into the Grizzly meadows is a breeze. No real issues there. The scramble is definitely tricky even though there is no snow left up to the lakes. The trail up the scramble is definitely losing its "actual" markings. My group has done the scramble three times now, and each time, finding the "actual/correct" trail was almost impossible. Unless we were unknowingly taking the correct trail that is. We now take a trail that was shown to us by a former forestry sheriff that we met last year.

His trail follows the clearly marked trail, until it wants to take you right towards the waterfall. When you're on the trail, you see two or three cairns that stand four feet tall each, at this spot, you should see stacked stones resembling a staircase to your upper right, with the trail further to your right below them. These paths both lead to very sketchy spots, from experience.

When you're at the tall cairns, look to your upper left, and you should see what looks like a stream as well as a path less traveled, but resembling a trail. This path is the one we were shown and it has been the easiest for us to take up to the lake as well as down from the lake. It requires the least amount of putting your hands down to climb.

Unless the trail is seriously remarked and made "official" I think this will be the path we take from now on. For all we know though, it could be the real trail.”

**Rattlesnake Creek Trail #11W05** – Hikers Report: “Just back from Papoose. Good trail to the ford of Rattlesnake creek. After that, trail is overgrown with many trees crossing it, but which can be passed over or around to the Bobs Farm junction. Beyond that the trail is very overgrown requiring much bush-wacking. The first ford is knee level, no problem. Same for the other two. No snow at all up to Papoose, or at the lake, but some difficult route finding after Enni Camp with heavy bush-wacking.”

Stock Users should take note, that even in the best of years the last ¾ mile is impossible for stock to negotiate. For hikers, this sounds a bit worse than it actually travels. There is a well-defined trail along the rather dangerous ‘cliffy’ section in that last ½ mile of trail. Just be sure to keep well upslope along the ridge. If things start to seem unusually dangerous it means that you have gotten off on a spur trail that probably won’t get you to the lake without ropes and pitons...

**Raymond Flat Trail #11W12** – The trail is not passable for stock at this time.

**Whites Creek Trail #11W06** – Hikers Report: “The White Creek trail is not passable –too much poison oak, downed trees, and brush. Our party made it to Hunter’s Camp and then turned around.”

**Waldorf Crossing Trail #11W13** – Specific trail conditions in 2016 are not known at this time. However, the Waldorf Crossing trail is known to have a number of stock stoppers, but we do not have specific numbers at this time.

## STUART FORK (WATERSHED)

*The road is clear of snow and debris all the way to the Trailhead.*

**Alpine Lake Trail #10W04** – Trail conditions are not known for 2016. Stuart Fork is now easily crossed. In 2015 there were 4 trees down on the trail. All were stock passable. The sign at the junction is damaged or missing, and the ‘No Campfire’ sign is missing, however campfires are banned at the lake! At the end of 2011 the CCC’s finally finished clearing the ‘head-high force your way through’ type of brush all the way to the lake. Irrespective of the brush and tree issues however, stock users should take note that this trail is not suitable for stock usage. Several sections are simply a ‘route’ up through aging talus slopes that are not practical for stock to cross. This trail is notorious for Rattlesnake sightings so keep a wary eye as you make the tough climb up this hot south-facing slope to Alpine Lake.

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*Remember, the current Forest Order for Stuart Fork specifies that there are **NO CAMPFIRES ALLOWED AT ANY OF STUART FORK'S LAKES!** It is a \$375 fine (absolutely no exceptions) for anyone caught in violation of this Forest Order.*

**Bear Creek Trail #10W06** – Hikers Report that the first several miles have many trees across the trail. In 2013 the CCC's finished clearing the last of the brushy section on the Stuart Fork side of the trail, so it is passable now relative to brush, although that stuff does grow back FAST! Stock users should take note however that this trail is not suitable for stock usage past the ridge-top coming from the Canyon Creek side of the ridge. Even the last pitch up to the ridge-top (on the Canyon Creek side of the ridge) is on a 30 to 40% slope that gains 1200' in the last 1/3 mile. Even day-riders intent on gaining the view at the ridge-top should be prepared to walk their stock while traversing this steep gravelly trail segment.

**Blacks Basin Trail #9W12** – Hikers Report: "On June 20th, 2016, we hiked Blacks Basin Trail. It is clear of snow and downed trees. It is stock passable."

**Bowerman Meadows #8W22** – The meadows are clear of snow. The conditions around Lake Anna and Billy-Be-Damned are not currently known. Long Canyon portion of the trail is in very good shape. There are 3 or 4 small trees across the trail. They are no problem for stock or hikers.

In 2015 there were 5 trees down on the trail but none of them are reported as stock stoppers. However, in 2014 the trail was brushed and downed loges removed to the upper meadow. In 2012 Hiker's reported: "The trail was in good shape, although slightly hard to follow through one of the meadows". Frankly that is an understatement. The map shows a trail up through the meadows until you reach the very steep cliffy section ¼ mile before Lake Anna. In reality, there is no trail for that last 1/2 mile. If you wish to get to the end of the trail (the top meadow) you simply have to follow your trail sense up that last 1/2 mile. This entails plodding straight up that last meadow (a 35 to 40% slopes) toward the base of the granite bowl before Lake Anna. Walking up this last meadow means that you will be walking somewhat on the right (northeast) side of the valley. If you follow the creek (off to the left) you will end up at the bottom of a 'side bowl' to the south west of the top meadow.

**Caribou Lake #10W01** – The Stuart Fork side of the trail is snow-free. However, the Caribou side has only minor snow remaining. Just be sure to be careful not to twist an ankle or a knee 'post-holing' your leg through the snow crust that remains.

**Deer Creek Trail #9W17** – There is only one stock-stopper of concern on the Deer Creek trail. It is on a switchback between Morris Meadows and the Tri-Forest Trail junction. It is a little over 3' in diameter. It looks like a few horse folks have gotten around it, but the spot is not for the faint-hearted.

**Elk Gulch #9W31 – A GPS Unit Helps!** Specific trail conditions are not known for 2016. In 2012 Hikers observed: "We would like to ask you to update your trail report to more accurately reflect that the Elk Gulch trail is not just "not maintained" - the trail really no longer exists as a trail that can be followed. We arrived at the end of our trip with a different expectation based both on the USFS Map "A Guide to the Trinity Alps Wilderness" (2009) which shows the Elk Gulch trail, several different trail guides that mention the trail as an option, and your trail report which only lists the trail as "not maintained." What we found was way worse than just 'not maintained'. There is no consistent, discernable trail to follow. There were a few rock cairns for the first quarter mile downhill only. It was impossible to discern what might once have been the Elk Gulch trail from animal trails, especially with heavy overgrowth everywhere. We essentially had to bushwhack our way down the hill for two miles using a south compass bearing. (We did come across a nice meadow with many California pitcher plants). The fact that there is still trailhead signs up at both the Stuart Fork road and the Stoney Ridge road adds to the perception that at least some semblance of a trail might still exist. In reality, none does. Hikers should be prepared to completely bushwhack their way down the hill - or better yet, make other plans. Going downhill at least decreases the possibility of becoming lost as at least we knew we would come out somewhere on the Stuart Fork road (we managed to arrive within 20 yards of the marked TH). A hiker who tried to go uphill to connect with the Stoney Ridge road on their way to the Stoney Ridge TH might not fare so well. With an old USFS map showing the maze of (old, closed) logging roads in the area it would likely have been possible to use these roads to hike the area but neither our current USFS

map or USGS topo that we had showed enough of the roads for us to do so. We would recommend that all trail signs for the Elk Gulch trail be taken down to avoid misleading other hikers”.

**Four Lakes Loop Trail #9W13** – As of 07/30/2016 the snowpack on the north facing ridge behind Deer Lake is gone. Back packers and stock users should have little trouble using the trail.

**Granite Peak Trail #9W18** – Conditions are not known for the Granite Peak trail that initiates off of the Rt#3 trailhead. However, on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 Hikers Reported: “Somehow I almost missed the sign for the Granite Peak spur off of the Stoney Ridge trail. The sign is there, but the trail is faint. It gets lost in the creek crossings, which are barely flowing right now. Once back into the trees of Granite Peak proper, the spur trail can be discovered again if you've been on it before or have a gps. Come prepared with a topo map and/or GPS with the proper maps loaded. This is a steep and narrow trail with a couple of big logs across the trail. A couple of the switchbacks have rock cairns to show the way. Once out of the trees on the southwest face of Granite Peak, the trail is easy to follow. Amazingly, there are still two snow patches on the north face of Granite Peak.”

**Long Canyon Trail #9W14** – The road to the trailhead is clear of snow and debris. The trail is now clear of snow and downed trees to Bee Tree Gap.

**Seven-Up Peak Trail #9W67** – The trail is free of snow and significant debris. However, unfortunately, the trail did not fare well in the 13” rainstorm we had in February of 2015. The tread was already thin enough and now it is almost non-existent in several places. Technically it is possible for stock to pass, but with the steep out-slope and thin trail tread stock users should be prepared to walk stock on parts of this one-mile section of trail.

**Stoney Ridge Trail #9W21** – As of 08/02/2016 the trail is free of snow all the way to Siligo Meadow. You will notice an ill-advised user trail has begun etching itself into the hillside around the switchback below Echo Lake. It is steep and causing erosion, please don't use it!!! The worst of the access road problems in the first ¼ mile off of Route# 3 toward the Stoney Trailhead did get a band-aid fix in 2014. The road is still not recommended for ‘economy’ (and low clearance) types of cars though. At 4.5 miles up the road deteriorates for the next ½ mile. At that point the road is pretty much just a dirt road although hikers report in 2015 that this year the road is ‘passable but dusty’ if you drive cautiously.

**Stuart Fork Trail #9W20** – The 6’ diameter stock stopper before the Alpine trail junction was finally removed on 8/5/2016. Most of the other trees to Emerald Lake have been removed. None of those left are reported as stock stoppers. The road to the trailhead has had some significant potholes filled, but the road still needs to be driven with caution. Last summer we saw a huge black bear foraging in the meadow which reminded us that Stuart Fork is typically the only area we have any ‘bear’ problems. Congratulations to You the Wilderness User this year though! because no Bear issues have been reported in 2016. Non-the-less, be sure to hang your food whenever you are sleeping or are not around camp for any significant period of time, and don't leave any dirty dishes behind while you are on a day-hike! You can check our Leave No Trace page for instructions on how to do this correctly. (See our Leave No Trace page under the ‘Useful Recreation Links’ heading on the Website's Home Page for appropriate instructions). I got an e-mail recently about the Stuart Fork trail relative to wheelchair access. The e-mail read: “I Just thought I'd pass along a phone call I got today from Beverly at the Chamber of Commerce. She had a fellow stop in recently who had taken his son, who is in a wheel chair, on the lower portion of Stuart's Fork trail from Bridge Camp, and they had a wonderful experience. He wanted to see the trail advertised as wheelchair accessible because there are so few trails available and they are hard to locate”.

The first mile of the Stuart Fork Trail is actually a road to a private inholding. It is not paved, but can be considered universally accessible for folks that utilize mobility aids. It is relatively flat and the road surface is smooth. This stretch of road has never been logged and there are some terrific examples of Old Growth Douglas Firs along this one mile section --as well as beautiful views of Stuart Fork itself. In the next few weeks I will try to find the time to identify all the trails in the Alps that are wheelchair accessible for at least some initial portion of the trail. One other trail that comes immediately to mind is the Tangle Blue trail. The first mile is also a road to an old inholding and can be considered wheelchair

accessible. It does not have the consummate beauty of the Stuart Fork section, but it's definitely not like walking (or wheeling!) in the city either...

**Willow Creek /Tri-Forest Trail #9W11** – The Klamath Forest reports that they have gotten all the trees off the trail to the ridgetop. As far as we know the rest of the trail to Deer Creek is also clear of downed trees. Hikers Report: “Towards the bottom of the valley, where the trail crosses Willow Creek, the tread is worn away and the trail is becoming encroached with shrubs - but still stock passable. The junction with Deer Creek Trail is easy to miss, and I'd imagine even more so if coming from Stuart Fork.”

## **SWIFT CREEK (WATERSHED)**

*The road is clear of snow and debris all the way to the Trailhead. The 'bad' section of road (about six miles in) has been graded and is now in much better condition*

**Bear Basin Trail #9W10** – Hikers Report: “On June 20th, 2016, we hiked Bear Basin Trail - wild flowers! The trail is clear of snow and downed trees. It is stock passable.”

**Landers Lake Trail #9W09 and 9W09A** – The trail is now clear of snow and significant debris.

**Lilly Pad Lake Trail #8W21** – The trail is clear of snow. Tree conditions are not yet known.

**Deer Flat Trail #8W13** – (Lake Eleanor and Shimmy Lake) – ***A GPS Unit Helps! -- And remember to follow the blazed trees in confusing sections...*** In 2016 hikers report that there is a stock stopper tree across the trail about 1/10 mile from the trailhead .

Hikers Report in 2015 coming from Shimmy toward Parker Creek: “This section of the Deer Flat trail above Shimmy Lake on the way to Parker Creek is very scenic in its own right (no long vistas though). Prior to the trail siding along Steer Creek there is a maze of large blowdown that is a complete stock stopper. Hikers can get around it. There is nothing “flat” about the Deer Flat Trail so be prepared. The trail crosses a meadow after the descent on Steer Creek. A hunting camp and carins hint they are the continuation of the trail. A trail leads up out of the camp into another meadow (a series of four) and this is where the trail is lost with no carins to provide guidance. At the 4th meadow it made sense to descend a few hundred yards where I finally picked up the trail again. A GPS and USGS topo are necessary to get through this area. Do not follow digital routes that a GPS may automatically generate. A DeLorme digital route is wrong. Sections of tread were missing or badly rutted on the way to Parker Creek. You could find your way. I used this as the second half of a long loop out of Swift Creek and would recommend it for good navigators.”

On 7/3/2015 Hikers Reported on the Deer Flat trail coming at it from the Swift Creek Trail toward Shimmy Lake: “Deer Flat trail from swift creek intersection is steep and very eroded in some spots as it climbs from Swift Creek, but it's easy to follow for a while until it crosses and follows a dry stream wash -- we had to search for a rock cairn farther up the wash (and eventually found one) as there was no indication where the trail went. We created a cairn at this point. After turning east, Deer Flat trail is easy to follow until hitting the marshy meadows before Deer Flat. All the cairn markers in these meadows are invisible due to tall grass and the trail becomes very difficult to follow. After a lot of searching, we found cairns in two meadows that led to an established camp in Deer Flat (or meadow #3), but once reaching this, and after circling Deer Flat, were unable to find the trail to Shimmy or Lilypad lakes. We spend a lot of time looking for a way through and could not find one before sundown was approaching. We were hesitant to continue farther without a trail due to the steep decline toward Shimmy and not knowing if we could bushwhack it.”

**Granite Lake Trail #8W14** – The Swift Creek road is now OK. The trail is clear of snow to the lake and campsites are now clear of snow. Several trees are across the trail from Swift Creek to the Lake. None are reported as stock stoppers. The trail over to the Deer Lake basin on the Granite Lake side of the ridge is now also clear of snow. There was a large tree down but it was also easily passable.

**Mumford Basin** – Technically Mumford basin is no longer a maintained trail. However, now in 2016, you can be sure most, if not all, of the snow will be gone. Hikers Reported in July of 2016: “The trail is in good shape from Swift Creek to Black's Basin. I don't know if the way to it is marked or not from the swift creek trail (\*it is marked but the sign is on the ground), we found it by cutting across the meadow

when it felt like it was time to. The lower portion of it is consistent of numerous trails that seemingly appear and disappear, but once you're past the first thousand vertical feet of the trail, trail options converge into one easy to follow trail, it might be difficult to get stock though the lower portion of this trail and the upper portion may be to step for horses. Very strenuous, we had 50lbs packs I would avoid going up it again."

**Parker Creek Trail #9W19** – The trail is clear of snow. There are two trees that are problematic for stock users, but can be negotiated.

**Poison Canyon Trail #8W10** – In 2016 the road up to the trailhead has been graded and repaired. It is now more than acceptable for normal two-wheeled drive vehicles. The trail is now free of snow and debris all the way to Lilly Pad Lake. However the section of the Poison Canyon trail that heads towards Boulder Lakes (the Tracy Trail Junction) has a couple of stock stopper trees across it. There are also a number of trees down on the Poison Canyon trail past the Tracy Trail junction on the way to the Thumb Rock Trail Junction. A couple of these are reported as stock stoppers as well.

**Seven-Up Peak Trail #9W67** – The trail is free of snow. There is one tree across the trail but stock can negotiate it. However, the trail did not fare well in the 13" rainstorm we had in February of 2015. The tread was already thin enough and now it is almost non-existent in several places. Technically it was possible for stock to pass, but with the steep out-slope and thin trail tread stock users should be prepared to walk stock on this one-mile section of trail.

**Swift Creek Trail #8W15** – The worst of the issues on the Swift Creek road have now, finally, been repaired. There are a few easily stock passable trees down before Mumford Meadows. In any case, the trail up from the Mumford Basin turn-off to Ward and Horseshoe Lakes is not recommended for stock usage. It has sections of steep, narrow, rocky, closed in tread that make stock passage problematic. The CCC's (California Conservation Corps) just finished a summer-long trail re-route around six of Swift Creek's meadows past the Landers Lake trail junction. The new trail plays tag with the meadows but has the tread located in the virgin timber just to the north of the meadows. It makes for a much more interesting hike up Swift Creek. The trail is no longer simply a hot sun-drenched cow-path straight up the middle of these meadows, but a well-designed and lower temperature hike with improved scenic value. And the bonus is that these meadows have now been returned to the wildlife for their survival usage...

**Sunrise Basin Trail #9W15** – Hikers Report: "On June 21st, 2016, we hiked Sunrise Creek Trail. The trail is clear of snow and downed trees. There are still a few snow fields in the upper reaches of the drainage, but none cross the trail until you go over Sunrise Pass and continue on Yellow Rose Trail. Sunrise Creek Trail is stock passable all the way up to Sunrise Pass.". The CCC's logged out the Sunrise Basin Trail in 2015. Hikers Also Reported: "Cairns are needed soon after crossing the pass and in the upper meadows. It's easy to get way off trail up there."

**Thumb Rock Trail #8W16** – There are several small diameter trees across the trail between Lilly pad Lake and the Deer Flat trail junction but they are able to be negotiated by stock user and hiker alike. The rest of the trail on to the Poison Canyon trail junction headed toward parker meadow is passable. There are cairns across those meadows that the trail travels across but you have to look closely to see them.

**Ward Lake Trail #9W66** – Snow is now melted off the trail all the way to the lake on the Swift Creek side of the trail. There are a few trees still across the trail but they are negotiable for hikers and stock users alike. Trail conditions on the Coffee Creek side of the ridge are not fully known, but hikers report: "The trail to Ward Lake is very steep with loose rocks. It was the toughest trail I have ever hiked, I wouldn't want to hike back down it! We hiked out the Swift Creek trail." Hikers also reported in 2015: "Near the top of the ridge there were several trees down, one a 36 inch tree but that even stock users were able to get around it."

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**UPPER TRINITY (WATERSHED)**

**Bear Lake Trail #7W03** – The trail is now clear of snow and downed trees all the way to the lake and the campsites are free of snow. The trail section 2/3rds of a mile from the lake has now been re-brushed and walks more easily. It goes on for about ¼ mile. There is no snow left on lakeside campsites.

**Bloody Run Trail #8W04** – *A GPS Unit Helps!* Specific trail conditions are not known in 2016. However, in 2014 many downed trees were reported. At the end of the 2012 season there were approximately 12 twenty-four inch tress across the trail. Several are stock stoppers. As of season's end in 2011, several sections on the east side of the ridge (where the trail loses elevation toward Bloody Run Creek) were quite obscure and hard to follow.

**Doe Lake Trail #8W05** – The Stoddard Lake road (38N22) is now passable with some caveats. There are two trailhead access roads off of the Eagle Creek Loop road. We just got up (6/11/2016) to the worst offending road rut (on road number 38N22) and filled it in with enough gravel that a two wheel drive vehicle can now make it up to the trailhead. The road is VERY rough though, so be-prepared to drive slowly in a variety of spots. However, getting a stock truck up to the usual parking spot (½ mile below the Stoddard Lake trailhead) is now more compromised by bad rutting this past winter. You can probably still make it as long as you have four drive wheels on your rig. Sorry about this situation but, due to budget cuts over the last few years, there is only a skeletal road crew left.

The Stoddard Lake access road that passes by the Eagle Creek campground (the northernmost access road 37N27) is accessible only to the Eagle Creek campground and the Eagle Creek trailhead. Overflow in Eagle Creek this winter has washed out a section of road at the hardened wet crossing of Eagle Creek itself. And, if the truth were know, roads pretty much only get fixed if there is a logging operation in the vicinity.

The trail to Doe Lake is now stock passable but there are at least 12 trees down, some of which will be difficult to get around. All the campsites are now free of snow.

Sections of the trail between Doe and Granite Lake, because of the burn in 2014, are almost impossible to follow. A GPS unit here would be very helpful (it is almost essential). If the 2014 burn wasn't enough to make things difficult, there was a Violent Thunderstorm over Granite Lake that caused thousands of cubic yards of dirt and ash to pour down the side creeks and into the East Fork of Coffee Creek and the North Fork of Coffee Creek. Both creeks were severely impacted along with Coffee Creek itself. This flooding essentially obliterated much of the recognizable trail between Doe and Granite Lakes.

**Deadfall Lakes Trail** – The road is now open from Mount Shasta all the way to the junction with Rt#3 on the Trinity side of the ridge. Both trails to the lake are clear of snow and debris.

**Eagle Creek Trail #7W05** – The road is passable to the campground and the trailhead. However the road past the campground (up toward Stoddard Lake) is not passable due to an overflow of Eagle Creek this past winter. Hikers Report that the first few miles of the trail has a number of trees down which make it impassable for stock. Also, that the trail tread near the first creek crossing is fractured and slipping away. Use extra caution in this section not to get caught up in a trail slide.

If you venture up into the Benches themselves, there are many spots where the trail crosses meadows. Users should find that the trail is clearly marked with cairns (ducks) to facilitate proper orientation. At these meadow crossings (in locations where there is no visible trail tread), please 'meander' across the meadow to keep a visible path from forming. When usage is low in places like the Eagle Creek Benches impacts to the meadows can be reduced if users simply follow individual and slightly winding paths from cairn to cairn across the meadow.

**East Boulder Lake Trail #8W02** – On the Klamath Forest side of the ridge the road is passable to the trailhead. The trail is clear of snow and debris to the lake.

The road to the Tangle Blue trailhead off of Rt#3 is passable, however it has a number of deep ruts that require caution to negotiate. Trail conditions up from Tangle Blue are technically unknown, but chances are back packers can get up as far as the PCT without any issues.

Be aware however that the trail actually coming up from Tangle Blue Lake empties onto an in-holding road and travels along this dirt road for approximately 2/3rds of a mile before Big marshy Lake. Be sure to make note of this intersection because the signing is scarce and can be easy to miss on a return trip toward Tangle Blue. Going toward the Marshy Lakes you follow this road to its terminus where the trail simply continues on (it crosses a year-round creek at this point, with a visible cabin 200' off to the east.). There are carsonite trail signs along the road, but they are in an ill state of repair. The junction to Big Marshy Lake is not signed, but the most obvious piece of the trail leads you directly to the lake. The trail continuing on to the PCT is quite faded. It can still be easily followed however, if you pay close attention. The trail continuation to East Boulder will be obvious and easy to follow.

**Pacific Crest Trail #2000** – The PCT is clear of snow and stock stopper downed trees from Scott Mountain to Carter Meadows. There are about a dozen trees down from the South Fork Lakes trail junction to the East Boulder trail junction along the PCT however, but they are not stock stoppers.

## PACIFIC CREST LAKES

Information from the Scott Valley Ranger District as of mid-August 2015:

- Carter Meadows Loop – The Loop road is free of snow and debris.
- China Gulch – The road to the trailhead is now open for all traffic. The trail has been cleared of downed logs to the ridgetop, but trees still remain on the Grizzly Creek side of the ridge. Several of these are stock stoppers.
- East Boulder Trailhead – The road is passable to the trailhead and the snow and debris have been removed from the trail.
- Fish Lake Trailhead Conditions are not known for 2016. In 2015 Hikers Reported: “Fish Lake Trail head to Fish Lake: no memorable obstacles, easy to fallow, easy creek crossings, stock accessible. Fish Lake to the four way trail junction on the ridge above Long Gulch Lake is clear of debris, however, trail vanishes into a meadow for about 300 yards before it ascends to the ridge line (bring a topographical map and stay to the north side of the meadow until the trail is rediscovered in the tree line).” However, the trail to Fish Lake is hard to distinguish at the Junction with Twin Lakes Trail. The Fish Lake trail is through the tall Corn Lilies.
- Fox Creek Ridge – The road to the trailhead is free of snow and debris. There are no stock stopper trees across the trail.
- Hidden Lake – Conditions are not known for 2016.
- Little Mill Creek Trailhead – Conditions up from the trailhead are not known for 2016. The trail coming over from East Boulder Lakes has gotten a bit confused by a large Stock Stopper type of log near the intersection of the two trails (the Mill Creek and East Boulder trails). Stock can get around the tree, but it takes a bit of head scratching at that point to find the proper trail route.
- Long Gulch Lake – See the write-up for Long Gulch Lake (above) under the Coffee Creek section of this report. The trail is now clear of downed trees.
- Middle Boulder Trailhead – The road to the trailhead is free of snow and debris. The trail is also free of snow and debris. The campsites are melted off.
- Rush Creek Lake – Conditions are not known for 2016. Hikers Report: “9W16 to Rush Creek Lake the trail is in good condition, no memorable obstacles. The three way trail junction where onion meadow trail dead ends into trail 9W16 is unclear. It easy to follow onion meadow trail towards it's trail head or to follow 9W16 in the direction I came they're clearly linked together but to follow 9W16 at the point to rush creek lake is unclear but once you find the trail it's good and clear all the way to the lake. From Rush Creek Lake to Packers Peak on ridge line 9W16: It was in June when we did this hike but I believe that we hit some fallen trees across the trail between Rush Creek lake and the top of the ridge. The trail in general could use clean up, lots of minor debris, harder than the typical Alps trail to follow. At the four way junction of McNeil creek, Lady Gulch, and this trail it's not marked which way you should go to continue towards packers peak on this trail. On the map it's a four way junction but when your there it's a three way and there's a thick patch of trees where the trail seems like it should be (follow McNeil crk trail to continue on 9w16 towards packer peak).”

- Telephone Lake – There are no stock stopper trees on the trail to the lake.
- Trail Gulch Lake – The trail is free of snow and downed trees.
- Twin Lakes – Conditions are not known for 2016.
- South Fork Lakes – There are no stock stopper trees on the trail to the lake. Hikers Report: “The junction to take the South Fork Trail on the PCT could be missed; we put a couple of stone markers there”.

\*\* Check with the Scott Valley Ranger District (530 468-5351) for these watersheds.

**Stoddard Lake Trail #7W06 (accessed off of Route #3)** – There is no snow on the access roads to the trailhead. There are two trailhead access roads off of the Eagle Creek Loop road. We just got up (6/11/2016) to the worst offending road rut (on road number 38N22) and filled it in with enough gravel that a two wheel drive vehicle can now make it up to the trailhead. The road is VERY rough though, so be-prepared to drive slowly in a variety of spots. However, getting a stock truck up to the usual parking spot (½ mile below the Stoddard Lake trailhead) is now more compromised by bad rutting this past winter. You can probably still make it as long as you have four drive wheels on your rig. Sorry about his situation but, due to budget cuts over the last few years, there is only a skeletal road crew left.

The Stoddard Lake access road that passes by the Eagle Creek campground (the northernmost access road 37N27) is accessible only to the Eagle Creek campground and the Eagle Creek trailhead. Overflow in Eagle Creek this winter has washed out a section of road at the hardened wet crossing of Eagle Creek itself.

The trail is free of snow to the lake with only a few trees across the trail, including a 5 foot diameter tree that is stock passable --with some effort. The campsites are all melted off.

**Tangle Blue Lake Trail #8W01 and #8W23** – The road is clear of snow and debris however, there are several spots in the road that have ditches perpendicular to the flow of traffic that are quite deep, so be sure to cross these spots slowly. The first mile of the trail is on a road through a private inholding and can be considered wheelchair accessible. The trail is now clear of snow and debris to both Tangle Blue Lake and to Big Marshy Lake. All campsites are also clear of snow. Hikers Report as of 6/21/2016: “8W01 (the section running from the intersection with the Telephone Lake trail -8W25- and the trail up to Big Marshy Lake -8W02- East Boulder Lake Trail) is a little hard to follow and over-grown in places, but not too bad.” They also indicated that they thought the trail was stock passable.

**Telephone Lake Trail #8W25** – Hikers Report: “The trail is easily passable on the south side of the ridge.” Conditions are not known on the north side of the ridge.

***We constantly strive to provide you with the most up to date road trail and campsite information. When you return home from your Wilderness adventure, if there is something new that you think we should know, please feel free to send me an E-Mail at [jholmes@fs.fed.us](mailto:jholmes@fs.fed.us) and I will see to it that it gets posted. For those of you who write asking specific trail condition questions, I will respond as quickly as I can. If my response takes a couple of days, please understand that often I am out in the field clearing trails, or rehabilitating campsites. You can also attempt to reach me at 530 623-1725. If you leave a message I will do my best to answer on my next pass through the office!***

***Thanks for Your Help, Jim Holmes (Wilderness Program Manager)***