



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Sierra National Forest

TRAIL CONDITION REPORT

High Sierra Ranger District

NATIONAL FOREST TRAILS

Trails are a key part of many outdoor recreation experiences, but are often taken for granted. National Forest trails are built and maintained by the Forest Service, but the money 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 winter's damage. Reports late in the fall, or anytime, are useful in planning next years work.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL

Another way to help with trails is to become involved in the Adopt-A-Trail program. Interested clubs or organizations volunteer to maintenance a portion of the trail. If you are interested in the program contact the District Office.

HOW TO REPORT

Report trail conditions to the Ranger District Office, Forest Supervisor Office, or to Forest Service Personnel. You may use the back of this brochure and drop it by the District Office of mail it back in. Include the trail name and number (if available), the trail condition, its location, and the date observed. Photos are welcome.

IN THE MEANTIME...

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

TERMS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **Cairn:** A constructed mound of rock located adjacent to a trail to mark it in 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 placed deliberately across a trail means the trail is not meant to be used.
- **Trail Tread:** The surface portion of the trail upon which the traffic moves as distinct from back slope, ditch, and shoulder.
- **Waterbar:** A device for turning water off the trail, usually made with logs, stones, or soil cement installed at about a 30 degree 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.
- **Washout:** Where a trail tread has been obliterated by heavy water flow.

THINGS TO REPORT

- Damage to any of the above.
- Trees across the trail.
- Damaged or missing trail signs.
- Dangerous stream crossings.
- Damaged or destroyed bridges.
- Impassable boggy areas.
- Snow conditions.
- PLUS anything else you feel is worth noting.



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Pacific Southwest Region
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Sierra
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TRAIL CONDITION REPORT

Trail Name _____ Date _____

Location and Description of the Trail Condition.
Example: 1/4 mile up from Blue Creek of a slope.
Two 24" diameter trees across the trail.

Reported By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Mail to:

High Sierra Ranger District

P.O. Box 559

Prather, CA 93651

Thank you for your help!

All Are Welcome

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