

Trinity Alps Wilderness Trail Condition Report September 23rd 2009

The water content from last winter's precipitation is well below normal this year. As of April 1st, the water content of the snowpack was only 66% of normal for the Trinity River Basin. The trails we have visited thus far are reflecting this drop in water content with fewer than average snowdown and blowdown trees. The upside is that now we have managed to clear most of the trails earlier than we anticipated. The downside is that the fire danger is very high this summer.

Dry lightning strikes in July sparked off one blaze of significance on the far western side of the Trinity Alps. The fire burned 6300 acres but is now considered extinguished. However, several trails on the western side of the Alps are still closed by Forest Order. These trails are: Virgin Creek (7E03), Soldier Creek (7E01), Lipps Camp Trail (6E01), Devil's Backbone (12W02), and Salmon Summit (12W02) from Devil's Backbone Trail to the junction with the Battle Creek Trail (8E19).

Most of the unprecedented number of trees that fell across our trails in the winter of 2007/2008 have now been removed. Stimulus monies have reached the Forest, and Forest Service crews are continuing to staff the two-man crosscut saws in attempts to remove the trees that still remain. This week the Trail Crew will be working on trail rehabilitation along Jim Jam ridge and in the Virgin Creek watershed. The CCC's have now finished their twelve weeks of trail reconstruction within the Wilderness for the 2009 season.

Check back with us weekly (we'll try to post a new report every Thursday) for updates on the most recently cleared trails. We will do our best to make your favorite trails passable as soon as possible and to let you know about it in a timely fashion.

ATTENTION HIKERS!! Unfortunately, over the Memorial Day weekend (or just before it), a thoughtless uninformed hiker cut down two trees at the first campsite along the trail at Lower Canyon Creek Lake. They attempted to burn the trees in their illegal fire-pit. Of course live trees won't burn, so all they succeeded in accomplishing was making the time they spent around their campfire horribly smoky... and destroying sensitive lakeside vegetation that will take countless decades for nature to replace.

All of Canyon Creeks Lakes are sparsely vegetated to begin with, and the watershed's lakeside fire restriction became necessary to protect this fragile environment. If we hadn't implemented the restriction, at the rate lakeside wood was disappearing, we calculated that by 2040 the lakeside would be denuded of all

vegetation. As it turns out, 90% of the nitrogen needed to sustain live plant growth comes from decaying vegetation. So in areas with scant vegetation, burning up even *appropriate* down and dead woody materials adversely affects the remaining living vegetation.

In areas of high usage and sparse vegetation responsible hikers shouldn't have a campfire, much less cut down living trees! If you come upon campers having a campfire in any of the very few restricted lakesides in the Alps (in the Canyon Creek and Stuart Fork watersheds) feel free to politely let them know that there is a lakeside fire restriction in effect (never confront campers who are unreceptive to your message). Please provide any information about what you observed to a wilderness patrol, the Weaverville Ranger Station, or my email address at the end of this report

Fire issues in the Alps are not particularly intuitive. Over the last century, 100% fire suppression policy here on the west coast has caused a tremendous fuel build-up (increasing the potential for catastrophic fires). We now know that fire was actually an integral part of the western ecology. In the past, frequent low intensity fires kept the underbrush thinned, and the seedlings pruned. This created a balance between growth and fuel build-up. Eliminating those frequent low intensity fires has caused excessive growth and resulted in the current glut of fuels (which includes down and dead wood *and* living plants). To illustrate: 100 years ago much of the west coast's forests only had several hundred (or fewer) trees per acre. Now many areas hold thousands of trees per acre. Fuel build-up is both living and dead woody materials.

At first glance then, relative to the excessive fuels build-up, a hiker might question the efficacy of *any* fire restriction. Here's where the non-intuitive part comes in. Many areas of the Alps were heavily scoured in the last Ice Age – leaving precious little soil for plant growth. At some of our most popular lakeside destinations, most of the available organic matter (generated since the Ice-Age) has been burned up in campfires.

We have two very opposite situations going on. Because of campfires, many popular lakeside destinations are now in danger of losing all vegetation, while just 1/4 mile down the trail we have excessive fuels build-up!

You can certainly feel free to have campfires in the Trinity Alps, just be sure to have them in areas that can sustain the loss of organic matter –which is actually 90% of the Wilderness! However, even within these appropriate areas, because of the fuels build-up issue and the heightened chance for catastrophic fires, always have a safe campfire. The rules of thumb for a safe campfire include:

- Use a pre-existing fire ring whenever possible.
- Never have a campfire on top of organic matter (especially roots and stumps). Always be sure your campfire is established on mineral soil.
- Never leave a campfire unattended. The proper way to put a fire out is by pouring on copious amounts of water and stirring with a stick.
- Always check the coals before leaving the fire. Just because there is no smoke it does not mean the fire is out. With a stiff breeze, coals

that can start a wildfire will *often* last for up to four days. And believe me, this is no exaggeration.

- And lastly, be sure to get a California Fire Permit and become familiar with the fire regulations written on the backside.

I hope this helps clarify fire issues and why we have some seemingly contradictory policies. Please observe what few fire restrictions we have in effect at lakesides in Canyon Creek and Stuart Fork. They are actually based on scientific principles and on years of observation in these watersheds. And most importantly, they are probably the only chance we have to ensure that these lakeshores have some vegetation remaining in the near future.

CANYON CREEK WATERSHED

Bear Creek Trail #10W06 – There are 75 trees across the trail from the Canyon Creek trailhead to the Junction with the Alpine Lakes trail. Many of these trees are stock stoppers. The trail up to the ridge-top from Canyon Creek has several brushy sections and areas of thin tread, but it is passable for hikers and backpackers. There are only two short sections of approximately 10' where the brush is thick and high enough that you must simply push (force) your way through.

The brush is VERY thick on last ½ mile before the Alpine trail junction however, with approximately ¼ mile of 'force your way through' type of brush. I managed to stay on the tread on the way over toward the Alpine junction, but lost the trail on the way back toward Canyon Creek. At that point I simply had to keep struggling up the slope until I was able to relocate a section of tread within the thinning brush field. I did manage to cairn sections that are hard to follow over *talus* type conditions, but cairns aren't helpful in thick brush.

Irrespective of the fallen logs and thick brush, 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. 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. There is some slight chance that this trail (or the worst parts of it) will be cleared of down trees and the thickest brush by the close of the season. Check back for the most recent updates.

Boulder Creek Lakes Trail #10W02 – The trail to the lake is now free of snow and debris with all lakeside campsites functional.

Remember, NO CAMPFIRES AT ANY OF CANYON CREEK'S LAKES!

East Fork Lake Trail #9W22 – There are 150 trees down on the first 2.5 miles of the trail (with many stock stoppers). Sections of the trail beyond that point are very brushy. (*Due to a lack of funding, this is now an un-maintained trail.*)

Canyon Creek Trail #10W08 – As of 07/07/2009 the Wilderness Patrol reports that: "There is a 32 inch snag on the trail just before the Stonehouse site; users can

get around it by going through brush on one side. The rest of the trail is in very good condition.”

As of 07/27/2009 water is still accessible for campsites at the ‘Sinks’ but Canyon Creek is starting to go ‘underground’ in this area.

Remember, NO CAMPFIRES AT ANY OF CANYON CREEK’S LAKES!

COFFEE CREEK WATERSHED

Adams Lake Trail #9W73 – The trail is now clear of downed trees and obstructions from the trailhead all the way to the lake.

Battle Canyon Trail #9W59 – There are five trees across the trail. Two of them are stock stoppers. As of 07/13/09 the trail is freshly cairned through the meadow in Battle Canyon.

Billy’s Peak Trail #7W08 – No Information (*This is an un-maintained trail.*)

Boulder Creek Trail #8W08 (Goldfield Campground Trailhead) – The trail is now clear of downed trees from the Goldfield trailhead all the way to the pass between Lion and Foster Lake, and on to Foster Lake. However, long sections of this trail past the Boulder Creek intersection (heading toward Lion Lake) have thick (head-high) brush that make the trail difficult to distinguish. Some sections are thick enough that you must force your way through the brush. Matters are further complicated by the steepness of the trail. Consequently, this trail is not advised for stock passage.

Caribou Lake #9W180 – Both the New and the Old Caribou trail out of the Big Flat trailhead are now cleared of downed trees all the way to the Caribou Lake Basin.

ATTENTION!! Use in the Caribou Basin has been very high since the 4th of July Holiday. If hikers have a campfire at all, it should only be a small one, at night, in a pre-existing fire-ring. Responsible hikers should refrain from a campfire altogether, because most of the lakeside organic matter needed for plant growth (90% of the nitrogen needed) has already gone up in campfire smoke.

PLEASE NO CAMPFIRES AT CARIBOU LAKES !

East Boulder Lakes Trail #8W02 – The trail is now clear of downed trees, however, as of 06/25/08, the Wilderness Patrol writes: “The turn off to Marshy Lake from Tangle Blue is unclear. There exists an unsigned, but well maintained trail that does not match up with the map. Further up the Tangle Blue trail is another unsigned trail. This trail does match with the Marshy Lakes trail. Along this trail there is an 18” down tree. When the trail joins the road there is a 4” tree across the road. The plastic trail signs along the road are present, but all are missing part of their labels. The junction to Big Marshy Lake is not signed and the trail fades away, but the lake is close enough that you can find it. The trail going from Big Marshy Lake up to the PCT (8W02) also fades out in the meadow. It occasionally reappears as you hike up the ridge to the PCT.” This situation has not changed in 2009.

Big Boulder Lake Trail #8W20 – The road is now clear of snow and debris all the way to the trailhead. The road is passable for a two-wheel drive vehicle. It is a gravel road and it is in relatively good condition. There are several blind curves however, so proceed with caution. The trail to Big and to Little Boulder Lakes is now free of downed trees. The trail from Big Boulder Lake over the ridge to Lilly Pad Lake is now free of downed trees. The trail from Big Boulder Lake to the Conway/Lion trail junction is now clear of downed trees.

Deadman Peak Trail #9W16 – No Information.

Doe Lake Trail #8W05 – The trail to Doe Lake is now clear of downed trees. The trail segment on to Granite Lake is now free of downed trees.

Dorleska Mine Trail #9W65 – Downed trees have now been removed from the Union Lake Spur/ Lion Lake trail junction to the top of the ridge separating the Union Creek watershed from the South Fork of the Salmon watershed. Several trees remain from there to the junction with the Yellow Rose trail.

East Fork Saloon Creek Trail #9W03 – There are two trees down (16” and 10”).

Lady Gulch Trail #9W05 – The Lady Gulch trail is now clear of downed trees to the Packers Peak trail junction.

East Fork Coffee Creek Trail #8W06 – As of 07/01/09 the trail has been cleared of downed trees and debris

Granite Creek Trail #8W09 – All downed trees have now been removed from the trail.

Lion Lake Trail #8W12 – The Wilderness Patrol reports that at least .5 of a mile of the trail is severely overgrown with brush and is no longer suitable for stock usage. The trail is now clear of downed trees from the Goldfield trailhead all the way to the pass between Lion and Foster Lake, and on to Foster Lake. However, the trail crew also reports that long sections of this trail past the Boulder Creek intersection (heading toward Lion Lake) have thick (head-high) brush that make the trail difficult to distinguish. Some sections are thick enough that you must force your way through the brush. Matters are further complicated by the steepness of the trail. Consequently, they also advise that this trail is not advised for stock passage.

Little Boulder Lake Trail #8W11 – All the trees across the trail have now been removed.

Long Gulch Trail #9W60 – The trails up to and between Trail Gulch Lake and Long Gulch Lake are free of snow and downed trees. However, the trail segment that leads up from Long Gulch Lake to the Fish Lake/South Fork Coffee Creek trail junction has two 30” stock stoppers on it. The trail up from Trail Gulch Lake to the North Fork of Coffee Creek is also free of snow and downed trees.

Trail Gulch #9W15 – The trail between Trail Gulch Lake and Long Gulch Lake is free of snow and downed trees. However, the trail segment that leads up from Long Gulch Lake to the Fish Lake/South Fork Coffee Creek trail junction has two 30” stock stoppers on it. The trail up from Trail Gulch Lake to the North Fork of Coffee Creek is free of snow and downed trees.

North Fork Coffee Creek Trail #9W02 – The trail is now clear of downed trees from the trailhead to the top of the ridge dividing the Trinity and Klamath National Forests, and the trail is clear continuing on from there to either Long Gulch or Trail Gulch Lakes. However, relative to the trail junction with Steveale Creek, the Wilderness Patrol writes, “Both trails from this junction disappear in the meadow. It is very unclear and one should proceed with considerable thought and care. Eventually you will find an identifiable trail and it will remain clear all the way to Steveale Meadows.”

Packers Peak Trail #9W06 – As of 06/24/09 the Wilderness Patrol reports that there are 16 down trees along the trail between the Onion Meadow trail junction and the Lady Gulch trail junction (9w05). However, the trail segment (9w16) that connects the Packers Peak trail to the Fish Lake/Long Gulch trail junction has an additional 9 downed trees. Several of these trees in both sections are stock stoppers. As of 09/21/09 the Trail Crew has cleared the trail downed trees from the Coffee Creek trailhead up to Packers Peak. Hikers report that the sign demarcating the trailhead along the west side of Coffee Creek road is now missing. The trailhead can still be found approximately 1.2 miles prior to the Big Flat Trailhead.

Saloon Creek Trail #9W01 – The trail segment from the North Fork of Coffee Creek to the top of the ridge dividing the Trinity and Klamath National Forests is now clear of downed trees. There are seven trees down from the ridge-top to South Fork Lakes. Two of them would be difficult but possible for stock to get around. Their diameters are 3-12”, a suspended (6’ high) 24” fir together with an 8” fir, a 24”, and a 10” fir.

South Fork Coffee Trail #9W04 – The trail is now clear of downed trees to the top of the ridge dividing the Trinity and Klamath National Forests.

Steveale Creek Trail #9W61 – The entire trail is now clear of downed trees.

Stoddard Spur Trail #8W24 – The trail is now clear of downed trees.

Sugar Pine Lake Trail #8W07 – The trail is now clear of downed trees and debris all the way to the Lake.

Tracy Trail #8W26 – The trail is now clear of down trees.

Yellow Rose Trail out of Big Flat – No information yet in 2009, but as of 10/08, there were a total of 5 down trees from Yellow Rose Mine to Big Flat. Their sizes are: a 2’ possible stock stopper, a gaggle of an 8”, 6” a possible stock stopper, 8” possible stock stopper, and a 6” stock stopper. Check back; these trees will no doubt be cleared during the summer of 2009.

Union Lake Trail #9W64 – Coffee Creek road is now open past the Union Creek trailhead all the way to Big Flat. All the downed trees blocking access to the lake have now been removed.

Wolford Trail #8W03 – No Information

MAIN STEM TRINITY RIVER

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

Dolly Ditch Trail #10W12 – No Information

East Weaver Creek Trail #9W23 – The downed trees have been removed except for one 5' diameter tree approximately 3 miles up the trail that has been cut, but needs a grip-hoist to move. This tree is a stock stopper but is passable for hikers. The CCC crew will probably make it up to cut the offending log to grip hoist it clear of the trail before the end of the season.

East Weaver Lake Trail #10W11 – The trail is clear of downed trees.

Rush Creek Lakes Trail #10W10 – The trail has now been cleared of trees to the Wilderness Boundary. Several stock stoppers remain past the boundary. The first five miles of trail has about 25 sections of spotty brush and the last one-mile of trail is completely covered over in head-high brush. The trees will be removed during the summer of 2009, the brush at some time in the distant future.

French Creek Trail #8E03 – The trail is now clear of debris to Cherry Flat. Trail conditions are unknown beyond Cherry Flat.

Green Mountain Trail #12W09 – The trail is cleared of downed trees from the Salmon Summit trail to within ½ mile of Rattlesnake Lake. From the Green Mountain Trailhead the trail is cleared to Ladder Camp. The trail crew is now (week starting 09/31) clearing this trail of downed trees. Check back next week for the latest trail condition.

Oak Flat Trail #12W16 – No Information

Manzanita Ridge Trail #12W15 – No Information

Treloar Ridge Trail #12W17 – No Information

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 through out the area may still have hazardous conditions for hikers and stock users. All visitors should **ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!***

Battle Creek Trail #8E19 – Many down trees and, due to a lack of funding, this trail is now an unmaintained trail.

Cinnabar Trail #12W06 – This trail has 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 – Due to lack of funding, the trail has not been brushed or logged out since the 2006 fire. Due to a lack of funding, this trail is now an unmaintained trail.

East Fork New River Trail #12W08 – The trail is now clear of debris and re-treaded to Seymour Gulch.

Lipps Camp Trail #6E01 – *This trail is now closed by Forest Order due to the Backbone Fire.* 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 – No information yet in 2009 but the Wilderness Patrol reports that the trail past the Semore Gulch trail junction was burned over badly several years ago however, and it is very tough to follow.

Mullane Corral Trail #12W04 – Due to a lack of funding, there has been no trail maintenance since before the 2006 fire. Due to a lack of funding, this trail is now an unmaintained trail.

Milk Camp Trail #8E16 – No Information

New River Trail #7E05 – New River is passable for stock to the Slide/Virgin Creek Junction. The New River was low enough to cross on 04/24/2009.

Pony Creek Trail #12W07 – Due to a lack of funding, there has been no trail maintenance since before the 2006 fire. Due to a lack of funding, this trail is now an unmaintained trail.

Salmon Summit Trail #12W02 – *Due to the Backbone fire, this trail is now closed by Forest Order from the Devil's Backbone Trail to the junction with the Battle Creek Trail (8E19).* Thanks to fire rehabilitation dollars the trail is now cleared of downed trees from the Cecil Lake to Mary Blaine Meadows. Hikers report: “Salmon summit trail to Red Cap lake clear except for difficult snag (24” but not a stock stopper) on decent to Red Cap Lake. Lake higher than usual with good runoff.”

Semore Gulch Trail #8E08 – Due to a lack of funding, there has been no trail maintenance since before the 2006 fire.

Slide Creek Trail #12W03 – Slide Creek is stock passable just to the Eagle Creek Junction. There are 12 logs down from the Eagle Creek Junction to Emmons and 14 logs down from there to Mary Blaine Meadows. Sections of the trail from Emmons to Mary Blaine are very brushy. Sections along Slide Creek have a number of burnt out stumps have created the kinds of subterranean holes that make the trail treacherous for stock usage.

Soldier Creek Trail #7E01 – *This trail is now closed by Forest Order due to the Backbone Fire.* Due to a lack of funding, there has been no trail maintenance since before the 2005 season, it is now an unmaintained trail.

Virgin Creek Trail #7E03 – *This trail is now closed by Forest Order due to the Backbone Fire.* No information yet in 2009 however, there is a known stock stopper slide at Four Mile Creek. Due to a lack of funding, this trail is now an unmaintained trail.

NORTH FORK TRINITY RIVER (WATERSHED)

Visitors should be advised that the North Fork Trinity area was affected by a massive wildfire in the summer of 2006. Many trails through out the area may still have hazardous conditions for hikers and stock users. All visitors should ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!

Backbone Creek Trail #11W07 – The trail crew reports that the trail has many downed trees with numerous stock stoppers.

Backbone Ridge Trail #11W40 – No Information

Bob's Farm Trail #11W03 – The trail is now clear of snow and downed trees from the Hobo Gulch trailhead to Bob's Farm. However, the trail from the ridgetop down to the junction with the Moliter-Cold Springs trail has over 25 down trees. Many of them are stock stoppers.

China Spring Trail #11W08 – The trail is now clear of snow and downed trees to Low Gap and beyond --to Grizzly Lake.

Green Mountain Trail #12W09 – The trail from Salmon Summit to the White's Creek trail junction is now free of downed logs. White's Creek is also free of downed logs from this junction down to the North Fork of the Trinity River.

Morrison Gulch Trail #11W04 – The trail is now clear of downed logs.

Moliter-Cold Spring Trail #11W02 – The trail has over 25 down trees. Many of them are stock stoppers

North Fork Trinity Trail #12W01 – The road is now opened to the Hobo Gulch Trailhead, but it has a number of blind curves and should be driven with full attention. One mile before Jorstad Cabin there are two stock stopper trees across the trail (a 16" and 6"). Additionally, just before Jorstad Cabin there is a 3' diameter tree across the trail that is impossible for stock to get around. It is lying perpendicular to the trail on a steep side-slope.

Rattlesnake Creek Trail #11W05 – Rattlesnake Creek is clear of snow and downed trees to the junction with Bob's Farm trail (11W03). As of 07/01/09 the Wilderness Patrol reports: "From Browns Mine to Papoose Lake (11W05) there is a 24 inch, 8 inch, 18 inch, 8 inch, 10 inch, 14 inch, 24 inch, 14 inch, two 9 inch, 8 inch, 12 inch, 6 inch, two 12 inch, and an 18 inch log across the trail. These downed trees did not have many limbs, making the trail accessible without much trouble."

Raymond Flat Trail #11W12 – The Raymond Flat trail is now clear of downed trees from its northern terminus in section 7 south to Raymond Flat in section 19. Conditions south of Raymond Flat are not known at this time.

Whites Creek Trail #11W06 – The trail is now free of downed logs.

Waldorf Crossing Trail #11W13 – The Waldorf Crossing trail is known to have a number of stock stoppers, but we do not have specifics at this time.

STUART FORK (WATERSHED)

Alpine Lake Trail #10W04 – There are 120 trees across the trail from Stuart Fork to Alpine Lake. Many of these trees are stock stoppers. There is a section (60') of very thin tread just as you come up from Stuart Fork but it is passable for backpackers. The trail is clear of significant brush to approximately 1000' past the Bear Creek trail junction. From that point on most of the trail has brush encroaching. You must force your way through several relatively short sections but, the good news is, if you pay strict attention to following the tread down at your feet you should be able to stay on the trail all the way to the lake without getting lost! However, it is typically more difficult to follow a trail *downhill* in thick brush so be sure to spend some time on the way up the trail --familiarizing yourself with surrounding landmarks. Trails with this type of difficulty can be tough on the pads under the balls of your toes. To help alleviate this situation, be sure to keep the laces on your boots snug enough in the toe and arch section to keep your feet from sliding around inside your boot. This can also help avoid blisters.

The Alpine trail is scheduled to be cleared of trees and brush sometime during the late summer, so check back for the latest updates. Irrespective of the fallen logs and thick brush, 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.

Remember, NO CAMPFIRES AT ALPINE LAKE

Bear Creek Trail #10W06 – The trail has significant and lengthy sections of head-high 'force your way through' type of brush between the Alpine Lake trail junction and the ridge-top. Additionally there are 75 trees down from the Alpine junction to the trail's terminus in Canyon Creek. Anyone desiring to get from Stuart Fork to Canyon Creek is much better off, at this point, to return to the Stuart Fork trailhead and drive over to the Canyon Creek trailhead.

Blacks Basin Trail #9W12 – The Black's Basin trail is now clear of downed trees

Caribou Lake #10W01 – The trail on the south side of the ridge (the Stuart Fork side) is free of snow with only two non-stock stopper trees down. The trail on the north side of the ridge is now free of snow.

Deer Creek Trail #9W17 – The trail has now been cleared of trees from Stuart Fork all the way to Deer Lake.

Elk Gulch #9W31 – This is an un-maintained trail.

Four Lakes Loop Trail #9W13 – The trail is now free of downed trees. As of 08/02/2009 hikers report that the area still has many more mosquitoes and black

flies than usual. I wouldn't recommend sleeping overnight in this area without some kind of bug protection, preferably a tent with screening.

PLEASE NO CAMPFIRES AT THESE LAKES!

Granite Peak Trail #9W18 – No information yet for 2009 however, hikers from 2008 report that there are at least 40 down trees across the trail. Many are stock stoppers.

Long Canyon Trail #9W14 – The trail is now clear of snow and debris all the way to and through Siligo Meadows.

Bowerman Meadows #8W22 – The Bowerman trail is now clear of trees and snow all the way to Upper Bowerman Meadows.

Seven-Up Peak Trail #9W67 – The trail is now clear of down trees.

Stoney Ridge Trail #9W21 – The road to the trailhead is now open and the road is passable for 2-wheel drive vehicles. As of 06/30/09 the trail is clear of down trees and debris from the trailhead all the way to Deer Creek. As of 08/02/2009 hikers report that the area still has many more mosquitoes and black flies than usual. I wouldn't recommend sleeping over in this area without some kind of bug protection, preferably a tent with screening.

Stuart Fork Trail #9W20 – As of 05/08/09 the road to the trailhead is open but narrow in places and has several large potholes, so drive with caution. The trail is clear of downed trees.

ATTENTION !! for those of you planning to stay at Morris Meadows. Unfortunately, the last two Wilderness Patrol Persons to pass through Morris Meadows have discovered a large quantity of unburied toilet paper and human waste at more than one campsite around the meadow. On both occasions the number of these sanitary violations was WAY over the top. Please be sure to bury human waste in a 6 to 8 inch cat-hole 100 feet or more from campsites and water sources. It is also best to urinate in a separate spot to keep the deer from digging the whole mess back up to lick the salt out of the urine soaked soil.

Remember, NO CAMPFIRES AT ANY OF STUART FORK'S LAKES.

Willow Creek Trail #9W11 – No Information

SWIFT CREEK (WATERSHED)

Bear Basin Trail #9W10 – The trail is now clear of down trees.

Landers Lake Trail #9W09 – The trail is now clear of downed trees.

Lilypad Lake Trail #8W21 – The trail is now clear of down trees.

Deer Flat Trail #8W13 – (Lake Eleanor) – The entire trail is now clear of trees from the trailhead to the Parker Creek trail.

Granite Lake Trail #8W14 – As of 05/27/09 the trail is free of snow and debris all the way to the lake. All the campsites are free of snow. However, Wilderness Patrol reports that: "The trail above Granite Lake towards 7-Up is very brushy,

there is a spot that lasts for about 100 yards where the brush completely covers the trail up to and over head height.”

Mumford Basin – (This is an un-maintained trail.) – No Information

Parker Creek Trail #9W19 – The full length of the trail is now clear of snow and downed trees.

Poison Canyon Trail #8W10 – As of 05/14/2009, the road to the Poison Canyon Trailhead is clear of debris. The trail crew reports that the trail is now repaired and clear of downed trees up Poison Canyon and on through the Thumb Rock trail and the Tracy trail over to Big Boulder Lake.

Seven-Up Peak Trail #9W67– The trail has now been cleared of downed trees.

Swift Creek Trail #8W15 - The trail is now clear of snow and debris from the trailhead to both Ward and Horseshoe Lakes.

Sunrise Basin Trail #9W15 – No Information.

Thumb Rock Trail #8W16 – The trail is now clear of down trees.

Ward Lake Trail #9W66 – The trail is now clear of downed trees from the Ward/Horseshoe trail split up Swift Creek to Ward Lake. Conditions are not known for the trail segment that runs from Ward Lake over to the Big Flat trailhead.

UPPER TRINITY (WATERSHED)

Bear Lake Trail #7W03 – The road to the trailhead is clear of snow and debris. As of 05/28/09 the trail is clear of snow and debris all the way to the Lake. The CCC's are now finished with the rehab work on the trail and are in the process of moving to the PCT for work there.

damaged trail sections for approximately the next month.

***Overnight hikers please note that the campsites on the north side of the lake are rapidly becoming devoid of firewood. If you must have a campfire, make it only a small social fire at night in a pre-existing fire ring. The last Wilderness Patrol visit in 2008 entailed removing six new fire rings on the white granite just to east of the lake's outlet...

Bloody Run Trail #8W04 – All downed trees have now been cleared from blocking the trail. However, several sections on the east side of the ridge (where the trail loses elevation toward Bloody Run Creek) are quite obscure and hard to follow.

Deadfall Lakes Trail – Both trails to the Lake are now free of snow and debris.

Eagle Creek Trail #7W05 – The road to the trailhead is now open (unlocked) and this road is passable to the Eagle Creek trailhead. The trail is now clear of snow and debris from the trailhead to the Bloody Run intersection. Up in the Benches themselves, there are many spots where the trail crosses meadows. Users will 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 – All the access trails from the PCT down to lakes on the north side of the ridge are now free of significant snow and debris.

Pacific Crest Trail #2000 – The Backcountry Horsemen now report that the PCT is clear of downed trees from Rt#3 all the way to Carter Summit.

PCT Lake Reports – All the access trails from the PCT down to lakes on the north side (Klamath Forest side) of the ridge are now free of significant snow and are easily passable for backpackers.

Stoddard Lake Trail #7W06 (accessed off of Route #3) – The trail to Stoddard Lake is now free of snow and debris. The last ½ mile section of the access road to the trailhead is very rough however, and should not be attempted by vehicles with a low clearance.

Sadly, on a trip to Stoddard on 06/13/09 we discovered that, at the very first campsite you come to at the lake, over 30 new trees had been mutilated (snapped off, sawed off, axed off, and defaced). Additionally, over 60 pounds of garbage from the site had to be bagged up --for stock removal at our earliest opportunity. Please take note that green trees barely burn (if at all!) and that leaving garbage Wilderness is against the law. If you see uninformed Wilderness users cutting down live trees, please feel free to inform them that this practice is against the law.

Tangle Blue Lake Trail #8W01 and #8W23 – The trail to Tangle Blue Lake is now free of downed trees.

Telephone Lake Trail #8W25- No Information

We constantly strive to provide you with the most up to date 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 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.

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