

# Pacific Crest Trail Flood Damage and Trail Detour

Glacier Peak Wilderness - Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie & Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests



The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, in the vicinity of Glacier Peak on the Darrington Ranger District, was heavily damaged by flooding in October 2003. Seven major trail bridges were destroyed and sections of the trail were severely damaged by mudslides. As a result of this damage, the trail is impassable to hikers and stock. A trailed detour is described below, and maps of the area are provided.



## PLEASE NOTE:

The trails along detour route are not constructed and maintained to same high standard as PCT. Users can expect high fords until mid August, and trail sections that are steep, rough, brushy, and difficult to follow. These trails require a higher skill level for hikers.

**Stock users** are advised to trailer between Steven's Pass and the Buck Creek trailheads. **SEE STOCK MAP.** Check website at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/pct](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/pct) for updates on transportation options.

The "tent" symbol on the **HIKER MAP** shows areas where there are multiple campsites. Otherwise individual campsites are scattered every few miles along these trails except for Little Giant, where there is only one site in the Napeequa Valley. Please camp in established campsites-- do not camp on vegetation.

## HIKER DETOUR ROUTE FROM SOUTH TO NORTH:

### Indian Creek Trail #1502 (11 miles) to the White River Trailhead

Fairly good condition as of 2007 except for sections of muddy tread and heavy brush. Although White River Trail #1507 is 2.5 miles shorter and might appear to be an alternate route, the upper portion of that trail has 5 difficult creek or river fords, lots of brush, and is in much rougher condition overall. It is passable for hikers but very slow going. Stock users are also affected by sections with narrow tread and vertical exposure.

### White River Trail #1507 (4 miles) to the Boulder Creek junction

This portion of the trail was in good condition as of 2007. Note that there is no longer a bridge across Boulder Creek on the White River trail; in late summer this is generally an easy ford, but expect high water early on.

### Boulder Creek Trail # 1562 (9 miles up and over Boulder Pass) to the Little Giant junction (in the Napeequa Valley).

The trail gains 3,500' to Boulder Pass, and was mostly in good condition as of 2007 to Boulder Basin (4 miles). Boulder Pass can still hold snow until late summer, and trail has some steep sections with poor tread and loose rock on descent into Napeequa valley. The ford crossing the Napeequa is considered difficult by some, with murky water and loose cobbles underfoot. The Napeequa is a glacially fed river, so while it is highest during spring run-off, it is never really at "low water," and can rise substantially on hot sunny days. It is sometimes as much as two feet lower in the morning, compared to afternoon, during hot August weather.

### Little Giant Trail #1518 (8.5 miles) to the Chiwawa Road 6200

This is the most difficult trail on the detour. Climbing out of the Napeequa is steep, rocky, and rough. Some sections have very narrow tread with steep side hill exposure. It is strongly recommended that stock users avoid this whole section due to the poor tread, exposure, and dangerous rock step-ups. Parts of the trail were brushed in 2003 and some tread improvement work was done in 2004. The descent into the Chiwawa drainage is in better condition, but still has some steep sections with exposed rock step-downs that are problematic for most stock users. Forging the Chiwawa River is very difficult to impossible until early or mid-August; a natural log crossing might be in the vicinity but would probably involve a good bashing through brush.

### Chiwawa River Road 6200 (northwest for 3.5 miles) to road end at Trinity

This is a dirt road (very dusty) with traffic, especially on weekends. Stay off to one side and be alert as you hike the road. Two car campgrounds are along the road between the two trailheads (a fee is charged for camping.)

### Buck Creek Trail #1513 (9.5 miles) to Buck Creek Pass Trail

As of spring 2007 the beginning of this trail was flood damaged, and in early summer the first quarter mile may again be under water, due to the river changing course. The Forest Service will be assessing further options for fixing or relocating this short piece. Most of the trail was in good condition as of fall 2007.

### Buck Creek Pass Trail #789 (5.0 miles) to the PCT 2000

This trail is rough in places but has received heavy maintenance over the last few seasons.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Lake Wenatchee / Leavenworth Ranger Districts:  
Leavenworth Ranger Station 509-548-6977  
Lake Wenatchee Ranger Station 509-763-3103

