

# TRINITY ALPS WILDERNESS TRAIL CONDITION REPORT MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2009

*Welcome Back!! Fortunately, no destructive storms like those of January 2008 occurred in the Alps this past winter. Therefore, the number of snapped, broken, or fallen trees blocking trail access is not excessive this year. The snowpack is relatively light, and the water content is well below normal. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 unencumbered trail access for trails cleared last summer will occur early this hiking season. The downside is that if we do not soon receive some significant precipitation, the fire danger will be high throughout the summer.*

***Attention!!** During this last week (05/01 to 05/07/2009) many locations within the Alps have received over six inches of rain! This rain will go a long way toward relieving severe fire danger through Memorial Day. The snow levels during this series of storms were over 6000', so trail access (other than the high passes) has not been significantly affected by any increase in snowpack. The creeks however are running very high, and flows will remain swollen from this rain/snow event through the weekend of May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup>.*

*Due to the unprecedented number of downed trees from the winter of 2007/2008, we were unable to clear many trails last summer. Some stimulus monies are now beginning to reach the Forest, and several CCC crews will soon be staffing the two-man crosscut saws in attempts to remove this backlog of downed trees. 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 by Memorial Day and to let you know about it in a timely fashion.*

## **CANYON CREEK WATERSHED**

**Bear Creek Trail #10W06** – No Information

**Boulder Creek Lakes Trail #10W02** – The trail is still covered in several feet of snow.

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

**East Fork Lake Trail #9W22** – No Information (*This is an un-maintained trail.*)

**Canyon Creek Trail #10W08** – As of 04/29/09 The trail to Lower Canyon Creek Lakes has only a few areas of patchy snow. There are 12 down trees however, and two of them should be considered stock stoppers. None of them present much of an obstacle to backpackers. On April 29<sup>th</sup> (which was a relatively cold day) the Bear Creek water crossing, the Canyon Creek crossing to Boulder Creek Lakes, and the Canyon Creek trail crossing 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile before Lower Canyon Creek Lake were all easy to wade. Each of these crossing also had a downed log across the creek which most hikers were using. The campsites at Lower Canyon Creek Lakes were melted off, although the lake itself was still 70% covered in translucent ice/snow. The trail to Upper Canyon Creek Lakes had patches of snow, and a few of the campsites at Upper Canyon Creek lakes were free of snow.

The trail to Boulder Creek Lakes was relatively free of snow for the first ¼ mile. At that point the snow became rather treacherous with small trees and brush occasionally popping up out of the melting snow. Boulder Creek Lakes is still covered in ice and snow with no campsites showing.

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

## **COFFEE CREEK WATERSHED**

**Adams Lake Trail #9W73** – As of 05/07/2009 the snow starts in earnest about ½ mile before the lake. The snow is almost instantly 3' deep and the trail at that point is very difficult to follow. There are five trees down in the first two miles of the trail (3-10", 1-12" Stock Stopper, and one 18").

**Battle Canyon Trail #9W59** – No Information

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

**Boulder Creek Trail #8W08** (Goldfield Campground Trailhead) – No information yet in 2009 but, as of 09/26/2008, hikers report that there are 10 trees down per mile from the trailhead to the Boulder Creek trail junction. The RCD or the CCC's should start clearing this trail starting in May of 2009. Coffee Creek road is open and clear to the Goldfield trailhead/campground.

**Caribou Lake #9W180** – No information yet in 2009. As of 05/02/09 the road to the Big Flat trailhead (Coffee Creek Road) was covered in snow starting just after the Adams Lake trailhead.

**East Boulder Lakes Trail #8W02** – No information yet in 2009 but, 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** – As of 04/24/2009 the last four miles of road to the trailhead is still covered in snow. Additionally, as of 08/27/2008 the trail from Big Boulder Lake to the junction with the Lion Lake Trail (8W12) has four trees down including three stock stoppers (a 36”, 18” and 12”). There are three fallen trees from Big Boulder Lake to Poison Canyon including one 12” stock stopper. These trees still remain. The trail is scheduled for clearing (06/09) by RCD or the CCC’s.

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

**Doe Lake Trail #8W05** – No Information.

**Dorleska Mine Trail #9W65** – No information yet in 2009 but, as of 10/31/08, from the Union Lake Spur/ Lion Lake trail junction to the Yellow Rose/Dorleska Mine trail junction there are five trees down including two stock stoppers (two 20” trees). These trees will be removed sometime in 2009.

**East Fork Saloon Creek Trail #9W03** – No Information

**Lady Gulch Trail #9W05** – No Information.

**East Fork Coffee Creek Trail #8W06** – As of 04/29/09 there are four trees down to the first Stoddard Lake trail junction (16”, 16”, 24” and 16”). None are considered stock stoppers. Patchy snow starts in earnest just before this trail junction

**Granite Creek Trail #8W09** – No information yet in 2009 but, as of 10/31/08, the trail was cleared of downed trees to just before the junction with trail 8W03. One 25” tree is down before the junction. 8W03 is cleared of downed trees to the

PCT, and the PCT is cleared of trees from 8W03 to the junction with Saloon Creek. There are four large stock stoppers down along the Granite Creek trail from the junction with 8W03 to the PCT. These trees will most likely be cleared in 2009 by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Lion Lake Trail #8W12** – No Information

**Little Boulder Lake Trail #8W20** – No Information

**Long Gulch Trail #9W60** – No Information

**Trail Gulch #9W15** – No Information

**North Fork Coffee Creek Trail #9W02** – As of 04/29/09 there is an 18” tree across the trail right at the Wilderness Boundary Sign. It should be considered a stock stopper. The trail was clear of snow and debris from there to Hodges Cabin. At Hodges the patchy snow began in earnest. Take note however, that as of 10/31/08, there was a 32” stock stopper near the Schlomberg Cabin site and at the trail junction with Steveale Creek. 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.” There are 24” and 18” trees across the trail along the switchbacks descending from the North Fork trail down to Trail Gulch Lake. These stock stoppers will be cleared during the summer of 2009.

**Packers Peak Trail #9W06** – No Information

**Saloon Creek Trail #9W01** – No Information

**South Fork Coffee Trail #9W04** – No Information

**Steveale Creek Trail #9W61** – Trail conditions are not known at this time.

**Stoddard Lake Trail #7W06 (accessed off of Route #3)** – As of 05/06/2009 the road to this Stoddard lake trailhead is now open (unlocked). The road is clear of snow and debris to within ¼ mile of the trailhead. At that point the snow is an instant 3’ deep. It will be at least a week or more before this snow melts. Trail conditions are unknown at this time.

**Stoddard Spur Trail #8W24** – No Information

**Sugar Pine Lake Trail #8W07** – As of 05/04/2009 the snow started in earnest just past Cabin Flat (the Battle Canyon Trail Junction). The snow between Cabin Flat and Sugar Pine Lake is notoriously rotten snow. Many sections of this trail segment have water running underneath the snow and post-holing as you walk can

be a major problem. There is a 30” stock stopper snag about ½ mile from the trailhead, --just before the Wilderness Boundary Sign. There are two more trees (12” and 18”) between the Wilderness Boundary Sign and Cabin Flat. The 18” would be very difficult for stock to pass.

**Tracy Trail #8W26** – No Information

**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. 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. As of 04/24/09 along the trail the snow started in earnest after the Union Creek Bridge. There are two Stock Stopper trees down within 1/4 mile of the trailhead, and two smaller trees down before the Union Creek Bridge.

**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** – No Information

**East Weaver Lake Trail #10W11** – No Information

**Rush Creek Lakes Trail #10W10** – No information yet in 2009 but, as of 10/31/08, the trail had 28 trees down between the trailhead and the Wilderness boundary. Many of these trees are Stock Stoppers. These trees will be removed during the summer of 2009.

**French Creek Trail #8E03** – No information yet in 2009 but, as of 10/31/08 there were several sections of very thin tread with a steep outslope and, consequently, the trail is not recommended for stock usage. Trail conditions were unknown beyond Cherry Flat.

**Green Mountain Trail #12W09** – No Information

**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, the trail has not been maintained for several years.

**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.

**East Fork New River Trail #12W08** – No information in yet in 2009 but numerous burnt out stumps from the 2006 fire have created the kinds of subterranean holes that make the trail unsuitable for stock usage.

**Lipps Camp Trail #6E01** – Due to lack of funding, the trail has not been brushed or logged out since the 2006 fire.

**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.

**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.

**Salmon Summit Trail #12W02** – No Information

**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. As of 04/24/2009 Mary Blaine itself

was covered with two to three feet of snow. 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** – Due to a lack of funding, there has been no trail maintenance since before the 2005 season.

**Virgin Creek Trail #7E03** – No information yet in 2009 however, there is a known stock stopper slide at Four Mile Creek.

## **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** – No Information

**Backbone Ridge Trail #11W40** – No Information

**Bob's Farm Trail #11W03** – No information yet in 2009 however, as of 10/31/08 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** – No Information

**Green Mountain Trail #12W09** – No Information

**Morrison Gulch Trail #11W04** – No Information

**Moliter-Cold Spring Trail #11W02** – No Information

**North Fork Trinity Trail #12W01** – The road is now opened to the Hobo Gulch Trailhead (2009). The main trail (toward Grizzly Lake) is now clear of snow for several miles. Tree blowdown is unknown at this time.

As of 10/08 the Trail to Bob's Farm coming up from Molier-Cold Spring/North Fork trail junction was impassable with over 25 down trees.

After Ennis Camp on the way to Papoose Lake, the trail has a number of down trees some of them stock stoppers. These trees will likely be removed during the 2009 summer season.

**Rattlesnake Creek Trail #11W05** – No information yet for 2009 but, as of 10/08 from Ennis Camp to Papoose Lake a few stock stoppers remain.

**Raymond Flat Trail #11W12** – No Information

**Whites Creek Trail #11W06** – No Information

**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** – No information yet in 2009 but, as of 10/2008, Wilderness Patrol writes, “The Alpine Lake trail (10W04) was real brushy for a mile before the lake and had many downed trees (about 50) with lots of limbs (varying in size) that made the trail hard to follow and impossible for stock. The downed trees and obstacles were not creating any hazardous conditions. There was no erosion on the trail and the water drainage was fine. For a good mile or two from the lake, the trail was real rocky with odd shaped rocks that could cause a broken or twisted ankle, so use caution when hiking.” The Alpine Lake trail will likely be cleared of down trees during the summer of 2009.

*Remember, NO CAMPFIRES AT ALPINE LAKE*

**Bear Creek Trail #10W06** – No Information

**Blacks Basin Trail #9W12** – No Information

**Caribou Lake #10W01** – No Information

*PLEASE NO CAMPFIRES AT CARIBOU LAKES !*

**Deer Creek Trail #9W17** – No Information

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

**Four Lakes Loop Trail #9W13** – The trail is still covered in several feet of snow.  
*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** – As of 04/27/2009 patchy snow started ½ mile past the Bowerman Meadow turn-off. There were only two trees down to that point, and neither of them were stock stoppers.

**Bowerman Meadows #8W22** – As of 04/27/09 the campsite in Lower Bowerman Meadow (and most of the lower meadow itself) was free of snow. However, just above lower Bowerman, as the trail turns back toward the south face of the Bowerman Bowl, the snow began again in earnest. There are no stock stopper trees up to this point along the trail.

**Seven-Up Peak Trail #9W67** – No Information

**Stoney Ridge Trail #9W21** – The road to the trailhead is now open and the road is passable for 2-wheel drive vehicles. The trail is clear of down trees and debris to within at least ½ mile of the Stonewall Pass. As of 05/07/2009 the snow started in earnest approximately 1 mile from Stonewall Pass.



**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 main Stuart Fork trail is now free of downed trees and debris with only a few patches of snow reported all the way to Emerald Lake. All the campsites in Morris Meadows are free of snow and ready for business..

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

**Willow Creek Trail #9W11** – No Information

## **SWIFT CREEK WATERSHED**

**Bear Basin Trail #9W10** – No Information

**Landers Lake Trail #9W09** – No Information

**Lilypad Lake Trail #8W21** – No Information

**Deer Flat Trail #8W13** – (Lake Eleanor) – As of 05/06/2009 the snow starts in earnest (3') on the Deer Flat trail at Lake Eleanor. There are no trees down from the trailhead to the lake.

**Granite Lake Trail #8W14** – As of 04/23/09 the Granite Creek trail has patchy but eminently passable patches of snow for the first 1.5 miles (measuring from the Swift Creek Bridge). The snow begins to become essentially continuous about 1/3 of a mile before Gibson Meadow. There are two Stock Stopper trees perched on three foot snow drifts about one mile up the trail.

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

**Parker Creek Trail #9W19** – No Information

**Poison Canyon Trail #8W10** – No Information

**Seven-Up Peak Trail #9W67** – No Information

**Swift Creek Trail #8W15** – The road is now clear of debris to the Swift Creek trailhead. As of 04/24/09 the main arm of Swift Creek is clear of snow and debris to Steer Creek. I walked up Swift Creek on 04/22, but was unable to safely cross Steer Creek (at 4:00 PM). The snowmelt was extremely high due to record breaking temperatures from 04/20 to ?. There were only a few patches of snow along the trail to Steer Creek, and my suspicion is that the trail has only scattered patches of snow up until at least Mumford Meadows. The issue now with Swift Creek's main arm is the volume of water in the side creeks. Often the Parker Creek crossing will impede access until at least Memorial Day.

**Sunrise Basin Trail #9W15** – No Information.

**Thumb Rock Trail #8W16** – No Information.

**Ward Lake Trail #9W66** – No Information

### **UPPER TRINITY (WATERSHED)**

**Bear Lake Trail #7W03** – The road to the trailhead is clear of snow and debris. As of 04/23/09 the trail is clear of continuous snow for the first 2.5 miles. There are five trees down within this section (8", 2-6" overhead, 16" snag stock stopper, 4" snag caught up in oaks).

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 fir rings on the white granite just to east of the lake's outlet...

**Bloody Run Trail #8W04** – No information yet in 2009 but in 2008 Wilderness Patrol reported that there are three trees down along the Bloody Run trail from the junction with the Eagle Benches trail south to the top of the first ridge overlooking Bloody Run Creek (about one mile down the trail from the Eagle Creek Benches junction). One of these trees is a stock stopper, although it is only 10" in diameter. The trail conditions are not known from this point on to the junction with the Doe Lakes trail. These logs will be removed during the summer of 2009.

**Eagle Creek Trail #7W05** – The road to the trailhead is locked and gated until May 15<sup>th</sup>. We have no trail information yet in 2009. However, from the Wilderness Boundary sign (about 1.5 miles up the trail) to the PCT trail junction there are still 35 trees down --left over from the 2008 season. Wilderness Patrol writes: "Stock users can access all of the 'Eagle Creek Benches Proper' by coming down from the topside, that is, from the PCT".

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** – No Information

**Stoddard Lake Trail #7W06.** The road to the Stoddard Lake trailhead is locked and gated until May 15<sup>th</sup>. The trail conditions are not known at this time.

**Tangle Blue Lake Trail #8W01 and #8W23** – The road is now clear of snow to Tangle Blue Lake. Several spots have a narrow wet section that have fairly deep

potholes however, so it may be best to stop at these locations and study the best spot to cross. As of 04/22/09 the trail is clear of continuous snow for the first 1.5 miles, or 1/8 mile past the Wilderness Boundary Sign. The only down tree is at this point, and it is not a stock stopper.

**Telephone Lake Trail #8W25**- No Information

**Pacific Crest Trail #2000** – There is essentially no snow at the PCT trailhead at Scott Mountain. On 04/22/09 I was able to walk 1/3 mile in either direction before I reached any significant snow.

**PCT Lake Reports** – 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](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.

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