

Rubicon Trail Site Assessment

December 16, 2022

Crew: Brian Bettencourt and Nicholas Howle

Weather Conditions: The weather conditions for the Rubicon Trail were clear. The air temperature on the trail was approximately 25(F) at 8:00 a.m. and 34(F) around 12:30 p.m. The summary of weather conditions up to this day are as follows:

		2022				
		12-Dec	13-Dec	14-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec
SLT**	Precip (in)	-	-	0	0.1	0
	Avg Temp (F)	-	-	21.3	17.6	12.5
R2	Snow Depth (i)	52	65	58	55	53
	Avg Temp (F)	38.26	22	20	30	23
LL	Precip (in)	1.64	0.04	0	0	0.02
	Low Temp(F)	25.5	18.0	16.5	17.8	19.6
	High Temp(F)	35.6	27.5	25.2	28.4	35.6
	Ave Temp(F)	31	22	20	23	29

** data from SLT station is unavailable for 12/12 and 12/13

Reference Loon Lake Elevation: ~6,500 ft

SLT= South Lake Tahoe; elevation: 6,623 ft <http://classic.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=38.89361191,-119.99527740&MR=1>

R2 – Rubicon#2 Snotel Site; elevation: 7,689 ft <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/nwcc/site?sitenum=724&state=ca>

LON –Loon Lake; elevation: 6,410 ft http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/stationInfo?station_id=LON

Trail Sections (Areas in grey not observed):

Wentworth Springs Campground / Post Pile Grade /

Ellis Creek Tie Intersection / Walker Hill / Soup Bowl / Winter Camp / Little Sluice Area

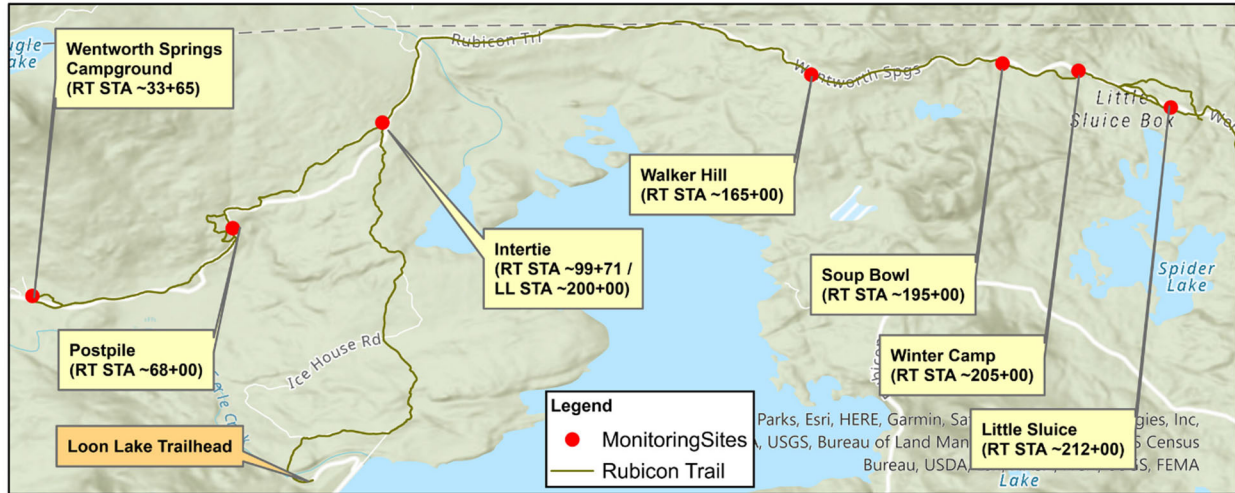
Trail Conditions / Observations: Staff entered the Rubicon Trail using Wentworth Springs Road at US Forest Service (USFS) 17N12 / Wentworth Springs Road intersection. To assess impacts to the roads and Trail from the reported activities, staff took Wentworth Springs Road at the SMUD plow limit to 17N12 to 14N07 back to Wentworth Springs Road (Rubicon Trail). Snow conditions observed were 3-5+ ft. deep in the area surrounding the road. Trail conditions were clear and cold. BMPs on Wentworth Springs Road portion of the Trail were covered in snow. Drainage, where visible, appeared to be working as designed.

County Assessment: Though conditions did not exist to warrant an inspection per the Monitoring Protocol, an inspection was warranted due to the social media reports that there was significant resource damage to the Trail from attempts to rescue a group of stranded campers at Wentworth Springs. After the group was extracted, staff went out to document any resource impacts including Wentworth Springs Campground which is one of seven Exhibit C inspection points. Once staff arrived at the campground, the area was found covered in snow and staff could not get to the inspection point. (Picture below under Wentworth Springs site)

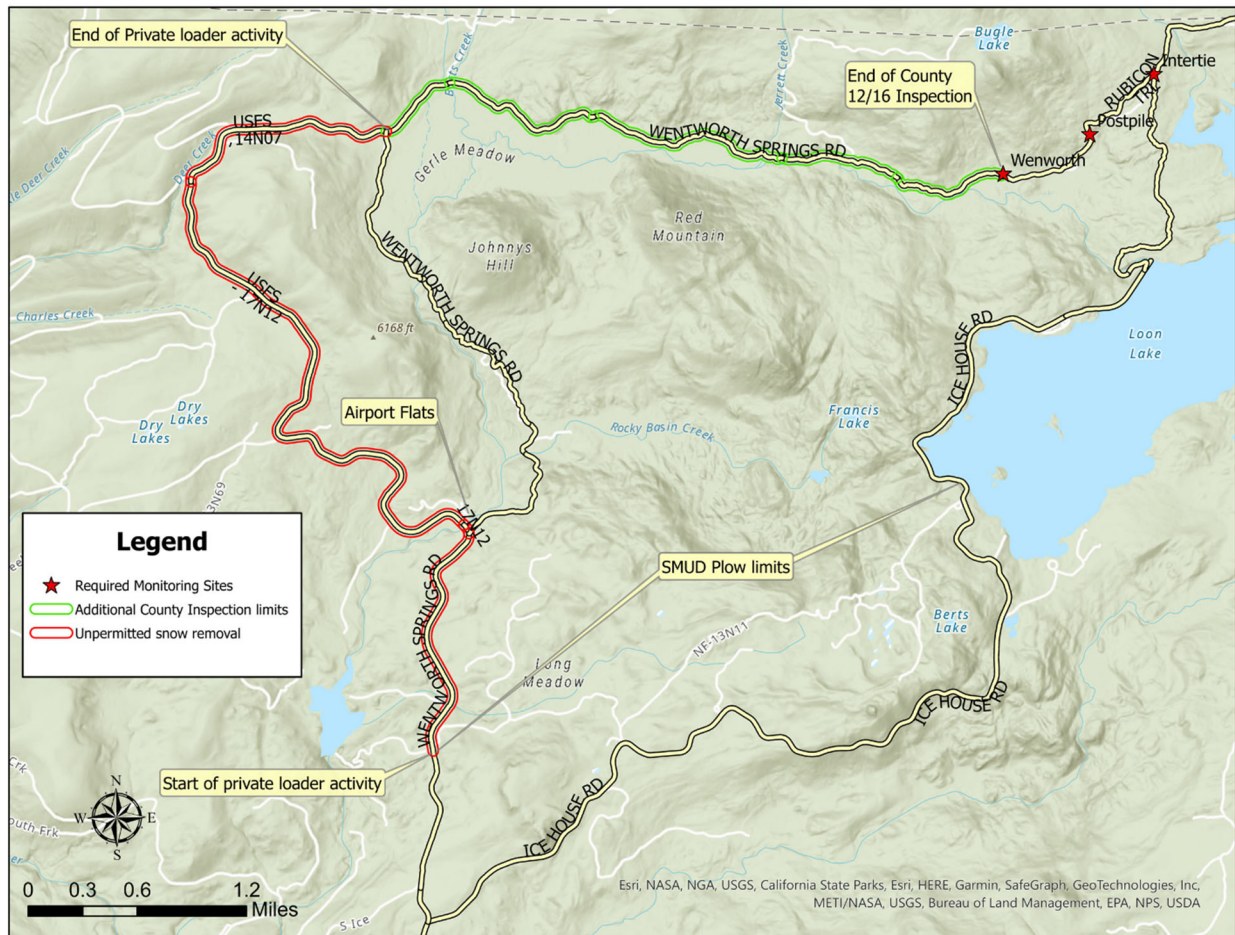
The trail on the way into the campground from Airport Flats to the intersection with 14N07 has BMPs installed. The reported snow removal activity and access to the Trail occurred on FS roads 17N12 and 14N07 and Wentworth Springs Road. There was a report of a 5-6 ft. deep water hole, which staff did not find. Staff did inspect a water crossing that was 1 to 2 feet deep on Wentworth Springs Road near Neck Meadow (photos below), but Staff felt that the area was in good condition with no resource damage visible as the crossing is rock armored.

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Standard Photo Monitoring Sites



December 16, 2022, inspection limits



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Northbound on Wentworth Springs Road at the end of the SMUD plow line.



Eastbound near the intersection of USFS 14N07 and Wentworth Springs Road. Evidence of snow pushed to side of road to allow for loader turning.

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9:53AM on way in (eastbound)





12:59PM on way out (westbound)

On Wentworth Springs Road near Neck Meadow.
Observed water depths of 1 to 2 feet at crossing



Heading westbound on Wentworth Springs Road at Jerret Creek crossing

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<p>Wentworth Springs Campground.</p>	<p>Existing firepit at Wentworth Springs Campground.</p>

