

# Rubicon Trail Site Assessment

## February 24, 2014

**Crew:** Rick Hammonds, Byron Saylor

**Weather Conditions:** The weather conditions for the Rubicon Trail were sunny and warm. The temperature on the trail was approximately 35(F) at 7:30 am and 55(F) around 12:30 p.m. The summary of weather conditions up to this day are as followed:

		2014				
		20-Feb	21-Feb	22-Feb	23-Feb	24-Feb
<b>GT</b>	Precip (in)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
	Avg Temp (F)	50	52	53	54	<b>54</b>
<b>SLT</b>	Precip (in)	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	Avg Temp (F)	39	40	40	40	<b>40</b>
<b>R2</b>	Snow Depth (in)	24	23	23	23	<b>22</b>
	Avg Temp (F)	34	36	37	37	<b>39</b>
<b>LL</b>	Precip (in)	0	0	0	0	0
	Low Temp(F)	31	29	32	28	32
	High Temp(F)	51	49	53	54	55
	Ave Temp(F)	39	39	40	40	43

Reference Loon Lake Elevation: ~6,500 ft

GT = Georgetown; elevation: 2,880 ft <http://classic.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=95634>

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](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:** We entered the Rubicon Trail from the Loon Lake entrance. We traveled from Loon Lake to Wentworth Springs Campground and then to Little Sluice. From Little Sluice we traveled back to Loon Lake via Gate Keeper. There were no vehicles seen on the Trail over the course of the day. We observed vehicle tracks at all sites. Most of the BMP's were not covered with snow along the Trail. The ones that were exposed were functioning as designed.

**County Assessment:** As of this site visit for the conditions observed, the County has determined that the goals of the Saturated Soil Water Quality Protection Plan (SSWQPP) are being met. Though the goals are being met, observations at Winter Camp indicate that the three conditions identified in the Monitoring Protocol are also being met which requires a temporary closure of the Trail. The conditions identified at Winter Camp include: saturated soil conditions, water flowing at an amount capable of rinsing contaminants from vehicle components, and water flowing at an amount capable of transporting sediment.

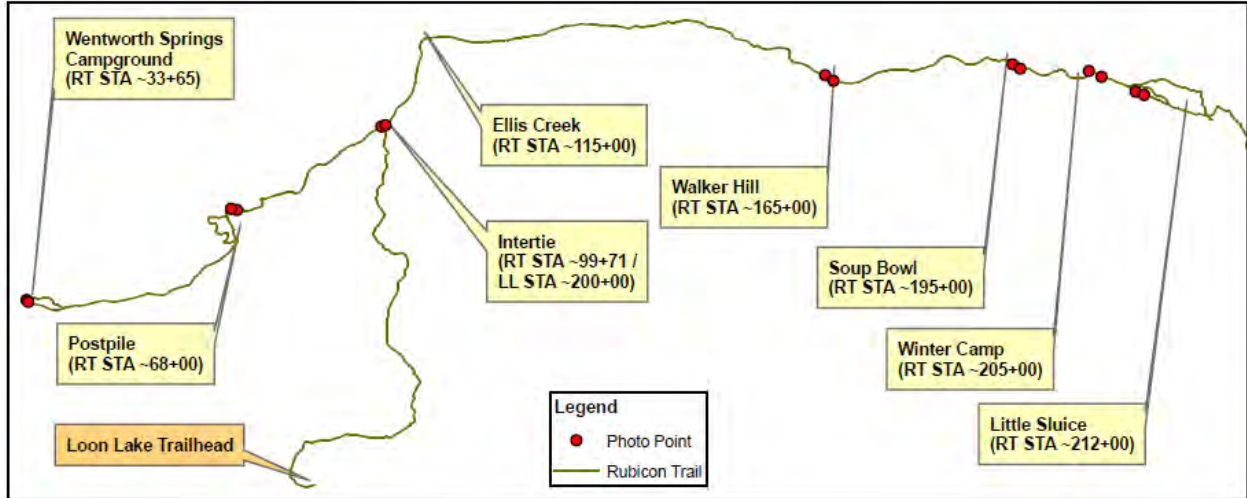
Report reviewed by U.S. Forest Service on 27 February, 2014.

Reviewers: Richard Thornburgh, District Ranger, and Eric Nicita, Soils Scientist

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## Photo Monitoring:



Wentworth Springs Campground  
RT Station 33+65.67

Water Depths: 0.1', 0.2', 0.2'  
(Average: 0.17')

Notes: The Rock Ditch Crossing (RDX) was exposed with snow melt run-off flowing across the RDX.



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Post Pile  
RT Station 75+00

Water Depths: 0.3', 0.3', 0.4'  
(Average: 0.33')

Notes: The Rock Ditch Crossing (RDX) was observed and was functioning as designed. Snow melt run-off was observed flowing down the hardened surface of the Trail.



Ellis Creek Intertie  
RT Station 99+86.95

Water Depths: 0.1', 0.2', 0.2'  
(Average: 0.17')

Notes: The Rock Lined Channel (RLC) was exposed with snow melt run-off flowing in the RLC. The water was properly draining towards the Rock Energy Dissipator (RED) which was not covered with snow and functioning as designed.



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Walker Hill  
RT Station 170+80

Water Depths: 0.1', 0.1', 0.2'  
(Average: 0.13')

Notes: The Rock Slope Protection (RSP) was not fully exposed on both sides of the Trail. There was minimal snow melt run-off flowing down the hardened surface of the Trail, which discharges into a Rock Energy Dissipator.



Soup Bowl  
RT Station 198+40.84

Water Depth: 0.2', 0.2', 0.3'  
(Average: 0.23')

Notes: The Rock Ditch Crossing (RDX) was exposed through the snow with snow melt run-off flowing through it.



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## February 24, 2014



Winter Camp  
RT Station 209+58.39

Water Depth: 0.8', 0.8', 0.9'  
(Average: 0.83')

The Rock Fill (RF) was not fully exposed through the snow. Where visible, the run off was flowing over the RF.



Little Sluice  
RT 213+50.32

Water Depth: 0.2', 0.2', 0.3'  
(Average: 0.23')

The Rock Fill (RF) was mostly exposed through the snow. Where visible, the run off was flowing over the RF.