

Rubicon Trail Site Assessment

December 10, 2014

Crew: Byron Saylor, Ryan Mac Leod

Weather Conditions: The weather conditions for the Rubicon Trail were cloudy and cool. The temperature on the trail was approximately 46(F) at 9:00 am and 43(F) around 3:30 p.m. The summary of weather conditions up to this day are as followed:

2014		6-Dec	7-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec
SLT	Precip (in)	T	0	0	0	T
	Avg Temp (F)	41	40	37	40	44
R2	Snow Depth (in)	7	7	7	7	6
	Avg Temp (F)	38	38	40	41	43
LL	Precip (in)	.16	0	0	0	0
	Low Temp(F)	33	31	30	33	34
	High Temp(F)	42	47	48	45	48
	Ave Temp(F)	38	37	38	40	41

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: We entered the Rubicon Trail from the Loon Lake entrance. We traveled from Loon Lake to Little Sluice and then to Wentworth Springs Campground. From Wentworth Springs Campground 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 tracks at all sites. There was no snow on the trail at this time so all BMP’s were visible and functioning as designed.

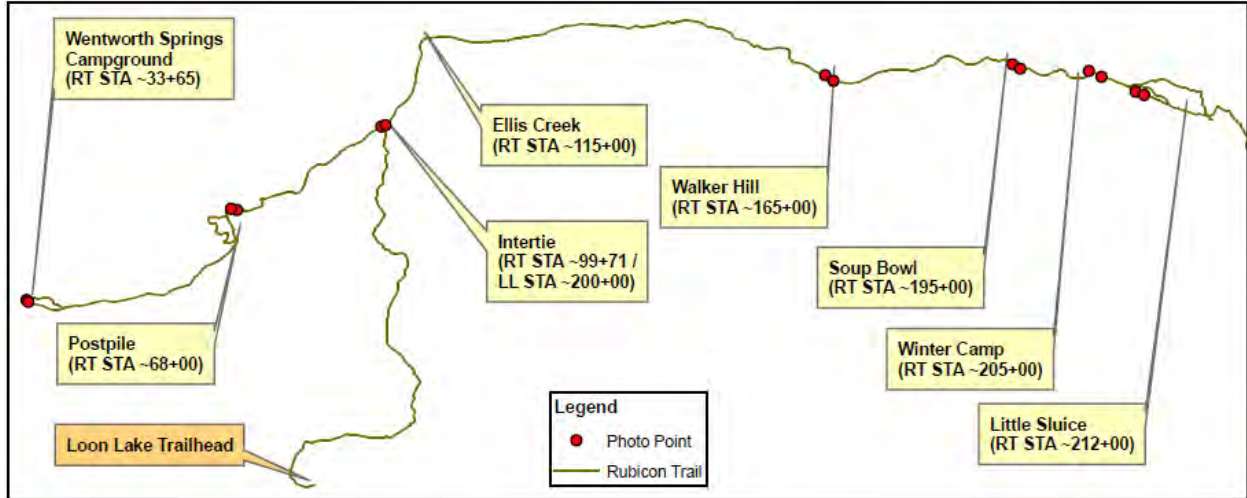
County Assessment: As of this site visit for the conditions observed, the County has determined that the goals of the Saturated Soil Water Quality Protection Plan (SSWQPP) are being met. Though the goals are being met, observations at Winter Camp indicate that the three conditions identified in the Monitoring 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 16 December, 2014.

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

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Photo Monitoring:



Wentworth Springs Campground
RT Station 33+65

Water Depths: 0.1', 0.1', 0.1'

Notes: The Rock Ditch Crossing (RDX) was exposed with minimal runoff observed.

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Post Pile
RT Station 75+00

Water Depths: 0.2', 0.2', 0.5'

Notes: The Rock Ditch Crossing (RDX) was observed and was functioning as designed. Runoff was observed flowing down the hardened surface of the Trail.



Ellis Creek Intertie
RT Station 99+86

Water Depths: 0.0', 0.0', 0.0'

Notes: The Rock Lined Channel (RLC) was exposed but there was no runoff observed in the RLC. The Rock Energy Dissipator (RED) was visible and with minimal water in it. The water was observed to be ponded and not flowing.

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Walker Hill
RT Station 170+80

Water Depths: 0.0', 0.0', 0.0'

Notes: The Rock Slope Protection (RSP) was fully exposed on one side of the Trail. There was no runoff observed flowing down the hardened surface of the Trail. However, like at Ellis Creek Intertie, there were areas of ponding water.



Soup Bowl
RT Station 198+40

Water Depth: 0.2', 0.3', 0.4'

Notes: The Rock Ditch Crossing (RDX) was exposed with runoff flowing through it.

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Winter Camp
RT Station 209+58

Water Depth: 0.9', 0.8', 0.4'

The Rock Fill (RF) was exposed with runoff observed flowing over the RF. Two of the areas where the measurements were taken were deeper than 0.7' within 10 feet of each other; therefore Condition 2 of the Protocol for closure of the Rubicon Trail has been met.



Little Sluice
RT 213+50

Water Depth: 0.2', 0.3', 0.4'

The Rock Fill (RF) was completely exposed with the runoff flowing over the RF.