

Rubicon Trail Site Assessment

February 11, 2015

Crew: Byron Saylor, Rick Hammonds

Weather Conditions: The weather conditions for the Rubicon Trail were cloudy and cool. The temperature on the trail was approximately 36(F) at 8:00 am and 50(F) around 12:00 p.m. The summary of weather conditions up to this day are as followed:

2015		7-Feb	8-Feb	9-Feb	10-Feb	11-Feb
SLT	Precip (in)	1.25	1.30	.21	0	0
	Avg Temp (F)	43	41	37	35	40
R2	Snow Depth (in)	12	13	13	17	16
	Avg Temp (F)	36	38	31	31	39
LL	Precip (in)	2.73	2.81	.80	0	0
	Low Temp(F)	33	34	26	25	35
	High Temp(F)	40	42	36	47	59
	Ave Temp(F)	37	38	31	37	44

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. No vehicle tracks were observed at any of the sites. There was minimal snow on the trail at this time. All BMP's that were visible were functioning as designed.

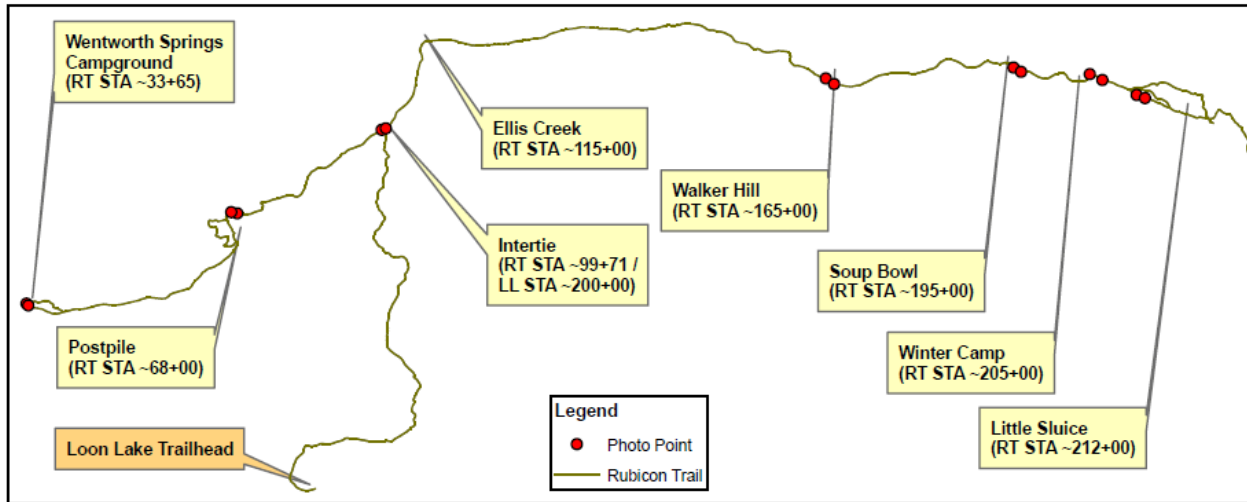
County Assessment: As of this site visit for the conditions observed, the County has determined that the goals of the Saturated Soil Water Quality Protection Plan (SSWQPP) are being met. Though the goals are being met, observations at Winter Camp indicate that the three conditions identified in the Monitoring 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 February XX, 2015.

Reviewers: Richard Thornburgh, District Ranger, and Vince Pacific, Hydrologist

Rubicon Trail Site Assessment February 11, 2015

Photo Monitoring:



Wentworth Springs Campground
RT Station 33+65

Water Depths: 0.2', 0.2', 0.3'

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

Rubicon Trail Site Assessment February 11, 2015



Post Pile
RT Station 75+00

Water Depths: 0.3', 0.5', 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: 0.1', 0.2', 0.2'

Notes: The Rock Lined Channel (RLC) was exposed with minimal runoff observed in the RLC. The Rock Energy Dissipator (RED) was visible and with water in it. The water was observed to be flowing into the RED as designed.

Rubicon Trail Site Assessment February 11, 2015



Walker Hill
RT Station 170+80

Water Depths: 0.2', 0.3', 0.3'

Notes: The Rock Slope Protection (RSP) was not fully exposed on one side of the Trail. There was runoff observed flowing down the hardened surface of the Trail.

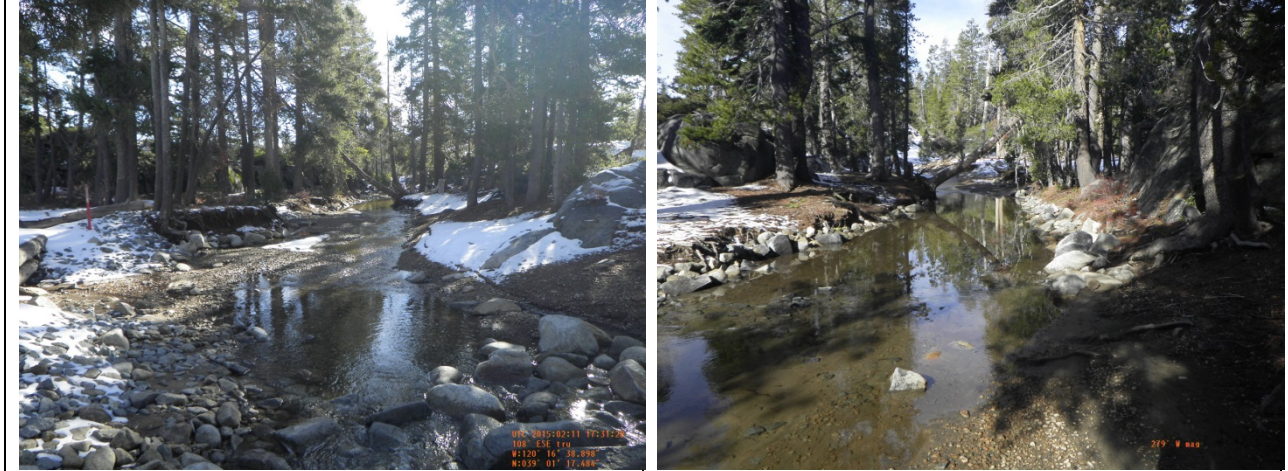


Soup Bowl
RT Station 198+40

Water Depth: 0.4', 0.4', 0.6'

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

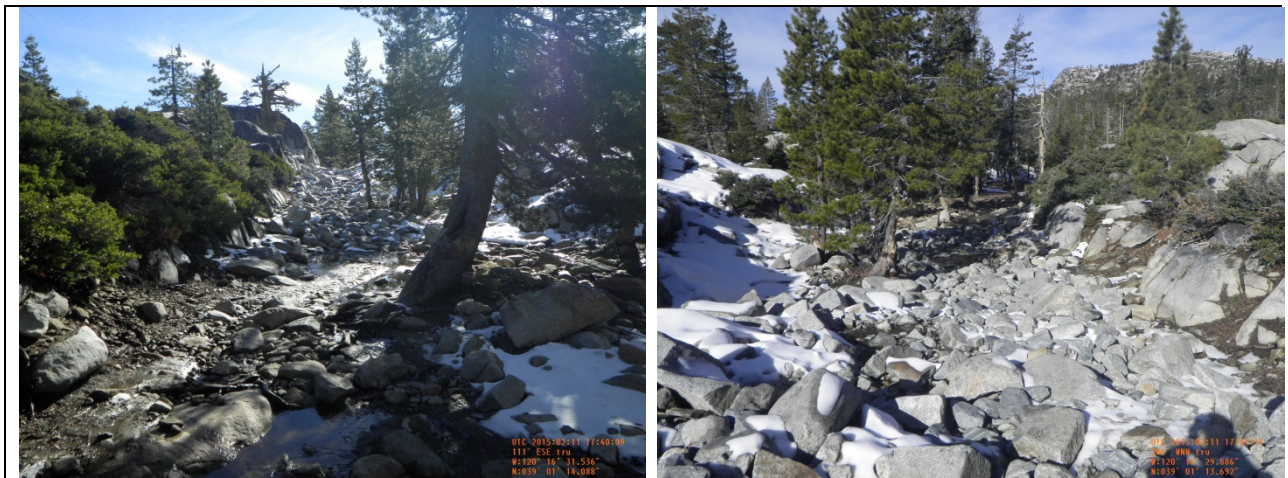
Rubicon Trail Site Assessment February 11, 2015



Winter Camp
RT Station 209+58

Water Depth: 0.5', 0.6', 0.6', 0.7' (0.8', 0.7')

The Rock Fill (RF) was exposed with runoff observed flowing over the RF. There was one measurement that was 0.7'. Two additional measurements were taken within 10 feet (0.8' & 0.7') and the depths were above 0.7' so 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 exposed with the runoff flowing over the RF.