

Rubicon Trail Site Assessment

May 26, 2017

Crew: Justin Williams, Vickie Sanders

Weather Conditions: The weather conditions for the Rubicon Trail were sunny and warm. The summary of weather conditions up to this day are as followed:

2017		22-May	23-May	24-May	25-May	26-May
SLT	Precip (in)	0	0	0	0	0
	Avg Temp (F)	56	59	56	51	49
R2	Snow Depth (in)	72	68	66	65	62
	Avg Temp (F)	51	55	57	54	49
LL	Precip (in)	0	0.01	0	0	0
	Low Temp(F)	49	45	43	38	34
	High Temp(F)	71	73	65	59	57
	Ave Temp(F)	58	61	55	50	46

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

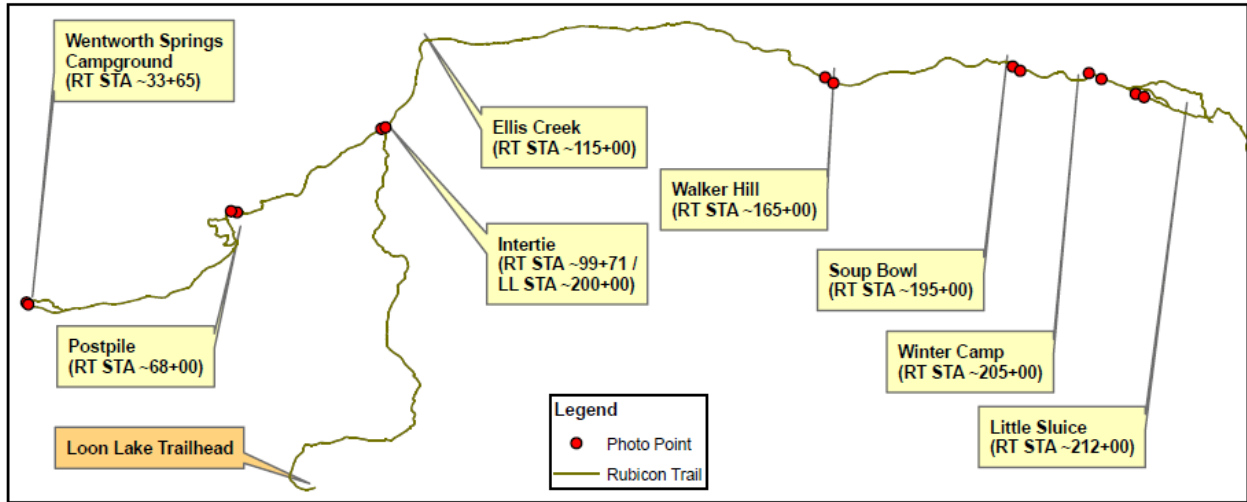
Trail Conditions / Observations: We entered the Rubicon Trail from the Loon Lake entrance. We traveled from Loon Lake to Wentworth Springs Campground. From Wentworth Springs Campground we traveled back to Little Sluice. There were no vehicles seen on the Trail over the course of the day. We were able to assess all seven locations. There were 2’-6’ snow drifts after Ellis Creek. 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. The trail is in great condition following a very heavy winter. The maintenance done in October and November really helped in moving the water off the trail. There were some large snow drifts after the FOTR Bridge but the trail is not holding large amounts of water. The BMP’s are working as designed and the water is moving off the trail. Based on the conditions the trail can be opened.

Report reviewed by U.S. Forest Service on June 6, 2017
 Reviewers: Richard Thornburgh, District Ranger, and Vincent Pacific, Hydrologist.

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Photo Monitoring:



Wentworth Springs Campground
RT Station 33+65.67

Water Depths: 0.0, 0.0 0.0'
Length and Width Measured: 30'x6'

Notes: There was no water in this area and snow was minimal.

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Post Pile
RT Station 75+00

Water Depths: 0.3', 0.3', 0.3'
Length and Width Measured: 30'x5'

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. Measurements were taken every 10' with no ponding water and areas were not connected.



Ellis Creek Intertie
RT Station 99+86.95

Water Depths: 0.05', 0.1', 0.15'
Length and Width Measured: 30'x6'

Notes: The Rock Lined Channel (RLC) was rebuilt last year and functions as designed. The Rock Energy Dissipator (RED) was visible and with little water flowing through it.

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Walker Hill
RT Station 170+80

Water Depths: 0.05', 0.1', 0.05'
Length and Width Measured: 30'x6'

Notes: The Rock Slope Protection (RSP) was not fully exposed on one side of the Trail. There was snow melt run-off flowing down the hardened surface of the Trail, which discharges into a Rock Energy Dissipator. Snow observed on the Trail approaching Walker Hill.

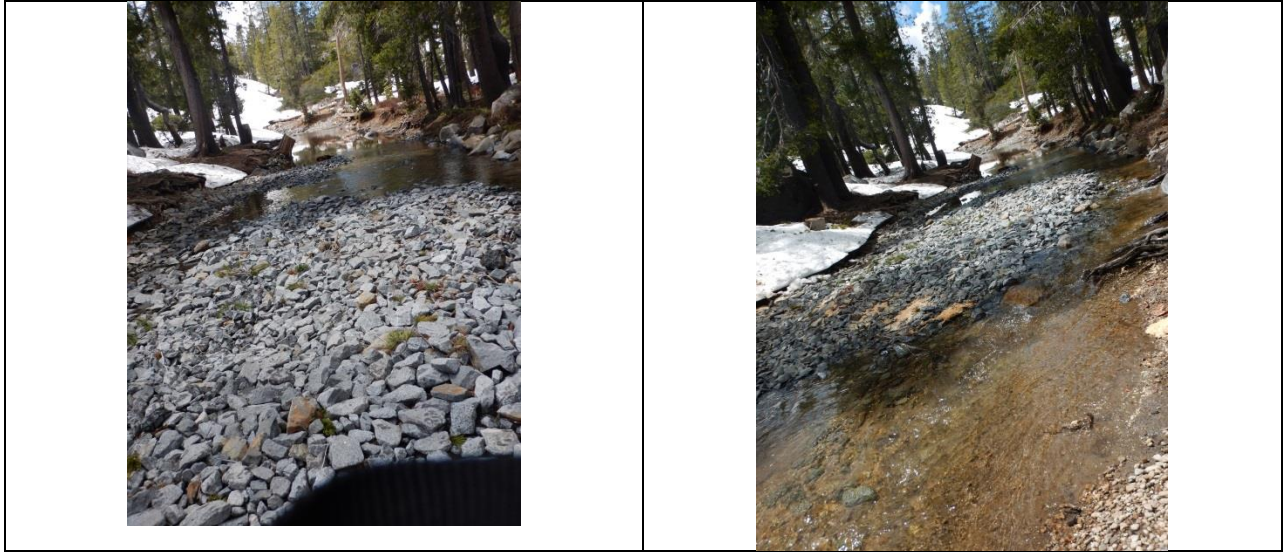


Soup Bowl
RT Station 198+40.84

Water Depth: 0.1', 0.2', 0.25'
Length and Width Measured: 30'x6'

Notes: The Rock Ditch Crossing (RDX) was blocked by two logs which prevented the area from draining. Prior to removing the blockage the measurements in this area were 0.2', 0.4, 0.3' (photo on left). After removal of blockage the area drained within 5 minutes to the water level measurements shown above (photo on right). The travel way is on the far right on this photo.

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Winter Camp
RT Station 209+58.39

Water Depth: 0.0', 0.0', 0.2'
Length and Width Measured: 30'x6'

The Rock Fill (RF) and drainage on the right side are working as designed. The rock fill is the location of where the measurements have been taken over the years. As you can see from the photos the rock was placed in the travel way with a drain on the right side. This was moving water from this area and draining. BMPs functioning as designed.



Little Sluice
RT 213+50.32

Water Depth: 0.15', 0.2', 0.3'
Length and Width Measured: 10'x6'

Large snowpack still exists in this area. The measurements taken were at a break in the snow.