

# Pacific Crest Trail Snow & Ford Report

Updated 1:12pm 5/23/17  
[www.pctwater.com](http://www.pctwater.com)

Send email updates to [water@pctwater.com](mailto:water@pctwater.com) or phone/text 619-734-7289 or 619-734-PCTW [voice mail/text only, no one will answer]. Water reports are compiled from email updates, posts to the PCT-L, on-line trail journals, and other on-the-ground reports. Mileages and waypoint names used in this water report are from Halfmile's PCT maps [www.pctmap.net]. Please send photos & videos of water sources, fires, passes, and stream creek crossings to our [Facebook page](#) called "PCT Water,Fire,Passes,Fords Update Group"

**PASSES : Camp high and start early to get up and over the pass before the snow gets slushy and post-holing occurs.**  
**FORDS : Cross high water level crossings early in the morning. It can be multiple feet higher later in the day.**

Map	Mile	Elevation	Location	Report	Date	Reported By
	178.0	8,619	South Ridge Trail	South Ridge trail from Idyllwild to PCT is passable without microspikes.	5/11/17	Numbers
			San Jacinto Peak	5/18/17 (Chris): Still snow on San Jacinto but no need for micro spikes. Snow primarily a navigational annoyance making it hard to stay on trail at times. 5/11/17 (Numbers):The portion of the trail southeast of summit is passable without microspikes. Poles become increasingly useful within approx. 0.5 mile radius of summit. On the portion of the trail west of the summit, the trail can be very difficult to find between approx. 0.5 mi and 1.4 mi east of PCT due to snow. Needed gps and poles on several occasions. Give yourself extra time to descend back to the pct from the summit.	5/18/17	Unknown
B9,10	~179-190	~8,000-9,000	Mt San Jacinto, Fuller Ridge	5/5/17 (Shades) : Fuller ridge was easily passable without any snow equipment. The snowpack ends at 187.5 apart from a few patches as of yesterday. We did need a gps to find the route off of the San Jacinto summit to the fuller ridge junction. ----- 5/4/17 (A-Team): Fuller Ride was no Problem at all. Nothing needed anymore. Just some small snow fields. We crossed Fuller Ridge at around 09:30am. ----- 4/30/17 (Hunter): Fuller Ridge is passable. Microspikes not necessary, but are helpful. Use caution as snow softens. I crossed early evening.	5/5/17	Shades
C13	313.6	WR0314	<b>**Deep Creek ford</b>	Running strong, was able to ford using a small log across the stream, otherwise thigh-deep in spots.	4/7/17	RockDoc, Woodrat, GalPal
D4	377.9	9,390	Mt Baden Powell	5/17/17 (Janos): trail lost at 9100 feet in a snowpack, but tracks were easy to follow. The trail reappears ca. 50 yds uphill. 2-3 snowpacks to cross on the ridge leading W of the peak, but nothing to worry about. No special equipment needed. ----- 5/4/17 (Todd) : No spikes no axe needed. Route finding was easy. Descended of the summit ridge in bare tread to rejoin PCT. ----- 4/24/17 (Aaron) : Microspikes and hiking poles a must, ice axe and crampons not needed. Recommend having Guthooks or route finding skills as the trail disappears from time to time. Ground was consistently covered in slushy snow starting at 8500 ft which is when the trail disappears for the most part. Lots of footprints going in various directions. Kicking steps rather than following others' footprints often made for better traction. Due to an injury, I also descended today with glissading being the easiest way down. Ice axe would have been nice but poles did the job in terms of controlling the short glissades. No need to take the alternate route. Brave the snow and enjoy the amazing view from the top!!	5/17/17	Janos
G??		8,500+		The snow level right now is about 8500 feet. At 10,000 feet + the PCT is entirely covered in snow. In terms of equipment; boots, crampons and mountaineering axe were my choice. I did see others with trail shoes and crampons. I think a whippet would be a good alternate - assuming good skills with that tool. Right now, the snow is consolidating (firm) and very easy to walk on for most of the day. My strategy has been to start early and stop when snow gets softer - mid afternoon this past few days. As spring progresses, snow will become softer earlier in the day. Snowshoes would help in soft afternoon snow, but my goal is 10 miles per day and this is no problem with an early start, so I'm not carrying snowshoes. Creeks are flowing but according to locals, the big run-off has yet to start. To this point, all creeks have been covered in snow - so no fording rivers.	5/20/17	John
5/19/17 (Dale & Scott) : <b>Horsheshow Meadows Road</b> road is <b>closed</b> about 12-13 miles down from Horseshoe Meadows, at the "de la cours ranch". The road is mostly clear -- only one rock blocking one lane near the top. Road crews are working on spillways and cleanup. It should be open soon I think. We have a report that the road will be open up to the second gate on Tuesday (May 23).						
4/20/17 (Scott) : <b>Horsheshow Meadows Road</b> down to Lone Pine is <b>closed</b> due to structural damage and rockslides. Anticipated opening in June/July but no exact date has been set yet. This will impact your plan to exit the trail at Mulkey Pass, Trail Pass, or Cottonwood Pass.						
G14	750.2	11,132	Cottonwood Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H1	766.3	10,371	Crabtree Meadow / Whitney Creek	Whitney Creek is open with 2-6 feet of snow on both sides. Cross at summer location. All north-facing descents to east-west creeks in this area have steep, trees descents. Know how to safely get down these without falling. South-facing ascents are showing more dirt, but a lot of the trail is still covered with 3-6 feet of snow at this time.	5/23/17	Ned Tibbits

H1B	767.0	13,612	Trail Crest** [6 mi E of PCT on trail to Mt Whitney]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H1	770.3	10,392	Wallace Creek Ford	The best place to cross Wallace Creek is at the summer crossing, but the south side still has 2-3 feet of snow at water's edge.	5/23/17	Ned Tibbits
<p><b>5/23/17 (Ned Tibbits)</b> : Though the thaw has not started with a vengeance (above freezing nights, 70 degree days), the snow in certain places, especially above timberline, is getting soupy and very postholey! Most notable are the miles from <b>Wright Creek</b>, over <b>Bighorn Plateau</b>, over <b>Forester Pass</b>, and down into the trees to <b>Vidette Meadow</b>. If traveling this area, plan to do it as early as possible in the day while the pack is still frozen from the night before. It is a common mode of operation to get up at 0300 to leave by 0500 to take advantage of hard morning snow. Next, since snowlines are so low right now, expect to not find much dry ground or trail much above 9,500, so when you start postholing, you might as well quit for the day. Over-snow travel is much more efficient between 0500 and 1200, depending on elevation and aspect. Remember, right now even 10 miles per day is fatiguing. Carry lots more food to keep your energy up. Lastly, not all creeks and lakes above 11,000 are reliably open for water access. There are still long stretches where you can't get water. Plan accordingly to avoid dehydration.</p>						
H1	771.0	10,700	Wright Creek Ford	Wright Creek is completely snow covered.	5/23/17	Ned Tibbits
H1	774.7	10,934	Tyndall Creek Ford [sometimes difficult]	Tyndall Creek still has intact snow bridges.	5/23/17	Ned Tibbits
H3	779.5	13,118	Forester Pass	<p><b>5/23/17 (Ned Tibbits)</b> : As of today, Forester Pass seems to have had about a dozen PCT thru hikers over it and one south-bound skier with a dog! With the little time I had, I cut half the trail across the ice chute beneath the cornice near the top of the Pass. The lower 2/3 of the south side is solid snow up to where switchbacks start showing. Make your own route to these, but be aware that the slope becomes very steep (25-30 degrees) requiring decent crampons to hold you to the morning snow surface.</p> <p><b>5/18/17 (John Colver)</b> : Forester Pass was covered in 10 - 15 inches of new snow. The switch back trail was easy to find. This trail is exposed. A slip from it would likely result in injury or worse. We kicked in a good trail which is straightforward for anyone skilled with ice axe/whippet and crampons. We also made a trail across the gully at top of route. The snow here was stable and for the 40 feet across the gully, just prior to the top of the pass, the primary hazard would be a slip and fall. The gully is about 800 feet high. Based on this, I was secure with crampons and axe but personally would not attempt without either (or a whippet). See PCT Water/Fire/Passes/Fords Facebook page for John's videos and photos of Forester Pass (south side approach) from mid May 2017.</p>	5/23/17	Ned Tibbits
H3	784.0	10,536	Bubbs Creek Ford	Bubbs Creek at PCT elevations still has 6-14 feet of snow along its banks, even down to Vidette Meadows. Much of this Creek is open below Center Basin Creek. All creeks are flowing fast, but not at Thaw stages yet.	5/23/17	Ned Tibbits
H4	788.9	11,790	Kearsarge Pass** [2.9 mi E of PCT on trail to Onion Valley/Independence, CA]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H5	791.0	11,946	Glen Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H7	807.1	12,142	Pinchot Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H8	811.4	10,040	S Fork Kings River Ford [sometimes difficult]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H9	816.9	12,096	Mather Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H12	838.6	11,974	Muir Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H14	850.9	9,201	Evolution Creek Ford [sometimes difficult, alternate ford crosses Evolution Creek near mi 850.1]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H16	865.6	10,910	Selden Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H17	869.2	9,574	Bear Creek Ford [sometimes difficult]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H17	870.4	9,345	Hilgard Branch Ford	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H18	879.4	7,972	N Fork Mono Creek Ford	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H19	884.9	10,704	Silver Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H25	924.6	10,227	Island Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H25	926.9	10,069	Rush Creek Ford	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H25	929.5	11,073	Donohue Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H25	931.2	10,186	Lyell Fork Ford	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
I3	956.2	8,531	Ford a Creek	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
I4	962-67	~9,400	Ford several Creeks	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
I4	966.4	10,125	Bensen Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
I4	972-973	~8,000	Ford several Creeks	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
	979.8		Kerrick Creek [sometimes difficult]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
I8	997.0	9,531	Doroth Lake Pass N boundary Yosemite NP	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
I10	1016.9	9,655	Sonora Pass [Hwy 108]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
J8	1076.7	8,590	Carson Pass [Hwy 88]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
K2	1105.7	9,377	Dicks Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
K5	1124.8	7,658	Barker Pass [RD1125]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
K9	1153.4	7,114	Donner Pass [Hwy40, Hwy80, Truckee area]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap

Washington						
	2254-87	~6,000-7,000	Goat Rocks Wilderness	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
H20	2292.4	4,409	White Pass [Hwy 12]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
I4	2321.0	5,434	Chinook Pass [Hwy 410]	Lots and lots of snow. I started seeing snow along the side of the road about 1 1/2 miles before Cayuse Pass (west side). The road was bare to Cayuse Pass. They changed their estimate on having the Pass open from Memorial Day weekend to some time later. It looked like a crew had reached the rest stop on the east side. The buildings there are still covered in snow. I think I saw the exhaust vents, but I didn't get close. The PCT trail bridge across the highway at the park entrance was mostly bare. The snow on the road below almost touched the bottom of the bridge.	5/19/17	Jim
I13	2380.9	3,582	Yakima Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
J5	2438.7	3,806	Potentially difficult Ford	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
J6	2445.7	5,933	Piper Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
K16	2461.6	4,053	Stevens Pass [Hwy 2]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
K16	2588.9	4,855	Rainy Pass [Hwy 20]	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L1	2593.9	6,837	Cutthroat Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L1	2596.3	6,263	Granite Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L2	2599.3	6,593	Methow Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L3	2609.7	5,581	Glacier Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L4	2619.5	6,188	Harts Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L5	2623.8	6,557	Buffalo Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L5	2624.7	6,273	Windy Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L5	2626.9	6,182	Foggy Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L5	2627.6	6,265	Jim Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L6	2633.0	5,066	Holman Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L6	2636.5	6,502	Rock Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L7	2639.1	6,651	Woody Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L7	2644.0	6,140	Hopkins Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap
L8	2646.4	5,460	Castel Pass	No updates sent in yet, send us updates & photos!	3/30/17	DoubleTap

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