

Pacific Crest Trail Water Report -- Part Two: Idyllwild to Agua Dulce

Updated 6:49am 5/22/17

Idyllwild, CA to Acton, CA

www.pctwater.com

Never rely on water caches!!! With the increase in the number of hikers, it's virtually impossible for anyone to maintain a cache that always has enough water (for more info visit <http://www.pcta.org/2015/problem-water-caches-pct-27677/>). Also, to reduce the impact at popular camping sites that offer natural water sources please consider dry camping (for more info visit <http://www.pcta.org/2015/dry-camping-away-from-water-30263/>).

Send email updates to 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, **Poodle Dog Bush**, and stream creek crossings to our **Facebook page** called "**PCT Water,Fire,Passes,Fords Update Group**"

Beware of contaminated water. Things that could make you sick are too small to see. You don't know if a dead carcass was just removed from that tank/spring/creek or what's hidden upstream. Purify backcountry water. Close lids on springs and tanks to protect water quality.

Take fire safety seriously. Generally, there will be strong fire restrictions in place this summer. Campfires might be banned. Alcohol stoves and smoking may also be banned. Make do without and use extreme caution if allowed. Rules change as you cross agency boundaries. Don't be the one that destroys the trail. Alcohol stoves start fires – go stoveless or carry a stove with a contained fuel source and a shut-off valve.

Water sources with blue text [marked with * or **] have historically been more reliable. Sources marked with ** are more likely to have water year-round than those marked with a single *. Water described as seasonal, usually dry, early spring, etc. are less reliable.

Map	Mile	Waypoint	Location	Report	Date	Reported By
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CA Section B: Warner Springs to Highway 10 continued...

The Idyllwild Public Library [951-659-2300] prints free copies of the Water Report for hikers. The library is located near the center of town in Strawberry Creek Plaza with the Post Office, grocery store, pharmacy, natural food store, & Pizza Co. Library hours are Mo 10-6, Tu 12-8, We 10-6, Th 12-5, Fr 12-5, Sa 10-4, Su closed. The library also has computers, wi-fi, paperback books.

B9	179.4	SaddleJct	Idyllwild 4.5 mi W of Saddle Junction	5/13/17 (Michael): Water at approximately 1 mile up from Humber Park and 1.5 miles up. 1.5 mile steam was the best, with a pool above the trail. 2/5 on reliability/flow 4/17/17 (Pika & Paw Patrol): Devil's Slide Trail water: 1.57, 1.28, 1.14, .82 (This the mile is in order starting from Humber Park leaving Idyllwild)	5/13/2017	Michael
B9	181.2	WA0181	<i>*Wellmans Cienaga [7/10 mi N of PCT on trail to Wellmans Divide]</i>	Good flow	5/11/17	Squarepants

Snow report, San Jacinto Peak trail:

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.

B9	182.1	WR182	Strawberry Cienaga	Small stream, maybe an inch deep	5/13/2017	Michael
B9	183.3	CS183B	Marion Creek [200 yds E of Strawberry Jct Camp]			
	183.8		Spring			
B9	184.1	WR184	Stone Creek	Perhaps a couple inches deep. In addition to the marked streams there are also several other streams crossing the trail between here and mile 186	5/13/17	Michael
B9	185.6	WR186	Deer Springs, N Fork San Jacinto River	The snow is now off the trail, so isn't tricky to cross any more, very strong flow.	5/13/17	Michael
B9	186.2	WR186B	<i>**Tributary of N. Fork San Jacinto River [best water in this area]</i>	Strong flow	5/13/17	Michael

WR186B is usually the best water in this area and often is the last reliable water northbound until WR206! The descent off San Jacinto can be very hot and dry. Carry extra water!

B9	186.4	WR186C	Tributary of N. Fork San Jac River	Flowing like a river	5/11/17	Numbers
	~197+	Fuller Ridge	Approximately mile 197 - 190.5	5/14/17 (Michael): There are only a few patches of snow left, perhaps 20 feet in length at the longest. ----- 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.	5/14/17	Michael
B10	190.5	FullerRidgeTH	Fuller Ridge Trailhead [150yds L, seasonal, often dry]			

Just when PCT meets dirt parking area, go left past yellow post & 3 brown posts 150 yds down side trail to meadow with tiny pools in stream bed. Continue down Springbox canyon 1/8 mile on "use trail" to old group camp year-round spring.

Hiker Reports from the Black Mountain Road Alternate

12.0ish- trickle across the dirt road, could use if desperate

12.8 - Poses Spring Water faucet is on (as of 5/1/17 per Hunter)

B10	190.7		BlackMtnCamp [Seasonal, 1.3 mi SW on Rd 4S01]	Dry	4/4/2016	Sneaaky Elf
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This is the signed group camp, not the numerous other yellow post campsites. Bathrooms are locked and spigots are turned off year-round.

B10	193.9	WRCS194	W Fork Snow Creek [Seasonal]	Flowing well, hikers have marked path to water clearly	5/18/17	Unknown Hiker
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The unmarked seasonal West Fork of Snow Creek is 1/10 mile S of the PCT on an unmarked use trail just before a small gap. You know you've gone too far when you pass thru the gap & very shortly enter the burn area - the character of the landscape changes abruptly. Just as the trail is curving left to enter the gap, turn right and walk cross-country down the slope through fairly open living (not burned) pine forest. A very short distance from the trail you'll drop into a small dry ravine. Go up the embankment on the other side to an old road bed. Turn left and follow the road another short distance down to the bottom of the drainage - you'll leave the road as it bears left. There will be a clearing on the right and a stream in the woods straight ahead. Total duration off the PCT just a few minutes. The creek drains a portion of N slope of Fuller Ridge. Lots of camping in the vicinity. The topography between the trail and the stream is very mellow. If you find yourself in very steep/sketchy terrain, you're in the wrong area. Return to PCT the same way. Do NOT go downstream as terrain gets VERY dangerous.) (Weathercarrot 5/2012)

B11	205.7	WR206	<i>**Snow Canyon Rd [Desert Water Agency faucet]</i>	Faucet is working great.	5/14/17	Michael
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The Desert Water Agency faucet is under video surveillance.						
B11	207	RD207	Snow Creek community, 15881 Falls Creek Rd	Tracker and Lance offer water, shade, citrus, & charging station. From trail road turn left onto Falls Creek, third house on right. Please respect privacy of neighbors.	5/14/17	Michael
B11	209.5	Hwy10	Cabazon [small town 4.5 mi W]			
California Section C: Highway 10 to Highway 15 near Cajon Pass						
C1	210.8	ZiggyBear	Whitewater Hiker House	Ziggy and the Bear is permanently closed to hikers and they will not be operating in 2017.	12/30/16	Puppy
C1	~211.2		Cottonwood Crk [almost always dry]	Dry	5/15/17	Numbers
C1	213.4	WR213	Mesa Wind Farm	5/1/17 (Shutterbug): The wind farm offered not only water but trail magic. The manager says they are committed to maintaining the water here, and check the outdoor cache daily to make sure it's reliable. If they're in the office, they'll happily hand you bottles of cold water from the fridge and let you sit in their air conditioning. They have hundreds of liters of bottled water in the office, clearly for hikers. The cache outside looks small because they fill it from the office all the time. ----- 4/15/17 (Sprout & Feather): Mesa Wind Farm has a couple packs of water bottles and shade to sit under. We were told if the office person is in they will fill bottle from cool tap inside. Do not rely on this location.	5/1/17	Shutterbug
Sometimes there is water available at the Mesa Wind Farm but don't rely on it. Sign posted on trail indicating shade & water available and a friendly "Stop by and say Hi". 100 yds E, then 80 yds N. Office open M-F 6-2. Large (~1.5 inches) hose and valve by fence. Water is from tank (not ugly pond). Close valve tightly. Hiker Friendly.						
C2	218.6	WRCS219	**Whitewater Preserve	Faucets are ON and PCT hikers welcome to camp again.	4/27/17	Andy & Kate
Former trout farm now owned by Wildlands Conservancy. Ranger Jack [760-325-7222] welcomes all PCT hikers from the trail. They have shade, water, toilets, and overnight camping for PCT hikers ONLY. They do NOT have showers or package dropoffs. Ranger Station open 8 AM - 5 PM daily. Had a phone that was possible to use.						
C1	218.6		Old jeep road near Whitewater Creek	Flowing strong	5/8/17	Janos
C2	220.4	WR220	*Whitewater Creek [Fill up at the 1st water crossing about 200 yards W of Halfmile WR220 waypoint].	5/9/17 (Janos): Whitewater creek has two branches. The one we cross first NoBo, the western branch has a strong flow. The Eastern branch, just about 200 yards further is dry. This is important since this dry place is marked as WR220 on Halfmile's map. ----- 5/1/17 (Honeybee & Matt): Good Flow ----- 4/25/17 (Easy): This water is actually two channels but by my estimation is actually at 220.1. The maps appear to show water on the east side of the canyon but there is none after the two channels. Plenty of water there but don't expect to find any more before the climb out.	5/9/17	Janos
C2	226.3	WRCS226	**Mission Creek crossing	Flowing very well	5/13/17	Pano
C3	227.2	WR227	Mission Creek Crossing	Flowing very well	5/13/17	Pano
C3	228	WR228	Stream	Flowing very well	5/13/17	Pano
C3	229.5	WRCS229	**Mission Creek	Flowing very well	5/13/17	Pano
C3	231.4	WRCS231	**Mission Creek	Flowing very well	5/13/17	Pano
C3	232.2	WRCS232	**Mission Creek	Flowing very well	5/13/17	Pano
C3	232.9	WR233	**Mission Creek Crossing	Flowing very well	5/13/17	Pano
LAKE FIRE CLOSURE UPDATE http://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-condition/lake-fire-closure/ 9/10/16 : The PCT is open again for all users through the Lake Fire closure. However, camping is not allowed in the burn area and travel must be done in a day. Please do not leave the PCT as other trails and areas remain closed. Approximately four miles of PCT are within the burn perimeter. While the trail is open, this was a very intense burn in places and you should be careful. Hazards in recent burn areas may include: loose soils, rocks and trail tread, burned stump holes, hazard trees, unstable terrain and flash flooding and debris flows. Again, no camping is allowed in the burn area at this time. There has been some confusion about the status of the closure but the information above is correct and San Bernardino National Forest is working on clarifying the matter. 4/27/17 per Pika & Paw Patrol: Info on the Lake Fire closure doesn't specify which miles don't allow camping, which was a little nerve-racking for some I know -- I'd say no camping from 236-241 to be safe.						
4/20/17 per Brian: absolutely saw 5-6 true Poodle Dog Bush very close to the trail, some needing to be maneuvered around, starting at about mile 235.						
C4	235.4	WRCS235	*Mission Creek, creekside camp	Flowing well, but shallow.	5/15/17	Numbers
4/12/17 (Dalem) : watch out for bee hive in oak tree on right of trail at Mile 237.76.						
Beware of poodle dog bush and many downed trees from Mission Creek to Onyx Summit (per Robodoc 4/12/14).						
C4	238.6	WR239	Forested flats junction	Good flow	5/15/17	Numbers
C4	239.9	WR240	**Mission Spring Trail Camp	Good flow	5/14/17	Pano
When trail reaches dirt road, turn left SE thru 4x4 wood railing at end of road, then 60 yds up closed road to table. Then turn left E and walk 110 yards past horse corral. At end of corral turn right & follow path 100 yds to water in a gully, dripping off root into blue bucket. [Spigots at corral are capped off, but there may be a very slow gravity flow from a hose there.] Another possible source: at wood railing at end of road, turn 90 degrees right SSW up hill, then W 75 yds from road to concrete horse trough marked "USFS"						
C5	250.19		Water Pump on Rainbow Lane	5/16/17 (Numbers): Spigot is on, plenty of water. ----- See note below. Some hikers are having difficulty finding this water pump. If anyone has better directions from the PCT please let us know.	5/16/17	Numbers
Gene Collins (new manager of the Cienega Creek Ranch) and a former thru-hiker PCT '03 (aka The Good Woods Gnome) has installed a water pump that is available to PCT hikers on their property. At 250.19 on the Halfmile App, turn right (NOBO) / left (SOBO) at dirt road junction, then take the right fork (Rainbow Lane on the Guthook Maps). Travel uphill and at 0.20 miles pass paved driveway on right continue on and then seeing Kopitch Cottage wooden sign on right (mile 0.28), continue on Rainbow Lane approx 75 feet. Find the two ponderosa pine trees on the left, 8 feet off the road. They are spaced 8 feet apart from each other. Line up and look between the trees and the red handled spigot is 40 feet down the gully, half way between the road and the boulder patch further below the gully. Faucet at 34°10'18" N 116°42'31" W, UTM coords (wgs 84 to match Halfmile maps): 11S 0526865 / 3781224						
C5	252.1	WR252	Onyx Summit Cache	Cache no longer maintained.	3/14/15	Coastal
LAKE FIRE CLOSURE UPDATE See note below Mile 232.9 (WR233).						

C5	256.1	WR256	Arrastre Trail Camp at Deer Spring [faucet]	stream past the spigot is still flowing	5/16/17	Numbers
This faucet is probaly unreliable and only works intermitantly. We have recieved a number of conflicting reports from hikers about this location. Faucet in camp labeled non-potable, for horses only. Trail crosses creek-bed several times for ~mile before camp & several miles after.						
C6	256.6	WR256B	**Spring N of Arrastre Trail Camp	flowing at a few liters per minute, scoop would be useful	5/16/17	Numbers
C5	257.8	WR258	Creek crossing N of Arrastre Camp	stream crosses road, good flow but shallow	5/16/17	Numbers
C5	258.5	WRCS258	Creek crossing N of Arrastre Camp	good flow	5/17/17	Numbers
C7	268.5	WR268	**Doble Trail Camp	There are two faucets. The one close to the pit toilet and picnic table is barely dripping. The one at the horse corral (30 yds South) works fine.	5/11/17	Janos
C7	272.7		2nd jeep rd [Saragossa Spr 0.67 mi N]	Dry	5/31/16	Maria
	274.96			Stream with water about 100 ft. Downhill	4/16/17	Dalem
C7	274.9	WRCS0275	Caribou Crk at Van Dusen Cyn Rd	Flowing at 2 to 3 liters per minute. A scoop is useful here	5/19/17	Numbers
C9	281.1		Delamar Spring [Rd 3N12, 0.9 mi W]			
C9	285.6	CS286	Little Bear Springs Trail Camp	Spigot is off, Holcomb Creek flowing nearby	4/16/17	Dalem
Faucet is slightly uphill & to left from new picnic table						
C9	285.7	WR286	Holcomb Creek	there are several access points for Holcomb creek, the rate of flow increases as the creek nears the trailhead at mile 285.9. Plenty of water.	5/20/17	Numbers
C9	286.7	WRCS0287	Side Creek	Dry	5/20/17	Numbers
	287.1		Holcomb Creek	plenty of water. Creek is 10+ feet across in places.	5/20/17	Numbers
	287.5		Holcomb Creek	good flow, access is inconvenient compar with earlier points.	5/20/17	Numbers
C10	292.13	WR292B	Creek	Good flow	5/20/17	Numbers
C10	292.4	WRCS292	*Holcomb Creek at Crab Flats Rd.	Good flow	5/20/17	Numbers
C10	293.24	CS293	Campsite, seasonal creek	Running strong	4/16/17	Dalem
C10	293.7	WR294	**Holcolmb Creek at Hawes Ranch Trail	Good flow	5/7/17	Professor Oak
C10	294.6	BenchCamp	**Holcomb Crossing [Trail Camp]	Good flow	5/20/17	Numbers
	295.3		Seasonal Stream	flowing at approx 1 lpm	5/20/17	Numbers
	295.87	WR296	Piped Spring	pools of stagnant water, flow is less than 1 lpm, too many bugs.	5/20/17	Numbers
C11	298.5	WR299	**Deep Creek Bridge	Good flow	5/21/17	Numbers
	301.3	RD0301	Unpaved road to Deep Creek day use area. Access to Deep Creek.	Running strong	2/25/17	JimmyJam
	305.96		Willow Creek	Deep, cool, clear running water at over a gallon a minute	5/21/17	GoalTech
C12	308	WR0308	**Deep Creek Hot Spring [Use water upstream from bathers]	Good flow	5/8/17	Professor Oak
Per http://www.fs.usda.gov/rea/recarea/sbnf/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=34152&actid=50 The Hot Springs pools of Deep Creek contain a rare and sometimes fatal disease called primary amoebic meningoencephalitis. The disease is apparently contained in contaminated soil and transmitted to the Hot Springs pools as the warm water flows through and over the soil. It is advisable not to submerge your head. Due to the large number of visitors to the Hot Springs, human and organic pollution are increasing in the Deep Creek drainage. The highest Fecal Coliform counts are found in the Hot Springs area.						
	309.3	WR0309	Small Creek (Watch out for poison oak)	Running 2L/min but pretty deep semi-stagnant pools of water.	5/21/17	GoalTech
C13	313.6	WR0314	**Deep Creek ford	1-3 feet deep and 15' wide. I'd recommend the next passing of the creek about a half mile north for swifter cleaner looking water.	5/21/17	GoalTech
C13	~314		W Fork Mojave River	running strong; Some very shallow spots, calf-deep to thigh-deep. ----- 11/4/16 (Linda) : A band of malicious deviant beavers have created multiple beaver dams here. Due to that nice cascade of beaver ponds, the willow thickets have had a summer growth orgy on both sides. You can battle the willow thickets, deeper beaver ponds, and insects. Trail can be hard to find due to the willow thickets. Bring a bug head net and politely reprimand the malcontent semiaquatic rodents if you see them building more dams.	4/7/17	RockDoc, Woodrat, GalPal
C13	315.8			Flowing at 4L/Min can catch off a cascading rock.	5/21/17	GoalTech
C13	316.2	WR316	Trailside spring in canyon [seasonal]	Water is flowing about 1 L per minute, it's clearer upstream 50 yards if you're willing to brave the poison oak. Water was flowing better and cleaner 2/10 mile before at a creek crossing.	4/25/17	Guate
C13	317.4	WR317	Piped spring before Grass Valley Creek	Flowing at 1L/min. Kinda sketchy looking. Must dip carefully to collect. Next water in a mile is heaven compared to this.	5/21/17	GoalTech
To find the piped spring, look for a big clump of long green grass 6 feet to the north side of the trail. Look for black tube and wooden arrow with "H2O" on it. If you are hiking northbound, there is a sandy campsite down below the trail immediately before the spring. If you reach the signed connector trail to the Mojave River Campground at mile 317.6, you have missed it.						
	317.97			Stream flowing strong	4/18/17	Dalem
C13	318	WRCS0318	Grass Valley Creek	flowing well nice and clean	5/13/17	Josh
At the power line around mile 318 - 318.5: Beware of target shooting from N side just off Hwy 173 toward the trail. Not sure if this is a regular issue or not, but was on 10/10/12 per Steve. Scrub reported the same issue with target shooters on 5/25/13.						
	319.3			Tiny trickle at 1L per minute. Cascades off a rock below trail.	5/20/17	GoalTech
	320.12			Steady trickle. Not as easy to collect from but will work. Not easy to dip.	5/20/17	GoalTech
C13	320.3		Summit Valley Store closed indefinitely		-	-

C13	323.6	WR324	Cedar Springs Dam Outlet [pools below dam at PCT]	the water under the bridge is flowing well but the land is quite marshy ---- WR324 is usually the nastiest water. Filter it 1,456 times before drinking it.	5/13/17	Josh
C14	325.4	WR0325	Trail side beach on the lake	the lake contains some trash and silt, and there are many power boaters here	5/13/17	Josh
TOWER FIRE UPDATE (5.3.17)						
Inciweb : https://inciweb.nwcc.gov/incident/5170/ --> Fire is 100% contained, PCT is open.						
C14	328.7	WR329	**Cleghorn Picnic Area <i>[two-lane bike path, 0.5 mi E]</i>	Water spigot on	5/5/17	Kate & Andy
	329.78			flowing strong	3/30/17	JimmyJam
C14	333.1	WR333	Small stream	Flowing 2 liters per minute. Cascading to catch in a bag or deep pools to dip from.	5/20/17	GoalTech, Shermin
Watch for poison oak at WR333.						
C15	335.6		Little Horsethief Canyon [dry creek]	Creek dry at trail crossing but usable flow about 200 yds downstream	4/19/17	Dalem
C15	341	WR341	Crowder Canyon	Moderate flow	4/30/17	Pebble
C15	342	Hwy15	**Interstate 15 in Cajon Canyon [4/10 mi NW, McDonalds, Mini Mart]	Water at McDonalds	4/19/17	Dalem
California Section D: Interstate 15 near Cajon Pass to Agua Dulce						
D1	347.2	RD0347	Swarthout Canyon Road	A water cache is sometimes stocked at this location, but it's been reported dry several times this year (2017).		
D1	347.7	WR348	Bike Spring [block trough just below trail, usually dry]	Dry	3/23/16	Teatime
Per Daddie Gizmo on 4/14/17: One particular note about Miles 350 through 354. The recent fire has created a lot of soot on the ground. The trail makes an artificial bench along the hillside and with a little bit of rain, it washes right down into a gully in the middle of the bench which is where we all walk. Please advise to not walk directly behind someone in these very sooty areas as you will be breathing in a heavy carcinogen. Also be aware that many areas the trail are totally covered with the decomposing granite tailings from above and very difficult to traverse some areas safely. From about Guffy springs into Inspiration point there is still a lot of snow and ice on the north and shaded sides of the trail.						
D3	363.5	AcornTr	Wrightwood [Acorn Cyn Tr, 4.5 mi N or hitch from Hwy 2 @ mile 369.48]	Acorn Trail down to Wrightwood is safe	4/22/16	Widowmaker
D3	364.3	WR365, GuffyCG	*Guffy Campground Spring <i>[Spring ~1/10 mile N of the PCT, follow use trail about 1/10 mile before campground]</i>	5/21/17(Flash): The trough was full. Flow from pipe around 1L in 8 mins. The water was cool and clear, and we could fill up 5L from the trough with ease. 5/20/17 (Pano): Flowing at 1 liter every 6.5 minutes 5/20/17 (Shakedown): Basin was full but barely flowing from the pipe. Water in the basin was muddy and needs to be prefiltered. 5/19/17 (Picnic): I didn't go down to Guffy Springs at around mile 364 but someone said it is taking about 8 minutes to collect one liter. Best to carry some extra water out of Cajon Pass just in case.	5/21/17	Flash
Please send frequent updates about Guffy Spring. We want to monitor this critical water source closely. Thanks, Halfmile.						
Guffy Campground water is ~825 ft / 275 yards N DOWN STEEP slope to old red pump house in Flume Cyn. The spring is not in the old pump house, but is about ten feet below that and consists of a 1 inch pipe coming from the spring. Take wide use trail at rock cairn on the right (N) below guard rail just before PCT enters the campgrd ~50 yds E of the water tank. Spring UTM 0439545, 3800530 elev. 7724.						
	369		Wrightwood	Community Center (0.2mi from hardware store) has public restrooms with running water if you just want to tank up on your way out.	6/13/15	Two Wars
D4	370.4	WR370	*Grassy Hollow Visitor Center	Water and a spigot on at Grassy Hollow visitor center. There's also an electrical outlet by the meter on the side of the building ---- 4/12/17 per RockDoc, GapPal, Woodrat: Spigot near trail is on. Treat the water...it is cloudy and has a strange taste.	4/14/17	Daddie Gizmo
D4	371.6		Jackson Flat Group Campgrd [spur road]	Spigot is on	5/10/17	Cosimo
OPTIONAL High Desert/Manzanita Trail Alternate, 5.8 miles long, connects Vincent Gap to the South Fork Campground at mile 5.3 on the official Endangered Species Detour, Halfmile map D4A. A useful and pleasant route to avoid the climb/descent of Mt Baden-Powell. (All per Andrew) Mile 1.4 - Good flow from small stream flowing across the trail (4/12/17 per RockDoc, GalPal, Woodrat) Mile 2.8 - Dorr Canyon Creek - strong flow (4/12/17 per RockDoc, GalPal, Woodrat) Mile 3.7 - Creek, dry, though I could hear water running up hill and off trail -- 4/10/15 per Haiku Mile 5.8 - South Fork Campground - The stream at the south fork campground on the manzanita trail/endangered species detour is flowing well. --- 5/13/17 per Scott						
D4	375.9	WR376	Lamel Spring [150 yards S pf PCT]	Good flow, but shallow trench, need a dip cup.	5/12/17	Professor Oak
	377.9	MtBadenPowell	Mount Baden Powell [0.14 miles S of PCT, 9,390 feet]	See next line below		

Mount Baden Powell hiker reports:

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!!

4/19 (Freebird): This is a nice, shorter, alternate alpine option instead of the 'High Desert' Manzanita Trail route: On Map D5:

(1) Walk up Angeles Crest Highway from Vincent Gap (west) up to its highest point (7,900') @ Dawsen Saddle. This is approximately 3.5 miles (don't have the actual mileage). There are at least two streams crossed along the highway.

(2) Take the Dawsen Saddle Trail (100' before the actual Pass on left side of road marked with a large sign dedicated to the Boy Scouts who built the trail) up the ridge to the summit of Throop Peak (~2 miles?). When the trail veered off the ridgeline to the east and became snow-bound, I simply walked straight up the ridge (easy, gravel footing, no bush-wacking) to the summit. This route was completely snow free on April 19th this year, whereas Baden Powell was treacherous. From the Throop Peak summit (which has a plaque dedicated to Throop, who founded Cal Tech University), hikers could either backtrack 2 miles to the summit of Baden-Powell or just keep heading 'north' on the PCT (which is about 100' vertical down the southeast side of, the Peak - the easiest route being more or less due south, just off the ridgeline.

(3) Any additional tricky snow traverses heading north on the PCT can be avoided by walking directly along the summit ridge - heading towards Little Jimmy CG.

4/19/17 (Ghost) : Snow level about 7500 feet. approx 1.5 miles from bottom of trail. Full snow (no bare trail visible) after about 8500. The surface is starting to suncup, which made for good foot placements. The slope will be icy early. I hit 8500 feet at 11 am and The snow was softening to provide more traction. The fastest/most effecient route above 8500 is directly up to the summit. I used Micro spikes and poles. I would not recommend going without spikes or crampons. From Summit going west, the PCT follows the ridge line. Snow was in good condition for walking and there was ample bare ridge which was easy to walk on. Towards the end of the ridge it's necessary to traverse on 25 - degree north slopes, but the afternoon sun facilitated good step kicking. The middle of day is best time for travel, due to softer snow conditions, I'd avoid early morning or end of day. Navigation skills a prerequisite, as trail is not visible about 8500 feet. Crampons would be first choice over microspikes."

D5	384	WR384	**Little Jimmy Spring	Great flow from pipe with very clear water	5/13/17	Professor Oak
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Endangered Species Closure - In order to protect the mountain yellow-legged frog, the PCT is closed between Eagles Roost (390.2) and Burkhart Trail (393.8). Instead of a dangerous road walk, the following detour is in place:

From Islip Saddle leave PCT and go N on the South Fork Tr 4.8 miles to South Fork Campgrd, then W on High Desert Natl Rec Trail & then the Burkhart Tr back to PCT, a total detour of 18.2 miles. Angeles National Forest. Closure order thru 12/31/11. See Halfmile's detour maps.

Detour Mile 0.9 -- Creek -- Dry -- 9/11/16 (Rustic)
 Detour Mile 1.1 -- Reed Spring: good flow -- 5/17/17 (Hunter)
 Detour Mile 5 -- South Fork of Big Rock Creek near campground -- Dry -- 9/11/16 (Rustic)
 Detour Mile 5.3 -- South Fork Campground -- stream has crazy good flow -- 4/27/17 (Pineapple)
 Detour Mile 5.5 -- Big Rock Creek -- good flow -- 5/17/17 (Hunter)
 Detour Mile 7.7 -- Holcomb Canyon -- good flow -- 5/18/17 (Hunter)
 Detour Mile 10.5 -- Punchbowl Canyon Creek -- good flow -- 5/18/17 (Hunter)
 Detour Mile 10.8 -- Devils Punchbowl County Park (0.8 mile off detour, worth seeing) - A sign said that the drinking fountains were out of order. Only water is from visitor center -- when it's open. No hours posted. 5/19/13 per Hikin' Jim.
 Detour Mile 13.6 -- Cruthers Creek -- good flow -- 5/18/17 (Hunter) -- Don't forget to fill up here or at Punchbowl, the next climb is long and dry! (Teatime 2016)
 Detour Mile 19 -- Tributary of Little Rock Creek -- good flow -- 5/18/17 (Hunter)

D7	391.8		Little Rock Creek	within endangered species closure area	-	-
D7	~392.5		Rattlesnake Spring	within endangered species closure area	-	-

	~393		Buckhorn campground	Spigots off	5/9/17	Andy & Kate
D6	394	BurkhartTr	L.RockCrk past Burkhart Tr	Running Strong	4/14/17	RockDoc, GalPal, Woodrat
D6	394.3	BurkhartTr2	*Cooper Creek at Burkhart Trail	Running Strong	4/14/17	RockDoc, GalPal, Woodrat
D6	394.3	WR394	*Seasonal Spring on Burkhart Trail [7/10 mile S of PCT on the old endangered species detour]	Very good flow, clean water	5/10/17	Honeybee & Django
D6	395.5	WR396	*Cooper Canyon Trail Campground	Stream is a trickle. Better flow downstream (before you get to the Campground)	4/24/17	Dalem

Turn left (south) from the PCT and enter the camp area. Water will be on your left down in creek bed. There's an outhouse here, too.

D6	397.5	WR398	Headwaters of Cooper Canyon	Good flow before where the trail crosses the stream (mile 397.2)	4/24/17	Dalem
D6	399.8		Seasonal Stream	Good flow	5/13/17	Professor Oak
D7	400.9	WR401	Camp Glenwood	Spigots on	5/15/17	John R
D7	401.4	RD0401B	PCT joins an abandoned roadbed	Mile 401.16, small steam good flow	4/25/17	Dalem
D7	401.77		Spring box & pipe.	Could not find any available water at the cement boxes	5/10/17	Kevin

There are four "water boxes" about 100 yards apart. May have to get creative to collect.

D7	403.5	Hwy2i	Three Points Trailhead	Dry	6/14/16	Maria
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There isn't any water available at this trailhead (there used to be a spigot here, but it's no longer in service)

Poode Dog Bush updated by Skittles on 5/10/17: Even in 2017 poode dog is present from mile 403-440. Watch for bushes growing on the side of the trail, but they are easy to avoid while staying on trail. About 435.5 the poison oak starts through mile 444. Growing right on the side of the trail, could hit it if not paying attention, but easily avoidable without leaving trail.

	406.48		Small pool of water	Good flow into pool, getting scummy downstream.	5/14/17	Professor Oak
	407.1	WR407	Sulphur Springs Camp	Flowing, but you need a pot to scoop.	5/11/17	Honeybee & Django
D7	~407.5		Stream n/o Sulphur Springs Camp [seasonal]			
D7	410.4	WR410	Fiddleneck Spring	Dry	4/14/17	RockDoc, GalPal, Woodrat
D7	411.2	WR411	*Fountainhead Spring	Small flow, you need a pot.	5/11/17	Honeybee & Django
	417.79		Small trickle	Dry	7/12/16	Rustic

D8	418.8	WR419	**Mill Creek Summit Fire Station	Water spigot flowing at day use area is turned on, restroom unlocked, PCT register is there also.	5/12/17	Honeybee & Django
Water spigots are located behind the Mill Creek Fire Station and at the Pony Park Day Use Area next to the fire station (spigot near the restroom). Mill Creek Station have posted a sign at the cut off trail and cleared the pony park area near the toilet and added another picnic table for through hikers. The access to water is next to the tables next to the toilet. Also overnight camping is down the drive way at the picnic area.						
Poodle-dog bush report: 7/12/16 (Rustic) : PDB starts right out of the gate from Three Points TH heading north and doesn't fade out until a bit north of the North Fork Ranger Station. There are absolutely places where it encroaches on the trail, but I was able to dance around it all...although it made for exhausting work in the thick, overgrown brush that's in this area right now. 5/9/16 (John Shelton) – Now, through the entire section of mile 410 – 437, Poodle Dog Bush (PDB) it is still present but easily avoidable.						
	424.9			Small trickle	4/26/17	Dalem
D9	425.8		Big Buck Trail Camp [usually dry]	Good flow	5/14/17	Cory & Mandy
D10	~426.5		Old Big Buck Trail Camp site [early spring]	Dry	7/12/16	Rustic
Sand Fire Closure (432 - 444) The PCT through the Sand Fire Closure area is open as of 4/29/17. The Forest surrounding the PCT is still closed. There is no camping permitted in the section of PCT with in the Sand Fire Burn except for at North Fork Station. You are permitted to camp at North Fork. ----- A portion of the PCT is closed in the Angeles National Forest starting near Mt. Gleason/Messenger Flats (~mile 429.5) to Soledad Canyon Road (~mile 444) due to the 2016 Sand Fire. PCTA closure info: https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-condition/sand-fire/ Official Angeles NF closure order: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd522195.pdf Inciweb info: http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4878/ For questions about the Sand Fire Closure, contact District Ranger Matthew Bokach, matthewbokach@fs.fed.us or 661-269-2808 x 225. -----						
D10	430.6	Messenger Flat	Messenger Flats Camp USFS.			
D10	432.1	WR432	Moody Cyn Rd [stream 50' before Rd]	Dry	4/19/17	Henry
D10	436.3	WR436	*North Fork Ranger Station BPL Rd 4N32	Water cache is being maintained and caretaker assured us that he will keep water available and is prepared for 3,000 hikers.	5/5/17	Pine & Keychain
Good camping nearby at the horse corral area, less wind per Rebo on 4/18/15.						
D11	440.2		Mattox Canyon	5/16/17 (Double): Low flow, collectable with a scoop/ziplock. 5/14/17 (Ranier): small spring flowing 5/8/17 (Taylor): Dry	5/16/17	Double
D11	444.4		Santa Clara River	Good flow, suggest filtering. I explored the abandoned RV park on far side of river and found construction waste and paint cans being dumped uphill of water.	5/16/17	Professor Oak
The Acton KOA is a hiker-friendly campground 2/10 mile E of the PCT. The KOA will accept and hold packages for PCT hikers in 2016, has hiker camping [\$15 per tent, includes hot showers], shade trees, swimming pool, coin laundry [\$2.50 per load], Wi-Fi, and a small store [store hours are 9am - 5pm]. To reach the campground cross Soledad Canyon Rd and walk N on the PCT down the embankment. Look to the right and you will see the KOA campground across the flat open area. If you cross the creek you have gone too far. Hikers usually camp in the grassy area near the basketball court. The office and store is up the wooden stairs E of the basketball court. [The Robin's Nest RV Park west of the KOA closed in 2011]						
D12	451.1	Hwy14	Escondido Cyn just past tunnel under Hwy 14	water flowing in Hwy 14 tunnel and next 1/4 mile in the canyon.	5/15/17	Rainier
	451.7		Seep	There is a stream with many crossings from 451.9 to 451.12 running at about 2 gpm. Algae and polywogs in the water, but looks fine to use.	5/7/17	Kevin
	~452.5		Vasquez Rocks Picnic Area	No water available. Equestrian and other water devices are disabled at Vasquez Rocks Picnic Area. Valves look gutted.	4/6/17	Phoenix Genesis
D12	~453.4		Ranger station	<i>once on pavement, 0.2 miles on left by Park exit on Escondido Cyn Rd</i>		
D12	454.4		**Agua Dulce	Sweetwater Farms Market has everything to eat & drink that a hiker desires.		
D12	454.5	HikerHeaven	**Hiker Heaven	Will be open in April 2017 (www.hikerheaven.com). See http://hikerheaven.com/2017/02/20/hello-world/ for new policies.	12/15/16	Donna Saufley
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