Pacific Crest Trail Snow & Ford Report

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]. 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”

3/3/19 (PCTA)  PCT long-distance permit holders are allowed to day hike from the PCT to the summit of Mt. Whitney and back to the PCT. Due to high alpine camping impact concerns, PCT long-distance permit holders are NOT allowed to camp east of the Crabtree Ranger Station - that includes no camping at Guitar Lake or on the mountain itself. Nor are you allowed to descend the east side of the mountain via the Whitney Trail to Whitney Portal. Horses, mules and other stock are not permitted beyond the base of the switchbacks on Mt. Whitney. No PCT long-distance permits will be issued for trips starting, ending or resupplying at Whitney Portal. To hike that section, you will need to get a permit from a local land management agency. see https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/permits/under-500-miles

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.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES:
CALTRANS (Road Conditions in the Sierra)  -> http://www.dot.ca.gov/
SEQUOIA / KINGS CANYON (SEKI) TRAIL CONDITIONS PAGE  -> https://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/trailcond.htm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map</th>
<th>Mile</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>178.0</td>
<td>6,619</td>
<td>South Ridge Trail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Winter storms and road closures in the San Jacinto area
3/19 (Teemu) : There was snow a foot deep off and on from 690 to 684. Then from 673 to 674, on a north facing slope, the snow was quite deep, steep and icy. Not confirmed to be continuos snow --> Nothing crazy on the first stretch. Do not follow my ski tracks if you are not on skis, better routes for spikes are present.
B9,10...See sanjacjon.com for latest updates on San Jacinto Peak snow conditions.
C13...Deep Creek ford
D3...AcomTr
D4...Benad Powell There is no snow anywhere on the trail around Mt Baden Powell I just went over it on Wednesday and it's dry dirt the entire way. You might catch a glimpse of some a distance from the trail in one or two shaded ravines down hill from the trail on the ridge heading west after the mile 378 but even that's probably gone by now.
6/30/19 John

In D4/3/19 (Jeff) : There was snow a foot deep off and on from 690 to 684. Then from 673 to 674, on a north facing slope, the snow was quite deep, steep and icy. Not having ice axe and crampons, I had to turn back there and bail out at Chimney Creek.

SEQUOIA / KINGS CANYON (SEKI) TRAIL CONDITIONS PAGE  -> https://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/trailcond.htm
MOUNT WHITNEY AREA ROAD CONDITIONS  -> https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/inyo/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5192379
CREEK CROSSING RESOURCE  -> https://andrewskurka.com/psa-hazardous-high-sierra-creeks-list-map-alternates/

5/6/19 (Teemu) : Sierra report from trail, all I've gathered:
Mi 721-726: snow starts, continues 5 miles. Between here patchy snow. Trail easily found, many tracks.
Mi 744-755 confirmed to be continuos snow. Nothing crazy on the first stretch. Do not follow my ski tracks if you are not on skis, better routes for spikes are present. All tracks mostly reliable.
UPDATE: HORSESHOE MEADOWS ROAD OPENS WEDNESDAY 5/8/19!! It is possible to go down Cottonwood pass to Horseshoe meadow. Do this later in the day, soft snow makes for easier footsteps. Road is closed but really easy to walk on, 95% dry. From the highway, hard to hitch but possible. Careful at the pass. I witnessed a successful self arrest. Road to Whitney portal is open. Possible but harsh climb back to trail with big resupply. You need to get a permit there going back up. Forester Pass is sketchy, snowshoes getting there recommended by a guy ahead. Crampons/ice axe required.
Kearsarge pass has tracks going down probably today
People have made it to Mammoth safely.
Snow will hold up to your weight still, even during the day. Snowshoes/skis not yet recommended for the most part. I carried my skis 80% of the time from KM to Cirque Peak. No1 used snowshoes on this stretch either. You will be mostly traversing if there is enough snow to even use snowshoes. Not good for your ankles. You CAN posthole near fallen trees, on rocks & on the edges of patchy snow. Be careful!! Micropsikes/ice axe recommended. Crampons recommended if you start very early in the morning since it can be icy. Easier to walk with only spikes when the top 2 inches of snow are soft during the day.
It gets HOT during the day if there's sunlight and moderate or less wind. During night time lows have been around 15°F, mostly right below freezing. Dig a hole in the snow for your water bottles or waste bodyheat putting them in your sleeping bag (risky cause of leaks too, not recommended)
DO NOT rely on springs shown on Guthook! They are buried in snow
Latest storms occurred at around mi 730 and 755 on 5/4/2019
This advice comes from a guy with quite a bit of experience in the snow, take this into account. Be safe & happy trails!

This advice comes from a guy with quite a bit of experience in the snow, take this into account. Be safe & happy trails!
Road to Lone Pine from Horseshoe Meadows

3 exit points to Horseshoe Meadows:
744.5 Mulkey Pass trail to Horseshoe
745.3 Trail Pass trail to Horseshoe
750.2 Cottonwood Pass trail to Horseshoe

5/28/19 (Ellen): I drove up there yesterday May 28th and the forest service gate was open. Road was open to both Cottonwood Pass and Cottonwood Lakes trailhead parking lots. Still a lot of snow on the road thru the campgrounds and in the campgrounds themselves. Cars parked in the parking lot at Cottonwood Pass and Cottonwood Lakes trailheads. The bathrooms were open and stocked with fresh TP. Inyo NF website still shows campgrounds status as closed. We saw two PCT hikers walking down the road. They were able to get a ride.

5/23/19 (Devilfish): Horseshoe meadows road is now open as far as the upper gate, 0.6 miles from the campground, which is still closed. Hikers should be able to get at service about 3 miles down the road. Privies are open, water is off; day hikers are driving up to the locked gate, at least for the long weekend. Hopefully nobody's going to have to walk all the way down horseshoe meadow road, since there are some day hikers driving up to the closed gate 0.6 miles from the campground, but if you do, there's seasonal water available for the first 3 miles of the roadwalk - water running in the ditches and well-flowing streams at 0.5, 1.5, 2.6, and 3.2 miles from the gate. I assume these sources will go away once the snow is gone. Even remnant snow is no longer available about 4.5 miles from the gate, and it's a completely dry, sun-exposed descent the rest of the way, so fill up in the first three miles.

5/26/19 (Jack): The pass is pretty steep, and there is a short part at the top where your ice axe will make you feel better, but not too difficult or dangerous. This day you feel like you are truly in the sierras. There is a bit more elevation gain after cottonwood, then all down hill. Left at 5:15 am from camp and arrived to camp at 2 pm.

5/6/19 (Teemu): It is possible to go down Cottonwood pass to Horseshoe meadow. Do this later in the day, soft snow makes for easier footsteps. Road is closed but possible. Careful @ the pass. I witnessed a successful self arrest.

5/14/19 (John): I met two PCT hikers on May 10 and gave them a ride from Independence to Onion Valley (Kearsarge Pass trailhead) on the evening of May 10. They had come northbound from Campo and most recently from Kennedy Meadows (south). They had exited over Kearsarge on May 8 and were returning for the next leg to Mammoth Lakes. One had ditched his snowshoes after finding them not helpful. They said that all stream crossings thus far had stable snow bridges. They reported steps cut on Forester and a non-problematic cornice there (later saw his pictures on another group and it looked more like a boot path than cut steps). Onion Valley trailhead (9400 feet elevation, by memory) had several inches of fresh, wet snow when I dropped them off.

5/16/19 (Theresa & Josh): Rock creek can be crossed on 2’ log suspended on rock 6’ above water, near mile 760.41 just upstream of where trail crosses creek.

6/11/19 @ 10AM (Nadav): 0.1 up stream on a log.

6/5/19 (All-In): Log crossing. There are two log crossings a few hundred feet upstream from the official trail crossing. One of them has a couple downed logs side-by-side and is clearly safer.

5/26/19 (Jack): First notable STREAM CROSSING is rock creek. We found a log to use a bit before the campsite, but even in the afternoon, the water levels were mild and could be crossed without any trouble.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/12/19</td>
<td>Nadav</td>
<td>Trail Crest *</td>
<td>Left at 1:20 am from ranger station (would advise to cross Whitney Creek day before and camp there). Crossed on log down from the ranger station wet feet. Trail was very hard to follow for the first part. Easy going until guitar lake, very steep side climb, would advise stay low by guitar lake then head up towards switchbacks. 1st ascent to switch back is snow free, after is basically non existent, many ways up, there are streaks of snow/ice if you feel confident with ice axe and micro spikes it is doable, or there is streaks of rocks with snow between. Very hard at night and very technical, definitely no walk in the park, would advise to any one to be very cautious, and know your limits. The last 2 switchbacks to Trail Crest are there and are mostly snow free. Trail Crest to Mt Whitney pretty simple, lots of post holes and a few sketchy parts, watch out for ice. Summitted at 5:45 about 10 minutes after sun rise. We met a few hikers who turned around, for different reasons some altitude sickness, and some for the sheer climb up. The way down was less sketchy in light, be prepared with your ice axe going straight down on the snow. Don't get down thru rocks! They send rocks flying down in many sizes and very fast, it could kill some one under you think of that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/19</td>
<td>Teemu</td>
<td>Road to Whitney portal</td>
<td>Open. Possible but harsh climb back to trail with big resupply. You need to get a permit there going back up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/16/19</td>
<td>Theresa &amp; Josh</td>
<td>Wallace Crk @ trail crossing June 16 3:45 pm after looking up and downstream for crossing unsuccessfully. Passable but thigh deep.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/13/19</td>
<td>Nadav</td>
<td>Wallace Crk @ trail crossing</td>
<td>Crossed at trail knee deep strong current, very passable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Paul</td>
<td>Ice bridges are gone.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/10/19</td>
<td>Smalls</td>
<td>I just walked through.</td>
<td>It was up to my upper thigh (I'm 5'3'').</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/5/19</td>
<td>All-In</td>
<td>Fording at the trail crossing</td>
<td>Safest and about knee deep at 1:30pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/16/19</td>
<td>Theresa &amp; Josh</td>
<td>Wallace Crk @ trail crossing</td>
<td>Followed Tyndall 0.7 mi upstream from PCT xing to where it splits into tributaries, crossed one on snow bridge and forded knee deep water 7.20 am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/13/19</td>
<td>Nadav</td>
<td>2 snowbridge that is still</td>
<td>Crossed on snow bridge that is still pretty solid.</td>
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<td>pretty solid.</td>
<td>Crossed on snow bridge that is still pretty solid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/5/19</td>
<td>All-In</td>
<td>Somewhat sketchy snow bridge</td>
<td>Crossable at 2:42pm. The snow bridge I crossed on yesterday at 2:55pm was about 280 paces downstream of the trail crossing. I don’t know how that creek will be crossable when that snow bridge is gone. Extremely swollen and raging.</td>
</tr>
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<td>I just walked through.</td>
<td>Found a full snowbridge about 1.5 miles up stream.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/27/19</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Only thing to be caution about is walking near Tyndall creek in the afternoon, as some of the snow bridges over the creek seemed a bit unstable.</td>
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Onion Valley trailhead is open, outhouses are open, during the day to dry your stuff! I had 6 pairs of socks (including some free waterproof socks from someone leaving trail), and no, it was not an excessive amount. Utilize the outside of your pack food at VVR for our final push to Mammoth. We carried 11 days of food. We had a 9 day plan to VVR, with 2 days of backup supply in case we needed to wait out a storm. We then resupplied 2 days worth of food at VVR for our final push to Mammoth.

We all used Guthook between the 4 of us, and had no problems. I also had mobile downloads of the half mile maps as a backup. In parts of this stretch, GPS signal can be very week and take a long time to locate you. Keep your phone charged if used for navigation.

Especially with the melt, tracks are getting tough to follow at times. Keep your phone charged if used for navigation.

River crossings have not been a big problem for us, but they will soon be much bigger and badder. We planned for the potential of having to stop for camp before each of the major rivers, but were able to cross each time, even in the afternoon. Stop, and hit them early if they seem to dangerous when you reach them!

River crossings have not been a big problem for us, but they will soon be much bigger and badder. We planned for the potential of having to stop for camp before each of the major rivers, but were able to cross each time, even in the afternoon. Stop, and hit them early if they seem to dangerous when you reach them!

We observed numerous avalanches, mostly on east facing slopes between 10 am and 1 PM. Educate yourself on avalanche danger and how to avoid it!

-We all used Guthook between the 4 of us, and had no problems. I also had mobile downloads of the half mile maps as a backup. In parts of this stretch, GPS signal can be very week and take a long time to locate you.

-We carried 11 days of food. We had a 9 day plan to VVR, with 2 days of backup supply in case we needed to wait out a storm. We then resupplied 2 days worth of food at VVR for our final push to mammoth.

-I had 6 pairs of socks (including some free waterproof socks from someone leaving trail), and no, it was not an excessive amount. Utilize the outside of your pack during the day to dry your stuff!
| H5 | 791.0 | 11,946 | Glen Pass | 6/22/19 (Theresa & Josh) | Camped ca 1 mi before Glen Pass. Left @ Sam, followed footsteps around last lake before pass. Took us straight up the hill, very unsafe, lots of rock scrambling and loose scree. Got to top at 6:30. Following the lake as long as possible seems to be safer option and also has footsteps. Descend very steep. Definitely recommend going as early as possible in the day with ice axe, traction and at least one buddy. |
| H5 | 793.0 | 10,548 | Upper Rae Lakes outlet | 6/14/19 (Chance Card) | Steep on both sides but manageable. Heading to Kearsarge, not as bad as Forester. Good bootpack. |
| H6 | 795.5 | 10,314 | Arrowhead Lake outlet | 6/14/19 (Chance Card) | Steep on both sides but manageable. Heading to Kearsarge, not as bad as Forester. Good bootpack. |
| H6 | 797.1 | 9,524 | Baxter Creek | 6/14/19 (Chance Card) | Crossed near trail, where the creek splits around an island. Snow bridge on its last legs for first fork. Forded maybe 20 feet upstream up far side trail. Fast current but never more than knee deep. Consistent footing. Rocks. Second fork was easy. Log upstream is currently submerged but might be an option when creek is lower. Tributaries between Baxter creek and suspension bridge: several and trail is frequently a river. One of them was strong enough to require care. Right around trail, used live pine tree to hold onto during steps across the strong part. Knee high. |
| H6 | 799.8 | 8,532 | Woods Creek Suspension Bridge | 6/14/19 (Chance Card) | The bridge ~6 miles west of the PCT from the Woods Creek bridge is OUT. This bridge is not on the PCT but if you decide to exit the Sierra at Woods Creek heading towards Roads End / Hwy 180 you will not be able to cross the South Fork of the Kings River at the damaged bridge. Two fords after the suspension bridge that were shin deep and easy, although a slip would have been high consequence since river is swift and deep enough to potentially sweep you away and the trail crises close to where they join the main river. Third ford after suspension bridge ( passionately 801.1 - White Fork Creek) was the toughest one yet. Scouted upstream a ways and found only a sketchy log jam. Opted to cross at trail as a group. Swift current, waist deep in places. Rocky bottom, varied footing, too swift to see bottom. Expect to be pulled downstream on the process of crossing. May be a snow bridge further upstream. ----- SEKI Website (6/3/19) : The South Fork Kings River Bridge above Paradise Valley washed out during the winter of 2016-2017. Construction of a replacement bridge will not begin before 2020. Depending on conditions, crossing the South Fork of the Kings River can be extremely hazardous. Observe conditions carefully and then evaluate the risk of crossing. Be prepared to turn back. If you hike the Rae Lakes Loop beginning from Bubbs Creek, plan for the possibility that you may have to backtrack to safely reach Cedar Grove. |
| H6 | 801.1 | 9,103 | WR801, White Fork Creek | 6/23/19 (Theresa & Josh) | We crossed White Fork Creek @ mi 801.2 via a log bridge @ PCT xing @ 5.15 pm 06/23. Creek is flowing very fast and the log gets splashed and is slippery. |
Pinchot Pass 6/24/19 @ 7:45AM (Theresa & Josh) : Took ca. 3.5 h from tent site @ mi 802.6 to summit Pinchot Pass at 7.45 am on 06/24. Very doable. Good foot prints on S side, less on N but not too steep.

6/19/19 @ 6:00AM (Nadav) : very easy climb, boot pack pretty straight forward, used micro spikes and trekking poles. Climb up to pass can be quite tiering.

6/15/19 (Chance Card) : long approach, chill. Some glissading opportunity on the way down. Long stretch without water so stock up ahead or plan to melt snow.

6/3/19 (Jack) : long approach, but very mellow pass. Used microspikes and ice axe, nonetheless.

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SOUTH FORK KINGS RIVER FORD INFO (Mile 811.4 per below)

6/4/19 (John Ladd) : The northbound directions for avoiding this crossing --> Following a long switchbacking descent in tree cover north of the Bench Lake Ranger Station, you will come to the fatal crossing at elevation 10,040 and NoBo mile 811.4. Do not cross unless you are confident you can do so. Instead, look for a use trail that stays on the east side of the South Fork so that the river stays on your left. You will rejoin the JMT after 2.3 miles on the use trail, at elevation 10,830 and NoBo mile 813.7.

The southbound directions for avoiding this crossing are as follows. They were proposed some months ago by Andrew Skura and since have been confirmed by several other hikers including one I talked to in person at length. South of Mather pass, at elevation 10,830 the southbound JMT/PCT crosses the South Fork from its east bank to its west bank. While this crossing is not usually bad, crossing here will require you to recross from west to east at the fatal crossing downstream. So don't use the main trail but instead look for a use trail which avoids both crossings by staying on the east side of South Fork. The South Fork will stay on your right for another 2.3 miles. If you had crossed, the Fork would have been on your left for the next 2.3 miles. You will rejoin the JMT/PCT at elevation 10,040, just to the south of the fatal crossing. You are using an alternate to the main trail that will save you two crossings.

For other alternative crossing ideas see https://andrewskurka.com/john-muir-trail-early-season-river-fords

6/24/19 (Theresa & Josh) : Avoided xing S Fk Kings R @mi 811.4 via detour on E side of river to mi 813.7. Xed all creeks via snow bridges 06/24 ca 12.30-2.50 pm, trudging thru slush.

6/15/19 (Chance Card) : Taboose Creek: contoured over from trail/bootpack and crossed just above the confluence at 10400. Good snow bridges over both forks. South Fork of the Kings: dropped down after Taboose crossing and stayed on the east side. Found a boot track. Easy terrain. All the tributaries we crossed had extensive solid snow bridges. Unimaginable to think about crossing without heading waaaaay upstream at which point you’d be about to cross back to the east side anyway.

6/3/19 (Jack) : Crossed on a snow bridge in the afternoon. Even when the bridges melt, there should be places to cross with relative ease.

Please be very careful while attempting this crossing. A PCT hiker in 2017 passed away close to this crossing. Her body was found downstream from the PCT crossing.
6/25/19 (Theresa & Josh) : Started Mather Pass ascend @5am. Didn't take trail route due to past avalanches onto trail and big cornice on Pass. Rock scrambled/ice climbed up on W side of Pass until we met switchbacks @ top. Took almost 2h. Not sure if this route was safer than the actual trail.

6/20/19 @ 4:30AM (Nadav) : got stuck behind a group of people, became quite dangerous as they took a very long time and people were queuing up, approach from the left side not the PCT on the right, climb up and scramble to the right go through bootpack then up and scramble again to boot pack, placed 2 carens on the way. The group ahead went down instead of scrambling and then up to the bootpack. I don't advise this took very long and put us and then in danger as we had to wait to go above. Saw two people following the PCT and turned around in the middle was to steep for them. Also met a group that just went straight up the center and then veered to the left to join bootpack. Used micro and axe.

6/16/19 (Chance Card) : Main bootpack up Mather goes up left side of bowl and involves some scrambling. One or two moves that are difficult if you're not comfortable on rock. Although bootpack is well established, the transitions between snow and rock can be sketchy especially as the snow starts softening. Main concern though is that the rock quality is not good. Had a toaster sized block fall an inch from my foot and easy to imagine a bad rock fall incident. May be safer to go up the right side as it is all on snow. Talked to a couple groups who did that and sounded like there were sections where they had to chop steps but would imagine the bootpack will only improve. There are a lot of blow downs along first couple miles below tree line after Mather Pass.

6/4/19 (Jack) : We camped about 4.5 miles from the top, and leaving at 5 am, we got to the base at about 7:15 am. Even this early, the snow was very slushy, and there had been multiple avalanches already triggered along the traverse and along the main PCT trail. Very sketchy. Highly recommended to hit this pass before the sun does. Recommended to get to the TOP at or before 7 am. The routes are shown in (picture #3). Under firm snow conditions, this pass is still tricky. It is on par with Forester Pass in terms of difficulty, but in a different way. The current bootpack goes up the left side, and requires climbing rocks (see picture #6). Not a problem for me, but it can definitely challenging if you don't have any experience or confidence with rock climbing. The main traverse before the top is not as steep as the description leads on. I didn't feel scared like I did on Forester. Rather than a steep rock fall to the side, there is a long snowy decent before reaching some rocks. Plenty of time to self arrest if a fall happened. This traverse is longer than the forester shoot, but did not feel as steep. There are plenty of good steps kicked in. Be wary of holes, though. A member of our party got their foot stuck and needed help from us. The decent is easy and not very steep. Used crampons and ice axe. Trail becomes mostly snow free below mile 824, 8800 ft elavation, but don't expect to cruise just yet. There are plenty of streams, trees, and mud to slow your pace.

6/25/19 Theresa & Josh

6/26/19 (Theresa & Josh) : Camped @ mile 833 and hiked 4 h to top of Muir Pass 06/26. Not a difficult pass but long snow-covered ascend and descend, snow got slushy around 8.40 am.

6/21/19 @ 5:30AM (Nadav) : pretty straight forward just very long and tiring climb up to the top, pass itself was very easy, snowfields 5 miles each way. Micro spikes and trekking poles.

6/17/19 (Chance Card) : Muir Pass is easy compared to other passes but be prepared for the ascent to take some time, especially as snow softens. Never pulled out axes.

6/6/19 (Jack) : It's a long way up, but the pass itself is very shallow. Only needed microspikes, no axe. Easier than Pinchot. We gained the pass at 6:30 am, and had hard packed, easy walking (3 mph) during the long, high elevation stretch after the pass. The trail leading to the pass is longer and harder than expected.

6/26/19 Theresa & Josh

6/13/19 @ 8:27AM (All-In) : Able to cross on rocks while getting feet wet some.

6/13/19 All-In
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Evolution Creek Crossing</td>
<td>850.1</td>
<td>9,236</td>
<td>Theresa &amp; Josh: Crossing around 5.30 pm  6/26 - multiple crossings, about waist high in some places but not fast-moving water.  6/18/19 (Chance Card): Waist deep at most and pretty straightforward. Easier than we had expected.  6/13/19 @ 11:53AM (All-In): Multiple crossings but slow moving at waist height.  6/6/19 (Jack): Highly recommend crossing at the Alternative crossing (can be found on guthook's), as the main crossing looked much higher, and is close to deadly waterfalls if you happen to fall and can't escape. We crossed around 12:30 PM at the alternative route. Waist high, swift, and cold at the alternative crossing. (See video #1). A member of our party fell and lost their sunglasses. Make sure you remember to correctly prepare yourself (no loose gear, adequate clothes, etc.) before you attempt to cross! After evolution creek, the trail becomes dry below around 9000 ft and easy to push miles.  6/4/19 (Justin): Evolution creek at the alternate Crossing. Not too bad yet. See video of this crossing at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/</a> under the CA-Section H (2019) photo album.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolution Creek Ford [sometimes difficult, alternate ford crosses Evolution Creek near mi 850.]</td>
<td>850.9</td>
<td>9,201</td>
<td>Muir Trail Ranch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selden Pass</td>
<td>865.5</td>
<td>10,910</td>
<td>Nadav: very easy, could be done mid day.  6/7/19 (Jack): So very easy. Only pass we gained in the afternoon (around 3 pm) and decended with ease. Seemed to be little to no avalanche danger up or down. No microspikes or ice axe for me (though you might want to use them near the very top if you gain this pass in the morning on hard snow.).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bear Creek</td>
<td>869.2</td>
<td>9,574</td>
<td>Nadav: pretty good trail mostly till heading down where u start walking through swamps not to pleasant but not bad at all.  6/6/19 (Jack): Bear ridge trail is more snowy than we expected. Finally becomes fully dry below 8700 ft or so. You might be able to hitch a ride on the way and cut out 2-3 miles of road walking. Overall an easy day, with a few larger stream crossings in the morning adjacent to bear creek, but nothing too difficult.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hilgard Branch Ford</td>
<td>870.4</td>
<td>9,345</td>
<td>Jazmin: Crossed on the log 1/10th of a mile upstream. There's a path leading to it from the trail.  6/19/19 (Chance Card): Followed Andrew Skurka's alternate for Bear Creek to cross forks separately. Crossed south fork just below Lou Beverly Lake. Crossed East fork where it flattens out around 8800. Several non-trivial but manageable stream crossings along the next few miles of trail.  6/14/19 @ 9:36AM-10:53AM (All-In): Crossed at 868.2 on West Fork of Bear Creek on a log going over swift current. Crossed Bear Creek after West Fork of Bear Creek and water was very swift and up to waist.  6/7/19 (Jack): Definitely recommend taking the alternative crossing (see picture #1). The first crossing is tough (see video #2) and must be crossed at the point marked. We found a solid log at the second crossing just downstream of the second point (video #4).  6/5/19 (Justin): Getting bad and soon will be terrible. Lots of snow still to melt into water. See video of this crossing at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/</a> under the CA-Section H (2019) photo album.  6/7/19 (Jack): Bear ridge trail is more snowy than we expected. Finally becomes fully dry below 8700 ft or so. You might be able to hitch a ride on the way and cut out 2-3 miles of road walking. Overall an easy day, with a few larger stream crossings in the morning adjacent to bear creek, but nothing too difficult.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail junction to VVR (VVR another ~7 miles from trail junction)</td>
<td>874.5</td>
<td>9,874</td>
<td>Nadav: pretty good trail mostly till heading down where u start walking through swamps not to pleasant but not bad at all.  6/6/19 (Jack): Bear ridge trail is more snowy than we expected. Finally becomes fully dry below 8700 ft or so. You might be able to hitch a ride on the way and cut out 2-3 miles of road walking. Overall an easy day, with a few larger stream crossings in the morning adjacent to bear creek, but nothing too difficult.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hilgard Branch Ford:**

- **Mileage:** 870.4
- **Elevation:** 9,345
- **Description:**
  - **8/22/19 (Nadav):** Pretty good trail mostly till heading down where you start walking through swamps not to pleasant but not bad at all.
  - **6/7/19 (Jack):** Bear ridge trail is more snowy than we expected. Finally becomes fully dry below 8700 ft or so. You might be able to hitch a ride on the way and cut out 2-3 miles of road walking. Overall an easy day, with a few larger stream crossings in the morning adjacent to bear creek, but nothing too difficult.

**VVR Website:** [http://www.edisonlake.com/](http://www.edisonlake.com/)

**Ferry info:** [http://www.edisonlake.com/hikers/ferry](http://www.edisonlake.com/hikers/ferry)
| H18 | 879.4 | 7,972 | N Fork Mono Creek Ford | 6/19/19 (Chance Card) | For both crossings of the north fork of Mono Creek, there are good logs just downstream from the trail.  
6/10/19 (Dally) | Still had a huge log just downstream of the trail crossing. Shouldn't be going anywhere anytime soon.  
6/9/19 (Jack) | first crossing. Huge log just downstream of the trail. Hard to miss, and the log doesn't look like it is going anywhere anytime soon. Makes this crossing no problem at all. 4 PM crossing.  
6/8/19 (Justin) | Probably the most challenging crossing that is still going to get more challenging. See video of this crossing at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/. | 6/19/19 Chance Card |
| H19 | 881.5 | 8,993 | N Fork Mono Creek Ford (2nd Ford) | 6/19/19 (Chance Card) | For both crossings of the north fork of Mono Creek, there are good logs just downstream from the trail.  
6/10/19 (Dally) | has a smaller log about 0.2-0.3 miles from the trail crossing. Wasn't a problem for us.  
6/9/19 (Jack) | second crossing. We crossed on a log a little ways down the actual crossing, then scrambled up rocks to meet up with the trail again. (See picture #5). This log is smaller than the first crossing, but didn't feel too dangerous. 4:30 pm crossing.  
6/8/19 (Justin) | Probably the most challenging crossing that is still going to get more challenging. See video of this crossing at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/. | 6/19/19 Chance Card |
| H19 | 882.6 | 9,694 | Silver Pass Creek | 6/19/19 (Chance Card) | The silver pass creek waterfall crossing is still fine but the current is moderately strong at the end and thigh deep. Given the drop off below, make sure to step carefully.  
6/15/19 @ 12:59PM (All-In) | Lots of runoff from above waterfalls.  
6/10/19 (Dally) | was tough, but currently manageable. We did it around 5 PM, and the waters were quick and cold, but only went up to thigh level (I'm 5'9'').  
6/9/19 (Jack) | I was most worried about this crossing, but it wasn't as bad as we thought. With increased water levels, it could become more treacherous. No deeper than just above the knee (I'm 5'9''). Stay calm, get stable footing, and wear your rain jacket to block the waterfall spray! (See video #3) for Graceland making it look easy. 4:45 PM crossing.  
6/6/19 (Justin) | Not a huge challenge but lots of fun. See video of this crossing at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/. | 6/19/19 Chance Card |
| H19 | 884.9 | 10,704 | Silver Pass | 6/23/19 @ 1:00PM (Nadav) | not hard, lots of snow on the way and a bit of a climb nothing technical.  
6/19/19 (Chance Card) | the chilliest pass yet.  
6/10/19 (Jack) | Wait, that was a pass? Easiest yet. | 6/23/19 Nadav |
| H20 | 888.6 | 9249 | Fish Creek [Steel Bridge] | | | |
| H20 | 895.7 | 10,174 | Duck Pass Trailhead | Crossed Duck Creek at the outlet of Duck Lake on slightly submerged stepping stones. Easy. No bootpack out duck pass. Snowy all the way to TH. The road around Lake Mary is closed to most traffic. We were lucky enough to get a ride from an employee at Crystal Crags Lodge who had access to it. | 6/19/19 Chance Card |
| H22 | 903.9 | 8658 | Mammoth Pass Trail junction | 6/24/19 (Nadav) | took the upper trail probably one of the most annoying trails so far plenty of slush and snow, no or not much footprints, lots of fallen trees.  
6/11/19 (Jack) | Since red's meadows appears to still be closed, we took the mammoth pass trail. At the moment, the first parking lot is snowed in. However, you should only have to walk about 3 more miles to reach a parking lot and road. Easy ride into town. You can cut off some road walking by following this path. It's a steep way down, but it saves time and it's nothing crazier than you've already done. There were tons of cars in the parking area I've circled and the road was heavily trafficked (picture #6). | 6/24/19 Nadav |
| H22 | 906.7 | 7669 | Reds Meadow : [https://www.nps.gov/depo/planyourvisit/hours.htm](https://www.nps.gov/depo/planyourvisit/hours.htm) Shuttle Information : [https://www.nps.gov/depo/planyourvisit/reds-meadow-and-devils-postpile-shuttle-information.htm](https://www.nps.gov/depo/planyourvisit/reds-meadow-and-devils-postpile-shuttle-information.htm) | 6/10/19 (Michal) | At 3pm, last 2 miles were clean. Driver said, he will continue nextdays till end, what means reads meadows. When it will be and when they open road, no idea. At some places is more than 1 meter of snow. Some people used mammoth pass to go down to resupply. From mammoth ski resort is free Shuttle to town. And free wifi at hotel in skiresort (first on left side).  
6/9/19 (Black Sheep) | They haven't even started plowing the road, no idea when they'll open up. | 6/10/19 Michal |
<p>| H22 | ~909.0 | | | Strong flow and knee high, was able to cross. | 6/10/19 Justin |
| JMT ALTERNATE | | | | | |
| H23 | WA9099B | 8,146 | Minaret Creek | Strong flow but able to cross on leveled log across creek. | 6/10/19 Justin |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>H25</th>
<th>924.6</th>
<th>10,227</th>
<th>Island Pass</th>
<th>completely under snow, no trouble crossing though.</th>
<th>6/9/19</th>
<th>Black Sheep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H25</td>
<td>925.9</td>
<td>9,645</td>
<td>Rush Creek Trail junction</td>
<td></td>
<td>6/9/19</td>
<td>Black Sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H25</td>
<td>926.9</td>
<td>10,069</td>
<td>Rush Creek Ford</td>
<td>running high. Snowy banks and snow bridges that lose stability. Be very careful crossing here!</td>
<td>6/9/19</td>
<td>Black Sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H25</td>
<td>929.5</td>
<td>11,073</td>
<td>Donohue Pass</td>
<td>6/9/19 (Black Sheep): 6ft of snow, there were some tracks when I crossed. North side is steep and slippery, ice axe recommended! snowline in Yosemite is currently at about 8200ft. In the morning, the snow is too firm to stop a slide without ice axe and later on in gets so slushy that you posthole and regret ever coming here. Also if any of you decide to go to Yosemite Valley: It's 100% snow cover from Tuolumne Meadows to about 1.5mi above the Cloud's Rest turnout.</td>
<td>6/9/19</td>
<td>Black Sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>936.0</td>
<td>Ireland Creek</td>
<td>no problem crossing, about knee deep.</td>
<td>6/9/19</td>
<td>Black Sheep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H27</td>
<td>942.5</td>
<td>8,596</td>
<td>Highway 120</td>
<td>CALTRANS: <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=120&amp;submit=Search">http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=120&amp;submit=Search</a></td>
<td>6/24/19</td>
<td>Yosemite NP Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>944.2</td>
<td>Delaney Creek</td>
<td>6:03AM: Strong flow. Log upstream a short distance.</td>
<td>6/15/19</td>
<td>Justin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I1</td>
<td>947.0</td>
<td>8,303</td>
<td>Wooden Bridge over Tuolumne River</td>
<td></td>
<td>6/15/19</td>
<td>Justin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I1</td>
<td>948.3</td>
<td>Glen Aulin Campground</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>956.0</td>
<td>McCabe Creek</td>
<td>6/22/19 (All-In): 10:42am June 22. Spent an hour searching up the creek for a better crossing, but couldn't find one that felt safe. Finally forded at trail crossing, and it was only up to my knees, looking much worse than it felt. 6/16/19 (Justin): 3:00PM Strong flow. Waist high.</td>
<td>6/16/19</td>
<td>Justin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I3</td>
<td>956.2</td>
<td>8,531</td>
<td>Ford a Creek (Return Creek)</td>
<td>Very strong flow. Found a tree upstream.</td>
<td>6/16/19</td>
<td>Justin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>957.3</td>
<td>Spiller Creek</td>
<td>Strong flow. We got to Spiller creek at 4:00 and could not cross. We had to wait until the next day to cross in the morning.</td>
<td>6/17/19</td>
<td>Justin</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>962.1</td>
<td>Matterhorn Creek</td>
<td>Very easy knee-deep wade at or near trail crossing. Clear water makes depth assessment easy. 6/17/19 (Justin): 10:16AM Strong flow, thigh high.</td>
<td>6/22/19</td>
<td>All-In</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I4</td>
<td>963.9-965.3</td>
<td>~9,400</td>
<td>Wilson Creek</td>
<td>3:37pm June 22. Knee-deep wade just downstream from trail crossing. Shade made it difficult to gauge depth of far channel, but it turned out fine.</td>
<td>6/22/19</td>
<td>All-In</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I4</td>
<td>966.4</td>
<td>10,125</td>
<td>Benson Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td>6/23/19</td>
<td>All-In</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>970.5, 971.6, &amp; 972.3</td>
<td>Creek before Pluie Creek</td>
<td>Creek at 971.6 (IIRC), 8:27am June 23. One of many unnamed creeks we crossed on logs or were wet-foot fords. First branch of creek at 972.3, 9:01am June 23. At trail crossing, forded calf-deep water to center island, then walked 40 feet to log over second branch (next video). Second branch of creek at 972.3, 9:02am June 23. Easy log crossing over moderate rapids. Log is broken in middle but still felt solid.</td>
<td>6/23/19</td>
<td>All-In</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I4</td>
<td>972.5</td>
<td>~8,000</td>
<td>Palieuse creek</td>
<td>9:17am June 23. Very wide and looked quite deep (probably over my head) at trail crossing. A hundred feet or so downstream were two large solid logs connected in sequence at the middle of the creek, allowing us to cross halfway on one then switch to the second log mid-creek to get to the opposite shore.</td>
<td>6/23/19</td>
<td>All-In</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>979.8</td>
<td>Kerrick Creek [sometimes difficult]</td>
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<tr>
<td>982.3</td>
<td>Creek in Stubblefield Canyon</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>985.5</td>
<td>Creek in Tilden Canyon</td>
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<tr>
<td>986.8</td>
<td>Wilma Lake Outlet</td>
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<tr>
<td>987.4</td>
<td>Falls Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>997.0</td>
<td>Doroth Lake Pass N boundary Yosemite NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>998.5 &amp; 998.9</td>
<td>Cascade Creek</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1002.4</td>
<td>Walker River</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1005.9</td>
<td>Kennedy Canyon Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>1016.9</td>
<td>Sonora Pass [Hwy 108]</td>
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<tr>
<td>1048.4</td>
<td>Ebbets Pass [Hwy 4]</td>
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<tr>
<td>1076.7</td>
<td>Carson Pass [Hwy 88]</td>
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</table>

**6/23/19 (All-In):** Log at mile 979.4 stretched almost all the way to the far shore, leaving only a small (4ft?) swift channel inhabited by a willow. The willow helped us get that final bit. I want to stress here that this crossing had worried me because of the death of the Chinese hiker named Tree in 2017, but it turns out I was worried for the wrong reasons. The "approach" to this creek - the initial descent into the canyon and the subsequent traverse - was definitely the most afraid I've been on the PCT. The crossing wasn't that big a deal, but that steep snowfield traverse lasting a solid mile, with a steep, long drop directly into boulder-studded river rapids had me on edge for a very, very long time.

Please be very careful while attempting this crossing. A PCT hiker in 2017 passed away close to this crossing. Her body was found downstream from the PCT crossing.

**6/17/19 (Justin):** Strong flow. There are a couple of logs where the river splits that can be crossed. It does involve an epic leap at the end. But it was the best way we found across.

**6/24/19 (All-In):** Thompson Canyon Creek, aka first branch of Stubblefield Creek, 6:11am June 24. Arrived here evening of June 23 and decided to camp. At that time this log, which was upstream from trail crossing just a few hundred feet, was well overtopped by water with a very strong flow. By morning the water level at trail crossing had dropped about a foot and a half, and this log walk was easy. Last branch of Stubblefield Creek, fording option, 6:26am June 24. Again, just a few hundred feet upstream from trail crossing. Was about thigh-deep on a tall hiker for most of the crossing on this submerged log. The current pushed him off the log just after the final channel, which would have been past his waist if he’d fallen off the log a foot or two earlier. The rest of us chose the dry-foot log crossing option described below. Last branch of Stubblefield Canyon Creek, log option, 6:35am June 24. Less than two-tenths of a mile upstream from trail crossing was an old, high log. Some chose to shimmy because the log was narrow and high, while one of us was much more confident in their balance. The log is decaying and likely will not last, though for now it felt solid enough. We tried to minimize bouncing to reduce the likelihood of breaking the log.

**6/17/19 (Justin):** Strong flow. We went up stream about a quarter of a mile to where the creek split into 3 and were able to do each section individually.

**6/24/19 (All-In):** 10:54am June 24. At trail crossing, exactly crotch-deep for me, and around waist-deep on shorter hikers. Very wide, but current not very strong. Comparable to Evolution Creek’s meadow crossing, but a little lower.

**6/17/19 (Justin):** Strong flow. We stuck to the left side of the creek for many miles until we found a spot to cross. One note, the Tilden creek crossing on this side is tricky.

**6/18/18 (Lickity Split):** Carson pass to hwy 4, just patches of snow. One steep traverse where microspikes would be good early in the day.

**6/19/18 (Lickity Split):** Echo Lakes to Carson Pass has only minor snow patches. No need for microspikes or GPS navigation.
Postholed almost up to my waist. It gets really bad north
2321.0
5,434
7,630
7,658
7,264
1113.4
9,377
2292.4
1110.1
2390.7
7,894
1120.4
1139.6
7,682
8,288
7,776
1164.4
7,900
1122.1
7,478
3174
1105.7
6/8/19
1108.6
1102.2
1157.1
1112.8
3,582
J10
J1
I13
I4
H20
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PASS HIGHWAY STATUS
Washington
covered but no traverses and nothing steep or sketchy.
insta) said Sisters and the mountains south of them were very doable. Another woman and her bf just did that section too, down to Elk Lake and said it was snow
until it's melted out in a month or two. I have heard good things about the rest of the state and one pair- crunchmaster and crazy daisy (I'm following them both on
recommended right now. Steep, icy slopes... I wouldn't have made it had my husband not been painstakingly kicking solid steps. Recommend people skip Jefferson
there. From Timberline Lodge to
6/16/19
Oregon
but care is needed.
6/29/19
Additionally these lower elevation areas that were great this time of the year will be hot and dry later in the year.
may hiker friendly miles of trail in Oregon and northern California, a will timed and placed south bound shot through the Sierras could be fast and enjoyable.
the trail and then great trails through
1468
5/8/19 (Kevin) : Only one 50 foot patch of trail snow between hwy 40 and hwy 80. Foot tunnels under hwy have 3-18 inches of water in them that you will have to walk through.
K1 1092.3 7,427 Echo Lakes
Postholed almost up to my waist. It gets really bad north from the Echo lakes and is not expected to get better as the weather warms up
5/26/19 Teemu
K2 1101.6 7,776 Susie Lake outlet
K2 1102.2 7,682 Glen Alpine trail junction
K2 1105.7 9,377 Dicks Pass
K3 1108.6 8,288 Fontanillis Lake
K3 1110.1 7,894 Middle Velma Lake Outlet
K3 1112.8 7,630 Phipps Creek (seasonal)
K3 1113.4 7,900 Seasonal Creek
K4 1120.4 7,021 Miller Creek
K5 1122.1 6,973 Bear Lake Outlet
K5 1123.2 7,264 Seasonal Creek
K5 1124.8 7,658 Barker Pass [RD1125]
K7 1135.9 7,426 Five Lakes Creek
K7 1139.6 8,120 Headwaters of American River (Middle Fork)
9/1/18 (Cloud Rider) : Only one 50 foot patch of trail snow between hwy 40 and hwy 80. Foot tunnels under hwy have 3-18 inches of water in them that you will have to walk through.
K3 1157.1 7,114 Donner Pass [I-80]
CALTRANS : http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=80&submit=Search
OPEN
6/8/19 CALTRANS (Department of Transportation)
<p>| | | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K3 1157.1 7,114 Donner Pass [I-80]</td>
<td>CALTRANS : <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=80&amp;submit=Search">http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=80&amp;submit=Search</a></td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>6/8/19</td>
<td>CALTRANS (Department of Transportation)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2438.7 3,806 Potentially difficult Ford
2445.7 5,933 Piper Pass
2593.9 6,837 Cutthroat Pass
2596.3 6,263 Granite Pass
2599.3 6,533 Methow Pass
2609.7 5,581 Glacier Pass

**ITINERARY:**

Day 1: Harts Pass to Brush Creek and Tent site (20km or 12.5 miles)
Day 2: Brush Creek Tent Site to Rainy Pass Trailhead (the “lovely” campsite right next to Highway 20 and the shitters) (29km or 18 miles)
Day 3: Rainy Pass Trailhead to Bridge Creek Campground (24km or 15 miles) - Definitely doable to Stehekin from Rainy Pass Trailhead, but I would’ve missed the last shuttle, so didn’t bother and just had a short hike the next day. My feet were also drenched and nothing dried overnight.
Day 4: Bridge Creek Campground to High Bridge (9km or 5.5 miles)

**REPORT** (valid as of 23-June-2018 - may not apply to you depending on your start date - all mileage points are from the Northern Terminus Monument):

**Harts Pass to Methow Pass:**
- I camped the first night at Brush Creek. There are some decent spots here with fire rings and benches. This is a short distance for the first day (about 20km or 12.5 miles), but after this spot is a steep climb to Methow Pass, and I knew there would be snow, and I didn’t want to camp in it.
- I’d say everything from about 1,400-1,500m or so to Methow Pass (2,010m) is snow covered. Snow pack is decent, but do expect to posthole every now and then to about knee height.
- If you’re a Guthook user, you’ll notice that it says there’s a campsite at Methow Pass, but it’s completely snow covered. It’s wide open though, so you can dig yourself in if you’re willing.

**Methow Pass to Cutthroat Pass:**
- When you turn the bend leaving Methow Pass, you’ll be thrilled to see a dry trail, and I’m happy to report that this is MOSTLY true. You’ll hit some snow patches, but definitely manageable. This is about 6km (or almost 4 miles). Enjoy this part, because the next part will kick your ass (see picture with caption (“Mother Nature can be really cruel sometimes...”)).
- As soon as you finish climbing the 4 switchbacks, you hit snow. You’re not traversing here, so climbing it is manageable, and you’re good for just under a mile, however, once you turn the bend, you’re hit with why feels like a long mountain side snow traverse (see pictures). You have just over 2km of steep mountain side traversing, and it’s slow moving. Expect some postholing here.
- Once you get to Cutthroat Pass (2,089m), rejoice! It’s all downhill from here to Stehekin. The one tent site at Cutthroat Pass is fairly open, and is shielded, but the ground is wet, but not enough to get through your tent. If you’re burnt here, you have a decent option to spend the night.

**Cutthroat Pass to Rainy Pass:**
- You’re going to be on snow from Cutthroat Pass (2,089m) until about 1,700m. Once you start downhill from Cutthroat Pass, have some fun (if you’re up for it, and experienced enough). You can boot ski down as the trail is a series of switchbacks that you can quickly cut through. You’ll hit some post holes, but since you’re moving quick, you can avoid this. Obviously expect you’re feet to be wet by doing this (if they didn’t get drenched from the previous traversing), and a fair warning...

**WET FEET SUCKS!**
- Pretty straight forward once you clear the snow. You’ll hit a couple of patches again, but nothing extreme below 1,700m to Rainy Pass Trailhead (1,492m)
- You will have to do some stream crossing (about 4-5), and they’re relatively strong.

**Rainy Pass Trailhead to High Bridge:**
- Trail starts off snow covered, but quickly clears up. Pretty easy downhill from here.
- NOTE: The Bridge Creek Bridge at km 102.8 (or mile 63.9) is OUT! As in, there is absolutely no bridge, and crossing the very powerful stream is not recommended, nor is it necessary. At the junction just before the bridge crossing, follow the signs for Stilletto Peak Trail. This will eventually lead you back to Twisp Pass Trail junction, where you’ll be able to reconnect with the PCT.
- That’s it, you’re golden after this all the way to Stehekin. The shuttle is running (from High Bridge: 9:15, 12:30, 15:00, 18:15), and it does stop at the bakery, so fill your boots baby!

Again, this wasn’t an easy section to complete with the snow. If you’re fit, have experience in the snow (and have the right gear), and are more of an adventure hiker, by all means, go out there, have some fun, and occasionally ridiculously sweat at the snow, but if you’re a casual hiker and are looking to avoid snow, wait another two weeks.

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