

Pacific Crest Trail Snow & Ford Report

Updated 12:22pm 7/20/19

www.pctwater.com

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/playyourvisit/trailcond.htm>

Map	Mile	Elevation	Location	Report	Date	Reported By
	178.0	8,619	South Ridge Trail			

Winter storms and road closures in the San Jacinto area

3/4/19 (PCTA @ <https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-condition/winter-storms-and-road-closures/>) : Due to heavy snow, the trail over Fuller Ridge could be tough for some early hikers. An alternate route in years past was to bypass the ridge and hike up Black Mountain Road. That is NOT an option this year for early hikers. HWY 243 was washed out and may not be open till early May. The only option to get to I-10 is back to the Paradise Cafe and go all the way around on hwy 74 thru Palm Springs, a car ride of close to 2 hours.

MOUNT SAN JACINTO SNOW CONDITIONS WEBSITE --> <https://sanjacjon.com/>

			San Jacinto Peak	See sanjacjon.com for latest updates on San Jacinto Peak snow conditions.		
B9,10	~179-190	~8,000-9,000	Mt San Jacinto, Fuller Ridge	Miles 187-190 trail is still mostly snow covered. Snow is off-camber, slippery and wet. Some postholing.	5/31/19	Star Trek
C13	313.6	WR0314	**Deep Creek ford			
D3	363.5	AcornTr	Wrightwood [Acorn Cyn Tr, 4.5 mi N or hitch from Hwy 2 @ mile 369.48]	Steep & icy trail down to Wrightwood.	4/2/19	
D4	377.9	9,390	Mt Baden 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

3/26/19 (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/playyourvisit/trailcond.htm>

MOUNT WHITNEY AREA ROAD CONDITIONS --> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/invo/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 continuous 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 @ 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!!

Microspikes/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's! 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!

G13	744.5 745.3 750.2		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 att 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, 2.8, 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.	5/28/19	Ellen
G13	744.5	10,385	Mulkey Pass			
G13	745.3	10,486	Trail Pass			
G14	750.2	11,132	Cottonwood Pass	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 really easy to walk on, 95% dry. From the highway, hard to hitch but possible. Careful @ the pass. I witnessed a successful self arrest.	5/26/19	Jack
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.						
G15	760.5	9,584	Rock Creek	6/16/19 (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.	6/16/19	Theresa & Josh
G16	761.8	10,384	Guyot Creek			
H1	766.3	10,371	Crabtree Meadow / Whitney Creek	Log crossing. Log crossing is 100 feet or so downstream of the trail crossing.	6/5/19	All-In

H1B	767.0	13,612	Mount Whitney / Trail Crest** [Trail Crest ~6 mi E of PCT on trail to Mt Whitney]	<p>7/14/19 (Joshua) : Approach to summit from the west is "largely snow free except for a small snowfield just below the summit. The east side switchbacks down to Trail Camp are icy in the morning and the section of trail with cables is narrow/icy and the poles supporting the cables have been bent away from the trail at the upper end"</p> <p>7/10/19 (V) : Intermittent snow up to Whitney from Crabtree side. There is a stretch of 45 degree snow at one point on a double switchback. Spikes and ice axe recommended. Rock scramble possible but also risky.</p> <p>[There's some of my interpretation embedded in the above, but I think I am understanding her correctly. In 2017 the snow was also patchy going up Whitney in mid-July, with no definite snowline. This is probably due to the steep slope and the western (afternoon) sun exposure.]</p> <p>6/12/19 (Nadav) : 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.</p> <p>Summited 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 got down th rocks ! They send rocks flying down in many sizes and very fast , it could kill some one under you think of that.</p>	7/14/19	Joshua
H1	767.6	13,612	Seasonal Stream			
H1	770.3	10,392	Wallace Creek Ford	<p>7/16/19 (Lexi) : crossed at trail in [7/16] morning below knee; easy.</p> <p>7/11/19 (V) : shallowest crossing was the trail crossing.</p> <p>6/29/19 @ 7:30AM (Smellycat) : (Smellycat - 6'1" tall) forded at pct crossing @7:30am. Knee high, mellow.</p> <p>6/16/19 @ 3:45PM (Theresa & Josh) : Party of 2 forded Wallace Crk @ trail crossing June 16 3.45 pm after looking up and downstream for crossing unsuccessfully. Passable but thigh deep.</p>	7/16/19	Lexi
H1	771.0	10,700	Wright Creek Ford	<p>7/15/19 (Lexi) : crossed at trail in the [7/15] afternoon - knee high mod strong current.</p> <p>7/11/19 (V) : go upstream to the Meadows where there are good spots to cross about knee deep max.</p> <p>6/29/19 @ 8:00AM (Smellycat) : (Smellycat - 6'1" tall) forded upstream about 0.2mi. Thigh deep, strong current, but well manageable. @8am.</p>	7/15/19	Lexi
H1	774.7	10,934	Tyndall Creek Ford [sometimes difficult]	<p>7/15/19 (Lexi) : crossed about a mile upstream easy [in 7/15 morning, I think].</p> <p>7/11/19 (V) : go upstream to the Meadows where there are good spots to cross about knee deep max.</p> <p>6/29/19 @ 11:00AM (Smellycat) : (Smellycat - 6'1" tall) crossed maybe 0.1 downstream of the trail crossing at obvious widening where Creek slows down. Knee deep, swift. Well manageable. @11am.</p> <p>6/17/19 @ 7:20AM (Theresa & Josh) : 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.</p>	7/15/19	Lexi

H3	779.5	13,118	Forester Pass	<p>7/15/19 (Lexi) : North side has snow from 11,600 to 11,900 without much of a packed track, then dry trail/rock scramble from 11,900 to 12,800, then a steep snow traverse 12,800 to 13,200. Great bootpack up high. So side mostly dry trail and rocks coming down from 13,200 to 12,500. The "chute" is snowy but with a good deep track. Mostly snow descending from 12,500 to 12,100 with a hit or miss boot track. Patchy snow down as far as 11,700. [That sounds to me like about 3-4 miles hiking in snow separated by dry stretches. It also sounds to me like some snow will remain as long as Aug 1 but should be considerably easier by then]</p> <p>7/13/19 (Joshua) : snowline on Jul 13 was 11,200 feet on north side and 12,200 on south side of pass. That suggests 5.7 miles walking in snow over the pass. V, another person reporting) says that the snow is patchy for a good portion of that 5.7 miles.</p> <p>7/12/19 (V) : snowline on Jul 12 was 12,800 feet on north side and 12,550 on south side of pass per V. Based on an elevation profile, I estimate 2.0 miles walking in snow over the pass. Note: snowlines reported here are higher than in 2017, suggesting faster melt this year. (Other passes look similar to this time in 2017).</p> <p>7/7/19 (Leea) : There is snow on and off for three miles on either side of the pass. Going up: We got to about 2.4 miles from the pass the night before. Snow melt was intense and water crossings were getting sketchy in the evening. We crossed one meadow where the water was a foot deep on top of the meadow so we had to look through this swirl water to see down to the grass to avoid the deeper creeklets in the meadow. In the am things had frozen up a bit and water was no longer an issue. Lots of long snow fields up to the pass. Footpath usually obvious. When you get to the pass you need to find your way up to the switchbacks. Everyone was taking different paths. No one seemed better than the other. Micro spikes a must. Ice axe extremely helpful. Once up on the switchbacks it is fairly easy going and fairly snow free. Famous "ice chute" the easiest traverse of the day. Foot prints on it are deep and lots of established holes to put your ice axe in for added security. Way down is tedious but not difficult. Everyone took the highest path down (far left) and didn't regret it. It keeps you away from the steep drop off. Footpath is very well established. Everything was quite slushy by 9:00 am but postholing was minimal as the path is fairly well packed down. Lots of scrambling on and off rock islands. Occasional bits of trail appear on exposed ridges and you can briefly make faster progress. As you get lower, the snow fields flatten out and it's less scary but still very tedious.</p>	7/15/19	Lexi
H3	~781.7	11,666	Creek draining center basin north of Forester Pass			
H3	784.0	10,536	Bubbs Creek Ford			
H4	787.3	9,563	<p>Cedar Grove Trail Junction (potential exit point to Roads End)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>CALTRANS HWY 180 STATUS --> http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=180&submit=Search</p>	<p>Hwy 180 is open.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>This is your last chance to exit the Sierra westbound (for a long time) via Roads End / Hwy 180 as the bridge ~6 miles west of the PCT from the Woods Creek bridge (Mile 799.8) is OUT. This bridge is not on the PCT but if you decide to exit the Sierra at Woods Creek heading towards Roads End you will not be able to cross the South Fork of the Kings River at the damaged bridge. If you go over Glen Pass northbound and decide to exit the Sierra after Glen Pass you will have to exit eastbound over Baxter, Sawmill, Taboose, or Bishop Pass which are all higher in elevation from the PCT.</p>	5/6/19	CALTRANS (Department of Transportation)
H4		11,010	Onion Valley	Onion valley trailhead is open, outhouses are open, faucet is off but there is plenty of water in the stream flowing through the campground.	5/12/19	Devilfish
H4	788.9	11,790	Kearsarge Pass** [2.9 mi E of PCT on trail to Onion Valley/Independence, CA]	<p>7/14/19 (Leea) : Kearsarge still has a long scary traverse coming down to onion valley that was super slushy in the afternoon. I used the glissade and scrambled around it. Not worth it, traverse would have been so much faster. (Scramble ended up being over huge sharp edged boulders which was really difficult with a full pack.)</p> <p>7/13/19 (V) : Minimal walking in snow over pass per Strider, confirmed by V.</p> <p>7/1/19 (Deluxe) : it's amazing how fast snow melts! So much melted just from yesterday to today. Still got off trail on Bullfrog Lake Trail due to snow, but not bad.</p> <p>6/18/19 @ 5:00AM (Nadav) : south side down to bullfrog is pretty snowfree at least most switchbacks , very easy pass used micro spikes and trekking poles.</p>	7/14/19	Leea

6/13/19 (Jack S.) - Here's some juicy info for the second stretch we just completed, from Kearsarge pass (mile 789.1) to Mammoth pass (mile 903.3). The Sierra melt seems to be in full swing. We only had two snowy/rainy days early on in our 11 day stretch. All other days were hot with clear or mostly clear skies. Tons of beautiful waterfalls all over.

- 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!
- 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!
- Especially with the melt, tracks are getting tough to follow at times. Keep your phone charged if used for navigation.
- 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 weak 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	<p>7/14/19 (Lexi) : snowline on Jul 14 was 11,300 feet on north side and mostly snow free on south side of pass per Lexi. My estimate based on elevation profile . 1.4 miles walking in snow over pass. Patches of rock/ trail above the N side snowline. One exposed snow slope up high on the North. South side had one snow slope below the upper switchbacks.</p> <p>7/11/19 : snowline on Jul 11 was 10,700 feet on north side and 11,200 on south side of pass per Joshua Der. Based on this report and an elevation profile, I estimate that is approx. 2.5 miles walking in snow over the pass.</p> <p>7/2/19 (Deluxe) : 1.5 miles of continuous snow on south side, then a few miles on north side. North side descent bootpack had a straight down section that was pretty sketchy. Watched someone try to glissade and slightly fall off trail and self arrest with their ice ax. Ranger said he was going up to try to cut a better path so hopefully that happened?</p> <p>6/30/19 (Smellycat) : Did this pass in the evening. Snow was soft and slushy but pass was well manageable still. Followed bootpack on S side and scrambled loose gravel where the official switchbacks are poking out of snow. N side looks serious but there's good path across the snow fields too. Ice axe good for comfort.</p>	7/14/19	Lexi
H5	793.0	10,548	Upper Rae Lakes outlet	<p>6/14/19 (Chance Card) : mid thigh, slow current. Varying depth. Easy.</p> <p>6/10/19 @ 11:29AM : Knee high, somewhat swift current.</p>	6/14/19	Chance Card
H6	795.5	10,314	Arrowhead Lake outlet	<p>Arrowhead lake ford at what looked like trail crossing was low thigh, moderate current. Trend slightly upstream from submerged log for more manageable current. Rocks/sand. Somewhat varying depth.</p>	6/14/19	Chance Card
H6	797.1	9,524	Baxter Creek	<p>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.</p> <p>6/13/19 (Mountain Lion) : At about 0715 when I've seen the powerful stream WA0797 (Baxter Creek according ford report; but Baxter Creek is according halfmile map the creek on the opposite eastside of the valley), I decided to cross not this stream but instead the easier to cross South Fork ? coming from Dollar Lake. Then I hiked the eastside of the valley without any trail near to mile 800 and as well the eastside of the Woods Creek valley up to about mile 803. This had been hard work and took me about 5 hours with some terrible bushwhacking and lose block field crossings. At the confluence of the creek from the south, parallel to the Sawmill Pass trail to the Woods Creek have been a save log crossing with a partly snow bridge.</p>	6/14/19	Chance Card

H6	799.8	8,532	Woods Creek Suspension Bridge <i>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.</i>	<p>6/30/19 (Ehsan) : Report on the So Fork Kings log crossing at Paradise Valley (exit to Roads End via Woods Creek, not on the PCT). We crossed it on our knees 3 days ago. It was scarry & afterwards we said we should not have done it & probably will never do anything like that again.</p> <p>6/14/19 (Chance Card) : 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 the river. Third ford after suspension bridge (<i>I think this is 801.1 - White Fork Creek</i>) 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. -----</p> <p>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.</p>	6/30/19	Ehsan
H6	801.1	9,103	WR801, White Fork Creek	<p>6/23/19 @ 5:15PM (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.</p> <p>6/11/19 @ 5:32AM : Mid thigh high, very swift.</p>	6/23/19	Theresa & Josh
H7	807.1	12,142	Pinchot Pass	<p>7/12/19 (Lexi) : snowline on Jul 12 was 11,400 feet on both sides, also per Lexi. Based on an elevation profile, I estimate 3.0 miles walking in snow over pass. She also reports: "Very patchy on North side -- most people rock scrambling [rather than following the summer trail]. Upper switchbacks clear. South side has good well-packed boot track."</p> <p>7/9/19 (Joshua) : snowline on Jul 9 was 11,000 feet on north side and 11,000 on south side of pass per Joshua Der. That suggests approx. 5.5 miles walking in snow over the pass.</p> <p>7/3/19 (Deluxe) : so much snow! A few miles on the south side and all the way to the Kings River on the north side. Slow almost entirely non scary snow walking with a pretty good bootpack most of the way except the last mile or 2 before the river.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	7/12/19	Lexi

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>

H8	811.4	10,040	S Fork Kings River Ford [sometimes difficult]	<p>7/3/19 (Deluxe) : loved the alternate! Our group split up with some crossing the river on a log and myself and another hiker took the alternate route which is to not Ford the river but walk 2.5 miles upstream instead. Easy bushwhack starts right behind the sign at the Ford. Just take a right and You have to keep the biggest stream on your left the whole time which requires several medium fords, but nothing bad at all. Turns out the non-trail is much more dried out than the other side and its gorgeous.</p> <p>7/2/19 @ 10:40AM (Smellycat) : (Smellycat - 6'1" tall) crossed 0.1 mi upstream at the widening @ 10:40am. Mid thigh/waist deep, strong current but well doable with poles for stability.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>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.</p>	7/3/19	Deluxe
H9	816.9	12,096	Mather Pass	<p>7/12/19 (Lexi) : snowline on Jul 12 was 10,900 feet on north side and 11,100 on south side of pass per Lexi. Based on an elevation profile, I estimate 5.0 miles walking in snow over pass. She reports an "ugly cornice". Their progress has been slower than they expected.</p> <p>7/4/19 (Deluxe) : we took a route with no defined boot pack or footprints and just went straight up the snow chute to the PCT switchbacks, (a la Forester) then did a combo of walking the dry trail where possible and doing easy rock scrambling between. We all found the route fairly straightforward and were super glad we didn't do the terrifying looking scrambling route. The main, most defined bootpack went to sketchy 3rd and 4th class scrambling with significant exposure. Saw several groups attempting varying different routes on the left side that involved snow traverses and scrambling. All succeeded. Some looked much scarier than others and falls in many places would be bad.Descent was quite a few miles of snow (the pattern will continue to repeat.) what an amazing valley and view! Defined bootpack in some places, not at all in others. Another repeating pattern!</p> <p>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.</p>	7/12/19	Lexi
H11	831.0	8,751	Bishop Pass [6.5 miles east of PCT junction]			
Long stretch of snow on both sides of Muir Pass usually until the July timeframe, be sure to give yourself extra time and avoid mid to late afternoon times due to postholing.						

H12	838.6	11,974	Muir Pass	<p>7/16/19 (David) : Big Pete Meadow [South of Muir Pass] to Upper Dusy Basin [partway from JMT to Bishop Pass] only a few patches of snow 7/16 per David (No Lake to So Lake loop). Muir Pass (elev 11,955) -- snowline on Jul 15 was 11,000 feet on north/west side and 10,800 on south/east side of pass per David. Approx. He reports 7.5 miles walking in snow over the pass [which looks right to me on an elevation profile]</p> <p>7/14/19 (David) : Some long snow patches (100-300 yds) as we hiked above Evolution Lake (about 11,000). Crossing of inlet stream to Evolution (below Sapphire Lake) no problem even in the afternoon. [This is a wide slow one a few miles north of Muir Pass -- on placed flat rocks that were earlier reported as partly submerged].</p> <p>7/5/19 (Deluxe) : Probably 10 miles of straight snow. Some snow bridges looked to be rotting a bit. Well defined, mellow but quite long, bootpack vast majority of the way except near evolution lake and a couple other spots. The most obvious bootpack led down the west side of the lake which looked like had a really deep ford?? There is a sign that indicates the trail direction, but the bootpack disappears on the east side? I crossed as the signs indicated and all went well. Also, the main boot pack in a bunch of areas went super close to lakes, ahhh!</p>	7/16/19	David
H13	843.0	10,866	Evolution Lake inflow	<p>6/13/19 @ 8:27AM : Able to cross on rocks while getting feet wet some.</p>	6/13/19	All-In
H14	850.1	9,236	Alternate Evolution Creek Crossing	<p>7/14/19 : Evolution Creek crossing at the meadow 7/14 morning. Hip deep on David, belly deep on 5'7" member of group. Pretty easy crossing [presumably because wide and slow flowing there].</p> <p>7/9/19 (Lexi) : about 30" deep. Not too much current." [Other information confirms that the stream is wide and slow here. Cold but not dangerous if you stay on the fairly obvious sand bar].</p> <p>6/26/19 (Theresa & Josh) : Crossing around 5.30 pm 06/26 - multiple crossings, about waist high in some places but not fast-moving water.</p> <p>6/18/19 (Chance Card) : Waist deep at most and pretty straightforward. Easier than we had expected.</p> <p>6/13/19 @ 11:53AM (All-In) : Multiple crossings but slow moving at waist height.</p>	7/14/19	
H14	850.9	9,201	Evolution Creek Ford [sometimes difficult, alternate ford crosses Evolution Creek near mi 850.1]			
H15	857.7		Muir Trail Ranch			
H16	865.6	10,910	Selden Pass	<p>7/6/19 (Deluxe) : definitely some miles of snow, but nothing extremely memorable.</p> <p>6/22/19 (Nadav) : very easy , could be done mid day.</p> <p>6/19/19 (Chance Card) : Selden Pass was very chill.</p> <p>6/7/19 (Jack) : So very easy. Only pass we gained in the afternoon (around 3 pm) and descended 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.).</p>	7/6/19	Deluxe

H17	869.2	9,574	Bear Creek	<p>7/6/19 (Deluxe) : Bear Creek is so scary! I forded it 50 yards downstream from trail. The first 2/3 were fine, but the last 1/3 was deep and fast and not recommended! I'm 6' 4". The log isn't too bad downstream. If you really don't like the log you could go back up to the west fork of bear creek and bushwhack down and I bet that riding be too bad. Be careful on the creeks past Bear, too. Some large smooth flat rocks aren't the best place to Ford always!</p> <p>6/25/19 (Jazmin) : Crossed on the log 1/10th of a mile upstream. There's a path leading to it from the trail.</p> <p>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 9800. Several non-trivial but manageable stream crossings along the next few miles of trail.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/ under the CA-Section H (2019) photo album.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>This is a notoriously dangerous crossing. You don't have to cross where the PCT crosses Bear Creek. Safer crossing options are often found further upstream.</p>	7/6/19	Deluxe
H17	870.4	9,345	Hilgard Branch Ford			
H18	874.5	9,874	<p>Trail junction to VVR (VVR another ~7 miles from trail junction)</p> <p>VVR Website : http://www.edisonlake.com/</p> <p>Ferry info : http://www.edisonlake.com/hikers/ferry</p>	<p>6/22/19 (Nadav) : pretty good trail mostly till heading down where u start walking through swamps not to pleasant but not bad at all.</p> <p>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.</p>	6/22/19	Nadav
H18	879.4	7,972	N Fork Mono Creek Ford	<p>7/7/19 (Deluxe) : 1st crossing is on a huge awesome log. 2nd crossing the log isn't bad, but it's certainly not the caliber of the 1st! Waterfall after 2nd crossing was awesome and easy!</p> <p>6/19/19 (Chance Card) : For both crossings of the north fork of Mono Creek, there are good logs just downstream from the trail.</p> <p>6/10/19 (Dally) : Still had a huge log just downstream of the trail crossing. Shouldn't be going anywhere anytime soon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6/6/19 (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/.</p>	7/7/19	Deluxe
H19	881.5	8,993	N Fork Mono Creek Ford (2nd Ford)	<p>7/7/19 (Deluxe) : 1st crossing is on a huge awesome log. 2nd crossing the log isn't bad, but it's certainly not the caliber of the 1st! Waterfall after 2nd crossing was awesome and easy!</p> <p>6/19/19 (Chance Card) : For both crossings of the north fork of Mono Creek, there are good logs just downstream from the trail.</p> <p>6/10/19 (Dally) : has a smaller log about 0.2-0.3 miles from the trail crossing. Wasn't a problem for us.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6/6/19 (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/.</p>	7/7/19	Deluxe

H19	882.6	9,694	Silver Pass Creek	<p>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.</p> <p>6/15/19 @ 12:59PM (All-In) : Lots of runoff from above waterfalls.</p> <p>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").</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6/6/19 (Justin) : Not A huge challenge but lots of fun. See video of this crossing at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/.</p>	6/19/19	Chance Card
H19	884.9	10,704	Silver Pass	<p>7/17/19 (Jeremy) : snowline on Jul 17 was 10,765 feet on north side and 10,900 on south side of pass. Sounds like under 1/2 miles walking in continuous snow over pass. He says "Good boot track, spikes not needed. Spotty snow starting above Squaw Lake (10,300). Continuous above 10,765. South side pass mostly snow free.</p> <p>7/11/19 : snowline on Jul 11 was 10,200 feet on north side and 10,500 on south side of pass per Ken. [My estimate based on elevation profile: 2.5 miles walking in snow over pass.] "Snow field begins at Squaw Lake. Trail disappears but shows at times. Route finding a challenge."</p> <p>7/7/19 (Deluxe) : several miles of snow, as usual. The PCT climbs from the Pass, unless you want to do the very steep glissade down to the lake and then traverse the lake which looked to be the steepest option. The main bootpack on the descent leads to fairly steep glissades that I bypassed. I've gotten off trail quite far both times I've been here but nothing scary. Complex terrain: choose your own adventure! A lot of the north faces and various elevations have more snow to varying levels approaching Mammoth. Definitely need to use caution on some steep slopes, mostly low exposure though.</p>	7/17/19	Jeremy
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>	6/24/19	Nadav
H22	906.7	7669	Reds Meadow : https://www.nps.gov/depo/planyourvisit/hours.htm Shuttle Information : https://www.nps.gov/depo/planyourvisit/reds-meadow-and-devils-postpile-shuttle-information.htm	<p>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).</p> <p>6/9/19 (Black Sheep) : They haven't even started plowing the road, no idea when they'll open up.</p>	6/10/19	Michal
H22	~909.0			Strong flow and knee high, was able to cross.	6/10/19	Justin
JMT ALTERNATE						
H23	WA0909B	8,146	Minaret Creek	Strong flow but able to cross on leveled log across creek.	6/10/19	Justin
H25	924.6	10,227	Island Pass	<p>6/26/19 (Chance Card) : very easy except for the heavily suncupped snow that extends from about mile 923 to 932.</p> <p>6/9/19 (Black Sheep) : completely under snow, no trouble crossing though.</p>	6/26/19	Chance Card
H25	925.9	9,645	Rush Creek Trail junction			

H25	926.9	10,069	Rush Creek Ford	<p>6/26/19 (Chance Card) : Crossed several branches of Rush Creek. Most had snow bridges, one of them involved a shin deep wade. None looked particularly dangerous.</p> <p>6/9/19 (Black Sheep) : running high. Snowy banks and snow bridges that lose stability. Be very careful crossing here!!</p>	6/26/19	Chance Card
H25	929.5	11,073	Donohue Pass	<p>7/14/19 : Mid hike, just hiked out at Agnew to visit Mammoth Lakes. Thousand Island Lakes is thawed but still has tons of snow. The suncups on the south side of Donohue Pass are crazy deep. The post-holing opportunities on pretty much all snow is extreme and seems to be getting worse. If you're headed up I'd focus on learning to read snow for dangers of collapse. Lots of shin gashes, a few broken ankles and hyper extended knees being reported.</p> <p>6/26/19 (Chance Card) : The southeast side of Donohue Pass is gradual with a good bootpack through the sun cups. The northwest side is much steeper but was pretty manageable in the afternoon.</p> <p>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. The pass's northern side was pretty steep and I was glad I had brought an ice axe. 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 turnoff.</p>	7/14/19	
H25	931.2	10,186	Lyell Fork Ford	<p>6/28/19 (Chance Card) : Trail is mostly snow free from Lyell Canyon until Spiller Creek.</p> <p>6/9/19 (Black Sheep) : Lyell Canyon has some high water but creek crossings are manageable. Bridges were all intact. This is your only spot without much snow in a large radius.</p>	6/28/19	Chance Card
	936.0		Ireland Creek	no problem crossing, about knee deep.	6/9/19	Black Sheep
H27	942.5	8,596	<p>Highway 120 CALTRANS : http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=120&submit=Search</p>	<p>6/24/19 (Yosemite NP Website) : Tioga Road is open to entry (at Tioga Pass and 5 miles east of Crane Flat) only from 10 am to 11 am and 3 pm to 4 pm daily until further notice. No stopping and no day-use recreation are allowed. No visitor services are available.</p> <p>6/17/19 (All-In) : The local beta is that the road is open from the east to the park entrance and catching a hitch there is said to be easy. I'm told that's an eight mile road walk.</p> <p>6/17/19 (CalTrans) : IS CLOSED FROM CRANE FLAT (TUOLUMNE CO) TO THE TUOLUMNE/MONO CO LINE FOR THE WINTER. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE AN ALTERNATE ROUTE. THE EAST ENTRANCE TO YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK REMAINS CLOSED</p>	6/24/19	Yosemite NP Website
<p>6/9/19 (Little Skittles) : Video of Little Skittles recent creek crossings north of Hwy 120 / Tuolumne Meadows at the link below, a lot of great footage here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8h0rs_xgPI&feature=share</p>						
	944.2		Delaney Creek	<p>6/27/19 (Chance Card) : Crossed Delaney Creek on a wide, downward slanting log just upstream from the trail. Looked like a safe, knee deep wade at the trail.</p> <p>6/15/19 @ 6:03AM (Justin) : Strong flow. Log upstream a short distance.</p>	6/27/19	Chance Card
I1	947.0	8,303	Wooden Bridge over Tuolumne River	Water is below the bridge now, feet kept dry.	7/8/19	Candace
I1	948.3		Glen Aulin Campground			
	956.0		McCabe Creek	<p>6/28/19 (Chance Card) : Took McCabe Lake Trail to get upstream out of concern McCabe Creek might be running high. There is a log across the creek right round where you can first see the creek from McCabe Lake Trail. Cross country down to Return Creek. But you could probably find a spot to cross nearer the PCT.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6/16/19 (Justin) : 3:00PM Strong flow. Waist high.</p>	6/28/19	Chance Card
I3	956.2	8,531	Ford a Creek (Return Creek)	<p>6/28/19 (Chance Card) : Return Creek looked manageable at the trail. Crossed 0.15 miles upstream where it split around a small island. No more than knee deep but swift current plus slippery rocks.</p> <p>6/16/19 (Justin) : Very strong flow. Found a tree upstream.</p>	6/28/19	Chance Card

	957.3		Spiller Creek	<p>6/28/19 (Chance Card) : Spiller Creek was knee deep at trail crossing. Fairly easy ford. Snow from Spiller to Matterhorn. Trail is hard to follow at times.</p> <p>6/17/19 (Justin) : 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.</p>	6/28/19	Chance Card
	962.1		Matterhorn Creek	<p>6/28/19 (Chance Card) : Matterhorn creek was a straightforward knee deep ford at the trail, except for along the far bank where it was maybe mid thigh—fine so long as it doesn't catch you off guard.</p> <p>6/22/19 (All-In) : 2:30pm June 22. Very easy knee-deep wade at or near trail crossing. Clear water makes depth assessment easy.</p> <p>6/17/19 (Justin) : 10:16AM Strong flow, thigh high.</p>	6/28/19	Chance Card
I4	963.9-965.3	~9,400	Wilson Creek	<p>6/29/19 (Chance Card) : All three crossings of Wilson Creek have logs nearby.</p> <p>6/22/19 (All-In) : 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.</p>	6/29/19	Chance Card
I4	966.4	10,125	Benson Pass	<p>Snow from Benson Pass until most of the way to Paiute Creek. Drop off below Smedberg lake is steep and tricky.</p>	6/29/19	Chance Card
	970.5, 971.6, & 972.3		Creek before Piute Creek	<p>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.</p>	6/23/19	All-In
I4	972.5	~8,000	Paiute creek	<p>6/29/19 (Chance Card) : There is a huge log across Paiute Creek a little bit downstream from the trail. Water looked to be about chest deep and moving slow if wading is more your style.</p> <p>6/23/19 (All-In) : 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.</p>	6/29/19	Chance Card
	979.8		Kerrick Creek [sometimes difficult]	<p>7/11/19 @ 10:45AM (Theresa & Josh) : Crosses Kerrick Ck mile 979.8 on log just upstream without issues @ 10.45 07/11. Another hiker forded at trail xing belly-button deep in swift and turbulent.</p> <p>6/29/19 (Chance Card) : Steep and snowy descent to Kerrick/Rancheria Creek, followed by a steep and snowy traverse above the bank of the creek. As nerve wracking as any of the passes and probably better to do in the afternoon when the snow is soft enough to kick steps. There is a log across the swiftest part of the Kerrick/Rancheria creek just upstream from the trail crossing. You'll have to wade on either side of it but those parts were no worse than Spiller or Matterhorn. The creek was almost cresting the log when we crossed in the evening. If the water level had been even a little higher it would have been a lot trickier. The water level was noticeably lower the next morning.</p> <p>6/23/19 (All-In) : 3:10pm June 23. 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.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>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.</p>	7/11/19	Theresa & Josh

	982.3		Creek in Stubblefield Canyon	<p>6/30/19 (Chance Card) : Forded Stubfield Canyon Creek slightly upstream from the trail where it split into multiple forks via one log crossing and two thigh deep wades. The current was manageable and the footing was easy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	6/30/19	Chance Card
	985.5		Creek in Tilden Canyon	9:07am June 24. Barely knee-high ford at trail crossing. We had unnamed creeks that were much worse than this.	6/24/19	All-In
I6	986.8		Wilma Lake Outlet	10:44am June 24. Approximately knee- or thigh- high near trail crossing, with a much deeper submerged channel that needed to be vaulted, as shown.	6/24/19	All-In
	987.4		Falls Creek	<p>6/30/19 (Chance Card) : The falls creek ford was about waist deep and slow moving. The section of trail along Falls Creek is a tedious combination of tree wells, snow, and small creeks.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	6/30/19	Chance Card
I8	997.0	9,531	Doroth Lake Pass N boundary Yosemite NP	Dorothy Pass is heavily sun cupped but otherwise easy.	7/1/19	Chance Card
	998.5 & 998.9		Cascade Creek			
	1002.4		Walker River			
	1005.9		Kennedy Canyon Creek			
I10	1016.9	9,655	Sonora Pass [Hwy 108] CALTRANS : http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=108&submit=Search	<p>7/1/19 (Chance Card) : The final descent down to Sonora Pass is snowy, steep, and sun cupped.</p> <p>6/8/19 (CALTRANS) : Hwy 108 is OPEN.</p>	7/1/19	Chance Card
J4	1048.4	8,702	Ebbets Pass [Hwy 4] CALTRANS : http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=4&submit=Search	OPEN	6/8/19	CALTRANS (Department of Transportation)
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.						
J8	1076.7	8,590	Carson Pass [Hwy 88] CALTRANS : http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=88&submit=Search	OPEN	6/8/19	CALTRANS (Department of Transportation)
6/19/18 (Lickity Split) : Echo Lakes to Carson Pass has only minor snow patches. No need for microspikes or GPS navigation.						
J10	1090.8	7,241	Highway 50 CALTRANS : http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi?roadnumber=50&submit=Search	OPEN	6/8/19	CALTRANS (Department of Transportation)
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)		
6/11/18 (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.					
K9	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)
6/9/19 (Waltzing Mathilda) : I attempted to nobo from I-80 rest area. Snow was 3-4 ft just outside the rest area. Trail covered. Used gps for 2 miles and constantly lost trail. Temp was 69 degrees and melt was on. I did not posthole but surface was slushy and I imagine by Monday postholing would be the norm. I decided to flip north as huge drifts over the trail and was concerned about avalanche dangers.					
L1	1158.8	7,478	Upper Castle Creek		
L1	1164.4	7,559	Wooden Bridge over Seasonal Stream		
6/16/19 (Smalls) : the patchy snow starts nobo approx 1345 mm. Pretty much solid from 1351 to like 1357 where it's patchy until gone at mm 1358.5.					
6/10/19 (Freddy) : Moosehead Creek (mile #1447.7) to Gold Creek (mile 1458.1) there is still significant snow requiring navigation skills through down trees and in a forest. This includes Mushroom Rock an area known to hold snow.					
6/6/19 (Daniel) : Trail report: 1501 (Dunsmuir) to 1560 (Etna via route 3) NOBO. June 3, thru June 6. From Dunsmuir the first 15 miles are snow free. The next 10 miles are about 40% snow, and easy. The next 35 miles are about 50% snow, micro spikes strongly recommended. From roughly 1530 to 1560 you'll need your GPS/Guthook a lot.					
5/25/19 (Kids Out Wild) : We walked on forest roads during a storm from about 1425 to 1470 to avoid deep snow at elevations above 4500.					
5/15/19 (Finder) : Saunter and I are at Burney Guest Ranch after hiking from I-5. Here what we can report. Snow starts at MP 1462.8 and gets deep at Deer Creek Springs. Snow continues expect one southern exposed section (with one snow bridge) until 1446 . There is a gap and then snow to a lesser degree between MP 1445 and 1440 . We made camp at 8 pm at Moosehead Creek MP 1447.7 on the only 10 by 10 foot of snowless ground in the area. Snows on flat ridge at 1446.6 is 5 feet deep. Snow is forecasted for tonight in that area.					
5/8/19 (Kevin) : I just packed through the CA – Old Station area mile 1368 to Burney Falls area mile 1427 and it was snow free. Washington Nick passed me having walked over the snow from the Quince area and was going to push through the snow areas past mile 1427. I used to forest service roads and jumped back on at mile 1468 McCloud river area and just saw a little snow before mile 1499 Castella area (I-5). Jumping back on at mile 1717 Callahans area (I-5). I just had a little snow on the trail and then great trails through mile 1750 Keno road area (with potentially many more good mile ahead that I did not get to checkout). My point is that with so may hiker friendly miles of trail in Oregon and northern California, a well timed and placed south bound shot through the Sierras could be fast and enjoyable. Additionally these lower elevation areas that were great this time of the year will be hot and dry later in the year.					
6/29/19 (Notsofast) : Some snow on trail around mile 1533 on a north facing slope for several hundred yards at a time. Passable without micro spikes or an ice axe, but care is needed.					
7/6/19 (Smalls) : Some snow after mm 1797.7 but easy glissade in couple spots down & patchy snow ends approx mm1799 .					
Oregon					
OREGON HIGHWAY STATUS --> https://www.tripcheck.com					
6/16/19 (Foxtail & 3 Bean) : We are hiking SOBO thru Oregon- went south from bridge of the gods and are now in Bend. There is water everywhere due to snowmelt. Lots of sources not listed on Guthook. From the Washington border to Timberline Lodge there were only a few small patches of snow and plenty of other hikers out there. From Timberline Lodge to Olallie Lake Resort there was no snow. From Olallie Lake Resort to Santiam Pass it was treacherous , terrifying and very not 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 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 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 covered but no traverses and nothing steep or sketchy.					
Washington					
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PASS HIGHWAY STATUS --> http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/passes/default.aspx					
	2254-87	~6,000-7,000	Goat Rocks Wilderness		
H20	2292.4	4,409	White Pass [Hwy 12] WA DOT : http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/passes/white/default.aspx		
I4	2321.0	5,434	Chinook Pass [Hwy 410] WA DOT : http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/passes/PassInformation.aspx#chinookpassr410link		
I13	2380.9	3,582	Yakima Pass		
J1	2390.7	3174	Snowqualmie Pass [I-90] WA DOT : http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/passes/snoqualmie/default.aspx		
J5	2438.7	3,806	Potentially difficult Ford		
J6	2445.7	5,933	Piper Pass		
K16	2461.6	4,053	Stevens Pass [Hwy 2] WA DOT : http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/passes/stevens/default.aspx		
K16	2588.9	4,855	Rainy Pass [Hwy 20] WA DOT : http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/northcascades		
L1	2593.9	6,837	Cutthroat Pass		
L1	2596.3	6,263	Granite Pass		
L2	2599.3	6,593	Methow Pass		
L3	2609.7	5,581	Glacier Pass		

6/23/18 (Luc) : Well folks, I made it from Harts Pass to Stehekin. I'm happy to report that it is indeed passable, but I have to warn that it's not easy (details below), especially without proper snow gear. If you're an adventure seeker, you'll love this stuff (though be prepared for wet feet), but if you're looking for snow-free trails, give yourself another TWO weeks (and even then, you'll probably still have some snow). All distances below are rough estimates.

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 (mostly) 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 3-4), 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 Stilleto 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.

L4	2619.5	6,188	Harts Pass		
L5	2623.8	6,557	Buffalo Pass		
L5	2624.7	6,273	Windy Pass		
L5	2626.9	6,182	Foggy Pass		
L5	2627.6	6,265	Jim Pass		
L6	2633.0	5,066	Holman Pass		
L6	2636.5	6,502	Rock Pass		
L7	2639.1	6,651	Woody Pass		
L7	2644.0	6,140	Hopkins Pass		
L8	2646.4	5,460	Castle Pass		

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