



## Pacific Crest Trail: Northern California, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition 2005 Update

Information supplied by author Ben Schifrin. The opinions expressed here are his alone, and not necessarily those of the coauthors or the publisher. Ben can be contacted through Wilderness Press

**p. ix: Acknowledgements:** Robert “Dr Bob” Ellinwood has been extraordinarily helpful in reviewing the entire set of guides. His detailed commentaries and corrections surpass any that Schifrin has ever received.

**p. 69, Weather to Go:** Almost all PCT through-hikers will actually traverse this section before Schaffer’s recommended dates. The stream crossings at Kerrick Canyon and Stubblefield Canyon can often be chest-to-neck deep at those times—the most difficult and dangerous on the entire PCT. It is rare, however, that snow will be much of a challenge after June 1—it is usually quite consolidated. The otherwise-dangerous descent across the snowfield to Sonora Pass can be easily skirted at any time of year.

**p. 69, Supplies, Par 2:** The Tuolumne Meadows Store has evolved into a quite-sufficient establishment for resupply. It has an excellent selection of backpacker and fresh food items and fuel. Along with the nearby Tuolumne Mountaineering School, which offers a fair selection of backpacking gear and clothing, most hikers will find that they can load up without detouring to Lee Vining. The post office is found in the same large tent that houses the store. Also found there is the Grill, which serves light breakfast and lunch items.

**p. 69, Col 2, Par 2, Line 6 and 9:** The Wilderness Center and the parking lot booth are one and the same. In 2004, hours were 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Note that trailhead quotas for the PCT are for only the short distances and camps traditionally used by backpackers within one day of the trailhead; most through-hikers will be going far beyond the quota boundaries.

**p. 70, Col 1, Par 2, Line 6:** Typo: Should be, prime bear country;

**p. 70, Col 2, Par 2, Line 3:** Water will be even deeper in Kerrick and Stubble field creeks, though possibly not as wide.

**p. 71, Col 2, Par 2, Line 4:** Delaney Creek may be dry in late season.

**p. 72, Col 1, Par 3, Line 2:** Cold Canyon Creek may go dry by September of some years.

**p. 72, Col 1, Par 2, Line 4:** South edge of soggy meadow has a nice dry camp on a knoll just before it, with seasonal water close by.

**p. 72, Col 2, Par 1, Line 4:** Nice dry camps at McCabe Lakes trail junction.

**p. 72, Col 2, Par 3:** Not a side route: remove grey overprint.

**p. 73, Map II:** Mark new trail route north of Parsons Lodge. Mark Stables. Mark Wilderness Permit Station.

**p. 75, Col 1, Par 2, Line 4:** High-volume creek has excellent camps.

**p. 75, Col 1, Par 3, Line 2:** Many large and small campsites are found just before the trail begins to climb out of Matterhorn Canyon.

**p. 75, Col 1, Par 3, Line 7:** last ford of Wilson Creek has small camps.

**p. 75, Col 2, Par 4, Line 12:** Snowbound descent from Smedberg Lake: The described cross-country route would be difficult in any case, entailing a ford of that lake's swollen outlet, then a diagonal descent on steep benches and through dense brush.

**p. 75, Col 2, Line 3 from bottom:** Piute Creek is fenced as a horse and mule pasture. As such, it is full of manure. Early-season crossing is via large logs.

**p. 76, Map I4:** A small strip of the left, west edge of the map is missing.

**p. 78, Col 1, Par 2: Benson Lake:** Unfortunately, this is a major destination of commercial mule-trains. By mid-summer, the trail, the beach, and most campsites are full of manure and dust.

**p. 78, Col 1, Par 3, Line 5 from bottom:** Seavey Pass was again unsigned in 2004.

**p. 78, Col 2, Par 1, end:** Unlike most places in northern Yosemite, Kerrick Canyon is almost devoid of places to camp, until one reaches the Bear Valley Trail. The rare flat spots that do exist, are well-above the water.

**p. 78, Col 2, Par 4, Line 4:** Kerrick Canyon creek is often the most dangerous early-season ford on the entire PCT. Ironically, it can be completely dry in late season.

**p. 78, Col 2, Par 4, Line 12:** shallow gap: here ducks lead ¼ mile east to a wonderful, large, unnamed and rarely-visited lake, with great camps.

**p. 78, Col 2, Line 5 from bottom:** Stubblefield Canyon creek is a deep, swift ford in early season. There were large fallen logs across the sandy bed, just upstream of the ford, in 2004.

**p. 80, Col 1, Line 2:** Tilden Canyon Creek may be dry in September.

**p. 80, Col 1, Last line: Junction 8390:** This is actually a junction with the southwest-bound Tilden Canyon Trail, signed to Tiltill Valley, Now, turn right, north, up-canyon 0.1 mile to the right-branching Tilden Lake Trail.

**p. 81, Col 2, Line 6:** Cross Wilma Lake's outlet on a dam of steel I-beams.

**p. 81, Col 2, Par 2, Line 10:** Meadows in Jack Main Canyon are now considerably reduced by encroaching lodgepoles and avalanche debris.

**p. 82, Col 1, Line 1:** Dorothy Lake has designated horse packer sites near its outlet, reached by a signed spur trail. Excellent smaller sites are found on the northwest shore.

**p. 82, Col 1, Par 2, Line 12:** Footbridge is now washed-out.

- p. 85, Col 1, Line 4:** Junction of PCT and West Fork West Walker River Trail on Map I9 is drawn too far south—it should be only 0.2 mile from the bridge.
- p. 85, Col 1:** Alternate Route: Omit. It has no advantages over the newer alignment, now that the older trail is overgrown.
- p. 86, Col 1, Par 1, Line 3:** There is a smaller spring-fed permanent creek 0.2 mile east of creek 9060. The old down-canon trail is no longer evident.
- p. 86, Col 1, Par 3, Line 6:** Newer PCT tread now branches steeply from the first switchback in the road, climbing almost to the ridge crest before rejoining the road.
- p. 88, Col 1, Line 4 from bottom:** There is now a well-defined use trail that drops south to the outlet of Latopie Lake. The small treeless alpine lake has slightly boggy, always windy camping.
- p. 88, Col 2, Par 1, Line 8:** Angles northwest just north of a moraine-bound, usually-frozen lakelet which could be your last emergency water source before Sonora Pass.
- p. 89, Line 1: Lethal fall:** This is easily avoided by walking north down the open ridge, avoiding the snowbound north-facing slopes. On trail or off, look underfoot for pearly white agates, which are locally abundant.
- p. 89, Line 3:** One last gully has a small sheltered campsite, perched viewfully at 10,140 below the path.
- p. 89, Line 12:** Better ersatz camps are found near the Trailhead picnic area, 0.2 mile ahead.
- p. 94: Col 1, Par 3, Line 4:** Parking spur has a toilet, tables and trash can, but no water.
- p. 94, Col 1, Par 3, Line 8:** Dozen gullies: Hold at least 3 permanent streams, with sloping camps early-on.
- p. 97, Col 1, Par 3, Line 12:** East Fork Carson River has at least 4 permanent creeks, with better camping in the lower half.
- p. 97, Col 1, Par 3, Line 4 from bottom:** East Carson Trail is now no longer seen.
- p. 97, Col 1, Par 4, Line 3:** West wall: the trail crosses the same good small creek three times, but without camps. The shallow bowl, beyond, has camps and an early-season creek, but is mosquitoey.
- p. 97, Col 2, Par 3, Line 8:** Boulder Creek has nice camps on both sides.
- p. 97, Col 2, Par 3, Line 11:** Trail maintenance has made the route obvious.
- p. 98, Col 1, Par 2, Line 2:** This valley has permanent water.
- p. 98, Col 1, Par 2, line 3 from bottom:** Middle fork Wolf Creek: has a camp below trail.
- p. 98, Col 1, Par 3:** Remove grey overprint.
- p. 98, Col 1, Par 3, Line 4:** There are good camps at each branch of Wolf Creek.

- p. 99, Col 2, Par 2, Last Line:** Wolf Creek Pass: Be sure to close the stock drift fences here, and farther up-canyon.
- p. 99, Col 2, Par 3:** Should be Side Route, rather than Campsite.
- p. 98, Col 2, line 2 from bottom:** Saddle: has a nice waterless camp in low whitebark pines.
- p. 101, Col 1, Par 1, Line 4:** Noble Canyon Trail is signed, “Bull Canyon Trail”.
- p. 101, Col 1, Par 3, Line 11:** Seasonal creeklets: Some with small camps.
- p. 101, Col 2, Line 1:** Spur road: now with a self-service wilderness permit station.
- p. 101, Col 2, Line 3 from bottom:** Jeep road is no longer evident.
- p. 102, Map J5:** Name Lily Pad Lake in Section 28.
- p. 105, Col 1, Last line:** Jeep road is now gone.
- p. 105, Col 2, Line 3:** Spur trail now has self-service wilderness permit station.
- p. 106, Col 1, Line 4 from bottom:** Blue Lakes Road is now, sadly, 2 paved lanes.
- p. 109, Col 1, Par 3, Line 3:** Tread along Peak 9381 is now badly torn up by dirt bikes and 4WD vehicles.
- p. 109, Col 2, Par 2, Line 10:** Carson Pass now has a USFS interpretive station and wilderness permit station, but no formal water.
- p. 110, Col 1, Par 3:** Should be grey overprint “Side Route”.
- p. 117, Col 1, Last 3 Lines:** The description of Lake Aloha is well-outdated; many of the tree snags are fallen and there is a healthy population of green trees.
- p. 120, Col 2, Line 14:** Trails to Upper Echo Lake: These are all now well signed, and not at all confusing.
- p. 126, Col 2, Par 2, Line 3:** Muddy traverse has been replaced by a bermed elevated trail with bridges.
- p. 129, Col 1, Par 1, Line 9:** The jeep road and PCT now do coincide for a few yards; the route is well-marked.
- p. 129, Col 2, Par 3, Line 14:** Trickling spring: There is now a large dirt road across the trail here. The PCT’s crossing is well-marked.
- p. 130, Col 1, Par 2, Line 12:** Top a ridge: Now cross a jeep road spur from the logging road to the southwest.
- p. 135, Col 1, Par 1, Last Line:** Western States Trail: is now disused, and inobvious.

- p. 136, Col 1, Par 3, Line 12: Tinker Knob Saddle:** Here the signed Coldstream Trail 15E05 branches, right, north 7 miles to Truckee. It is not particularly convenient for through-hiker resupply.
- p. 143, Col 2, Par 2, Line 13:** Summit Lake Trail is signed as “Warren Trail”.
- p. 143, Col 2, Par 3, Line 6:** Two side trails lead across Castle Valley to the road; the route is obvious.
- p. 145, Col 1, Par 3, Castle Pass:** This is now a signed trail, “Castle Peak Trail, with another, he signed Hole-in-Wall Trail, branching west.
- p. 145, Col 1, Line 3 from bottom:** Old Jeep road is no longer evident.
- p. 145, Col 2 Par 1, Line 3:** Former jeep road (8270) is now essentially gone.
- p. 146, Col 2, Line 4: White Rock Creek:** Now has an excellent camp on its south banks, as well. The trail north is now clear, with good tread and 4x4 posts.
- p. 146, Col 2, Par 2, Line 8:** Saddle 8140: has a nice dry camp, with water available until the end of season from springs just 100 yards to the west.
- p. 147, col 2, Par 2, Line 3 from bottom:** Road 86: This is a bit confusing. This is the same road called, “Meadow Lake Road 19N11” on the “Points on Route” of page 142.
- p. 148, Col 1, Line 2:** Camp: Excellent camps are just east of the creek, although the creek is often dry by late August of drought years.
- p. 148, Col 1, Par 2, Line 7:** Ridge: Well-marked trail crosses and joins a jeep road a few times. The summit to your north is signed, Mt Lacy.
- p. 148, Col 2, Line 3 from bottom:** Seasonal creek: This is not the reliable mapped creek, which is in a deep, difficult-to-access volcanic gorge north of the trail. Fair camping is available on logged-over benches 2 minutes east of the road crossing.
- p. 151, Col 1, Par 1, Lines 5 & 6:** First good road is now virtually gone. The second road (6740) is still evident. The sign here indicates “Gold Canyon Trails Council Horse Camp  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile” at the start of the trail to Little Lassier Meadow, as shown on Map L4.
- p. 151, Col 1, Par 3, Line 3:** Old road is now overgrown.
- p. 151, Col 1, Last Line:** Pass Creek Loop Road: Signs here (inconsistent with the above) point to “Lasier Meadow Horse Camp”.
- p. 151, Col 2, Par 1, Line 5:** Sentence “On the paved road...” should NOT be in blue highlight—this is normal trail description text.
- p. 151, Col 2, Par 3, Line 4:** Minor saddle: This area was actively logged in 2002, and has a new logging road. Skid trails and roads have destroyed short bits of trail from here to Bear Valley.

**p. 151, Col 2, Par 4, Line 7: ridge:** There is now a poor dirt road in the saddle just west of Bear Valley, and a major graveled road from the headwaters of Milton Creek along the hillside southeast of Point 6504. It obliterates the trail for about 60 yards. Walk west.

**p. 151, Col 2, Line 4 from bottom:** Another major dirt road bisects the well-signed path in the saddle at 5880' on the corner of Sections 1,6,7 and 12 on map L5.

**p. 154, Col 1, Line 2:** Milton Creek: has nice camps south of the stream, as well.

**p. 159, Col 1, Par 2, Supplies: Sierra City:** This is one of the towns I've mentioned before where there is a little resentment towards PCT hikers. It's a small place and gets clogged up with stinky hikers in July, at the height of their tourist season. If we are either a) more discreet and don't camp out on the doorsteps of local businesses, or b) spread more money around, everything should work out. The PCT register is at the Post Office. Next to the Post Office is the Sierra Country Store (213 Main St., 530-862-1560). The proprietors are hiker friendly and have added more produce, a new meat section, wine and hard liquor. The laundromat, right next to the store, has tables, umbrellas and water. Across the street the Old Sierra City Hotel bar/restaurant (530-862-1300) has showers available and will be opening for the season in April 2005. The interesting Kentucky Mine Museum is on the east end of town, on the way back to the PCT. Hitch-hiking is usually easy.

**p. 159, Col 1, Par 2, Supplies: Belden:** The resort does have showers, laundry and a phone. Their accommodations are too expensive for most hikers. Nearby camping suffers from the incessant nighttime noise of passing trains-- this author prefers to resupply and move up Chips Creek to camp.

**p. 159, Col 1, Par 2, Line 12:** Belden post office is only 0.7 miles from Belden Town Resort via the highway, but just under a mile by trail.

**p. 160, Col 1, Par 3, Line 6:** Before reaching the flume, a signed side-trail leads 0.1 mile north to a reliable spring, at 5400 feet.

**p. 161, Col 1, Par 1, Last Line:** Sierra Buttes jeep trail: Now with a parking spur road to the ridge to the south.

**p. 163, Col 2, Line 4 from bottom: wind northward down:** Now a short stretch of newer trail goes directly down the ridge, avoiding the old road that you've been following, which makes a switchback to the southeast.

**p. 167, Col 2, Par 3, Line 3: Junction 7355:** This northern intersection with the Oakland Pond trail is now disused and inevident, in part because of minor rerouting and switchbacks on the PCT.

**p. 167, Col 2, Par 4, Line 7:** cross a jeep road: Now turned to trail.

**p. 168, Col 1, Line 7:** easy descent across open slopes: Now intersecting the signed trail north to Jamison Mine and Grass Lake.

**p. 168, Col 1, Par 2, Last line:** distance to springs on Sierra Buttes should be 14.8 or 14.9 miles.

**p. 169, Col 2, Par 3, Line 11:** Unnamed lake: Now has a dirt road accessing it from the north, and attendant primitive campsites.

- p. 171, Col 1, Par 1, Line 7: Road 6680:** Here a sign points 0.4 mile east to “stock water” at the head of Onion Valley Creek, with possible camping.
- p. 171, Col 1, Par 3, Line 3: trailhead:** Signed, “Pilot Peak PCT Trailhead”.
- p. 171, Col 2, Par 2, Line 1:** Quincy-LaPorte Road is 2 lines, paved. Auto traffic is busy, especially on summer weekends.
- p. 171, Col 2, Par 2, Line 6:** Kenzie Ravine Road: mark as paved on Map M5.
- p. 171, Col 2, Par 2, Line 8:** Fowler Peak Trail: In its eastern extent, the closed road is only a trail, and does not confuse the PCT. Farther west, however, heavy OHV traffic has made the road quite prominent, and leads to a lot of places where the PCT has become a dual-use quad-runner trail.
- p. 173, Col 1, Line 3:** Traverse to second summit: There is now a good gravel logging road crossed on the saddle between.
- p. 173, Col 1, Line 4:** Bear Wallow Trail has now been upgraded to a good dirt road. A small forest fire burned these environs in summer 2002.
- p. 174, Col 1, Par 2, Line 3:** 1/3 mile descent: In a patch of deep forest with many blown-down trees, a signed trail branches left, south to Bald Mountain and Little Grass Valley reservoir. You could walk ¼ mile southwest along it, then contour north to reach a spring in the broad head of Black Rock Creek.
- p. 174, Col 1, Par 2, Line 15:** Saddle 5460: Now a signed points south along a fair use-trail 0.4 mile to spring-fed shallow pools. Adequate camping is nearby, beside a logging spur road.
- p. 174, Col 2, Par 4, Line 5: Second road 5280:** Here signed’ “Fowler Lake 0.4 Mile”.
- p. 175, Col 1, Par 2, Last line:** The signed Butte Creek Trail branches right, southeast away from the last switchback.
- p. 177, Col 1, Par 3, Line 3:** A dirt road from the canyon rim crosses Deadman Spring saddle.
- p. 177, Col 2, Last Par: Water Access:** Both of these creeklets can be dry by mid-August of drought years, such as 2004. The pond is now silted-in and overgrown, but there is often water in the culvert leading to it.
- p. 181, Col 1, Par 4: First sentence:** Add to preceding paragraph.
- p. 183, Col 1, Last Line:** breath should be “breathe”.
- p. 187, Col 2, Line 6 from bottom:** PCT register is now at the post office.
- p. 187, Col 2, Second to last line:** Belden Post Office is 0.7 mile west via the highway, and just less than 1 mile by trail.
- p. 191, Col 1, Supplies: Chester:** Most hikers will have little trouble hitchhiking in to Chester, because Hwy 36 is busy during the summer. Chester has supermarkets, laundry, post office, internet access, a library and numerous motels and restaurants, all convenient to someone on foot.

**p. 191, Col 2, Supplies, Line 4:** The newer mailing address for hiker's boxes at Burney Falls State park is: Burney Falls Camp Services, 24898 Hwy 89, Burney, CA 96013 (it is listed correctly on P14).

**p. 192, Col 2, Line 4: Powerlines:** A short steep dirt road accessing the powerlines here drops southwest down to the Belden Post Office.

**p. 192, Col 2, Par 3, Line 2: Chips Creek Trail:** Was burned extensively in the massive Storrie Fire of August 2000. Much of the way up-canyon is now shadeless, dirty and hot, but as of 2004, some brush is starting to sprout up.

**p. 194, Col 2, Par 1, Line 5: Williams Cabin:** Sadly burned completely in the Storrie Fire, as did most of the surrounding forest.

**p. 195, Col 2, Par 2, Line 3: Myrtle Flat:** Due to mudslides resulting from the Storrie Fire, PCT trail tread was rerouted both east and west of Myrtle Flat. Most hikers will not notice significant changes in the first, eastern segment. The second reroute, however, forces two quick crossings of Chips Creek. Small cramped camps are developing near the fords, which should not be difficult in mid-season.

**p. 195, Col 2, Par 2, Line 15:** creek from Poison Spring: Unlike the spring above it, which can dry up in late season of drought years, the stream here is always reliable.

**p. 195, Col 2, Par 3, Line 8:** Poison Spring: May be dry in September of drought years.

**p. 199, Col 1, Par 1, Line 7:** Most early summers, one must descend only about 0.4 mile. By October, however, expect to walk 0.7 mile. Water can always be found near Carter Meadow, however. The trail is actually west of the streambed.

**p. 203, Col 2, Par 2:** This should be BLUE highlighted, as an important water source.

**p. 203, Col 2, Par 2, Last line:** Stover Spring may dwindle, but it has not yet dried up, even in late-season.

**p. 206, Col 1, Par 1, Last Line:** Little Willow Lake is now merely a swampy meadow, but water is reliable.

**p. 207, Col 2, Par 2, Last line: Campsites 5990:** These are on the banks of Kings Creek, which is not clear from the prose.

**p. 209, Col 1, Line 3:** Kings Creek is now crossed by a 2-log bridge.

**p. 214, Col 1, Par 2, Line 6:** Camping in this area is poor.

**p. 214, Col 2, Line 1:** The forest in this area was extensively blown-down a few winters ago—no yielding vistas of Mt Lassen.

**p. 215, Col 2, Par 2:** Old Station Resort has a restaurant, store, cabins and grille. They are notably hospitable to through-hikers.

**p. 220, Col 2, Par 2, Line 5 from bottom:** Road 22 is the site of trail angel Amigo's "Cache 22" water cache during the summer hiking season. It is found on a short spur, just west of the PCT, immediately before reaching Road 22. Look for it in a small grove of trees. Use only as much water as you need!

**p. 224, Map N17:** Label "Cassel-Fall River Mills Road"

**p. 229, Col 2, Line 2:** Ignore two smaller unsigned right-branching use trails after crossing Burney Creek.

**p. 233, Col 1, Par 2: Supplies:** Note the new address for Burney Falls Camper Services, above. Also note (Line 6) that Ammirati's Market in Castella will hold packages for hikers who might not be able to meet the strict hours of the Post Office (no Sunday hours, only 1 hour on Saturday, close at 3PM on weekdays). Send your package to: PCT Hiker, c/o Ammirati's Market, Castella, CA 96017. And be sure to heavily patronize their small market, for the terrific favor that they're doing for the hiking community!

**p. 234, Col 1, Par 2, Line 10:** Slight reroute on the west side of Lake Britton dam. Be sure to walk right, north on the road to pick up the well-signed trail continuation.

**p. 234, Map O2:** Mark, Rock Creek Campground in southeast Section 27.

**p. 237, Col 1, Par 3, Line 3: active road:** This is Rock Creek Road 37N30, not Summit Lake Road 38N10.

**p. 260: Line 1:** Water: Northbound hikers should leave the Sacramento River or the camp ground at Castle Crags loaded for a dry day as far as the outlet creek of Scott Lake or Upper Seven Lake -- after 23 miles of hot climbing. Both of these water sources are cross-country only a short distance. Sulfur Creek in 6.6 miles will be dry by the end of July, 2004, and the two crossings of North Fork Castle Creek were already profoundly dry the first week in July. Plan on going until you get reliable water from Scott Camp Creek or Upper Seven Lake.

**p. 263, Col 2, Par 3, Line 14: Sulphur Creek:** Will likely be dry by July 20, 2005.

**p. 264, Col 1, Par 2, Lines 6 and 12:** Both North Fork Castle Creek Tributaries will be dry by late July, 2004.

**p. 284, Col 1, Par 2, First sentence:** Trail tread is now in good shape.

**p. 284, Col 1, Par 3, Last Line:** Carter Meadows Summit is the start of a 7.1 mile dry stretch, to Bingham Lake.

**p. 295, Col 1, Supplies:** Happy Camp is a larger town lying west on Hwy 96, down the Klamath River. It has a good grocery store, motels, an RV park with camping and showers, a post office (ZIP: 96039) and restaurants. The historic gold mining town is compact, and easy to navigate on foot. The Siskiyou STAGE bus line runs from Seiad Valley to Happy Camp on Mondays and Fridays only, but hitch-hiking should be easy at other times.

**p. 309, Map Q7:** Printing of the PCT in Grider Creek is slightly off-register. At the top of that map, the trail is actually west of Grider Creek.

**p. 333, Col 1, Par 2, Line 2:** Pilot Peak should be Pilot Rock.

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