



Please mute microphones if not speaking. This will reduce background noise.

# Pacific Crest Trail Water Report

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
6:00PM Pacific Standard Time



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# About the PCT Water Report

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- Available online at [www.pctwater.com](http://www.pctwater.com) (PDF Format) → Guthook PCT App also very helpful
  - Water reports from Pacific Crest Trail hikers on the trail
  - Fire updates / closures also included
  - **Guthook & HikerBot Apps**
- No Water Report for the Sierra section
  - **Sierra Pass Conditions & Water Crossings Report recently added for Class of 2017.**
  - Add [water@pctwater.com](mailto:water@pctwater.com) to your [InReach](#) GPS device to send real time updates
- Updated several times a day between April-November
- Facebook page → PCT Water & Fire Update Group ([Upload Photos Here](#))
  - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/>
- Please send Water Report updates (include mileage points and/or Halfmile waypoints, name & dates) to:
  - email [water@pctwater.com](mailto:water@pctwater.com)
  - text (619) 734-7289
  - call (619) 734-7289 (no one will answer, leave voice mail)

**NEVER** rely on water caches!!!  
Please keep the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gate Cache (Mile 91)  
and all other caches clean and free of trash.

Don't go for broke the very first day and try  
to reach Lake Morena which is 20 miles  
away from the US/Mexico border. It's a  
~1,000 ft climb out of Hauser Creek at Mile 15  
which most hikers hit in the late afternoon heat.

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# New for 2018

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- Water Report was started and maintained for many years by AsABat. It is now maintained by Halfmile & DoubleTap.
- New Halfmile mileage points from CA-Section M north
  - PCT re-routed near Sierra City → adds about 2 miles to PCT
  - Matches Halfmile 2018 PCT maps<https://www.pctmap.net/maps/>
- Sierra Snow, Passes, and Fords page added last year
- Facebook page → **PCT Water, Fire, Passes, Fords Update Group**
  - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/>
  - Photos of water sources albums sorted by section and Halfmile mileage point.



# Pacific Crest Trail Water Report

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## ASIDE



The Pacific Crest Trail Water Report in PDF file format:

- [Part One: Campo to Idyllwild — PDF Format](#)
- [Part Two: Idyllwild to Agua Dulce — PDF Format](#)
- [Part Three: Agua Dulce to Cottonwood Pass — PDF Format](#)
- [Northern CA: Sierra City to Ashland, OR — PDF Format](#)
- [Oregon: Ashland to Cascade Locks — PDF Format](#)
- [Washington: Cascade Locks to Manning Park — PDF Format](#)

- [Sierra Snow and Ford Report — PDF Format](#)

2017 WATER WEBINAR VIDEO:



2017 WATER WEBINAR SLIDES:

[PCT2017 Water Report \(3.8.17\)](#)

2017 SIERRA WEBINAR VIDEO:



2017 SIERRA WEBINAR SLIDES:

[PCT2017 Sierra Report \(3.21.17\)](#)

Send updates to:

[water@pctwater.com](mailto:water@pctwater.com) or

phone/text 619-734-7289

[voice mail or text only, no one will answer]

@PCTNEWS ON TWITTER:





# Pacific Crest Trail Water Report -- Part One : Campo to Idyllwild

Updated 5:36pm 2/28/18

Campo, CA to Idyllwild, CA

[www.pctwater.com](http://www.pctwater.com)

**Never rely on water caches!!! Beware of contaminated water. Purify backcountry water.**

Send email updates to [water@pctwater.com](mailto:water@pctwater.com) or phone/text 619-734-7289 or 619-734-PC TW [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"

**Take fire safety seriously. Alcohol stoves start fires – go stoveless or carry a stove with a contained fuel source and a shut-off valve.**

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

Map	Mile	Waypoint	Location	Report	Date	Reported By
<b>California Section A: Campo to Warner Springs</b>						
<b>Start your hike with enough water to make it to the Lake Morena Campground.</b>						
A1	1.2	WR001	<b>**Juvenile Ranch Facility [faucet behind Juvenile Ranch sign]</b>	Good water flowing from faucet.	1/30/18	Warner Springs Monty
A1	1.4		Campo			
A1	4.4	WR004	Creeklet [early spring only] <i>Beware of poison oak here.</i>	Flowing pretty good.	2/17/18	Trixie
A2	~12.7		Seasonal creek [usually dry]	Dry	1/30/18	Warner Springs Monty
Mile 15.36 : 3/10/17 (Rebo) : There is a water cistern 1.6 miles down Hauser Creek Road off trail starting at Mile 15.36. Go left (for Nobo's) on Hauser Creek dirt road and walk down past white tube gate. In ~1.4 miles the dirt road ends at two large boulders. Go past the two boulders and walk ~50 feet. Go to your right and then go up the ravine (listen for water).						
A2	15.4	WRCS015	Hauser Creek [early spring only]	Dry	1/30/18	Warner Springs Monty
If dry at creek crossing, try taking a right on the road E & walk up stream 200-300 yards. Periodically walk up to creek and check for pools. These last just a little longer than at trail. [Beware; it often has water in April, only to go dry just before ADZPCTKO]. WATCH OUT FOR POISON OAK in this area.						
A2	15.4	WACS016	Cottonwood Crk below Lake Morena [1.6miles W of PCT on dirt road]			
A2	20	LkMorenaCG	<b>**Lake Morena Campground</b>	Lake Morena faucets working.	2/3/18	Warner Springs Monty
A3	24.1	WR024	Cottonwood Creek Bridge	Dry	2/3/18	Warner Springs Monty
A3	25.5	WR026	Cottonwood Creekbed	<b>2/3/18</b> (Warner Springs Monty) : Flowing. Crossed on a log. <b>1/26/18</b> (Burp & Thurp) : flowing/pooling. Very murky. <b>1/10/18</b> (Meditation Man) : flowing. <b>1/1/18</b> (John) : Not sure if I have this right, but if we had to ford Cottonwood Creekbed, then it was pooling and not flowing. Probably fine with a good filter, but might do a number on the filter.	2/3/18	Warner Springs Monty
A3	26	BoulderOaksCG	<b>**Boulder Oaks Campground</b>	faucets are on	2/3/18	Warner Springs Monty
NOBO:First spigot is hard to see - it's hiding on the back of a 2' brown post just as the PCT gets onto the CG road. A 2nd faucet is on a tall brown post further along the road. SOBO:Heading south the spigot is to the left of the trail just before exiting the campground. There are several other spigots in the campground.						
<b>E. coli reared it's ugly head multiple times in the Mount Laguna area in the past. Please treat all water sources in this area.</b>						
A3	~26.8		Kitchen Creek near I-8	Water in creek.	2/3/18	Warner Springs Monty

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# Water Caches

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- Should not be relied on.
- With increased numbers of hikers, water caches will be even less reliable in 2018 than previous years.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Gate Cache (Mile 91.2) went dry a few times in 2017
- The Water Report uses a stricter standard for reporting of water cache info this year.
- Unmaintained water caches are strongly discouraged.



# 3rd Gate Water Cache

3rd Gate Water Cache Usage (gallons)							
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Use before Feb		25	100	54	62	118	
Use by March 31	80	86	172	162	179	325	
Use by April 30	399	486	628	756	971	1227	
Use by May 31	737	716	882	1090	1435	1910	
<b>Total Water Used in Gallons</b>				<b>1136</b>	<b>1605</b>	<b>2055</b>	

- Mile 91.2 (1/4 mile east of PCT)
- No other cache on the PCT as reliable as the 3rd gate cache – don't expect to find any other caches like this one!
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Gate Cache went dry a few times in 2017 (first year this has happened)**
- Take the minimum amount needed
- No campfires
- Barrel Spring is only 9.9 miles north on the PCT





*Lower Morris Meadow — mile 39*



*Piped Spring — mile 317*



*Willow Spring — mile 620 (1.6 miles off trail)*



*Golden Oak Spring — mile 583*



# Beware of Contaminated Water



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

ALWAYS treat water that comes from a pipe spring or a tank. They cannot even guess what might be lurking in the water.

*Barrel Spring on 4/16/15, just before cleaning by Lawrence the Spring Guy.*



# Dry Sections Of The PCT

## **Mile 1 — Campo 19 miles to Lake Morena (CA – Section A)**

- Carry plenty of water.
- If you get lost, paved Buckman Springs Road is probably 2 - 3 miles to the east.
- The climb out of Hauser Canyon (mile 15) can be very hot in the late afternoon.
- It's OK to take two days to do this section.
- If you only carry 1.5 - 3 days of food and resupply in Lake Morena Village (small store) and/or Mt Laguna (small store or mail a package) your pack will be much lighter.

## **Mile 186 — N Fork San Jacinto 20 miles to Snow Creek (CA – Section B)**

- Rescues have occurred in this area from hikers who become lost, dehydrated, sickened by bad food, or difficult snow conditions.
- No water for 20 miles after you pass mile 186.
- PCT descends rapidly from Mt San Jacinto (~8,000 ft) to hot sandy terrain.

## **Mile 342 — Cajon Pass (Hwy 15) 23 miles to Guffy Spring (CA – Section D)**

- Long, usually waterless 6,000 foot climb, limited camping options, often hot weather.
- **Guffy Spring went dry multiple times in 2016 & 2017**

## **Mile 518 — Hikertown 24 miles to Tylerhorse Canyon (CA – Section E)**

- Aqueduct roadwalk, often very hot.

## **Mile 566-653 — California Section F (Tehachapi Pass to Walker Pass)**

- Always one of the driest sections of the PCT.
- Hikers usually arrive later in the season when weather is warmer.
- Several 30+ mile waterless sections.

## **Mile 1377-1407 — Hat Creek Rim (CA – Section N)**

- 30 mile waterless section. Side trail to [Lost Creek Spring \(Mile 1386\)](#).
- Hikers usually arrive later in the season when weather is warmer.
- Very little shade.

## **Mile 1823 - Crater Lake Rim 26 miles to Thielsen Creek (OR – Section C & D)**

- 26 mile waterless section.
- Oregon can be surprisingly dry in some sections due to volcanic soil.



# California (Section A)

## Campo to Warner Springs

- Start with at least 5-6 liters of water
  - First guaranteed water at Lake Morena (Mile 20)
- **DO NOT rely on water caches!!!**
  - Plan for reliable water sources
  - At least 4-5 miles per liter
- Download the Water Report ([pctwater.com](http://pctwater.com)) whenever you have cell coverage
  - Send water updates to [water@pctwater.com](mailto:water@pctwater.com) or text/call 619-734-7289
- Reliable Water Sources

• Mile 20	Lake Morena Campground	6 miles to next reliable on/near trail water source
• Mile 26	Boulder Oaks Campground	17 miles
• Mile 43	Mount Laguna Lodge Store	6 miles
• Mile 49	GART Faucet (across Sunrise Hwy)	17 miles
• Mile 68	Rodriguez Spur Fire Tank	23 miles
	* sometimes damaged & went <u>dry</u> multiple times in 2017	
• Mile 77	<b>Scissors Crossing water cache <u>may</u> be maintained in 2018.</b>	
	<b>Hitch 13 miles west to Julian at Hwy 78</b>	
	<b>Hitch / hike 4.0 miles south on Great Southern Overland Stage Route</b>	
	<b>to <a href="#">Stagecoach Trails RV Park</a></b>	
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gate is a big cache (went <u>dry</u> a few times in 2017 due to heavy usage)	
• Mile 91		
• Mile 101	Barrel Spring	7 miles
• Mile 108	Canada Verde	3 miles
• Mile 110	Warner Springs Resource Center	

California (Section A)  
Mile 61



# California (Section F)

## Tehachapi Pass to Walker Pass

### Water Sources:

#### Mile 566 — Tehachapi (36 miles to next water source- Robin Bird Spring)

- Golden Oak Spring WR583 can be unreliable and is a **VERY SLOW** drip. Expect long lines during peak hiking season.
- Starting at Tehachapi-Willow Springs Rd (mile 556) adds 8 miles to the waterless stretch (making it 44 miles) **IF** Golden Oaks Spring is not running.

#### Mile 602 — Robin Bird Spring (7 miles to next water source)

#### Mile 609 — Landers Camp (11 miles to next water source)

#### Mile 620 — Willow Spring (31 miles to next water source)

- Willow Spring is 1.6 miles off-trail
- Went dry a few times in 2016 & 2017.





# California (Section F)

## Tehachapi Pass to Walker Pass

- Treat ALL water sources in Section F
- Mile 567 (Hwy 58 / Tehachapi)
  - Big water cache usually here
    - 35 miles to Robin Bird Spring if you start at Hwy 58 (Mile 567)
    - 44 miles if you start at Tehachapi Willow Springs Road (Mile 558)
- Mile 583 (Golden Oaks Spring – WR583)
  - Cow damage from 2015 fixed but still be wary.
  - Trough usually full of disgusting water. There usually is a trickle coming down the hillside ~20ft north of the trough on the left side that was good water.
- Mile 602 (Robin Bird Spring – WRCS602)
  - 0.1 mile off of PCT, cattle drink out of this spring also so be sure to treat water
- Mile 609 (Landers Campground Spring – WRCS609)
  - I carried 7 liters of water from Landers Campground
  - 42 miles to Walker Pass Campground / Hwy 178
- Mile 616 (Kelso Valley Road – WR616)
  - Cache here is unreliable (goes dry often due to heavy usage)
- Mile 620 (Willow Spring – WR620)
  - 3.2 miles roundtrip off PCT
- Mile 631 (Bird Spring Pass – WR631)
  - Cache here is unreliable (goes dry often due to heavy usage)
- Mile 651 (Walker Pass Campground / Hwy 178)
  - Water trough at Hwy 178 from campground road

Landers Campground Spring  
Section F  
Mile 609



# Southern California Snow

- It can snow at any place and anytime along the PCT.
- **Mt Laguna** (mile 42) can get light snow, but it usually melts quickly and not dangerous.
- **Mt San Jacinto** (mile 170-191) can have steep dangerous snow. A PCT hiker died in this area during a snowstorm in 2005.
- **Big Bear** area (mile 245 - 275) can have snow. Usually not steep or dangerous along the PCT near Big Bear.
- **Mt Baden-Powell** (mile 375 - 385) can have steep dangerous snow.

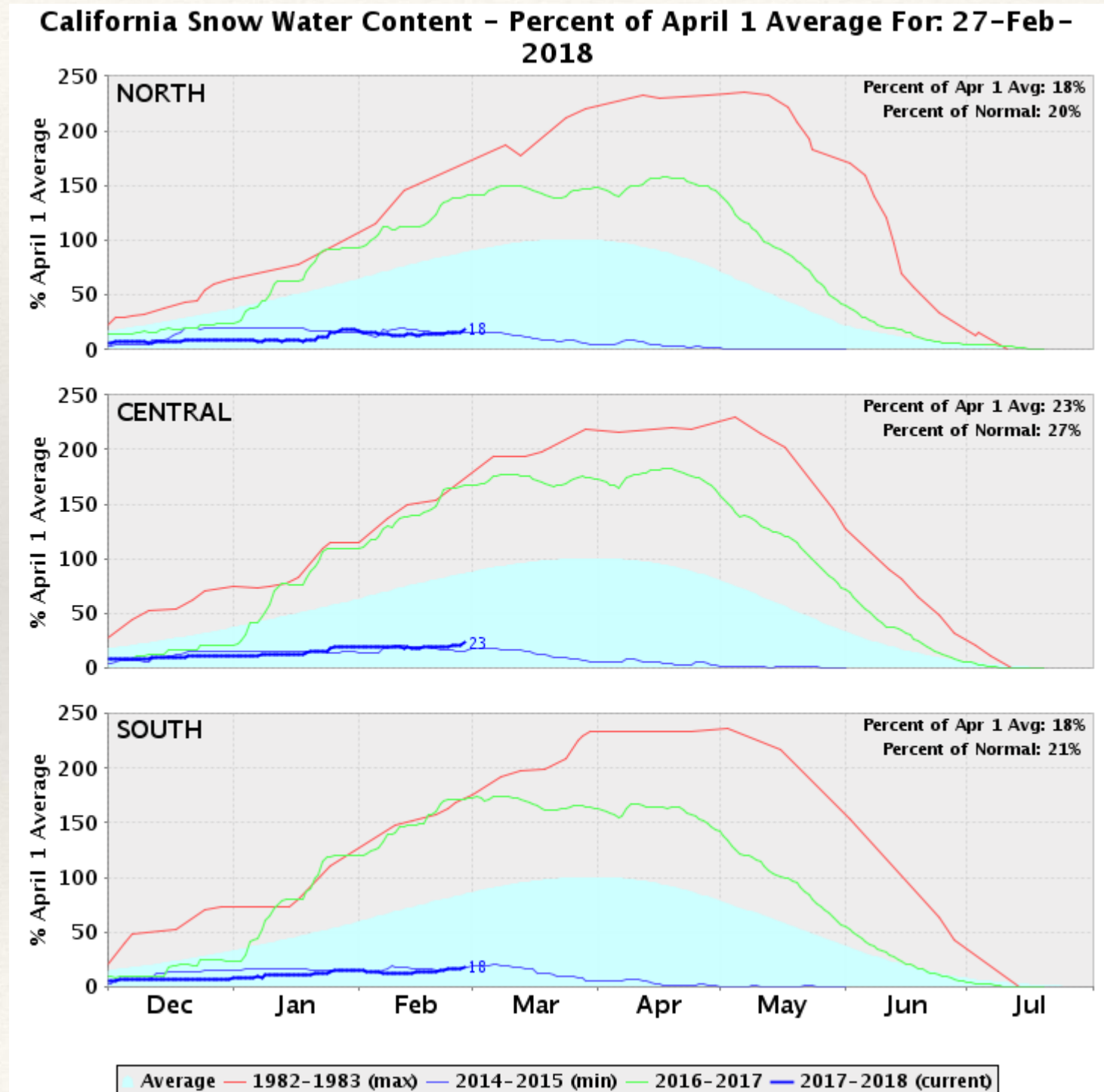




# Sierra Snow (2018)

- As of late Feb 2018 Sierra snow levels are **extremely low**.
- Snow can linger on north and east facing mountain slopes or in shade.
- Snow can melt during the day and refreeze at night causing slick dangerous conditions in the morning.
- Hiking on snow be slower than hiking on dry trail even if conditions are not dangerous.
- Snow can completely obscure the trail making navigation difficult.
- Sonora Pass (mile 1,017) can have a lot of snow.
- Postholer Website (more snow data):  
<https://www.postholer.com/>

<http://www.climatesignals.org/data/california-snow-water-content>





# WATER CROSSINGS

- Cross these spots EARLY in the day if possible

- |                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Wright Creek                     | Mile 771        |
| • Tyndall Creek                    | Mile 774        |
| • <b>South Fork Kings River</b>    | <b>Mile 811</b> |
| • Evolution Creek                  | Mile 851        |
| • Alternate (easier crossing)      | Mile 850        |
| • Bear Creek                       | Mile 869        |
| • <b>Rancheria / Kerrick Creek</b> | <b>Mile 980</b> |

- \* Crossing early in the morning can mean a difference of a few feet in water level.
  - Water level is higher at the end of a day due to snowmelt.
- \* Don't cross dangerous fords alone, go in a group
  - Send videos of group creek fords to [water@pctwater.com](mailto:water@pctwater.com)
- \* You don't have to cross where the trail crosses, search further upstream for safer options.

Add [water@pctwater.com](mailto:water@pctwater.com) email to your InReach updates for real time water crossing conditions.



Add [water@pctwater.com](mailto:water@pctwater.com) email to your InReach updates for real time pass conditions.

# HIGH SIERRA PASSES

1.	Trail Crest*	Mile 767 (13,646 ft) – <b>least desirable exit point</b>
2.	Forester Pass	Mile 780 (13,120 ft) – <b>Shepherd Pass (mile 774.6) not a recommended exit point</b>
3.	Kearsarge Pass*	Mile 789 (11,171 ft)
4.	Glen Pass	Mile 791 (11,947 ft)
5.	Pinchot Pass	Mile 807 (12,139 ft)
6.	Mather Pass	Mile 817 (12,096 ft)
7.	Muir Pass	Mile 839 (11,973 ft)
8.	Selden Pass	Mile 866 (10,910 ft)
9.	Silver Pass	Mile 885 (10,748 ft)
10.	Island Pass	Mile 925 (10,227 ft)
11.	Donohue Pass	Mile 930 (11,073 ft)
12.	Benson Pass	Mile 966 (10,125 ft)
13.	Dorothy Lake Pass	Mile 997 (9,531 ft)
14.	Sonora Pass	Mile 1,017 (9,633 ft)
15.	Carson Pass (Highway 88)	Mile 1,077 (8,590 ft)
16.	Dicks Pass	Mile 1,106 (9,377 ft)
17.	Barker Pass	Mile 1,125 (7,658 ft)
18.	Donner Pass (Interstate-80)	Mile 1,157 (7,200 ft)

Mather Pass View  
Kings Canyon NP  
Mile 817  
August 2007

- \* Trail Crest 8.5 miles off PCT to Mount Whitney Summit (14,505 ft)  
~1 day (camp at Guitar Lake or above)
- \* Kearsarge Pass 7.6 miles off PCT to Little Onion Valley Campground

**NOTE :** Hit the High Sierra Passes in Kings Canyon & Sequoia NP early in the day (but not too early to avoid icy conditions) to avoid late afternoon thunderstorms which are common. Avoid descending from tops of passes late in the day which leads to post-holing (extremely slow going) and potential injury.



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# PCT Closures (as of Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

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- CALIFORNIA (Mountain Fire) → <https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-condition/pct-closed-on-mt-san-jacinto/>
  - Hwy 243 into Idyllwild can be a dangerous road walk
  - [https://www.pctmap.net/wp-content/uploads/pct/mountain file unofficial alt 2017.pdf](https://www.pctmap.net/wp-content/uploads/pct/mountain%20file%20unofficial%20alt%202017.pdf)
- CALIFORNIA (Section D) → [https://www.pctmap.net/wp-content/uploads/pct/ca\\_section\\_d\\_map.zip](https://www.pctmap.net/wp-content/uploads/pct/ca_section_d_map.zip)
- OREGON (Crater Lake NP-2017) → <https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-condition/spruce-lake-fire-crater-lake-national-park/>
- OREGON (Three Sisters-2017) → <https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-condition/three-sisters-fires-2017/>
- OREGON (Whitewater Fire-2017) → <https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-condition/whitewater-fire-mt-jefferson/>
- OREGON (Eagle Creek-2017) → <https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-condition/indian-creek-fire-columbia-river-gorge/>
- WASHINGTON (Norse Fire-2017) → <https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-condition/norse-peak-fires-near-mt-rainier-washington/>

For the latest closure information see:

<http://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-conditions-and-closures/>



# FIRES

## 1) PCTA TRAIL CLOSURES PAGE

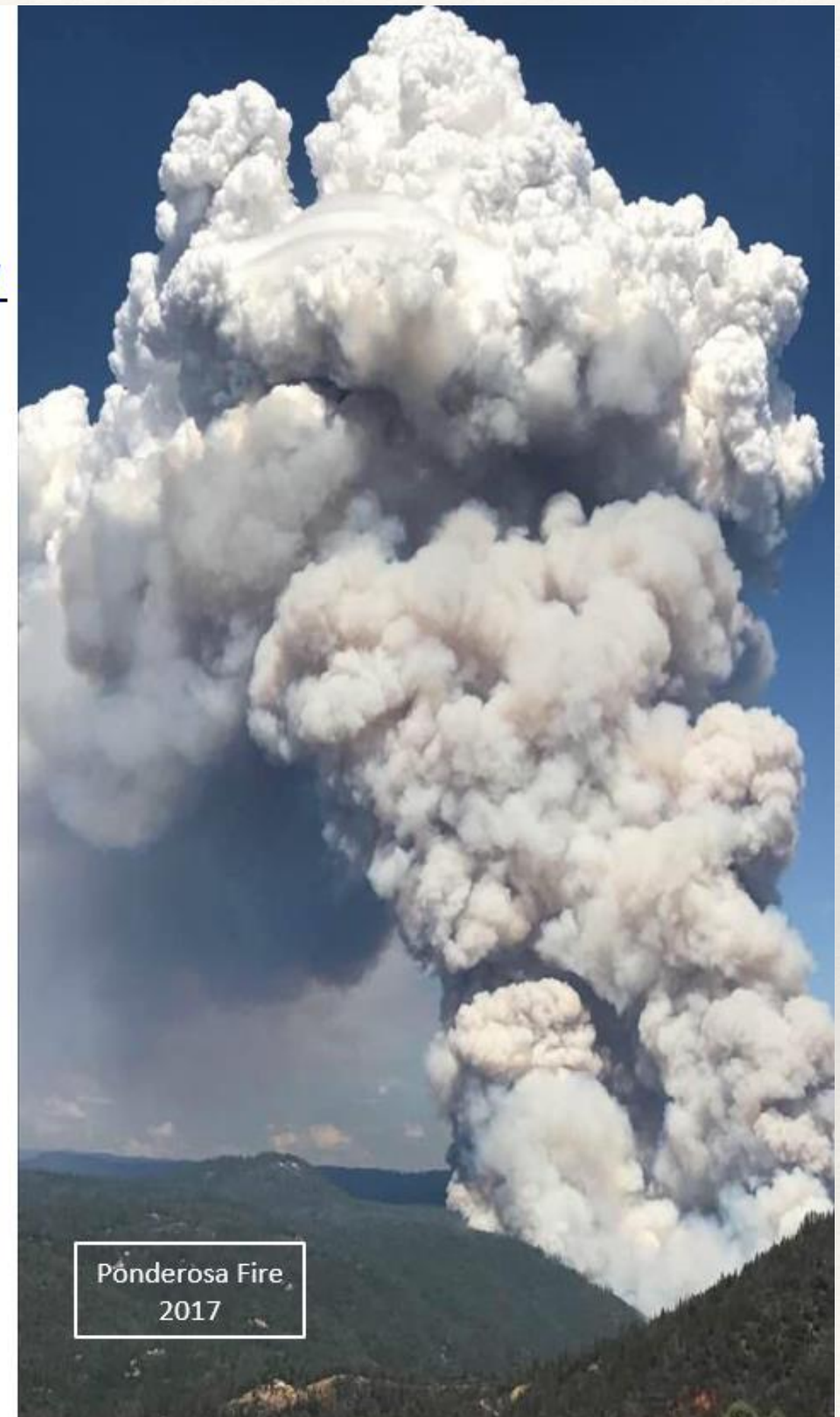
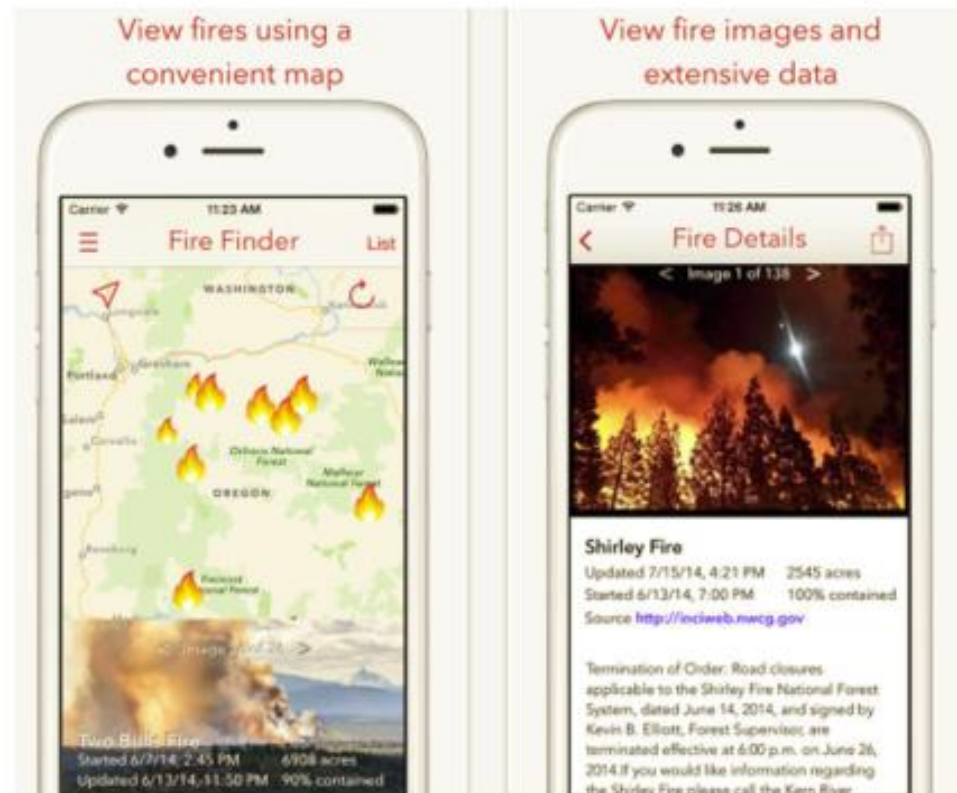
<https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/trail-conditions-and-closures/>

## 2) FACEBOOK GROUP

PCT Water & Fire Update Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1601705620156833/>

## 3) FIRE FINDER APP





# Poodle Dog Bush (SoCal)

- Multiple fires in 2016 & 2017 in Southern California Sections C, D, E, and F will probably result in more Poodle Dog Bush than previous years. Do not rub up against this bush as it acts like poison oak and has sent hikers to the hospital in previous hiking years.
- Lake Fire Miles 233 to 252 (California - Section C)
- Delamar Fire Miles 275 to 286 (California - Section C)
- Blue Cut & Pilot Fires Miles 306 to 370 (California - Sections C & D)
- Sand Fire Miles 430 to 444 (California - Section E)
- Erskine Fire Miles 604 to 652 (California – Section F)





# POISON OAK & POODLE DOG BUSH

## POISON OAK

Present at lower elevations  
“Leaves of 3, let them be.”

## POODLE DOG BUSH

Present in recent burn areas



# MAKE SMART & SAFE DECISIONS

## QUESTIONS?

Bullfrog Lake  
Kings Canyon NP  
Mile 789  
Late May 2014  
**Low** Snow Year



Halfmile  
(Lon Cooper)



DoubleTap  
(Matt Parker)