

PCT UPDATE - May 30, 2011

This document updates “Yogi’s PCT Handbook” editions prior to April 2011.

If you’ve got the April 2011 edition, there are only a few changes for you.

Those changes are shown in blue font in this update file.

Pacific Crest Trail Postcards

Your friends and family will enjoy tracking your progress on these full-color PCT Postcards. The three-state PCT map is printed on 4 x 6 glossy white postcards. 42 resupply towns and resorts near the trail are indicated on the map. Include some postcards in your resupply packages, then send them out from the trail!

Available in sets:

10 postcards for \$5

20 postcards for \$9

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MAILDROPS - Maildrops just got cheaper! On January 2, 2011, the USPS started offering new Priority Mail Regional Boxes. Rate varies based upon distance traveled.

The Regional Mail service is *not* available in person at the Post Office. These new Regional Boxes are *only* available for commercial and online customers. You have to order the boxes from the USPS (www.usps.com). Boxes usually take about two weeks to be delivered. Then, sign up for a USPS Click-N-Ship account. Print postage/labels from your home computer, then take your packages to the Post Office. Prices quoted here are current as of March 7, 2011:

	Priority Mail Regional Box A	Priority Mail Regional Box B	Priority Mail Large Flat Rate	Priority Mail Medium Flat Rate
Capacity	360 cubic inches	707 cubic inches	792 cubic inches	513 cubic inches or 546 cubic inches
Weight Limit	15 pounds	20 pounds	no weight limit	no weight limit
In-Person mailing cost			\$14.95	\$10.95
Online mailing Cost	examples: \$5.58 Kansas City to Denver \$7.83 Kansas City to Stehekin WA \$9.37 Miami FL to Stehekin WA	examples: \$ 8.06 Kansas City to Denver \$12.29 Kansas City to Stehekin WA \$14.62 Miami FL to Stehekin WA	\$14.20	\$10.50

Bob Riess - Is not hosting hikers anymore.

Halfmile - My girlfriend and I will be hosting PCT hikers again this year in our apartment in Chula Vista, eight miles south of San Diego. We can offer hikers a deluxe air mattress in our spare room or a sofa to sleep on, help with last minute errands, and early morning rides to the PCT. Because of work schedules and rush hour gridlock we may not always be able to pick you up at the airport, but a \$5 bus/trolley ride goes from the airport or Amtrak station directly to our door. If you prefer the privacy of your own motel room, we can recommend nearby motels and help with errands and transportation to the trail. We will be on the trail hiking April 16 -24, 2011, so we can't help then. Maybe we will see you on the trail.

Email [halfmile@pctmap.net] and let us know how we can help.

Girlscout - My trail name is Girlscout (I'm a guy, BTW). I thru-hiked the PCT in 2006 and have subsequently been hosting incoming hikers (free of charge) at my house in San Diego. I'll come get you at the airport or wherever you're arriving, take you to whatever last minute errands you need, put you up at my house for a night (or two, if needed), and get you to Campo (or any other PCT trailhead in Section A) bright and early in the morning.

If you'd like to take advantage of my services, please send along your complete arrival info (i.e., flight number, arrival time, etc.) and also your cell phone number if you're going to have one with you. Be sure to let me know what date you plan to start your hike, and any other pertinent information. I won't be able to add you to my schedule until I have all this info. Feel free to send along any packages to be held at my house until your arrival. Cheers, and good luck to the Class of 2011!!

Pea Hicks (aka Girlscout)
619-840-4288
phix@optigan.com

Stephen Elton - I have had an interest in the PCT for quite some time, and I'm planning to attend part of the annual Kick Off this April. I live in San Diego, and wanted to throw out the possibility of helping with rides to the Kick Off or to the trailhead. I have a small car that will fit three people max, and maybe only 2 depending on how big your packs are! So, if you are in need of transportation shoot me a note and lets see if our schedules work out. Oh, and best of luck this season!

Stephen Elton
eltonzona@mac.com

16.0 - Hauser Creek - Joker (2010): Running in 2010, but dry other years. Assume dry! Buckeye (2010): If the water is flowing, this is a great place to cool off and soak your feet before making your first steep climb over to Lake Morena.

20.6 - Oak Shores Grocery - Buckeye (2010): What motivated me to get from the border to Lake Morena by 3:30 in the afternoon was the milkshakes! Yum Yum! I had never hiked over 15 miles prior to my start date, but man that shake called to me. Decent sandwiches (I am a salami snob), but expensive resupply.

26.4 - Boulder Oaks Campground - Joker (2010): Only some spigots have water. The one near the bathroom, before the trail leaves the campground, was on in 2008, 2009, 2010. Buckeye (2010): We were warned at the Kick Off that this water is not safe to drink even from the spigots.

30.6 - Kitchen Creek Road - Joker (2010): Water often in the creek below.

43.0 - Mt. Laguna - Sir Mix-a-lot (2010): Lodge rate was \$80-\$88. No hiker discount. Buckeye (2010): The hiker box was full of goodies people dumped to lighten their load.

48.9 - G.A.T.R. Road - Joker (2010): Spigot on in 2008, 2009, 2010.

52.7 - Pioneer Mail - Joker (2010): Depress the floater thing to get clean water (sometimes). Straight Jacket (2010): Spigot was on and there was also a cache. The trough LOOKED like Gatorade. Buckeye (2010): Spigot was on at horse trough. While you are not supposed to camp here, Swift and I arrived late and crossed the road to camp out of sight on, I believe, an old forest road.

61.1 - Oriflamme Canyon - Joker (2010): Dry in 2008, 2009, 2010. Some jeep traffic. Straight Jacket (2010): Small cache (5-10 gallons).

68.4 - Rodriguez Spur Truck Trail - This water source might not be reliable. Be sure to check AsABat's water report. Joker (2010): I heard they stopped filling this tank.

77.6 - Scissors Crossing - Iceaxe (2009): I got water at the stream near Scissors Crossing and hiked late until it was way dark. Stealth-camped in a gully and had a short hike to Barrel Spring the next day. The San Felipe Hills are spectacular early or late in the day. Mid-day, they can be smoking hot.

77.6 - Julian - Pie Town Gear closed. Straight Jacket (2010): Mom's Pies is super hiker-friendly. If I remember right, they had free lunch and pie for hikers.

91.2 - Third Gate Cache - The cache has been moved off the trail. When you get to the Third Gate (that's the third metal gate north of Scissors Crossing, with a number "3" on it!), immediately past the gate there is a trail going right/east. There is a large "WATER" sign there pointing down the side trail. The cache is about 100 yards down that side trail, out of sight of the PCT.

101.4 - Barrel Spring - Joker (2010): Someone wrote "dead mice" on the trough. Ignore it and just drink from the pipe.

109.6 - Warner Springs Ranch - Iceaxe (2009): We stacked hikers into our room like cord wood. Make sure YOU get the first shower though, as hot water is limited. I met Switchback the Trail Pirate here at the Cantina! That night he joined our party of hikers at the Anza Dining Room for dinner. Between that and lounging in the hot springs of the resort, Warner Springs gets my thumbs up for a great place to take a zero. Sir Mix-a-lot (2010): Hiker rate was \$74. Warner Springs Monty (2010): The Mini Mart has a new manager. They currently do not have a hiker resupply inventory. I have talked to new people about giving them my resupply list that I give to other merchants on the trail. Sounds favorable, but, even if it does happen, it will very likely not be as dependable as the last couple of years. I spoke to Jim Stilwell and Jeff Brown, the General Manager and Marketing Director at Warner Springs Ranch. This is a private resort. They do not have to let us in and especially do not have to give us the big discount they extend to us. They accept and hold resupply packages by mail FOR THOSE WHO WILL STAY AT THE RESORT. Call them at 760-782-4200 to confirm you will be staying there and you are sending a package. Without the "PO Box 10" it will be returned EVEN IF it has a street address. Include: Hold for PCT hiker, and as accurate an arrival date as you can on the box. If you are going to be late or no-show call them ASAP.

Mail the package to:
(hiker name)
c/o Warner Springs Ranch
PO Box 10
Warner Springs, CA 92086

Buckeye (2010): Check at the front desk for notes from other hikers. We found three other hikers who were looking to split the cost of a room. So we joined them for a cheap price on a fancy resort. Swift (2010): The Golf Grill has scrumptious breakfast burritos. Buckeye (2010): My favorite breakfast burrito on the trail (egg, potato, cheese, sausage, salsa). I loved my first one so much that I ate a second before heading out - I only made it five miles down the trail before laying down to nap and chill out the rest of the day. The Cantina serves a decent bacon cheeseburger.

119.5 - Lost Valley Spring - Joker (2010): It's only 70 vertical feet or so. Suck it up, it's good water. Straight Jacket (2010): Not too far off trail, but green and kinda nasty. Fine if you have a filter, though.

127.1 - Chihuahua Valley Road - Socks (2009): Several hikers stayed at Mike's - he even grilled us up some supper. Very nice on a chilly night. Straight Jacket (2010): Mike has a bunkhouse he lets hikers use as well as camping space, and mad skills with a BBQ. Best chicken I've ever tasted.

136.6 - Tule Canyon Road - Joker (2010): Valve/tank had good water by my standards.

151.3 - Paradise Valley Café - New owners, new phone number 951-659-3663.

158.0 - Tunnel and Live Oak Springs

162.3 - Cedar Spring Camp - Joker (2010): All of these springs are WAY off and down from the trail. Carry water from Pines-to-Palms if you can do the miles and you'll hit snowmelt most years around mile 175-ish. Socks (2009): Cedar Spring Camp has good water and plenty of room to camp, but lots of elevation loss.

178.6 - Idyllwild CA - Joker (2010): I recommend going to Idyllwild via Devil's Slide. Easy hike, lighter pack for the ascent from Pines-to-Palms. Hardware store is fantastic, has Tyvek and alcohol. I recommend the campground. \$3/night with free hot showers. Straight Jacket (2010): Do not buy pizza at the Village Market no matter how cheap it is! Iceaxe (2009): Idyllwild is a perfect hiker town stop. I stayed at the campground one night and shared a cabin with a bunch of hikers the next. I think we ate at every restaurant. The outfitter is a great place to make gear changes or just buy some fresh socks. Definitely take the Devil's Slide Trail into and out of Idyllwild if you can. It's well-graded and seems easy by this point in the hike. Socks (2009): Great place for a zero. The Idyllwild Inn is hiker friendly, there's a campground in town. Plenty of good food options, a health food store, a hardware store that sells Tyvek by the foot and an outfitter who will open early in the season for hikers needing to gear up for a snowy Fuller Ridge. Swift (2010): Definitely one of the best trail towns, with great food. Idyllwild Pizza Company calzones, and \$2 big tacos at Arriba were my favorites. Buckeye (2010): The campground is still quiet in early May and a fun place to hand out with other hikers around a fire. \$3/night for hikers, and the quarter machine was not yet installed on the showers, so free showers!

184.9 - Deer Springs - Joker (2010): Judge the snow year. If there's lots of snow, you can hold out for a bit. If not, fill up here.

Fuller Ridge - Socks (2009): This was cold and windy in 2009. I actually got lost at one point. Camped and found the trail in the morning. Couldn't believe by the end of the next day we were back in the heat of the desert!

190.4 - Black Mountain Road - Joker (2010): Water hard to find but there, described in the water report.

205.6 - Snow Canyon Road - Socks (2009): The spigot is a drinking fountain and good for a lot of laughs trying to fill water bottles in the wind!

209.6 - Cabazon - Swift (2010): Tough hitch. After 45 minutes, we decided to carry on.

218.6 - Old Jeep Road - Straight Jacket (2010): Mesa Wind Farm just past I-10 was a great stop. Bottled water, (apparently the tap water was irradiated), microwave burritos and a good place to cool off before the climb. Be careful on the climb after Mesa Wind Farm. It doesn't seem like much, but I nearly collapsed halfway up and everyone else that day had similar experiences. Whitewater Preserve was great, good camping, a pool/pond to swim in, and they had some free beer for us.

220.0 - Two Good Camps - Joker (2010): Good water, but not a good lunch spot. NO shade once you get here. A nice tree about a mile before, though.

231.8 - Mission Creek - Joker (2010): Long, slow, hot uphill slog. Bring your big boy/girl pants. Socks (2009): I enjoyed Mission Creek, but a lot of people didn't. Hot and difficult to find the trail at points. I found it beautiful. You just had to pay closer attention than usual. As you start ascending out of the creek, there is a long dry stretch. Buckeye (2010): The trail up Mission Creek is mentally tough since you slowly make your way up a canyon. You find yourself second-guessing approximately where you are and in the intense heat of the day you hear water rushing by in the near distance. A definite place to chill out mid-day.

239.3 - Mission Creek Trail Camp - Iceaxe (2009): Look for the green brush. This spring was flowing in 2009. Found it as per Scott Williamson's directions.

242.0 to 246.2 - Joker (2010): Beware the trails around here. If the trail suddenly dies, backtrack, you are lost.

249.8 - Four roads and a trail - Buckeye (2010): I dropped my power bar when I realized a grizzly bear was staring right at me.

255.9 - Arrastre Trail Camp - Joker (2010): Good camp. Iceaxe (2009): The spring crossing the trail north of Arrastre was a trickle on May 5, 2009.

265.3 - Big Bear City - Equada Outfitters is not an outfitter anymore. Swift (2010): Much easier hitch from Highway 18. Ed at Nature's Inn is awesome. Hiker boxes and toothpaste samples! Grizzly Bear Belly Deli was a bit overrated in my opinion, but the prices are right! Buckeye (2010): We hitched right to Thelma's from the trail and enjoyed HUGE delicious breakfasts on a peaceful outside patio. Good food and service. Socks (2009): Price is right for zero day(s). Full-service. Hostel had loaner bikes. Iceaxe (2009): Big Bear was an easy hitch from Highway 18. Some hikers were able to get rides from the Trail Angels who stock the caches here. In 2009, quite a few hikers were able to get rides around the lake and slacked back to Highway 18. I actually took a hiker across the lake in a kayak so he could slack from Cougar Crest to Highway 18. Joker (2010): Hitching on Highway 18 is the better way to Big Bear in my opinion. I recommend staying at the Big Bear Hostel. Big Bear Lake is more fun, more food. Take the bus to the supermarket, the hostel provides a once-daily shuttle. Ask at Equada Outfitters for ride opportunities as well. The Teddy Bear restaurant by the Big Bear Hostel has a \$3.99 breakfast special! Straight Jacket (2010): The Polar Bear Breakfast at the Grizzly diner 0.5 mile or so from the Hostel (towards Big Bear City) was fantastic. You know it's good when it comes out on three full-sized plates.

284.6 - Little Bear Springs Trail Camp - Joker (2010): Partly repaired in 2010. No spigots still, but new privys.

306.6 - Deep Creek Hot Spring - Joker (2010): Hot springs dirty, with tons of people. Get water BEFORE the hot springs. Straight Jacket (2010): Hot springs, cold creek, and naked fat men. Biggest disappointment of the trail. Socks (2009): We arrived on a weekend morning to find this "day use only" area full of campers and the signs of lots of partying the night before. The hot springs were pretty dirty and we didn't stay for long. I was disappointed.

312.1 - Deep Creek Ford - Socks (2009): Yep, careful navigation helps here. Joker (2010): Work was happening here in 2010, but still confusing.

316.7 - Spring - Joker (2010): Flowed in 2008 & 2009. Pipe fell out in 2010. I fixed it quickly, but it seems liable to fall out again.

317.0 - Grass Valley Creek - Joker (2010): Good camp, good water.

328.3 - Silverwood Lake Recreational Area - Joker (2010): The hiker/biker campsite is about a mile away. There's also a store about 3 miles away.

332.8 - Small Stream - Iceaxe (2009): Flowing early in the day on May 11, 2009. Hikers that came by later in the afternoon reported it dry.

342.1 - Cajon Pass - Socks (2009): I hadn't eaten at McDonald's in years. It sounded so good, though, so I ate and then regretted it. It was nice to sit in the AC for a bit, however. Swift (2010): Amazing real ice cream milkshakes at the Chevron!

347.4 - Swarthout Canyon Road - Socks (2009): I carried 5.5 liters out of Cajon Pass (the most ever on the trail). Ends up they had filled the water cache that day. But don't count on it!

364.6 - Guffy Campground - Iceaxe (2009): This is a good spring. Don't leave your pack unattended at Guffy Camp when you go down to get water. Lots of bear activity due to all the car camper trash. There is a pit toilet here.

369.5 - Wrightwood - MT View Cabins & Motel new phone number 760-249-5578. Joker (2010): No water at Inspiration Point. Wrightwood is an easy hitch. Don't skip it! Mile High Pizza is great! Iceaxe (2009): There was a bulletin board with names and phone numbers of local Trail Angels in the entrance to the Hardware Store. The Pines Motel had laundry service for paying guests. They even let us split the room five ways. Dang that room smelled like thru-hikers! Swift (2010): The Yodeler has solid food and great people-watching. Buckeye (2010): Yodeler has a chicken sandwich that will make you melt. Chicken, onions, and peppers sauteed together and smothered with cheese on a hoagie roll.

Leaving Wrightwood - Iceaxe (2009): Be sure to bring water back to the trail from Wrightwood, as the next source is high up on Baden-Powell!

370.5 - Grassy Hollow Campground - Iceaxe (2009): Water not on in May 2009.

375.7 - Lamel Spring - Iceaxe (2009): Flowing in May 2009.

383.8 - Little Jimmy Spring - Joker (2010): Amazing, delicious water. Iceaxe (2009): This spring is a gusher! Flowing one gallon per minute in May, 2009.

386.1 - Angeles Crest Hwy 2 at Islip Saddle - The Station Fire Detour begins here. PCT is closed from mile 386.1 to mile 444.2 (that's 58.1 PCT miles). The detour route is 47.1 miles. You'll need Halfmile's detour maps: [www.pctmaps.net] Joker (2010): Reroute in 2010 was hot and boring, but not that bad.

395.3 - Cooper Canyon Trail Campground - Iceaxe (2009): The stream was barely a trickle in May 2009.

397.3 - Headwaters of Cooper Canyon Creek - Iceaxe (2009): I found a trickle of water in places here.

406.9 - Sulphur Springs Campground - Joker (2010): Dry in 2008 & 2009.

410.6 - Fiddleneck Spring - Iceaxe (2009): Trickle.

411.1 - Fountainhead Spring - Iceaxe (2009): Flowing about one liter per minute.

418.7 - Mill Creek Summit - Socks (2009): Water at the Ranger Station was discolored. The Ranger said it was due to iron.

432.3 - Moody Canyon Road - Iceaxe (2009): Scott Williamson's water: Very tiny trickle in May 2009.

440.2 - Mattox Canyon Creek - Socks (2009): One hiker said he got here at 1:30pm, rested, and by 3pm when he went to fill his water bottles there was no flow, only some pools upstream a bit.

444.2 - Soledad Canyon Road - The Station Fire Detour ends here. Sadiq at the Acton KOA says that there is a reduced rate for hikers, plus laundry and showers. [sadiq@gpmusa.net]

454.9 - Saufleys - Joker (2010): Don't panic about the hiker limit. There's space for everyone, although maybe not at the Saufley's themselves.

478.6 - Casa de Luna - Joker (2010): Casa de Luna is a highlight of the trail. Don't be scared to attend if you don't drink. You'll still fit in. Swift (2010): Delicious taco salad if you don't mind the "loose" atmosphere.

502.0 - Water tank - Joker (2010): Please close the lid!

518.4 - The Country Store - The Country Store is closed. Straight Jacket (2010): After Hwy 138 the wind speed did not drop below 30mph or so, except for the rare occasion when we found some trees, till Kennedy Meadows. Don't plan on setting up a shelter. Apparently it's always like this. There's windmills around Tehachapi/Mojave for a reason! Socks (2009): I didn't stay here, but it's a great place to wait out the heat of the afternoon. Fantastic outdoor shower!

534.8 - Cottonwood Creek Bridge - Joker (2010): Spigot in 2008 & 2009. Spigot broken for a bit in 2010, but a water cache was maintained by Hikertown until the spigot was fixed.

541.4 - Tylerhorse Canyon - Joker (2010): I drank untreated in 2008, 2009, 2010. Iceaxe (2009): Flowing clean in late May 2009. Socks (2009): A lovely shady resting spot on a hot afternoon. I was carrying two liters of water when I arrived here. Wasn't expecting as much water as there was.

558.0 - Oak Creek - Joker (2010): Skip. Ugh.

558.3 - Tehachapi - Joker (2010): Tehachapi-Willow Springs road is the best option for hitching. Tehachapi is a great town and has more options than Mojave. Stay at the Best Western and the grocery stores are closer. Also, many Trail Angels. Ask around at the hotels for phone numbers. There's a great Mediterranean/Greek restaurant across the street from the movie theater in the "downtown" area. Also several great thrift stores.

558.3 - Mojave - Iceaxe (2009): Mojave is a windswept noisy shock to the hiker's systems, but it is an efficient place to get chores done and reload for the long walk to Kennedy Meadows. Mike's Roadside Diner has pretty interesting decor. Socks (2009): Mojave was okay, but I remember walking on concrete sidewalks for miles along Highway 14 back and forth running errands and finding food. Swift (2010): Highway 58 is tough to catch a ride. Next time I will use Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road. Mojave is convenient and easy to get around with plenty of choices for food and resupply.

566.6 - Highway 58 - Iceaxe (2009): Cars and trucks stop on the freeway frontage roads here. Believe it or not, the locals hike around the wind farm area. You might be able to yogi a ride easier than trying to hitch on the highway. Buckeye (2010): It can get EXTREMELY windy here (hence all the turbines). Be careful climbing the ridge. Many hikers snapped trekking poles and lost hats on this climb.

583.4 - Golden Oaks Spring - Joker (2010): Flowing from the pipe in 2008, 2009, 2010.

602.2 - Robin Bird Spring - Socks (2009): The fence was back up in 2009, but the area was heavily cow-trafficked. A group of hikers and some cows had a stare-down contest for access to the water. The cows decided to come back later. Joker (2010): Good water. Look for the gate to get to the spring at the top.

607.3 - Landers Creek - Joker (2010): This campground and spring is about 0.25 mile left at the next road AFTER the register box.

616.0 - Kelso Valley Road - Joker (2010): Cache WELL stocked 2008, 2009, 2010. This is the last FULLY exposed desert in SoCal! Straight Jacket (2010): Huge cache here (50+ gallons).

631.4 - Bird Spring Pass - Joker (2010): Cache good 2008, 2009, 2010. Straight Jacket (2010): Huge cache here (50+ gallons).

644.1 - McIvers Spring - Joker (2010): Dirty, oily water thanks to motorcyclists and hunters. Straight Jacket (2010): Toilet paper in the spring. Signs of red necks with ATV's all over the place. Iceaxe (2009): When I think of all the places I might have contracted giardiasis, McIvers Spring comes to mind. In 2009, I discovered toilet paper in the spring after I drank the water untreated.

651.4 - Walker Pass Campground - Joker (2010): Spigots almost always off (broken 2008, 2009, 2010). Scott Williamson's water directions led to good water in 2010. After June 1, there was a cache maintained by Tom of Kennedy Meadows.

652.0 - Lake Isabella CA - Late Start (2009): Last year we section-hiked from Campo to Donner Pass. We split our trip at Lake Isabella, so we stayed there twice. I wanted to pass on my thoughts about Lake Isabella: I think that people have a tendency to head toward the Kern Motel because of the proximity to Nelda's. Nelda's is a great place - we ate breakfast there. But the Kern Motel is awful (the words I really want to use are evil and hideous). Scout had warned us off of the Kern when we were in San Diego. He was correct. We tried to stay there on our first pass through Lake Isabella. The owner would not let us see the room though he allowed us to peer in through a grubby window. Then, because we wanted to check in at 9 AM, he said he would charge us for an extra half day. He had lots of rooms, but he would not budge on this. We walked away. When we returned to Lake Isabella, we stayed at the Lake Isabella Motel. It is clean, the owners are friendly and helpful, and it has a swimming pool . . . which in the heat was very nice. It maybe seems like it is going to be inconvenient at the Lake Isabella Motel, but it is not. We came back in to town on the bus from Bakersfield. The bus stop is right down from the motel at the Senior Center. It is also close to the Post Office - which the Kern is not. There is a True Value Hardware at the same end of town as the Lake Isabella Motel that has denatured - no need to go to the far end of town. There is a surplus store also at the same end of town. We never bought anything at the surplus store, but the owners were extremely friendly, helped us find a ride back to Walker Pass, and answered our questions every time we came in even though we never bought anything. They deserve a gold star. There is plenty of shopping and food available at the Lake Isabella Motel end of town. I don't remember about laundry . . . didn't do it in Lake Isabella. Please, please, please . . . hikers should not be supporting the Kern Motel. It is awful and the owner is unpleasant and just trying to take advantage of us. There are plenty (maybe more) resources near the Lake Isabella Motel, and the owners are reasonable people. Straight Jacket (2010): Hitching out was awful. Plenty of cars, but most of them were just doing laps up and down the main road. Saw the same cars dozens of times. Buckeye (2010): Quite a hitch to Lake Isabella, but apparently many folks who commute to Lake Isabella know about thru-hikers and start looking for us in May. We couldn't pass up a big cheeseburger and yummy (but expensive) milkshake at Nelda's. Nice public library here, but not a hiker-friendly town. Ended up hitching back to trail same day in a septic/poop truck! Swift (2010): Nelda's shake list is two full pages; they don't mess around, either.

669.0 - Spanish Needle Creek - Joker (2010): Second crossing, under dense canopy of oaks, has best water.

681.3 - Canebrake Road - Joker (2010): Host isn't here pre-June 1st, or maybe only here on weekends.

702.8 - Kennedy Meadows - Straight Jacket (2010): There is internet available at Tom's Place; he also lets hikers stay in his trailers there as well as camp, and he cooked some great meals for us. The store had a pot luck dinner and pancake breakfast they invited hikers to. Joker (2010): Definitely alcohol via Tom or the store. Grumpy Bear dinner is unreliable. Dinner is offered at the store once hikers start showing up in sizeable numbers (five hikers or more), usually around May 30th. It's not huge, but it's cheap (\$7-\$8). Read the register to discover the snow isn't as scary as you've heard. Travel in a group but give it a shot. I entered circa June 1st every year, including 2010, and enjoyed it. Swift (2010): Listen to Yogi and always use Priority Mail when shipping USPS. We didn't, and our resupply didn't arrive, but other goodies did. We managed to rally enough goods, including a bear canister and ice axe from a fellow hiker who flipped. The patty melts and 50¢ Ding Dongs were big hits at KM.

730.8 - Death Canyon Creek - Joker (2010): Delicious water 2008, 2009, 2010. Although the upcoming hard-to-find springs have cairns, it's easy to assume you're at the wrong one in this area.

736.0, 737.6, 741.2 - Springs - Joker (2010): Easy to miscount the junctions and assume you're at one but in reality you're at another.

742.5 - CORRAL Junction sign - Joker (2010): Good water 2009, best of all these options, actually. Turn is after a brief climb, water is in a meadow to the right of the trail.

744.8 - Lone Pine - Warner Springs Monty (2009): Showers at the Whitney Hostel with a big fluffy towel, shampoo, and soap included and really clean.... \$5. Really friendly people. I love this place. Still \$22 for a bed and \$60 for a 4-bed room with private bath. Computer to use. Laundry by arrangement included. Big community room and kind of a kitchen area with fridge and microwave.

750.2 - Chicken Spring Lake - Joker (2010): Last good camping where bear cans are not required. Iceaxe (2009): Nice campsite here near the lake. Socks (2009): Don't forget cold air settles around water sources. Coldest night I spent on the trail was here. It was beautiful to wake up to the sunrise over the lake, but brrrr!

760.3 - Rock Creek Crossing - Iceaxe (2009): Wild onions in the nearby creek banks and meadow.

766.3 - Mt. Whitney - Joker (2010): I recommend staying at the Crabtree Meadows Ranger Station (aka "Upper" Crabtree). Guitar Lake is nice but also COLD, terrible condensation because there's no trees, and in snowy years or if you're early, wet, miserable ground. It's nice to be closer to the top of Whitney, though. Also, you have to carry your gear further and then backtrack with it if you camp at Guitar Lake. Iceaxe (2009): You don't need a Whitney endorsement on your PCT Thru-Hiker Permit as long as you climb Whitney from Crabtree Meadows and the PCT. If you go over and down to Whitney Portal, you would need a permit to come back up. Mt. Whitney is a mandatory experience for thru-hikers. Camp in Crabtree Meadows and get an early start the next morning. You can leave all your food and heavy gear in the steel bear locker. Keep your eyes open on the way up! Views are spectacular. We were in the clouds at the summit, but it was still worth every step. Socks (2009): It's so fun to leave most of your gear at camp and climb a peak with under 10 pounds on your back! It was socked in the last mile the day we went up, but the views on the way were beautiful and you may never get another chance to climb the highest peak in the lower 48. Swift (2010): Whitney is an absolute must, just don't get ahead of yourself on a steep icy slope during an alpine ascent.

Crabtree Ranger Station - Joker (2010): This is off the PCT, but on the JMT and connectible with no loss of miles.

774.3 - Joker (2010): The fords in this area, before Tyndall, were the worst in 2010.

780.0 - Forester Pass - Joker (2010): It's hard to believe that's the pass, but with good eyes you can see the switchbacks cut into the rock just to the right of the notch. I recommend aiming for this as you posthole to the pass. Straight Jacket (2010): Get up early the day you do Forester. We were postholing waist deep every five steps or so crossing the alluvial basin before Forester, as well as most of the trail before then that day. The view from the top was worth it, though. Iceaxe (2009): Forester was covered in snow when we got here in early June. Just the switchback to the far right of the Pass was visible. We used that switchback to traverse out under the Pass and climbed straight up the snow wall using any exposed rocks to take breaks. Don't be in a hurry. Socks (2009): I must admit I got a little panicky on this one. My first big Sierra Pass - my hiking partner was so far ahead of me I couldn't see him. Footprints went everywhere across this huge wide snowfield leading to the Pass and I could see two or three "V's". I kept walking and eventually there were traces of trail and convergence of footprints and the "V" became more prominent. I recommend hiking the Sierra with a partner, especially if you are a newbie like I was. It can be a bit intimidating. Swift (2010): The sketchiest part is the shoot below the top. On the backside, if the snow is firm, veer to the right but don't go out on the "peninsula", it is a hairy rock scramble or glissade off.

787.3 - Vidette Meadow - Iceaxe (2009): Socks and I had an encounter with a very bold bear here. Keep your food locked up. Socks (2009): We had to chase a bear away from our camp here. It was just too happy to stand around and watch us. We built a fire and it never returned.

790.2 - Kearsarge Pass - Iceaxe (2009): The hike over Kearsarge Pass is very easy miles on a well-graded trail. Joker (2010): The distance from the PCT to the Onion Valley trailhead is only 7.5 miles via the Tom Harrison JMT maps. Having hiked it a total of five times, I can say it's DEFINITELY less than nine, and 7.5 feels right. Make the trip to Kearsarge Pass a loop - Bullfrog Lakes trail out, Kearsarge Pass trail back in. Saves about 1 mile. Socks (2009): Hike Bullfrog out and Kearsarge back in. You only miss 0.7 mile of the PCT, but you get two beautiful trails if the weather cooperates. Buckeye (2010): Bullfrog Lake is gorgeous and absolutely worth the side trip out at Kearsarge Pass. Shmoose with day-hikers and you will be able to get a ride to town. Swift (2010): I loved exiting the trail to Kearsarge here. At the Onion Valley Trailhead, people with cars arrive early in the day and leave later in the day. Plan accordingly.

790.2 - Independence - [Winnedumah Hotel is closed](#). Warner Springs Monty (2010): Chevron will accept hiker packages. Iceaxe (2009): The Chevron market has been upgraded. It might be possible to resupply here if you are not picky. They have showers and laundry available for a fee.

790.2 - Bishop - Iceaxe (2009): Go visit the Outfitter. When they hear where you've just come from, you'll be treated like a celebrity. Joker (2010): 10% hiker discount at Wilson's Eastside Sports. Good food at the Whiskey Creek happy hour. Socks (2009): Bishop is a great place for a few zeroes if you need to rest up from bad weather in the Sierra. A full-service town with lots of food variety, Schat's Bakery, and even a beautiful photography gallery featuring many Sierra photographers. There's a great Mexican restaurant somewhere on Main Street near Whiskey Creek, but the opposite side of the road. Buckeye (2010): Bishop is worth the extra travels - great Schaat's Bakery, coffee/internet shops, gear shops, and fun music festivals or shows on the weekends. Swift (2010): Bishop is far superior to Independence. Lots more options for food, lodging, and gear. Don't forget Schaat's Bakery!

792.5 - Glen Pass - Joker (2010): Glissading takes this pass from scary to FUN. Yet another argument for going into the Sierra early I think the top of the ascent for this pass is actually scarier than the descent. Iceaxe (2009): Be careful descending this Pass. There are a lot of rocks under the snow near the bottom of the slope. Look down between Rae Lakes, the trail goes over that spit of land. Buckeye (2010): An extremely steep pass on either side. If it is a heavy snow year, make sure to stay to the left of the bowl as you ascend. Some hikers followed tracks to the right and saw their lives flash before their eyes.

807.9 - Pinchot Pass - Joker (2010): When coming up the valley, you'll climb in a wooded area with no views of an obvious pass. Once you crest above most of the timber, you may think the pass is directly ahead. It isn't, it's 90 degrees to your left (initially). The trail makes a hard left somewhere near the timberline and you need to pay attention to your maps to catch it. Once you're headed at the correct pass, go high left above the basin filled with (possibly snow-covered) lakes and then swing around to the right at the top. The pass is up there after a final gradual ascent above the basin with the lakes I just mentioned.

817.4 - Mather Pass - Straight Jacket (2010): Mather Pass was a ton of fun. A nice mix of snow at the proper consistency, and semi-loose boulder scrambles. Iceaxe (2009): Mather Pass was fun. We went straight up the snow wall and around the left side of the cornice on top. Buckeye (2010): I held my breath climbing Mather Pass. We traveled in pieces, slowly kick-stepping in snow to a small boulder patch for a break. I could not look back once we started. What a feeling of success and accomplishment at the top!

837.9 - Muir Pass - Straight Jacket (2010): Muir was not that bad. Sure there might be false summits if you don't know about them. But hopefully you're looking at your maps anyway. The lakes weren't too confusing as long as you paid attention. You follow a sort of valley most of the way up. Stay in it and you'll be fine. Iceaxe (2009): Hikers went up the wrong ridge here in 2009. The snow was covering that upper lake. All the hiker tracks were going to the left of the lake and some just kept going! Pay attention to the map and be sure you are at the right lake. There was snow pack for six miles beyond Muir Pass. Be ready for a long slog down to Evolution Lake until you see bare rock again. Joker (2010): Long slog. This pass is important to get close to the night before. Get up and over before 2pm or so or you'll be SAD! P.S. if there's no obvious, visible hut, you're NOT there! Socks (2009): I came over this pass in a storm. I never thought the descent from Muir would end. It was long and lots of route-finding and postholing and stream crossings wed, cold, and miserable. Avoid this in the afternoon or you'll have a late haul to get out of snow to camp. Buckeye (2010): This was the easiest pass for us. With warnings from past hikers that it is a LONG haul up to the top, I was actually surprised to see Muir Hut sooner than later! Just keep chugging along.

849.9 - Evolution Creek Crossing - Iceaxe (2009): Knee-deep in June 2009 late in the afternoon. We had a lot of hail storms, so snow wasn't melting as fast during this time. Joker (2010): Never had trouble here, but it's COLD. Straight Jacket (2010): Cross at Evolution Meadow. The creek is way wider here, but slow and shallow. The trail crossing looked way too sketchy. Better just to cross at the Meadows (approximately 0.5 before the trail crossing), rather than have to backtrack. Swift (2010): Crossing at the "old" crossing seemed to be the safer choice here. Buckeye (2010): At 10am, the "old" crossing was up to my hips (I'm 5'7") and bone-breaking cold. But I couldn't even fathom crossing at the real trail.

856.2 - Muir Trail Ranch - Joker (2010): No food here and \$50 a box? Count me out. I'm sure they're nice, but I'd rather spend that \$50 on pizza. Socks (2009): I went by here on June 18, 2009. It didn't seem open yet to me. Beware of this possibility if you are sending a resupply here.

867.8 - Bear Creek - Straight Jacket (2010): Thigh/waist deep and real fast, but doable. Iceaxe (2009): This was the most challenging ford in the Sierra. Look down stream and make a plan in case you slip. Find a spot downstream to haul out before you need to. Prepare your pack as if you are expecting to take a swim. A bear canister is a pretty bomb-proof place to keep your sleeping bag while crossing big Sierra streams. Socks (2009): My toughest ford. Looked knee-deep but suddenly got waist-deep mid-stream. Nearly got washed downstream. After crossing, continuing along the trail on the other side, it seemed calmer downstream.

877.2 - Vermilion Valley Resort - Fees as of March 2011: Ferry: \$10 one way, \$18 round trip. Mailedrops: \$18 to pick up, \$10 plus postage to mail out. Joker (2010): Skip VVR! Mammoth is a better place to spend your money. VVR tried to double-charge my tab to my card in 2008. I had to call my credit card company as well as VVR to get it removed when I noticed. It was fun and all, but save your money and go to Mammoth.

884.2 - Silver Pass - Straight Jacket (2010): Best glissade of the trail!

889.0 - Tully Hole - Iceaxe (2009): The Tom Harrison maps show a fraction of the switchbacks that are actually here. Joker (2010): The sign fell down in 2009, made for a confusing turn.

906.6 - Reds Meadow - Iceaxe (2009): The store was freakishly barren of food. You can get snacks and soda, but the pizza ovens of Mammoth are so close! Joker (2010): Milkshakes in the restaurant, but I recommend saving your appetite for Mammoth. Chocolate milk at the store. Be careful who you trust that says the bus will or won't be running. The Croatian Sensation in 2008 walked to town because someone said the bus wasn't running . . . turns out it was. Straight Jacket (2010): I was here on June 9th. Everything was closed, even the road. We were able to get a ride down to Mammoth with one of the employees who was trying to get the place open. We had to walk the nine road miles back up from the ski lifts. Buckeye (2010): I would recommend calling ahead to see when Reds opens for the summer (depends on snow level). Swift (2010): The busses weren't running yet, so we hiked over Mammoth Pass and into town. If this is the case for you, descend early before the valley so you don't end up on the sketchy steep backside, descending to Horseshoe Lake.

906.6 - Mammoth Lakes - Joker (2010): Mammoth Mountaineering Supply is a great outfitter, great ultralight gear for sale. Bought a Western Mountaineering SummerLite here for 10% off in 2008! The new Shady Rest Campground is nice for your second night. Shower situation is a hassle, though. Straight Jacket (2010): Motel 6 was very friendly and charged us \$56 for four people. Buckeye and Swift (2010): Thai'd Up is closed, but there is an AYCE Indian food buffet at Best Western for \$10 Wed-Sun. Warner Springs Monty (2009): The Quality Inn in Mammoth was much, much nicer than the Motel 6 and well worth the extra money. Big rooms with fridge and microwave included, two beds, big desk, table, and still lots of floor space, WiFi, hot eggs and sausage type breakfast, 24-hour coffee, a huge 24-hour jacuzzi on and on and on. No extra charge for number of people. Same location as Motel 6 across the street, near the PO, Mammoth Mountaineering, Perry's Restaurant with the salad bar, right next to John's Pizza (good), Schat's Bakery (way excellent sandwiches and other stuff), McDonald's, and still on the free trolley route that goes everywhere in town. They also have a computer to use in the lobby (with a posted 10 minute limit). If they don't have laundry on site, Motel 6 has it across the street.

Motel 6 holds hiker packages:

USPS address: (hiker name) c/o Motel 6 PO Box 1260 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546	UPS/FedEx address: (hiker name) c/o Motel 6 3372 Main Street Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
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Buckeye (2010): Super hiker-friendly town, and best gear shops I visited on the trail. Loved the local coffee shops and atmosphere! Café 203, located in the Best Western, has AYCE Indian food at low prices - even lower if you hang out for happy hour (closed Mondays). I can't speak from experience as I hung out in Mammoth on Monday, but I heard from others that it is spectacular! Swift (2010): Mammoth Lakes makes a great zero stop. If hotels are full, camping is a great option. Be sure to grab breakfast at the Breakfast Club!

908.9 - JMT and PCT diverge - Joker (2010): Both trails are very scenic. I like the views on the PCT side better.

929.0 - Donohue Pass - Joker (2010): When you lose the trail most years, you still need to do a long traverse to the left to find the top. Buckeye (2010): Felt like the longest ascent due to all the sun cupped snow. Swift (2010): Most suncups we had seen.

941.6 - Tuolumne Meadows Lodge - Socks (2009): We got in too late to hit the store. Walked straight to the Lodge and got a dinner reservation for 15 minutes later. Family-style eating with free refills on salad and bread. A bit pricey, but well worth it if you're hungry. Fantastic desserts!

942.7 - Tuolumne Meadows Store/PO - Iceaxe (2009): I was surprised at how much food the store had. There was plenty for a resupply. The PO also keeps a hiker box, and it was full of food hikers had pitched out of their maildrops in favor of store-bought food. Socks (2009): No showers at the campground. Straight Jacket (2010): Everything, PO, Store, Lodge, EVERYTHING was closed. Hitched the 70-ish miles down to Yosemite Valley to resupply. The grocery store there was expensive but had everything I needed. It was also tourist hell. I almost killed a few people with my shopping cart. Quite the culture shock.

Yosemite Valley - Socks (2009): Half-Dome is spectacular and worth the extra time. Beautiful hike down to the Valley. We camped just before the junction and got up around 5:30am to climb it. Only a couple dozen people ahead of us, but by the time we got down, the cables were packed. Go early! Hiking down into the Valley with all the crowds wasn't much fun, and we got stopped twice by Rangers. "We're on our way to resupply in the Valley." There's an interesting film shown at the Ranger Station telling the history of the area and it's in an air-conditioned theater - free! Buckeye & Swift (2010): We threw our stuff in a bear locker at Little Yosemite Valley and ran up to Half Dome at sunset. We saw people descending as we ran up, but we were all alone on Half Dome for sunset. Go in the late afternoon - you are much faster than most day- or overnight-hikers, and you will avoid the crowd.

942.7 - Tuolumne Meadows to Echo Lake - Joker (2010): This section, every year, was the hardest for me PHYSICALLY. Also, the worst mosquitoes.

980.2 - Kerrick Canyon Creek - Buckeye and Swift (2010): There is a big log about 100 yards upstream (creek splits and rejoins). Makes crossing a lot easier.

Falls Canyon Creek - Straight Jacket (2010): Falls Canyon Creek was about nine feet deep where the trail crossed. Needless to say, we followed it upstream about three or so miles. It turned into a 5-part ford, tributary with two branches and then the "creek" with three branches. But at least we didn't have to swim across a nine-foot deep crazy fast cold-ass river.

1010.2 - Leave jeep road at a switchback - Joker (2010): Epic ridge walk. Be aware, camping in this area, until Sonora Pass, is very exposed. Right before Sonora Pass, there are sometimes gissades you can do that will save a mile or two.

1015.9 - Another Crest Crossing - Socks (2009): I found the 10 miles coming in to Sonora Pass to be quite difficult. It's really beautiful, but there was more snow than we'd seen in a while and lots of route-finding. The good thing was the mosquitoes were gone!

1018.3 - (Northern) Kennedy Meadows - Good Spot (2009): This was a great and easily accessible resupply for us. The general store/restaurant were newly rebuilt after the fire and very nice. We had a box shipped here but could have done a limited resupply at the general store. We ate breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the restaurant, all of which were larger portions, cheaper prices, and better food than VVR. The owner even let us camp for free next to the river (I don't think this is a normal thing, but it worked out great). They also have laundry and showers available for a small fee.

1018.3 - Bridgeport - Joker (2010): Skip Bridgeport. It's expensive and the hitch is annoying, except on holidays. Lodging is inordinately expensive. All rooms are \$100+, even if you haggle and even on a weekday. I say skip it. Swift (2010): Be prepared to shell out some coin to hotels if it is July 4th weekend. Camping is possible on the western edge of town. Buckeye (2010): Fun cowboy town, not really vegetarian-friendly.

1071.8 - Lost Lakes Spur Road - Iceaxe (2009): Lost Lake is just up the road to the right. It has a lot of 4WD campers. If you wander in there and plop down next to the lake and look sad, chances are those folks will try and feed you BBQ steak and potatoes with real butter . . . yuck!

1073.4 - Muddy Pond - Socks (2009): Pay attention to this small intersection and make your life easier. Go STRAIGHT. Not left. Not right. STRAIGHT.

1074.4 - Elephant's Back - Joker (2010): I have never encountered dangerous snow here (2008, 2009, 2010). Some snow, definitely, but nothing like what was described in the Handbook. Socks (2009): Elephant's Back was one of the most treacherous things I crossed. Stay off the snow if at all possible, even if it seems way out of your way.

1078.7 - Carson Pass - Iceaxe (2009): Sorensen's Resort has a great restaurant and an outdoor patio. Hitch east (right) from Carson Pass. The breakfast omelettes are excellent. [www.sorensensresort.com] 800-423-9949. Rooms and cabins \$125-\$450.

1092.3 - Road 1N03 - Joker (2010): I say cut to the road and hitch from here. I've hitched here twice and never had trouble from police or trouble finding a ride. I prefer it over Echo Lake. South Lake Tahoe is one of the best stops on the entire trail.

1093.0 - Highway 50 - Miner (2009): It's probably better to look for a ride to South Lake Tahoe from Echo Lake (mile 1094.5) rather than Highway 50. I got hassled by two young deputies for hitchhiking on the highway. They had no knowledge or interest in the trail and had no idea what I was doing there and didn't care. After they ran an ID check, I was told to get off the "major" highway. Being from Los Angeles, I almost said "What major highway?", but I smartly stayed quiet and moved on to Echo Lake where I found a ride. Socks (2009): Tough hitch on Highway 50. We were lucky some Trail Angels taking other hikers back to the trail saw us after 1.5 hours in the cold morning air. Later in the day as we were speeding down into South Lake Tahoe, we saw another hiker walking back up to Echo Lake on the shoulder in the hot sun. It is a climb!

1094.5 - Echo Lake - Iceaxe (2009): GoLite sent me a replacement pack to this PO. They kept telling me it wasn't there. After two days they figured out it had been there all along, but my first name was misspelled on the label. Like, how many GoLite packages do they get?! Anyway, it is very true that they have serious issues at this PO. Be very patient.

1094.5 - South Lake Tahoe - Bruiser (2009): Bus costs \$6 for all-day use. Miner (2009): O'Dark discovered the Budget Inn across the street from the Best Western and just up the street from the Safeway and a satellite PO. It had onsite laundry (need quarters) and free WiFi. Though the place was old, it was well maintained and clean. There was a bus stop right in front with several restaurants next door. They offered several of us hikers the same discount that they give AAA customers (\$45). It was cheaper than the Motel 6 with a better location. The AYCE buffet at Harrah's Casino was excellent. Straight Jacket (2010): Most of the buffets are closed everyday but Friday and Saturday. I heard Harrah's was open all week but was \$25, prices on the others start at \$12 (Horizon) but most are in the \$20-\$25 range. This is very important if you spend the whole Sierra looking forward to an AYCE, and that happens to be the only thing getting you through the 400+ miles of postholing and sun cups, and you end up getting here on a Thursday. The bus service proved very unreliable, they're supposed to come every half hour, but somehow we waited about an hour and 15 minutes for one. Prices for the motels go WAY WAY UP on the weekends. The Grocery Outlet is freaking heaven, \$2.50 Ben and Jerry's, 'nuf said.

Joker (2010): The Post Office here has twice failed to forward bounce boxes. I had to call the postmaster on one occasion to get the Post Office woman to admit she hadn't yet sent my box. Go to South Lake Tahoe, just don't send things here. My strategy for going to South Lake Tahoe is this: Stay in Stateline NV where the casinos are! You can get a two-person room at the Horizon Casino for \$49. Dirt cheap! And there's a Raley's two blocks away, an outfitter, restaurants, movie theater, buffets, etc. When you're ready to leave town, take the bus to the PO, do your mailing, then take the bus to the outskirts and hitch. EASY! The Apex Inn had soured on hikers by the time I arrived in 2008. Someone must have pissed him off, because he was rude to us for no reason. We stayed the second night elsewhere. Harrah's buffet is \$20. The buffets are open ALL WEEK. I've never had trouble, I've been to South Lake Tahoe thrice. Maybe something was going on in 2010 . . . oh wait, the terrible economy . . . Hmm. "I heard" is a dangerous phrase, I don't know if I trust opinions like that. No offense. Socks (2009): The main Post Office was not very helpful to a couple different hikers with package issues. Grouchy, unprofessional, and all-around unhappy people. Buffets are only at dinner, not lunch! Iceaxe (2009): Getting back to Echo Lake from South Lake Tahoe, it really helps to make a sign. Drivers on Highway 50 want to know you're not just an off-season ski bum. I made a sign that read "Echo Lake PCT" and began walking out of town on Highway 50. When I got a ride it was a local and she said she stopped because of my sign.

1150.3 - Saddle north of Anderson Peak - Iceaxe (2009): The Benson Hut is a really nice place to crash before you descend to Donner Pass (nobo). It's uphill from the trail in the trees right before the PCT heads out onto a narrow ridge. If you make the trek to the spring, be sure to bring some extra water back to leave for the exhausted sobos!

1155.8 - Pooh Corner - 530-563-6867 rings both cell and house phone. Bill: It would be wise for folks arriving in June to call a couple of days before they arrive to check with us. Pooh Corner is open in 2011 until July 24. We welcome you after July 24 if we are around. The correct phone number is 530-563-6867. Joker (2010): Staying at Pooh Corner is hit or miss. I might put a warning in here: if you're with a group or in the thick of the herd, you should probably avoid Pooh Corner. Socks (2009): Bill & Molly like to go to bed early. I wouldn't call later than 7pm.

1155.8 - Truckee - Buckeye (2010): Java Sushi - All. You. Can. Eat. Sushi. It's made to order and magical. I ate 10 fancy rolls - over \$100 in sushi - for \$18. It's on Donner Pass Road across from Ace Mtn Hardware.

1194.6 - Alternate Route into Sierra City - Buckeye & Swift (2010): The ice-cold waterfall and pool are such a treat on a hot day. We walked into Sierra City refreshed, relaxed, and happy as can be.

1197.6 - Sierra City - Miner (2009): I could have easily resupplied here, why didn't I? There was a big bear problem at the Church lawn. He took some hiker's food bags. Iceaxe (2009): Try the "Cinnamoose" at the Red Moose. The Triple Gut Buster Burger is a great deal at the store. They also have 19 different kinds of hot sauce. There are power outlets available on the porch of the store. Buckeye (2010): Hiker-friendly grocery store. However, the prices are a bit higher than a large convenient store, of course. I opted for canned tuna because I could not justify buying the foil package tuna. Great burgers at the store.

1197.6 - Sierra City Trail Angels Bill and Margaret Price - Beginning in 2010, Sierra City has new trail angels!! Bill and Margaret Price operate the Red Moose Inn, and offer accommodations for PCT hikers. This is a terrific addition to Sierra City! 530-862-1215 [notjanie@juno.com]

CAMPING: For sleeping we offer FREE camping in our large (about half the size of a football field) back yard. Unless there are medical issues, the camping in the yard is a two-day maximum stay. If the elements are not friendly we will let the hikers share our living quarters. Also free.

LODGING: There are two rooms available for rent, each with a private bath, small refrigerator, and a queen size bed. A roll-away is available for a buddy. The rooms come with free breakfast and a free dinner for up to two occupants.

OTHER SERVICES: Full laundry, showers, mending, use of computer, phone (continental US), all at no charge.

RIDES: We offer rides to the trailhead or to the clinic in Downieville at no charge. We drive to the Catholic Church in Downieville on Sunday, and there is a Methodist Church up the street here.

ADULT BEVERAGES: We do not have a liquor license at the Moose. However, those who rent rooms may consume alcohol in their room, according to ABC, as it is their private quarters. When we barbecue dinners for the hikers only, we can post a "Private Party" sign and they may consume alcohol in the back yard. We provide red cups as needed. Absolutely no illegal substances tolerated.

CAFÉ: The Café is open to the public for breakfast: weekends and Monday, Tuesday. During hiker season we will serve the public if there is room at the tables. We offer breakfast during hiker season seven days a week, flexible hours per the hiker's needs. We do not serve lunch. We offer an authentic all-you-can-eat barbecue rib dinner served with fresh veggies. Vegetarians and vegans can be provided for as well. Watermelon is often served for dessert. The price for dinner is about \$11. If the main entree is changed to New York Steak (at the discretion of the cook), the price may go up a dollar. A hiker last season told us that he had heard about our ribs for 200 miles!

MAILDROPS: Yes we accept hiker packages, at no charge, either UPS or USPS.

USPS Address:
(hiker name)
c/o Red Moose Inn
PO Box 384
Sierra City, CA 96125

UPS Address:
(hiker name)
c/o Red Moose Inn
224 Main Street
Sierra City, CA 96125

Bigfoot (2010): Awesome place with great atmosphere! Grey Fox (2010): Bill and Margaret are a hiker's dream! Buckeye (2010): I had a small piece of glass in my foot due to walking on a beach in Tahoe. Swift walked over to Red Moose Inn to ask for a bucket so I could soak my foot and Margaret insisted I come over instead. When I arrived, she had drawn a warm bath for me to soak my foot and served me OJ and an apple to help my immune system. ANGELS in every sense of the word. I teared up. They also served up ribs and potatoes to us all for a fair price for a sit-down dinner.

1219.9 - The "A" Tree - Socks (2009): Locals come here to get water. You might be able to get a ride to town.

1232.7 - Second saddle next to seasonal spring - Socks (2009): It's there, but tricky to find.

1242.9 - Black Rock Creek Road 22N56 at a saddle - Socks (2009): The turn-off to this spring is at a several-road intersection with logging activity nearby.

1251.5 - Middle Fork Feather River - Socks (2009): Also good spots to hang out on the other side of the bridge. Cool off before a big ascent. Buckeye & Swift (2010): We crossed the bridge and followed a side trail right down to the river. The water is the perfect temperature and absolute heaven to swim in. I will zero here the next time I hike.

1255.0 - Bear Creek - Buckeye (2010): There are flat spaces to camp on either side of the bridge.

1265.4 - Bucks Lake Lodge - The Lodge building (restaurant/store) was destroyed by fire in January 2010. Buckeye (2010): Lakeshore Resort has a decent, but pricey menu. Good burgers and fries.

1283.9 - Descent into Belden - Socks (2009): Don't try it at night. It's a long descent. Wait till morning or you might get lost! Swift (2010): Plenty of poison oak on descent into Belden.

1289.3 - The Braatens of Little Haven - The Braatens have discontinued their land line. Laurie: We can still be reached at the same number, which is now Brenda's cell. We have a second cell number in case that is busy: 530-616-0136. The main impact this will have on the hikers is that we no longer have a phone in the house that they can use with a phone card. The only options are the phones at Belden and at Caribou Crossroads, or a Verizon cell.

1289.3 - Belden - Joker (2010): I resupplied here, but I ate a lot of Ramen and various candy bars. It is doable in a pinch.

1335.8 - Chester - Iceaxe (2009): The Pine Shack Frosty is a mandatory visit for hikers who like thick shakes in a multitude of flavors. There are power outlets under some of the booths to charge gadgets. Buckeye (2010): Listen to Yogi: pay attention to where the trail crosses the road. This was great advice. Swift (2010): The Pine Shack Frosty opens a tad late (11am) for an early return to the trail. However, we were glad we waited. GREAT milkshakes!

1353.3 - Drakesbad Guest Ranch - Buckeye (2010): Ed welcomes you with a hug and you are immediately pampered with fresh clothes, a laundry bag (they will do your laundry), a dip in a hot spring, and a delicious home-cooked meal. Swift (2010): This place is a must. Fresh bread, salad, and shrimp pasta. Showers, laundry, and great atmosphere.

1367.4 - East end of Badger Flat - Joker (2010): Never seen water here in mid July 2008 & 2009. The corral off-trail later does have a stream.

1377.7 - Old Station - The Heitmans no longer host hikers. Joker (2010): PO is very accommodating. I've resupplied from this little store twice, but it'd be easy to send a box. I suggest leaving Old Station around 3pm. Hike as late as you can, then get up as early as you can and get down off the Rim before noon. I often think many of the "hot" areas of the PCT are exaggerated, but it is usually pretty hot here. Socks (2009): I suggest leaving Old Station in the evening and camping near Highway 44 (not much traffic). Then you can cross the Rim in the early hours. It was not nearly as bad as I'd been told.

1381.8 - Highway 44 - Iceaxe (2009): I dropped in to the Old Station Fill-up and picked up some cold drinks. Then made my way to Subway Cave to hang out in the cool subterranean cavern until the heat of the day passed. Buckeye (2010): Stopped at JJ's Café in the morning for a big breakfast omelet and took a big package of pastries for the road.

1411.8 - Crystal Lake State Fish Hatchery Road - Socks (2009): I was told by people living here that there was no water source available to hikers any cleaner than the creek we'd just crossed.

1415.9 - The town of Burney - Buckeye (2010): There is an ice cream/milkshake shop about a block down from Gepetto's Pizza (opposite the way to the PCT). It is across the street from a US Bank in, I believe, an A-Frame building.

1422.6 - Highway 89 - Iceaxe (2009): Take the alternate. Totally worth it!

1423.6 - Burney Falls State Park - Iceaxe (2009): Again in 2009, many hikers were told their boxes weren't here when they actually were. If they tell you your box isn't here, ask them to look again. They also require you to pay your package fee in cash. The soft-serve ice cream is the highlight of the store. Socks (2009): Pay attention as you arrive here. This was confusing, not well-marked. There are picnic tables and shade outside the store. Bathrooms nearby. They weren't terribly friendly towards hikers. Swift (2010): We were disappointed with the service and poor attitudes at the store. Buckeye (2010): AWFUL service! Please don't support this independently contracted store. Even the Rangers told us it has been an ongoing battle.

1437.7 - Peavine Creek - Socks (2009): There is a hunter's camp down the road to the left about 0.25 mile. Nice open grassy spaces for camping.

1443.0 - approximately - Girl Scout's spring - Straight Jacket (2010): This was signed as a water source, and was great. Gushing, freezing cold water.

1506.5 - Castella - Good Spot (2009): This place was pretty picked over and looked like they didn't update their stock very often. The restaurant was also closed and was being used as storage. Not sure if this was temporary or permanent.

1506.5 - Mt. Shasta - Iceaxe (2009): Mt. Shasta is a very good town for hikers. There is a health food market, good restaurants, and a hiker friendly hotel. I hitched from Castella to Mt. Shasta and back easily. Make a PCT hiker sign, the locals know about us and will help.

Trail Angel - JoAnn Michael says: Hi guys and gals, it's time for my yearly announcement that I am a Trail Angel up here north of Mt. Shasta. We can't do it on a daily basis, but we'll come to Castella and bring you into Mt. Shasta for motels and resupply. Mt. Shasta is a full town with a large grocery store, plus outfitters for any footwear or general gear failures. At our home, if you want to zero, we offer a private room and bath, plus I do your laundry and I feed you well (including beer). The reason I have to put some parameters is that it is a minimum of 45 minutes to the closest trailhead and our gas is almost \$3.50/gal. We also host and see to your transportation needs for those who have considered climbing Mt. Shasta. (I have an ice axe.) We help section hikers (we'll hold your resupply package) and will pick you up and/or take you to your vehicle or the trailhead of your choice (Castella, Scott Mtn Summit, Parks Creek, Etna Summit and Seiad Valley, the later, a three hour round trip). Anyway, we can easily be talked into many needs so either give me a call or keep the information for while you're on the trail. Georgi has my information also. That's a good place to give me a call if we can help: JoAnn (are we there yet) Michael 530-905-0507, [jomike@cot.net]. We live in a community 7 miles from Weed (off of Hwy 97) in case you're into maps and would like to take a look.

1606.3 - Etna - CCTG is closed. Straight Jacket (2010): The Hiker Hut is still open and they said they had no plans for closing. Joker (2010): Etna's road crossing can be low on traffic, but take a gamble. It's a great town and getting back out is much easier. Iceaxe (2009): The hardware store had one-quart cans of denatured alcohol. I bought one, filled my container, and left the rest at the Alderbrook Inn hiker box. Socks (2009): My favorite trail town. Small & homey, but everything you need. Relaxing place for a zero. Etna Brewery has decent food, too. Buckeye (2010): Etna truly is that "lazy summer days" town. Quiet and peaceful, you are carefree here and able to relax and simply enjoy a beautiful day. Super hiker-friendly town. As Swift and I started hiking along the road, waiting for a car to drive by and head back to a trail, a man feeding his horses knew immediately who we were and offered to drive us back up to the trail. The Trailhead Restaurant has a cheeseburger made on a cheese bagel! Talk about calorie load.

1620.4 - Fisher Lake - Straight Jacket (2010): I guess I got here pretty early in the season, but this was the coolest place I camped on the trail. Good tent sites, a nice fire pit, great swimming, and some rocks to dive into the lake from.

1662.1 - Seiad Valley - Iceaxe (2009): In 2009 Heaps (New Zealand) attempted the pancake challenge. He ate 2.5 pounds of pancakes in two hours. Then he went back later for a bacon double cheeseburger! Try the biscuits and gravy, it's awesome! The store has a pretty limited selection, but a resupply of simple foods is possible here. There were homemade granola and lemon bars here in 2009. The kind folks at the RV Park set up a straw-lined "petting zoo" for thru-hikers. By the way, Seiad Valley and the RV Park exist because of the mining that goes on in the Klamath River. The folks here are a little sensitive if hikers make environmental comments.

Leaving Seiad Valley - Joker (2010): Instead of leaving town first thing in the morning, you could leave in the evening. Beware the tight camping situation at the immediate top of the climb if you have a larger group. Buckeye & Swift (2010): We camped at Fern Spring for an early ascent and were happy with our decision. This is a warm part of the world.

1668.4 - Lookout Spring - Joker (2010): Good spring. Straight Jacket (2010): Slow flow, but good water.

1672.5 - Kangaroo Springs - Iceaxe (2009): Birdman saw a mountain lion get a drink at Kangaroo Springs just a minute after I had left!

1697.5 - Donomore Creek - Iceaxe (2009): J. D. Onomore owns the cabin here. He is a hiker-friendly fellow and welcomes us to stop and visit if he is around. He also puts potable water out for hikers.

1715.9 - Grouse Gap Shelter - Iceaxe (2009): This shelter saved our bacon! It is a three-sided log structure with a big metal fire pit in the middle. If the weather looks bad, enjoy a dry night in this awesome little valley.

1726.0 - Callahan's Short Cut - Swift (2010): The shortcut to Callahan's is well-marked. Follow the trail flagging to the train tracks downhill.

1726.6 - Callahan's - Iceaxe (2009): Callahan's is awesome! They let us tent on the back lawn and do laundry and take showers. You might want to make a sign with PCT on it if you are hitching to and from Ashland. The locals know about the PCT around Callahan's, but once you are in Ashland you will look like just another homeless person. Sometimes rides can be arranged with staff at the lodge. The owner gave us a ride! Socks (2009): I stayed here when the owners were away. Not all the staff were clear on the PCT hiker package deals. I had to fill them in thanks to Yogi's book. I was the only hiker there that night, so it was a bit awkward, but the food was fantastic.

1726.6 - Ashland - Good Spot (2009): Knight's Inn gave us a hiker discount and had a pool and hot tub. Golden Goose restaurant (in same parking lot as Knight's Inn) had excellent food and was reasonably priced. No HEET at Safeway. HEET at Bi-Mart. Iceaxe (2009): The Ashland Outdoor Store sells AquaMira liquid. Standing Stone Brewery has great pizza and micro brews. This is where the locals eat. Socks (2009): I didn't stay at the hostel, but they kindly allowed me to stash my pack here while I was running errands in town.

Planning for Oregon/Washington - Joker (2010): Don't worry about getting Glacier Peak detour maps. The detour is a nightmare, and the original PCT has been almost entirely repaired. The bridge over the Suittale should be repaired by late fall 2011. I did the convenience store resupply through Washington. It can be done. Only place I'd say send a box is Stehekin, although the PO there has had several thefts in recent years. Miner (2009): HEET was available at every town/resort I visited from N.Cal to Baring/Skykomish. All those warnings about you may not find it in Oregon and other places were wrong and I often carried extra.

1736.2 - Very refreshing fenced-in spring - Joker (2010): Spigot broken, but there's a trickle that I drank untreated and thought it was fine.

1738.3 - Spring-fed tub - SOCKS (2010): I definitely recommend getting the water from the pipe behind the old metal trough. The pond was disgustingly cow-contaminated.

1743.9 - Green Springs Inn - Buckeye (2010): The absolute BEST burger you will find anywhere on the trail is at Green Springs Inn. Homemade herb bread, hand-pressed fresh burger. Plus, at least five homemade pies to choose from. A must-eat on the trail! As you hike up the road to Green Springs Inn, cut across the reservoir to save a half mile of walking. From the Inn, hike up the perpendicular road to reconnect with the PCT. We started out from I-5 around 9am and arrived at Green Springs Inn around 4:30pm.

1747.1 - Water faucet - Joker (2010): There's a diverter on the faucet if you hunt in the bushes, you can make the water dome directly from the spigot. Good water in 2008 and 2009.

1750.2 - Hyatt Lake Resort - Iceaxe (2009): The campground had a PCT hiker area. Also has free hot showers and power outlets in the lighted bathrooms.

1770.8 - South Brown Mountain Shelter - Joker (2010): I drank untreated in 2008 and 2009. Good water. Pumped by hand straight out of the ground! Cold! Iceaxe (2009): I think the confusion here regarding bad water is that the first few pumps of the hand-operated well might have a little rust from the iron pump housing. I found this water to be excellent in 2009. Socks (2009): I didn't find any shelters on the PCT to be very welcoming except maybe in a storm. Alas, that never happened for me. One exception was the Brown Mountain Shelter!

1780.6 - Highway 140 - Straight Jacket (2010): As soon as we crossed the highway, it was like walking into a wall of mosquitoes. There were hundreds at a time all day every day. Carry DEET, and a gun to shoot yourself with. As soon as I crossed the burn area right before Elk Lake (mile 1958), they disappeared and never came back. JOKER (2010): Trail just before here is tiring, lots of lava rock. Beware slow speeds.

1830.4 - Crater Lake Mazama Village - Joker (2010): I resupplied here in 2008 and 2009. Good but not great. It'll do. Pay for camping? Lots of woods around here. Just sayin'! Socks (2009): Mazama Village is a friendly place with a great hiker box. There are picnic tables in front of the store to hang out on while doing laundry and resupplying. Be careful leaving Mazama Village. We night-hiked out of Mazama Village, missed the turn, and ended up on the equestrian PCT. In the morning, we were able to find a side trail that reconnected us without having to backtrack. Buckeye & Swift (2010): We followed Yogi's directions along Hwy 62. When you reach the guard rail, there is now a pretty defined steep trail leading you down the hill to the next road.

1852.6 - Diamond Lake (alternate route) - Good Spot (2009): South Shore Pizza opens at 11 am and has amazing pizza and good beer on draft.

1860.8 - Thielsen Creek - Joker (2010): Cold and delicious water! Iceaxe (2009): Good flow of clean water in August 2009.

1870.8 - Maidu Lake Trail 3725A - Iceaxe (2009): Maidu Lake is a bit off the PCT and apparently popular with fishermen. It's worth the trip to avoid the descent to Six Horse Spring (mile 1877.0).

1877.0 - Tolo Camp - Joker (2010): Lower pools are fresher. I think this water is good.

1882.9 - Windigo Pass - Lloyd Gust stocks a water cache here.

1889.9 - Stagnant Pool - Iceaxe (2009): Because I missed the lakelet at 1885.2, I got water at this horrendous little pond.

1902.1 - approximately - Iceaxe (2009): This is an awesome spring that comes right out of a crack in the mountain! Best water in Oregon.

1912.2 - Shelter Cove Resort - Packages are held until the first snow, then uncollected packages are returned to sender. Per phone call to resort on Aug 17, 2010, this is the current mailing address (different from the address in the Handbook!!):

(hiker name)
c/o Shelter Cove Resort
West Odell Lake Road, Highway 58
Crescent, OR 97733

1913.8 - Willamette Pass Ski Area - Swift (2010): Awesome pizza, and HUGE scoops of ice cream. Seriously, the largest scoops I have seen to date. Take on the double, and hope you are not lactose intolerant.

1917.5 - Maiden Peak Ski Hut - Joker (2010): It seems farther, but as long as you're keeping your eyes open for stuff on the right side of the trail you can't miss it. Straight Jacket (2010): Awesome hut, well worth hauling water up if you get here at the right time. Buckeye (2010): After a swim in the beautiful Rosary Lakes, I reached the Maiden Peak Ski Hut at dusk. I set up for bet but struggled to fall asleep as a strong wind shook the cabin door. The mice scurrying around was the last straw and I moved outside around 10pm. Next time, I'd camp at the lakes.

1958.3 - Elk Lake Resort - Good Spot (2009): I think you already said it's very expensive, but I noticed there were candy bars for \$2, just thought that might drive the point home. Also the breakfast wasn't really that great. Miner (2009): The breakfast was OK, but the Huckleberry and Blackberry flavored ice cream was well worth the walk over here. The restaurant didn't open til 10am so we had to wait an hour longer than we had been told. Joker (2010): I find this place to be exorbitantly expensive! I think a warning about that is justified. \$10.50 milkshakes! Outrageous! Socks (2009): If you get here in the evening, it's well worth the walk for good food, beer, and ice cream. Hike back towards the trail to camp for free. Buckeye (2010): After two pint-sized scoops of ice cream at Willamette Pass for \$3, it was hard to appreciate one ridiculously small scoop at Elk Lake for \$2.50. The manager was not hiker-friendly and even asked some hikers to leave. If you are hungry for an expensive meal, stop by. We picked up our package here, ate a petite expensive breakfast, felt the negative vibe, and moved on.

1985.5 - South Matthieu Lake - Joker (2010): Trail from here until about 2 or 3 miles after McKenzie Pass is lava rock and very tiring. Expect slightly slower speeds.

1989.5 - Sisters OR - Thanks to Lloyd Gust, the Sisters Inn now accepts hiker packages: 525 W. Hwy 20, Sisters OR 97759. Be sure to label your box as a hiker package, including ETA. The Inn also has a hiker discount. Call Brian 541-549-2551. Okie Girl: Napa Auto Parts is closed. MacKenzie Creek store has more of what a hiker needs - polypro liners, shoes, and small fuel canisters. Coyote Creek Café is now the Soji Noodle and Rice (which moved from Cascade Ave). The health food store has moved to Cascade Ave (where the Soji place used to be). Finally, the City Park Campground \$12 - has showers, but for campers only (no quarters needed - need to ask the camp host for the combination). Also, it's a 10 minute walk from the campground to the movie theater and the Three Creeks Brewery (opens at 10:30 am).

Hitching from McKenzie Pass - Joker (2010): Worth noting the space to pull over is marginal here. I've witnessed people being, well, "entitled" when dealing with Mr. Gust. When asking for a ride, you should definitely do what is easier for HIM than you. He will let you walk all over him if you try, so be courteous! It's a long drive from Bend! Straight Jacket (2010): I got to McKenzie Pass at 6am, no traffic. Went on to Santiam Pass and got a ride in 30 seconds. It seems McKenzie is mostly tourist traffic, while Santiam is locals, but the cars are moving much faster. Socks (2009): We were unable to get cell service at McKenzie Pass. Don't count on it!

1989.5 - Bend OR - Warner Springs Monty - I said lodging was expensive in Bend except the Mill Inn. Update: There are less expensive motels up and down 3rd Street, the same street that has the Albertson's and Safeway grocery stores. I would rather encourage people to go to Bend than to be scared away. Also the brew pub restaurants are pretty cool especially McMenamins Pub which also has a \$3 current movie and a really cheap happy hour menu. Bend Area Transit (BAT) goes everywhere in Bend cheap and often. Little busses. Very easy hitch 30 miles to town. Joker (2010): I recommend Bend, especially if carrying a big resupply so you don't have to make a box for Timberline. There's a grocery outlet in Bend. I got a 7-day resupply for \$30.

1989.8 - Northbound Trailhead at McKenzie Pass - Lloyd Gust stocks a water cache here.

2000.9 - Big Lake Youth Camp - After mid-August, the camp is not staffed full time. Socks (2009): We turned off too soon and got lost. The trail to the camp is major. Don't turn off on the smaller horse trails. Joker (2010): Meals are semi-AYCE (multiple trips are okay!).

2053.1 - Olallie Lake Resort - Resort and store are open in 2011, but not accepting PCT resupply packages. Current website is [www.olallielakeresort.com].

2089.3 - Litter Crater Lake Trail - Socks (2009): Quick cool side trip, though lots of cows in this area. Buckeye (2010): Crystal clear water in Little Crater Lake.

2107.3 - Timberline Lodge - Iceaxe (2009): The WY'East Store has nothing for resupply. They had quite a large hiker box, though. I sent a box here from Sisters, Oregon. Buckeye (2010): I often dream of Timberline Lodge. I want to transport myself there RIGHT NOW. The breakfast buffet CANNOT be missed. Omelet bar, freshly cooked Belgian waffles with fresh berries, fresh-squeezed-right-before-your-eyes-OJ. My heart aches as I miss this meal so much. And it was only \$14 for all this and more at a nice hotel. Worth every penny!

2115.5 - Sandy River - Socks (2009): In 2009, there was quite a washout of the Sandy River from a storm the winter before. I had trouble at points finding the actual trail. Perhaps it's been repaired now, but I wouldn't have wanted to do that in the dark.

2128.7 - Junction with Huckleberry Mountain Trail 617 to Salvation Spring Camp - Fidget (2010): This campsite and spring are 0.3 mile past the trail junction, not at the trail junction. You can follow the side trail down about 0.4 mile to the spring, or just stay on the PCT another 5 minutes.

2136.9 - Indian Springs Campground - Joker (2010): The Indian Springs Trail is VERY steep, but it's a fun shortcut. When the Indian Springs Trail kicks out onto the Eagle Creek Trail, make sure you turn the proper direction (left). Check your map. Eagle Creek is very high-use, so drink from side in-flowing sources or carry water. Buckeye (2010): Eagle Creek Trail is STUNNING. One of my favorite places on the trail. You walk behind a waterfall!

2155.0 - Cascade Locks - Pacific Crest Pub and Hostel is closed on Mondays year-round. Good Spot (2009): HEET at grocery store and gas station. Do not need to carry all HEET for Washington from here. We did and found HEET at a lot of places in Washington. Bridge of the Gods Motel had rates that varied quite a bit depending on weekday, weekend, or holiday, and whether you paid cash or credit. Miner (2009): PCT Day was interesting and if you are going to be in town around then, it's worth staying an extra day or two for it. However, it wasn't worth the hassle of getting a ride from another point on trail like I did (Sisters). Okie Girl: The library is closed until further notice. With the decline of the timber industry came a decline in funds. Iceaxe (2009): Power outlets in the bathrooms of the Port Marine RV Park. Joker (2010): The Brew Pub is great, good pizza. If you want to zero, though, I recommend using the Dial-a-Ride to Hood River. Hitching is oddly hard here.

2155.0 - Hood River - Iceaxe (2009): I came to Hood River to stay with family friends. They took me straight to the Full Sail Brewery which serves food as well. Hood River has several outfitters including Shortt Supply (shoes, socks, hiking clothing), and The Kayak Shed (great deals on down jackets and fleece). There is also the Western Aviation Automotive Antique Museum just outside town. Lots to do in Hood River or just drink beer and hang out on the Columbia River. Swift (2010): We managed to hitch back and forth from Cascade Locks, and we were so glad we did. Much better prices and selection for resupply. Buckeye (2010): Definitely buy from the Oregon side to avoid sales taxes on the Washington side.

Leaving Cascade Locks - Iceaxe (2009): I asked some friends from Hood River what they thought of hikers walking the highway and they thought it was crazy. Besides, the food at Stabler's Country Store tastes so good after tackling the first mountainous 35 miles of PCT. It's a perfect introduction to the PCT in Washington! Socks (2009): I hiked the actual PCT. Beautiful views of the Columbia River Gorge and Mt. Adams, the trail tread was good, I'd do it again. Buckeye (2010): I have no idea why this is even debated. Plus, we ended up catching those who did the road walk a little ways up the trail. If hikers are doing the roadwalk to save time . . . it's not much help. I enjoyed the trail in this section, with pretty stellar views of the Gorge and Mt. Adams.

2185.7 - Stabler's Country Store - As of March 2011, the store has closed due to lack of business. Owner Jim says he and his family live there and will accept hiker packages for the 2011 season. Iceaxe (2009): Stabler's had homemade biscuits and gravy! The selection of food was more than I expected. I would make at least a partial resupply out of this store next time.

2201.5 - Descend to a gully with a reliable spring - Joker (2010): The sign fell down in 2008 but was propped up. Water is down by some berry bushes. Be careful as the sign is kind of "passable", if you know what I mean. The camp is visible, though.

2204.6 - approximately - Fidget (2010): There is a developed campsite here, with metal ring fire pit and table. One minute past this, on the left, just above the trail is a white pipe with good water. Get water here because Crest Campground (2206.6) is dry.

Washington Resupply - Straight Jacket (2010): Myself and everyone else I was hiking with did the convenience store resupplies through Washington. The White Pass store had quite a bit of food geared towards hikers. Snoqualmie didn't have much, but we were able to get the 2.5 days of food we needed to get to Skykomish. The Baring store had a lot of food geared towards hikers, as well as HEET, but in limited quantities. However they seem to be trying to help, and also have amazing breakfasts. The stores in Skykomish had some stuff and when combined with the Baring store you could easily resupply. One important thing to note: I was at the absolute front of the front of the pack, we did clean some of these places out. If you're towards the back send boxes. Iceaxe (2009): I was near the front of the pack in 2009, and I felt as if I could have bought all my resupply food from C-stores along the way. Stehekin is the only place in Washington where I would still have a box for my passport and entry papers so I would have a maildrop there, although a hiker could buy some snacks at Stehekin and three days worth of pie and cinnamon rolls the way Spec, Maggie, and Birdman did!

2237.9 - Trout Lake - Good Spot (2009): The grocery here is a great stop. We got a room for \$20 (I think others may have paid \$25) and were able to do a 3-day resupply pretty easily after our box was lost in the mail. The room had a TV with satellite and its own bathroom and private entrance. It also had access to a free washer and dryer right next to the bathroom. Had HEET at the gas station. Café (attached to gas station) is open 6-9. Also had an espresso/smoothie place attached to the gas station and Café. Joker (2010): Hitch is very low traffic but a very high percentage of pickups, like Etna (via Road 23, at least).

2237.9 - Mount Adams Zen Buddhist Temple - Socks (2009): Good people, beautiful quiet location.

2250.8 - Lewis River - Joker (2010): In high snow years, or if you're early, this is a high-flow crossing and very silty.

2253.3 - Killen Creek - Socks (2009): Decent campsites around here.

2258.3 - Lava Spring - Iceaxe (2009): This is a magical place. Excellent water flowing from an ancient pile of lava rock . . . very cool.

2281.0 - Campsite by Cispus River - Joker (2010): Worth noting the exposed area starts right after here, in case one needs to camp and suspects bad weather.

2299.2 - Chairlift Trail near White Pass - Good Spot (2009): I thought this shortcut was not that bad, but my girlfriend thought otherwise. I think it's important for people to realize that this is a trail to the chairlift only and not all the way down the slope. Once you get to the slopes it's what any ski slope would be in the summer: steep and overgrown. It's more of a choose your own adventure down the hill, you can bushwhack straight down or wind your way down the ski trails and jeep roads that interlace the hill. Joker (2010): I took this in 2009 and took the regular trail in 2008. I'd say they're about even in convenience, as the Chairlift Trail is much shorter but very slow-going. And the PCT is longer but easy. Upside to the Chairlift Trail: TONS of huckleberries!

2302.8 - White Pass - Good Spot (2009): HEET at Kracker Barrel. Iceaxe (2009): The store had a pretty good selection of food when I passed through ahead of the herd. They said they stock up for us. There is an indoor area to eat and sort your resupply. I was there at closing time so they gave me all the leftover fried food. You can negotiate a ride into Packwood pretty easily with the locals if you share your free fried food, too! Buckeye & Swift (2010): We bought two packages of frozen lasagna and had a feast with two other hikers in our motel rooms. Terrific!

2302.8 - Packwood - Halfbrew and Tenacious Sky: White Pass Sports Hut offers rides from White Pass to Packwood. Fidget (2010): A fellow named Mark bought the gear shop in January and is working toward gearing it up toward hikers. He is super friendly and enthusiastic about encouraging us. He keeps a hiker box, trail register, and a super chill cat. Joker (2010): The restaurants in Packwood are not varied or numerous. The best by FAR is the pizza place. The market is a solid resupply, though. The hitch was a hassle for me and my companion, but it was nice to get out of the rain.

2355.1 - Camp Ulrich - Joker (2010): Some slightly confusing clearcut hiking over the next bunch of miles. Buckeye (2010): Great place to dry out with a nice hot wood-burning stove. However, many other critters make this their home and we found it impossible to avoid them getting to our food (even when hung). I'll hang my clothes and gear to dry in the cabin but sleep soundly outside the next time.

2401.7 - Snoqualmie Pass - The Howard Johnson is now "The Summit Inn." A hiker told me: "Hotel has new owners and is real hiker UN-friendly now. Expensive, unreasonable, untrusting of hikers and really doesn't want them around." Hmmmmmmmm, I recommend you DO NOT send a package here unless you call first! Hey 2011 hikers, I challenge you to make this a hiker-friendly place! Educate the hotel owners on hiking, and be sure they know that hikers spend money!! Ringmaster: I talked to Kerstin at the Summit Inn on 2-7-11. She said the "new" owners have owned the hotel for about 4 years now, but dropped the Howard Johnson franchise about 4 months ago. The new name is Summit Inn (not "The Summit Inn" as your recent update says). They willingly accept maildrop boxes. There is a \$10 holding charge if you do not stay with them. The USPS address for maildrop boxes is: Summit Inn Hotel, PO Box 163, Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98068. She said to add "Hotel" to the address because Summit Lodge (a ski resort) is under the same ownership and they use the same PO Box. All the standard hiker information should be on the box. She said you do not need to mail your box General Delivery. I did not ask about the physical address for UPS or FedEx. She was very friendly and said they are and always have been anxious to serve hikers and reserve a block of rooms just for hikers. She told me the rate for 2011 is \$79 for a single, \$10 for each additional person. They have laundry facilities. She also told me that the gas station (Chevron) will toss boxes after a couple of weeks, but that the Summit Inn will hold packages until the end of the season –

even if you mail it today she said. Both phone numbers in your Handbook are correct. Posted to PLT-L: Hiker-friendly folks at the Summit Inn are Kim (day shift M-F), and Kerstin (night shift 5pm-11pm). If you make reservations and are quoted a high rate (like \$99), talk to or email Kim. Her email address is [kimatthesummit@yahoo.com]. Good Spot (2009): Chevron had HEET. Web's (new restaurant at ski lodge) had great food and it was pretty inexpensive. They had all-you-can-eat tacos when we were there. Buckeye (2010): Webb's is the way to go. Caesar salad with grilled romaine lettuce. Try it and you'll never see caesar the same again. Huge delicious burgers as well. Very hiker-friendly and filling.

2476.3 - Skykomish - Straight Jacket (2010): Skykomish has been undergoing some "construction" for a few years. Basically a freight train dumped oil everywhere and they are spending millions trying to clean it up (Imagine that! An oil company paying to clean up its spill). This means they are putting the buildings on wheels and moving them to get to the dirt underneath. The PO was still there but had been moved a few blocks, the Cascadia Motel was closed. Don't plan on anything being here without calling ahead. Joker (2010): The Sky Liquor and Deli (good place to get dropped off on a hitch) has fantastic sandwiches.

2476.3 - Dinsmore's & Baring - Good Spot (2009): HEET at Baring Café. Straight Jacket (2010): The Baring Store is great. Decent selection of hiker food given its size. The only thing I wanted that they didn't have was instant potatoes. The food is great, the blueberry pancakes in particular were amazing, and everybody was super friendly. Buckeye (2010): Baring Store has terrific milkshakes and the owners are really geared toward helping us hikers out. The Dinsmores are terrific and a warm shelter with movies and dry clothes are heaven at this point.

2506.4 - Ridgecrest Campsite - Good Spot (2009): Had water accessible from a newly added PVC pipe.

2508.9 - Glacier Peak Detour - Miner (2009): Most of the bridges have been rebuilt with the one big exception being the Suiattle River, which still had a log across it. It was only the last 3 miles before the Suiattle River that we encountered numerous blowdowns. There were only 2 large diameter trees (6ft or more) on the trail. All the blowdowns had well defined trails around or under them. It wasn't a big deal hiking through here and all the hype seemed overblown. Rockstar and I had no problem maintaining a 2mph pace through here. Joker (2010): In October 2010 the Forest Service installed two huge girders that span the Suiattle River. However, they are far away from the current crossing and the bridge is by no means complete. It is scheduled to be finished in 2011. The entire rest of the "original" PCT is complete, however, and last I heard the famed log is intact. Straight Jacket (2010): I can't think of any reason not to do the original PCT. There was some overgrowth after Milk Creek (cleared the following week) and maybe 1-2 dozen blowdowns in between Milk Creek and the Suiattle River. The Suiattle was no problem. The log was easy. The rest of the section was up to PCT standards. Buckeye (2010): I'm not sure why the PCT is still closed? Trail maintenance has done a fantastic job, and the trail was completely clear. The old growths that were cut into clear the trail are quite impressive! Yogi: Sheesh! We had to climb over, under, and around these old-growth blowdowns in 2007. It was quite a challenge!

2522.0 - Sitkum Creek - Good Spot (2009): Had a bridge and the creek before it had one, too.

2534.8 - Milk Creek - Good Spot (2009): South of creek trail was rebuilt and in great shape. New bridge was installed and trail routed slightly differently on north side of creek. If you follow the new portion of trail you go west and downhill along the creek so you have to climb more in addition to the still overgrown switchbacks you have to ascend. A few hikers said they were able to follow the old trail after crossing the bridge (to the right) and although it was overgrown it saved a little mileage and some climbing. Fidget (2010): The bridge is located down river of where it used to be. There is no camping here except on the bridge.

2540.6 - Approaching the Suiattle River - Fidget (2010): Rif-Raf, Shannon and I only encountered about a dozen or so blowdowns on our way to the Suiattle River. It seems the trail guys were out there working their butts off this year and have done a great job. The bigish river crossing before the Suiattle still has no bridge but new trail is cut and it looks like work has started to put one in.

2547.6 - Suiattle River - Fidget (2010): Suiattle River is still a very scary crossing. Downstream one large trunk crosses above the water. This log sways under a person's weight and is at a bit of a climb. Upriver about 50 yards is another large, much flatter, log. Most people crossed here. Butt-scooting is a totally accepted method. Straight Jacket (2010): The upstream log was no problem to walk across. It's not a good river to fall in by any means, but you can always scoot across the log. I felt it was quite safe. Finding the trail on the far bank was easy, there was a trail worn in and flagging as well. Buckeye (2010): The tree that sways is cracked midway! Definitely cross on the tree 50 yards up. The trail is clear on the other side of the river (marked with cairns).

2555.5 - Railroad Creek Trail - Socks (2009): If someone were hurt or ill, or if weather was bad, 10 miles down Railroad Creek Valley from Cloudy Pass is Holden Village with food, shelter, first aid station, emergency contact systems with the outside world, and transport to Lake Chelan to catch the ferry to Chelan or Stehekin. It's just a few miles less than getting to High Bridge, but a few miles could be a big deal if sick or injured. Also sometimes there is a volunteer USFS Ranger stationed at Lyman Lake (west side) beyond Cloudy Pass who would have a radio. Not usually there past mid-September.

2574.1 - Stehekin - Good Spot (2009): The restaurant at the Landing is now managed by someone else and they had excellent food and was very hiker friendly. The Ranch is only open for dining to guests after a certain date. Bakery takes credit cards for purchases over \$20. There was a farm near the Bakery that sold fresh veggies and goat cheese. Bruiser (2009): The restaurant at the Stehekin Landing has great food and they take credit cards! Straight Jacket (2010): We resupplied out of the bakery in Stehekin, best three days of the whole trail were in between there and Manning, loaves of bread and pastries the whole time. Make sure you get there early though, there was not a whole lot left when we got there at 3:30pm-ish, once again the two of us cleaned the place out. The bakery does accept credit cards for \$20 and over. Fidget (2010): Leaving High Bridge (hitting the trail out of Stehekin), the guidebook shows a road route (The Old Wagon Trail) which meets up with the PCT and avoids a few nominal climbs. A few miles down, this road is washed out. Unless you are comfortable doing lateral rock climbing above rushing water, stick to the trail.

Joker (2010): Stehekin is the best trail town! Take a zero! (But keep an eye on the weather). In 2008 & 2009 there were thefts of held mail at the Post Office. I might recommend getting your passport and other unreplaceable stuff sent to Skykomish. The odds of theft are low, but why take chances? Socks (2009): There are bear boxes at the campground and nice bathrooms. We got to Stehekin on September 21. The Bakery was only operating on weekends by then. However, never fear, they had a kiosk outside with goodies on the honor system. The bus driver stopped for us to pick up a few things. Buckeye (2010): I agree with Billy Goat and Scott Williamson. Stehekin is by far the best trail town and greatest place in America. Lake Chelan is found in a deep gorge (third deepest lake in America) and the views are spectacular. The Bakery itself is worth hiking the entire trail again. I have yet to find any pastries remotely resembling these pastries since. Enjoy Stehekin. There is a definite magic in the air. Locals with cars have caught on to thru-hiking and some swing by the trail in hopes of picking up hikers and taking them to any destinations they need. Don't worry about logistics - they come easy here. Swift (2010): Note: If you mail a resupply in a box with alcohol markings it will be held for inspection. Not to worry if it is your final resupply in stehekin. The Bakery has the best goodies on the entire trail.

US-Canada Border - Joker (2010): Instead of going into Canada, I recommend hiking back to Hart's Pass. Easy hitch to Sedro-Woolley where you can easily catch a bus to Seattle. Often easy hitch to Seattle, too. For two years I have hiked back to Hart's Pass and hitched to both Seattle (south on I-5) and Bellingham (north on I-5) in two or less hitches. Hart's Pass is a very popular Pasayten access trailhead. No bus ride, no border stuff, etc. Cheap! I got to Seattle in the same time it took someone who went to Manning.

2593.8 - Rainy Pass - Buckeye & Swift (2010): The only bear that visited our tent was at the parking lot at Rainy Pass - go figure.

2624.3 - Harts Pass - Swift (2010): Decent campground.

2641.5 - Narrow Crest Pass - Straight Jacket (2010): The switchbacks on the PCT suck. But it's fairly easy to tell by looking at it that trying to cross a 45-degree scree slope without a good run out is not a good idea. Stick to the trail. Joker (2010): I took the scree slope. It was fun but won't save any time. Good CDT training. Danger is inflated here, I'd say.

2663.5 - Manning Park - Be careful sending packages here. A hiker reported on PCT-L that her package was waiting at the Lodge, but it had a \$45 customs charge!! Straight Jacket (2010): No internet at Manning, important if you don't pay attention to your checking account and end up getting to Seattle on a Friday night with only \$40 left to last 4 days. I got charged an "exchange fee" on my DEBIT card for every purchase I made in Canada. I think that's because it's debit not credit. Be warned. Having some jeans, a cotton T-shirt and new shoes sent to me here so I could throw out my hiker clothes was the best decision I made on the whole trail. AYCE breakfast at the Pinewoods Restaurant.

Seattle - Straight Jacket (2010): I stayed at the American Hotel Hostel in Seattle. It was about \$30-\$35 a night depending on room. It has continental breakfast, TV, internet, coin laundry, showers w/ towels included, clean and friendly. It is right near china town, which has a great Asian market. There was also another hostel called the Green Tortoise near Pikes Market with similar prices.