

**U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE
KETCHUM RANGER DISTRICT**

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Road and Trail Report 03/17/2015



Adams Gulch Trailhead - March 17, 2015



Old Adams Gulch Road - March 17, 2015

- Warm temperatures continue to bring early muddy and icy conditions. *Remember: when you encounter trails that are muddy but are not yet marked as CLOSED please turn back.* Adams Gulch Trailhead (pictured above) is muddy at the parking area **but** there are several trails that are nearly dry and are partially open as “out and backs” (see pictures below). *Expect some trails to be signed closed in the next several weeks as muddy conditions develop.*
- Boundary Creek Trailhead offers a drier parking area than Adams Gulch although Trail Creek Trail itself remains about half covered by ice. Other trails at Fox Creek, Oregon Gulch and Greenhorn Gulch remain buried under packed ice and snow. Currently these “over snow” trails ARE VERY SLIPPERY WITH ICE. . *Once again, expect some trails to be signed closed in the next several weeks as muddy conditions develop.*



At Adams Gulch Trailhead: Adams-Lake Creek Connector Trail #321 offers a dry hike for one mile (left photo) until snow and ice appear just beyond the saddle (center and right photos).



Also at Adams Gulch Trailhead: Sunnyside-Lanes Trail #316 offers a (nearly) dry hike for two miles with six icy spots around 30 ft. in length. Very little mud is forming near melting ice as the soil is exceptionally dry.



More views from Sunnyside-Lanes Trail #316 include a waterfall above the memorial picnic table near mile 2 (left photo) and a tree still sporting Christmas decorations (center photo). The turnaround point is ½ mile past the tree and picnic table, looking down at the junction with Citizens Trail #143 (right photo). Beyond this point the trail becomes blocked with ice and snow turning to mud.



Another option at Adams Gulch Trailhead is hiking Old Adams Gulch Road for about 1.5 miles on hard pack snow (right and center photo). You may wish to turn around before crossing the second bridge (left photo). Past the second bridge the snow is ridged and slushy making footing difficult.

Current Ketchum Ranger District Trail Conditions as of 3/17/2015:

For All Trails: Please walk in the center of the trails if you encounter ice or mud. THANKS!

- **Adam's Gulch Trailhead:** Open but muddy.
 - Lake Creek Connector Trail #321 is open for 1 mile as an "out and back."
 - Sunnyside-Lanes Trail #316 is open for 2 miles, closed by snow just before the junction with Citizens Trail #143.
 - Old Adams Gulch Road Trail #146 is open to over snow hikers, not recommended past the 1.5 miles (above the second bridge) due to icy- slushy conditions.
- **Trail Creek:** Trail Creek trailhead parking is open and **DRY!** Trail Creek Trail is open: expect half the trail to be icy and half dry gravel. The XC ski trails above Trail Creek are melting and are very muddy/icy.
- **Lake Creek:** All trails still snow covered (just barely) and are open for skiers.
- **Fox Creek Trailhead, Chocolate, Oregon, Corral Creek, Eagle Creek:** Still buried under significant snow. Most trails are hard pack ice and snow: open to non-motorized users but **very SLICK** conditions.
- **Greenhorn Trailhead:** Greenhorn road at the Forest boundary is **CLOSED**. Park at the end of Limekiln Road only. All trails are hard pack ice and snow (turning to slush and mud!)



Trail Creek Trail #305, located at Boundary Creek Trailhead, shows as the snowy strip at the toe of the slope in the photo above. About half of this 1.2 mile trail is dry and free of snow with the other half still icy. This almost flat trail is a good choice for dog walkers seeking a mud free excursion.



Roads accessing Fox Creek Trailhead (left photo), Lake Creek (center photo) and Greenhorn Trailhead (right photo) remain closed to motorized use due to mud. Most Forest Roads are scheduled to open to motorized use on May 1 but are open to hikers, bikers and equestrians throughout the winter and spring.

Ketchum Ranger District Road Conditions: **All KRD Forest Roads are closed to motorized use until MAY 1, after May 1 roads will be opened as conditions allow.**

- **Deer Creek:** CLOSED one mile up from Forest Boundary. USE CAUTION!
- **Greenhorn Gulch Road:** CLOSED..PARK AT LIMEKILN ROAD to hike on snow covered trails.
- **East Fork of The Big Wood River Road:** will be updated next week
- **Oregon Gulch:** Open but trails are still under snow (turning quickly to mud).
- **Fox Creek Rd:** signed closed
- **Hyndman Creek Rd:** CLOSED near the three mile mark..park at designated parking area.
- **Parker Gulch:** no report.
- **Independence:** signed closed
- **Corral Creek Rd:** signed closed
- **Lake Creek:** signed closed
- **Taylor Canyon:** not accessible due to snow.
- **Panther Creek:** not accessible due to snow.
- **Eagle Creek Road:** signed closed
- **Trail Creek:** Open up to 1 mile past Corral Creek ..patchy snow and ice covered for last mile.
- **Warm Springs Rd:** Open to Red Warrior (CLOSED just above Frenchman's Hot Springs..expect mud and potholes
- **Cove Creek Rd:** not accessible due to snow.
- **Baker Creek Rd:** not accessible due to snow.
- **West Fork Warm Springs:** not accessible due to snow.
- **Copper Creek:** not accessible due to snow.
- **Mormon Hill Road:** not accessible due to snow.

South Valley Best Bet: BLM roads including Lee's Gulch and Townsend Gulch (both located at the end of Lower Broadford Rd.) as well as Muldoon Road (east of Bellevue) are all closed to motorized use until April 30 and are currently snow free for 3- 5 miles making them ideal for early spring hikers, bikers and riders. *Please follow all posted parking restrictions and clean up after dogs, ponies or what have you around your vehicles.*



Members of the Sawtooth Backcountry Horsemen head out for a ride up Lee's Gulch on March 17.



Be sure to follow parking signs posted at lee's Gulch, Townsend Gulch and all other BLM Roads (above).

(MORE) South Valley Best Bets:

The BLM's **Bullion Connector Trail and Hidden Valley Trail** are open as of March 17. All other trails making up the BLM's Croy Trail network remain closed at this time.

Bullion Connector Trail: The trail is open. As of 3/17/15 there are a couple of short stretches of icy snow and wet conditions above the Croy Trailhead. Please walk in the center of the trail to pass through these areas. Bicyclists please carry your bikes through. Staying on the trail helps avoid trail widening.

Hidden Valley Trail: The trail is open. Most all of the trail is dry and in good shape. As of 3/17/15 there remains some stretches of icy snow and wet conditions along the trail. There are a couple of snowy patches just above where the trail departs Bullion Gulch Road, and there are some longer ones to be found in the south west area of the loop. Please walk in the center of the trail to pass through these areas. Bicyclists please carry your bikes through. Staying on the trail helps avoid trail widening.

“Toe of the Slope” trail (east of Hailey) is open and dry.

North Valley Hiking Best Bet:

White Cloud Trails (West side of Sun Valley Road) still a bit muddy in the upper sections but the majority of the trails are dry.

Short “out and back” hikes at Adams Gulch and Trail Creek.

Half dry /half slushy hiking available on Corral Creek and Lake Creek Roads.

***The KRD has partnered with the BCRD to help keep our enthusiastic trail users up to date on current trail conditions and information. The new website, launched last summer is: <http://summertrailink.bcrd.org/>. While the KRD will continue to publish our text version of the bi-weekly trail updates throughout the summer, users who want a more interactive experience that includes maps, photos and trail descriptions should check out the above link.**