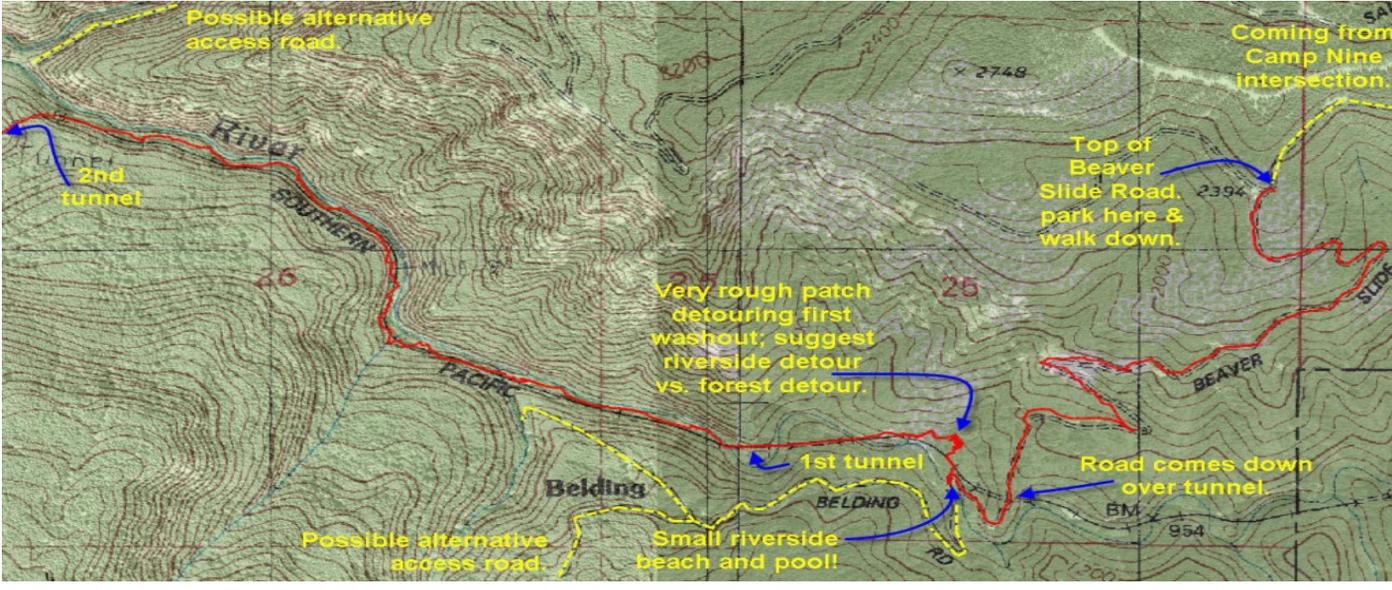


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Lower Salmonberry

Part 2: From the bottom of Beaver Slide Road (West) to Tunnel 29



TRAIL LOG



These next miles are the toughest on the hike. Returning back to the railroad tracks, it is time to head West (not through the Tunnel 27 over which we descended). Almost immediately, the route is blocked by mangled tracks and a river ruined railroad grade. Immediately behind a blank sign board, a rough track descends down to the riverbed. Follow that if the water is not too high. At the farther end of the washout, there will be a ladder that leads back up to the remaining tracks. If you are accompanied by a four legged companion, continue on and eventually beyond the end of the washout there will be a switch-back trail that ascends to the train tracks. On the steep slope above the track, there could be a log jam of trees, trunks, rocks, gullies, branches and moss covered everything. Navigating through this portion can be difficult and may take up to 30 minutes to cross, even though it is no longer than a couple hundred feet. Immediately after this initial scramble, the tracks cross the Salmonberry and pass through the first tunnel (Tunnel 28) West of Beaver Slide Road. Beyond the tunnel, the tracks cross the river twice, spanning a loop in the river course that ends up following the South shore of the river. Two creeks flow into the



Salmonberry along this relatively straight stretch and as a consequence, it is clogged with damaged track and grades requiring frequent detours through the tumbled landscape and forest detritus. The first of these creeks is Belding Creek. Belding Road, a rough access road, descends 11.5 miles from just below Roger's peak and leads nearly down to the railroad grade. Both at Belding Creek and Jones Creek (0.25 miles West) there will be severe washouts to circumvent. The next mile of the route bends Northwards and traverses several more washouts. This can be difficult, but there has been a best route marked with blue arrows, which will be reliable until the next flood. Almost another mile beyond Belding Creek, the river turns and resumes a Northwesterly course. There are two more significant washouts in this section as the trail approaches the second tunnel (Tunnel 29). This tunnel cuts through a ridge, at the end of which is the confluence of the North Fork of the Salmonberry River. There is a rail spur around the bend (avoiding the tunnel), that leads down to the riverside, eventually to a spur line that bends around the edge of the ridge.

Info and photos from Jim Thayer, foresthiker.com