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Lower Salmonberry

Part 4: Enright Segment, including Tunnel 32



TRAIL LOG



On the far side of Tunnel 31, the terrain continues to be broken, which requires at least one significant detour. Thereafter, the river seems to calm down a bit, which leaves the railroad embankment mostly intact. From Tunnel 31 to Tunnel 32 is a distance of about 1 mile. As the trail approaches Tunnel 32, across from Tunnel Creek, the boulder strewn waterway widened, even developing sandy stretches of riverside beaches. To get to this point it will take at least four hours of hiking, which means you will need to depart the top of Beaver Slide road no later than 4 pm. That means dropping the down-stream car no later than 2:30 pm, and departing from Portland no later than 1 pm. Night can fall quickly in these narrow valleys, so it is advised to be aware of your surroundings when the sun goes down. Remember that this is deep in the Coast Range, and is also home to a considerable population of black bears, so one must be careful with



food. Tunnel 32 proves to be the turning point after which the hike becomes more predictable, with less strenuous detours. The valley seems to open up a bit on the Western side of Tunnel 32, while the route straightens out in a more or less Northwesterly direction. Not long after emerging from the tunnel (about 0.1 miles), there will be small cabins nestled into the hillside above the railroad tracks. It was during this phase of the hike that one began to notice a band of taggers that had preceded them over the years. "Ogre" had signed his name all the way up the Salmonberry to Cochran Pond in 2008 as part of a 42 mile hike. Evidently, he returned the following year with his associates: Gime, Bumjug, Ex2R, Why, Crook and Depths. Apparently, Gime is well known as a Portland graffiti artist who, needless to say, provided both amusing and artistically pleasing commentary.

Info and photos from Jim Thayer, foresthiker.com