



North Coast State Forest Coalition

Upper Salmonberry

Part 2: From the base of Beaver Slide Road to Cochran Pond



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This second portion of the hike follows the railroad tracks up to Cochran Pond. This journey is approximately 6.5 miles, with a rise in elevation of only 930 feet.



TRAIL LOG



This part of the hike begins by going through Tunnel 27, over which the Beaver Slide Road descends. A flashlight is recommended here. At the other end of the tunnel, the trail follows a twisted path through a vegetation covered slide area. ATV riders have carved out a route for part of this way, which should be easy to follow. The trail will hug the Northern shore to rejoin the rails after they re-cross to that side of the river. A short distance on, they cross to the Southern side on a surviving bridge (0.5 miles from Tunnel 27). A short 0.15 miles on, the trail reaches the Kinney Creek crossing, where there is a bridge that can no longer be used. Follow the narrow path to the right up the slope until it drops down into the bed of Kinney Creek. There is a narrow and steep, but short track that leads up the opposite side. The top of the slope will lead to the mouth of Tunnel 28.



Emerging from the tunnel, the trail follows a relatively straight stretch that parallels the river in an Easterly direction. About 0.75 miles onwards begins significant erosion that has undercut the tracks. Skirt the eroded embankment along the uphill side and continue along another 0.5 miles of eroded tracks. This is where the tracks begin to curve to the right and enter

Wolf Creek Canyon. This road climbs partially up the Creek before crossing and doubling back to the main stem of the Salmonberry River. About 5.25 miles from the starting point begins to approach the upper end of the Wolf Creek loop where the tracks cross on an impressive wooden trestle. Immediately thereafter presents Tunnel 25. The far side of this tunnel continues Northwards doubling back along Wolf Creek before the tracks turn East again to parallel the main stem of the Salmonberry River. Here, the dramatic erosion on the track is quite evident. As the tracks turn Eastward, they soon cross Little Baldwin Creek on another well built trestle, at the end of which is an old tanker car that has been tagged. Another 0.2 miles from this trestle, the trail approaches the water tower just short of the Baldwin Creek bridge. At this point, the landscape flattens out a bit as the trail approaches the top of the watershed. The river splits with the Salmonberry heading Northeast into the valley. The trail will rejoin a small stream that heads up to Cochran Pond, which has now become Pennoyer creek. From Baldwin Creek to Cochran Pond, it is only 2.5 miles with no washouts or detours.



Info and photos from Jim Thayer, foresthiker.com