



The BOSTWO <bostwo@edcgov.us>

in regards to 14N39

2 messages

Rick Ferdon <rferdon@valin.com>

Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 1:53 PM

To: The BOSTWO <bostwo@edcgov.us>

Cc: "mike.applegarth@edcgov.us" <mike.applegarth@edcgov.us>

This was from Ken Hower in regards to 14N39. Ken is one of the directors of Rubicon Trail Foundation

I have never been up there so I have to rely on others

Rick

Kathy seemed very accommodating when I talked to her on the phone yesterday. She apologized for forgetting about me talking to her about 14N39 at the FOTR annual meeting. She said she assumed it was more an access road to the SMUD tower, than an actual recreational destination. I told Kathy that I realized the trail was difficult for her to maintain.....but that FOTR would take up that....since the trail is used by Rubicon users that are aware of it....to see the trail after they complete it. You can see about 75% of the Rubicon trail from that hill top.....

Debbie I guarantee has never been up there. These photos are the "meadow" at the top.....That's no illusion....that's 20-30 degree slope.

This part of the trail is ONLY wet for vehicles in the rain. In the spring....the snow is deep and in the shade before Richardson. Up top, it's sunny and fully exposed. By the time you can finally make it past Richardson.....the snow on top is long gone. You can battle through snow drifts in the shade around Richardson and in sections above it.....once you get past the Pacific Crest Trail crossing....it's dry as a bone.

BTW...the trail has been there since at least 1971 when we first went up there...I was 9. It has been a destination for Tahoe side recreation for over 40 years.....it's used, but not abused. Most people drive up....have lunch....have a drink....and leave. Having gone up...at least a couple hundred times...I've only seen someone camp there at the top...one time. The SMUD tower and solar shed were built the summer of 2003. So it's been a recreational stop...far longer than it's been a road for cell maintenance. I can probably show you 100 family photos....enjoying the view. When we camp at Richardson.....we'll head up at dusk...and watch the headlights run the trail...it's amazing.

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2 attachments

The Road up 14N39

Ken Hower 10/2012

SMUD Tower Construction

Aug 17, 2003 they construct the tower



Labor Day 2003 construction In full swing



Labor Day 2003



History

- This road has been in use by Rubicon travelers and recreation on the TNF side for as long as I can remember....1975 was the first time my parents took me
- The road was previously a 4WD drive road, but in the early 1980's the area was forested and the road was grated for heavy equipment

Wet Conditions

- Because the road to Richardson is shaded heavily and the area on top of Sourdough is facing the sun all day...there is only wet road conditions during thunderstorms.
- The snow melts up top long before travel to Ludlow Hut and Richardson is possible.



This is just past Ludlow Hut as you climb up Sourdough



Typical road as you climb



Typical road as you climb



Typical road as you climb



Typical road as you climb



As you get near the top, the road flattens and there is a SMALL 20 foot section that should be hardened with rock. The reason it is rutted, is from a massive thunderstorm the week previously. It is usually bone dry, even when snow is still in drifts at Richardson.



The road passes through trees and then the “meadow” that faces WEST. The road is side-cut at a fairly steep angle as you can see.



The road turns right and heads straight up the hill about 100 yards to the top



The top is around the tree line.



Near the top.



The solar shed at the top



Driving down the mountain.

A view of Rubicon Res.



Buck/Big Sluice



Loon and Spider Lake

