

How the Crest Trail #182 was affected by the Sacaton Fire

Traveling north to south

Just before Hummingbird Saddle, there are pockets of partial burn on the east side of the Crest. The meadow (Hummingbird Saddle) is largely unaffected except on the far east perimeter where there is some partial burn, and the spring on the west side of the crest was not affected at all.

Immediately leaving Hummingbird there is full burn for the next 3/4 of a mile until a little north of the junction with the 172 trail down to Iron Creek. That 3/4 mile is heavily burned and impacted, with tread damage that will need repair. The trail is on a contour as it goes around the east side of Whitewater Baldy and there is lots of soil and rock across the trail, washed down in the rains. There isn't anything left to hold the soil in that section, although there is a little grass and fireweed starting to grow in some areas. There were about 35 logs down in that section - mostly burned logs across the trail. A lot of the large stacks of dead and down from the 2012 Whitewater Baldy fire did burn up. There are a few hazard snags that should be removed and stump holes that will need work.

Nearing the 172 junction, there is partial burn, which lasts from there for the next mile until the small saddle on the south side of Whitewater Baldy. The sign at the 172-junction burned up. There are small pockets of heavy areas, but mostly it is a partial burn. A group of large, mature Doug Firs which survived the Whitewater Baldy Fire also survived this fire. Hurray! There are areas in this section that will also need tread work. There is one side drainage in this section that the trail crosses that is blown out from runoff and will need repair. There are about 65 logs down in this section - a lot of smaller aspens. Looking down into upper Iron Creek from this area, one can see some pockets of unburned, mature timber that survived.

From the saddle on the south side of Whitewater Baldy, the fire stayed on the east side of the crest and did not affect the Crest Trail again until ear the top of the Center Baldy ridge. At this point, there is some partial burn on the east side and top of the ridge and there is partial burn on the ridge top. The junction of trail 182 and 180 is unburned.