

# Hayduke Trail

## *Interim Updates to Skurka's Bundle*

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### **Katherine Cook -- Spring 2015**

#### **Water Chart**

##### Section 1

Mile 10.6 Willow Spring Wash: small flow

Mile 30.2 Kane Springs Campground: spigot on R side of road, pit toilet

##### Section 2

Mile 44.7 Colorado River: detour from road by turning right on ATV track, then turn right down footpath near the end of ATV track to access river

Mile 63.2 Piped dripping spring on the north wall: seep to small to collect

Mile 65.1 Unnamed spring: plenty flow, flowing into rd bed, alkaline

Mile 74.8 Indian Creek: off and on flow

\*I took a large alternate from Squaw Flat Campground in Needles through Salt Creek and eventually over to Dark Canyon wilderness, and met up with the 'official' route at the confluence of Young's Canyon with Dark Canyon.\*

##### Section 3

Mile 131.8 Confluence with Dark Canyon: good flow the entire way

Mile 145.2 Pothole near T-intersection: didn't go to it

Mile 153.2 Hite Marina: water was on, but Marina may be closing down. Check campground for water?

##### Section 4

Mile 169.7 Dirty Devil River: strong flow, didn't drink it

Mile 180.1 Poison Spring Canyon above Black Jump: small, consistent flow for about five miles

Mile 181.8 Piped Masonry Spring: good water at spring. Look for spring in cottonwoods on north canyon wall after rough two-track splits from road

##### Section 5

Mile 200.5 Crescent Creek: good flow

Mile 204.0 Granite Creek: good flow in Granite Creek, small flow in next drainage

Mile 211.3 Sweetwater Creek: usable seeps appeared about a mile downcanyon from 20.8, disappeared shortly after

Mile 218.3 Tarantula Mesa #1: tank full of good water

Mile 221.3 Tarantula Mesa #2: tank full of ok water. #1 is better. (the mileage for this tank is wrong)

Mile 227.6 Spring at Canyon Junction: strong flow, not very cattle fouled

Mile 232.1 Swap Canyon Springs: both had water, second much better quality than first

##### Section 6

Mile 251.9 Muley Tanks: full, good water

Mile 255.4 Halls Creek: on and off flow before Red Slide

\*I took a long alternate, departing the official route at Red Slide and rejoining it about a mile and a half before the mouth of Coyote Gulch, by continuing down Halls Creek, climbing over the Water Pocket Fold, and then descending to the Escalante River by way of Stevens Canyon.\*

Mile 299.1 Coyote Gulch mouth: strong flow, also multiple springs

Mile 306.6 Hurricane Wash mouth: light flow for .5 miles

Mile 311.9 Willow Tank: full, didn't try it

## **Section 7**

Mile 319.4 Llewellyn Canyon Spring: nearby drainage had decent seep, not too cattle fouled

Mile 320.6 Mudholes Spring: strong flow, good water

Mile 321.5 Pocket Hollow Spring: decent flow from fenced spring through pipe into large blue tank 100 yards down hill

Mile 326.7 Small rainwater tank: didn't see it, might be gone

Mile 330.2 Rogers Canyon: strong flow until about 1 mile before Navajo Canyon

Mile 349.5 Last Chance Creek: only potholes until ~42.4, then flowing from ~42.4 to ~50.3, then off and on to Paradise Canyon

Mile 365.9 Paradise Canyon: flow from ~.5 past Last Chance Creek to 59.6

Mile 373.3 Seep at jeep road: off and on flow between 59.6 and 61.4

Mile 382.4 Tommy Smith Creek: dry

Mile 386.0 Wahweap: dry

Mile 388.9 Cottonwood Creek earthen dam: had enough water, somewhat murky

## **Section 8**

Mile 395.6 Round Valley Draw narrows: dry, source should be a '1'

Mile 403.9 "Good spring" in Hackberry: canyon dry until 11.5, then flowing water until Cottonwood Creek

Mile 405.8 Stone Donkey Canyon spring: good flow

Mile 413.5 Cottonwood Creek: good flow

Mile 416.4 Paria River: strong flow, very silty water, lots and lots of cows

Mile 422.8 Kitchen Creek, Snake, Deer Creek: Kitchen flowing but very silty, Snake and Deer flowing and clear

Mile 434.1 Sheep Creek: flow for first .25 mile, then dry until after Willis (on Bryce alternate)

Mile 439.4 Mouth of Willis Crk: Willis flowing all the way through the narrows

\*I took the Bryce extension\*

## **Section 9**

Mile 455.5 Birch Spring and Iron Spring: both flowing. Birch Spring is unsigned, a small trickle just to the left and below the trail. Birch has better water.

Mile 458.5 Rainbow Point: spigot turned off 4/22

Mile 460.2 Blueberry Spring: didn't see it

Mile 463.3 Riggs Spring: flowing well (but still a seep, like Birch and Iron)

Mile 466.5 Piped spring on Great Western Trail alternate: there is a fenced flowing spring on the right side of the road, followed shortly after by a piped spring on the right (appearing just under the road bed) with good water

Mile 470.5 Start of Bullrush Gorge: flowing for about a quarter mile

Mile 472.7 Adams Spring: strong flow

Mile 474.5 Metal tank just before this mile point: full of clean water, nearby covered cistern also full with even cleaner water

Mile 475.3 Cowboy shack and tank: I didn't see any pipe and the tank was bone dry

Mile 485.1 Spring: strong flow

Mile 492.6 Bed of Buckskin Gulch: occasional foul potholes

\*I took a long alternate here down Buckskin/Paria, leaving the HDT Wire Pass (shortly after Mile 492.6) and a rejoining few miles before Sixty Seven Apron Tank Mile 541.4\*

## **Section 10**

Mile 541.4 Sixty Seven Apron Wildlife Tank: full, good water  
Mile 549.4 Crane Lake: pond full, somewhat muddy  
Mile 551.1 Little Pleasant Valley Tank: full, somewhat muddy  
Mile 558.7 Dog Tank: full, less muddy  
Mile 560.8 North Canyon Spring: did not go  
Mile 561.4 Crystal Spring: box full of good water  
Mile 563.9 Sourdough Well: dry  
Mile 571.6 Burn Tank and Spare Tank: Burn Tank dry, did not go to Spare Tank

## **Section 11**

Mile 579.8 Marion Point Spring: looked dry  
Mile 580.6 Nankoweap Creek: strong flow

\*I took the Horsethief Route from Nankoweap Creek at Mile 580.6 to Lava Creek across the Colorado from Mile 599.2\*

Mile 612.5 Hance Creek: NOTE Hance Creek is not crossed at the Colorado. It is crossed at Section Mile 45.4, overall  
Mile 618.2. Good flow.  
Mile 619.3 Miners Spring: good flow

## **Section 12**

Mile 620.8 Cottonwood Creek: good flow  
Mile 626.5 Grapevine Creek: both the spring marked on the map east of the creek and the creek had flow. The spring is about a half mile before the creek.  
Mile 631.9 Boulder Creek: flowing .25 mile upstream of crossing  
Mile 634.8 Lonetree Creek: good flow  
Mile 637.6 Cremation Creek: dry  
Mile 642.0 Bright Angel Creek: strong flow

\*I was on an off trail route on the north side of the canyon below the rim from Bright Angel Campground and then on the south side of the canyon, and rejoined the 'official' trail at Muav Saddle\*

## **Section 13**

Mile 683.3 Hit-or-miss seep near Muav Saddle: small flow. I would suggest changing this to a '2'. If the upper spring seems dry, follow the North Bass Trail down hill about a half mile where the trail crosses the spring again.  
Mile 687.3 Plunge pools: had water. Some were clear.  
Mile 687.9 Crazy Jug Canyon, head of Tapeats: flowing briefly about a half mile into Crazy Jug, then dry until about a mile before Tapeats Spring. Flowing well the rest of the way.  
Mile 692.2 Thunder Spring: Wow!  
Mile 695.7 Deer Spring: strong flow  
Mile 695.9 Deer Creek: strong flow  
Mile 704.2 Kanab Creek: strong flow until about a mile north of Showerbath Spring  
Mile 712.7 Showerbath Spring: probably a '2'. Great water.  
Mile 722.8 Kanab Creek north of Chamberlain Canyon (section mile 68 from the Handbook): flowing for about a mile  
Mile 742.0 Hack Reservoir: big dirt impoundment, had bad-looking water

## **Section 14**

Mile 735.5 Yellowstone Spring: the pipes in the Chinle hillside are damaged and dry. Turn right at the metal stock tank with bad-looking water and follow this road 200 yards to a large, lined, fenced pond on the right, fed by a pipe. Good water coming from the pipe.

Mile 763.0 Maroney Well: pond full with good water

\*I took the alternate through Colorado City\*

Mile 792.5 East Fork Virgin River: strong flow, also multiple springs along the river before Mi 54.9

Mile 804.7 Stave Spring: dry

## **Handbook**

### **Section 2**

-Needles Outpost does NOT accept resupply packages. You can resupply out of the store though. Some hikers have been having bad experiences with the Outpost owners. I would recommend not asking for much and using the services they offer if you need them, and then moving along. Don't expect special thru-hiker treatment here.

### **Section 3**

Mi 51.9: -the Sundance Trail is now braided trails climbing the hill. All are steep, some are eroded, some are cairned. -following the old route at the top of the Sundance Trail is fairly straightforward. The cairns are still gone, but footpath exists between the slickrock sections.

-Hite Marina: it may be closing. Hikers should double check that it is still there and whether it will be open. Hanksville is only a few days away so for resupply hikers will be okay, but Hite is an important water source. If it closes, it sounds like the water might get shut-off. If it does, there may be a tap at the campground closer to the lake bed. I didn't check.

### **Section 4**

Mi -0.1 (ie how to get to the start of Section 4 from the very end of Section 3): Leave Highway 95 across the helipad and scramble over the band of sandstone cliffs at the most obvious break. The scramble is straightforward.

Mi 6.0: it is possible to hand packs in two stages with two hikers.

Mi 15.0: the Dirty Devil River was easy to travel. The fords were never more than knee deep and the water wasn't too swift. There is quicksand, however, so watch for soft mud at the banks. Probe these places with your poles until you get a feel for what the patches of quicksand look like.

-Hanksville: hitching here was not difficult. There was enough traffic on April 4th in the morning heading to Hanksville.

### **Section 6**

Mi 12.1: There is a well-used path heading to the Muley Tanks.

-Hitching to Escalante via Hole-In-The-Rock Road at the end of Hurricane Wash was not difficult. There is a fair amount of recreational traffic on the road, both to the Hurricane Wash Trailhead for Coyote Gulch and to trailheads beyond. The trailhead parking lot was full of cars. It is somewhat harder to hitch back out to the route from Escalante, but check at the gear stores and outfitters in town.

### **Section 7**

Mi 8.7: the pack trail after Mudholes is indistinguishable from abundant cattle trails. Pick the cattle trails that seem to bear you in the direction you want to go, but don't trust them. Be willing to switch trails or cut cross country.

Around Mi 17.3: the boulder chokes in Monday Canyon are very slow. Anticipate slow travel through here.

## **Section 8**

Mi 2.9: there was no log at the bottom. The downclimb is not too difficult, but definitely be willing to lower your pack. There may be an old rope or webbing at the top for this purpose. Round Valley Draw was dry the entire way went I went through.

## **Section 9**

Mi 10.8-22.5: The drainages along Under-The-Rim Tr were dry, even in late April.

Mi 22.5: see my water notes for some good sources along the Great Western Trail alternate here.

Mi 63.2: I took a long alternate down Buckskin Gulch and the Paria River here. I would highly recommend this option.

-Bryce Canyon Alternate: I did this and would recommend it. Bryce is unique among Hayduke environments. I did a slight variation proposed by Li Brannfors: Turn left towards Yellow Creek a quarter mile after joining Cottonwood Canyon Rd. Follow this road to it's end at Yellow Creek, and then travel cross country along the creek until you join the Under-The-Rim Trail in Bryce about 2 miles later. There are some trespassing issues along this route so you may not want to include it in the Handbook, but it avoids a lot of paved road walking through Tropic. You could still hitch to Tropic fro resupply--Cottonwood Road is traveled well enough.

## **Section 11**

Mi 7.8: I used and enjoyed the Horsethief Route. However, if you have very hot weather, you will probably like the river route more.

## **Section 13**

Mi 30.2: to get around the impassable pouroff, look for a use trail and possible cairns ascending steeply up the ridge to the left. The use trails will look more like erosion in the mud than an actual trail. Ascend the to the top of the ridge and then follow it down until just before the saddle on the ridge line. From here descend left off the ridge down a scree and vegetation chute and sidehill north just below the sandstone cliff bands the run north-south along the ridge line. Rejoin the ridge line after the impassable sandstone cliff band ends, then follow the ridge line down for a hort while before descending off the left hand side, following use trails and occasional cairns through this part, until you land in a small wash about two hundred yards from the bed of Saddle Canyon.

Mi 31.0: I think the plunge pools start here, not Mi 30.2. Travel through here is somewhat slow, but from Muav Saddle it took me about five hours to travel the four miles to Crazy Jug. The difficulty will no doubt depend on how much water is in the pools, but I was able to bypass all but four pools.

Mi 44.4: The boulder hop is not that bad. I found game trails about 60% of the time, most of them closer to the river rather than up higher on the slope.

Mi ~56: Anticipate slower travel up Kanab Creek until Showerbath Spring. There are a lot of interesting boulder chokes to navigate, most made more complicated by the creek.

## **Section 14**

Mi 11.5: The pipes in the Chinle hillside were storm damaged and dry. Instead, on the way to the hillside, you will pass a lined, fenced pond fed with a pipe. Good water here.

Mi 54.9: I encountered a lot of poison ivy in the lower half of Fat Man's Misery. Beware!

**Pinky (aka Lisa Curry) -- Fall 2014**

## **Water Chart**

\*If we did not go to a particular water source I have marked with a ?

### **Section One~ Late September 2014**

Willow Spring~ small pools

Courthouse Wash~ lots of water

Matrimony Spring~ ? did not see/stop but heard from locals in town the flow was great

Moab~ Moab Cyclery offered a covered area w/tables to organize our gear, water and showers. Gearheads Outdoor store held our resupply boxes for us. Great gear, wonderful filtered water for free

\*there is access to CO river leaving Moab mile 27.3 to mile 30. Silty water, but accessible

Kane Spring~ Great flow, great water

Kane Creek~ Good Flow, very silty

### **Section Two~ Late September 2014**

Colorado River (mile 44 and 44.7)~ Did not access, but river obviously flowing

Unnamed Spring~ very, very small seep

Piped Dripping Spring on North Wall of recessed side canyon~ Good trickle, piped to trough. Able to fill directly from trickle, trough was overflowing

CO River~ Did not access

Unnamed Spring~ Flowing Water in wash below spring alongside trail

Indian Creek~ Lots of water, great flow but silty

Spring in Little Spring Canyon~ ?

Canyonlands Visitor Center~ Water Fountain

Needles Outpost~ Water available if you stay or purchase from store. NOT FREE; WILL NOT HOLD BOXES. (Very unpleasant experience for all hikers we met who visited here. Store very low on supplies. Suggest skipping this stop)

### **Section Three~Late September 2014**

\*recent storms left MANY potholes filled with great water. We filled from these mile 87-129

Big Spring~ ?

CO River~ Did not access

Unnamed Spring NE of Homewater Spring~ ?

Homewater Spring~ ?

Potholes between two rd crossings~ water, but lots of signs of cattle

South Spring~ ?

Floor of Fable Valley~ several small pools from recent rains

Stock Pond~ Dry

Floor of Youngs Canyon~ many pools

Confluence with Dark Canyon~ Excellent clear running water all the way down

Pothole near T Intersection~ ?

Hite Marina~ fountain and restrooms open. Ranger Station closed. Store well stocked but limited hours and closing for winter by mid October

Bridge over CO River~ Did not access

### **Section Four~ October 2014**

Dirty Devil River~ Strong Flow but did not drink

Poison Spring Canyon above Black Jump~ flowing

Piped Masonry Spring~ great water at spring, flowing for approx. one mile prior to spring

### **Section Five~ October 2014**

Crescent Creek~ great flowing water

Granite Creek~ ?  
Head of Sweetwater Creek~ small trickle  
Birch Spring~ ?  
Spring up Sweetwater Side Canyon~ ?  
Tarantula Mesa Spring and Trough #1~ trough full  
Tarantula Mesa Spring and Trough #2~ trough full  
Springs at Canyon Junction~ ?  
Swap Canyon Spring~ ?

### **Section Six~ October 2014**

Muley Tanks~ Four pools, full with great water.  
Halls Creek near Overlook Tr Jct~ Decent Flow until Red Slide  
Brimhall Double Arch Tr~ ?  
Upper Middle Moody Canyon~ Muddy Pools, water bubbled and foamed after filtering.  
Lower Middle Moody Canyon~ Small occasional pools all the way to the Escalante  
Escalante River~ knee to chest deep water, silty but drinkable  
Coyote Gulch Mouth~ great flowing water for 8 miles up canyon, including several springs  
Hurricane Mouth Wash~ small standing pools  
Willow Tank~ Full

### **Section Seven~ October 2014**

Llewellyn Canyon Spring~ dank puddle  
Mudholes Spring~ full trough and flowing water from pipe  
Pocket Hollow Spring~ dry  
Small rainwater tank below pour-offs~ ?  
\*flowing water for approx. 1.5 miles after entering Rogers Canyon, horribly cattle fouled  
Line Shack in Little Valley~ ?  
Last Chance Crk~ pools began approx. .5 miles up canyon, with flowing for several miles as you travel up canyon  
Paradise Canyon~ flowing  
Seep at Jeep rd exit from Canyon~ small flow  
Tommy Water or Tommy Smith Creek~ ?  
Headquarters Spring~ ?  
Cottonwood Creek~ ?  
Corral, well on Cottonwood Canyon Rd~ ?

### **Section eight~ October 2014**

Round Valley Draw Narrows~ ?  
"Good Spring" in Hackberry Canyon~ ?  
Donkey Stone Canyon Spring~ ?  
Spring up side canyon that enters from W~ ?  
Paria River~ Great flow up entire canyon  
Kitchen Creek, Snake, Deer Crk Canyons~ ?  
Sheep Creek~ flowing  
Mouth of Willis Creek~ ?

### **Section Nine~ October 2014**

Willis Creek Valley; creek and/or fishing pond~ pond full  
Birch Spring and Iron Spring~ Did not see Iron Spring; Birch Spring flowing and fenced in  
Rainbow Point~ ?  
Blueberry Spring~ ?  
Riggs Spring~ Great flowing water surrounded by double fences  
Start of Bullrush Gorge~ dry  
Adams Spring~ great flowing water and full trough

Cowboy Shack and tank~ Dry  
Spring~ ?  
Bed of Buckskin Gulch~ dry

### **Section Ten~ October 2014**

North Larkum Canyon Tank~ full  
Government Reservoir~ ?  
Jacob's Lake~ Open  
Big Ridge Tank~ Muddy Pond  
Ridge Tank~ Dry  
Buffalo Trick Tank~ ?  
Sixty Seven Apron wildlife Tank~ ?  
Crane Lake~ lots of water  
Little Pleasant Valley Tank~ one large pond, muddy and cattle fouled  
Dog Tank~ lots of water  
North Canyon Spring~ ?  
Crystal Spring~ ?  
Sourdough Well~ ?  
Burn Tank and Spare Tank~ ?

### **Section Eleven~ November 2014**

Marion Point Spring~ Did not see, told seep so small it would take hours to fill  
Nankoweap Creek~ Great Flow  
Nankoweap Creek Mouth at CO River~ Plenty of water  
Kwagunt Creek Mouth~ ?  
Little Colorado Confluence~ permanent  
CO River (all the way down)~ Permanent  
Miners Spring~ ?

### **Section Twelve~ November 2014**

Cottonwood Creek~ ?  
Grapevine Creek~ ?  
Boulder Creek~ ?  
Lonetree Crk~ ?  
Cremation Crk~ ?  
Bright Angel Crk~ flowing, did not use  
Bright Angel CG~ good water  
Phantom Ranch~ Open  
Cottonwood Camp~ spigot off, great flow in creek'  
Ranger Cottage, heli pad~ Spigot off  
Grand Canyon Lodge~ Closed

### **Section Thirteen~ November 2014**

Unnamed Spring~ Dry  
Mill Creek~ Dry  
Kanabownits Spring~ Dry  
Hit or Miss Seep~ ?  
Plunge Pools in Saddle Canyon~ Many COLD pools  
Crazy Jug Canyon, head of Tapeats~ Full Rushing Creek  
Thunder Spring~ Rushing heavy flow  
Deer Spring~ Beautiful amazing spring  
Deer Crk & Deer Crk Falls~ flowing all the way to CO River  
CO River at Fishtrail Cnyn~ permanent

Kanab Crk Mouth~ Flowing for many miles  
Showerbath Spring~ Great  
Willow Spring~ ?  
Hack Reservoir~ ?

### Section Fourteen~ December 2014

Yellowstone Spring~ Large full fenced in pool with piped flow (NOT the water found in large tire, just past this on west)  
Maroney Well~ ?  
Colorado City~ New Market open on HWY before entering town  
Pine Spring~ ?  
Kane Spring~ ?  
Wyatt Spring~ ?  
East Fork Virgin River~ Great Flow  
Stave Spring~ trickle  
Weeping Wall; Terminus~ Good

## **Conner -- Spring 2015**

### **Water Chart**

I've come across water at every source listed minus 2 but, only because they were not in the right location:

The faucet icon in Monday canyon (icon is located further down-canyon than actual source) and

The faucet Icon for the Escalante alternate along the road leading to Silver Falls Creek was in the incorrect location ( the actual location is the next set of mesas to the north that road passes between).

## **John Hicks**

### **Handbook**

I would say book notes were pretty accurate but add:

### Section 5 Poison Spring to Burr Trail

Coming off Mt Ellen, and after filling up at Sweetwater Creek at approx 23.7, next water was at concrete tanks up on Tarantula Mesa right along jeep road.

Also make sure to get enough water at springs in Swap Canyon to carry you up and over the switchback road through the Waterpocket Fold and to last until you get to Muley Tanks.

### Section 6 Burr Trail to Hole in the Rock Road

Seemed like book was pretty accurate about water from Burr Trail, Muley Tanks down to Escalante River. It may be worth noting if you're taking the route we did exiting Escalante River at Scorpion Gulch then up and south over slick rock down to Coyote Dry Gulch, to have good topo of that area, and to watch for the well worn cattle trails in the rock leading down to Coyote, and should be water in this upper section. We did this alt route in a day then spent about a day and half in Coyote Canyon before heading out to Hole in the Rock road.

### Section 7

the book notes were again pretty accurate - tank up for 3 days water at Mud Hole tank and be ready for tough hike through those washes to get to upper Last Chance Creek.

These sections were some of the best - great variety - and April was good month for hiking there.

## **Brian Tanzman -- Spring 2013**

### **Handbook**

#### **Start to Moab**

Another very good option for starting the Hayduke is to walk to the trail directly from the airport. Instead of flying into Moab airport, paying for a shuttle south to Moab, staying the night and then paying for a shuttle back north to Arches you could easily just walk from the airport. About 1.5 miles south of the airport on hwy 191 is a turnoff (signed) on the left for Klondike Bluffs trail (this is a large network of mountain biking trails). Walk this good dirt road about 5 miles to the signed trailhead. (although I did not do this as it was dark, it appears easy to walk cross country from the airport to a point on the road much closer to the trailhead, suggest looking at Google maps/earth). From the trailhead it is several miles of very easy cross country over to the Marching Men formation where you pick up a day hiker trail. From about there you pick up the official trail at about mile 3, but I would highly recommend continuing east over to Dark Angel (mapped Skurka alternate) and south on the day hikers trail to Devil's Garden campground. It's well worth the extra miles to see all the arches and formations. Otherwise your walk through Arches would miss the best stuff.

#### **Moab to Needles Outpost:**

I took an alternate mapped by Li which left the official route at Kane creek and rejoined after Hurrah Pass. This route had some nice singletrack along the Colorado river and then good old dirt road and was very scenic and a few miles shorter. I would recommend it.

We tried calling Hite several times to ask about sending a food package and no one ever answered or returned our call. I could have risked just sending one and if it wasn't there then just hitching into Hanksville from the main road (although this could be a very tough hitch, better option is to buy minimal food at the store if it is open...see below). Instead I decided to go to Needles Outpost and do a big alternate through Canyonlands mapped by Li. At Lower Jump you can divert on roads over to Needles Outpost. It's about 3.5-4 miles. You cannot send a package here. I found the owners to be very friendly.....as long as we were spending money. In the past some hikers were able to send packages, but not anymore. The owners have a short season and are running a business and it's obvious they don't let you send a package because they want you to spend money. They actually told a story about a "new" Ranger accepting a package for a hiker and were clearly pissed off about it. Kind of like VVR on the PCT except there the package costs you \$20. They serve some good food for around \$10 per meal and have free wifi which was a nice bonus. You can camp for \$20 and shower for \$3 or just shower for \$7 or do none of the above like I did (they have to truck all their water in). Resupply was interesting. I needed 7 days of food. I carried in 5 extra dinners (just in case resupply was bad) and 1 days snacks and was able to easily resupply all the rest. It was expensive but I actually don't think much more than sending a large flat rate box that costs \$17 plus food. Selection was small but they had everything I needed. Tortillas, bagels, cheese, pop tarts, crackers, chips, candy, granola bars, ramen, knorr's, cookies, etc. Pretty much a small selection of all the standard stuff that you might not love but can easily get by with. It was very relaxing to just sit around and have to do nothing for a bunch of hours and like I said they were very friendly (but I really do think this would have been different if we loitered without spending any money). I'd actually recommend this as an acceptable detour instead of a resupply at Hite.

#### **Needles Outpost to Hite**

I took a huge alternate mapped by Li which bypassed the first 45 miles of this section and was about 60 miles to join back with the Hayduke. The alternate followed Salt creek (mostly trail and lots of water) for a long time, some high washes and plateau's, Ruin canyon (water), Trail Canyon (amazing narrow canyon at 8,000') and then very scenic upper Dark Canyon for many miles and met up with the Hayduke at the junction of Dark canyon and Young's canyon. I have not done the Official route but Li's route was fantastic. My understanding is that it is more diverse (you are up

much higher at times so you actually get ponderosa pines, etc), more water (I rarely had to carry anything significant for 3 days of hiking) and less technical (there is one brutal climb out of Ruin canyon but otherwise navigation is straightforward and there are no issues like those noted in Butler Wash and Young's Canyon). It also passes a fair amount of ruins and pictographs and is very, very scenic overall. It does add about 12 miles in total but if you like the alternate and the Needles Outpost resupply strategy then the extra miles are worth it. You could actually do this and also send a package to Hite to make your food carry even easier.

Sundance Trail: The place where they have rerouted the trail on roads I just took the old trail. It still exists and people have even started to erect new small cairns. It's only a mile or so and easy going.

Hite was a fantastic surprise when I found the store to have cold sodas, ice cream, microwave stuff and very limited groceries. You could actually resupply your snacks here to get to Hanksville and maybe have just carried your dinners in. The one big issue is will they be open and will they have your package if you decided to send one. The store just opened a few days before we arrived and we had tried for several weeks to call to see if we could send a package with no answer and no return call. It's a tough call. You could get an open store and your package or neither. Good luck! Also, note the store has erratic hours and generally is only open a few hours a day. They just get told by someone how many hours to be open and it varies.

### **Hite to Hanksville:**

I took the high water Dirty Devil alternate and am not sure it was worth it. I had read some notes about how awesome and easy Hatch canyon was and that there was a Fern Maiden spring. In reality the canyon was easy but slow as always, the Fern spring was a fern growing out of a rock wall dripping one drop per 2 seconds so useless and the climb out was a decent haul up. Plus it's twice the distance. I thought the Dirty Devil was going to be a lot of thrashing through brush but looking down it just looked like a winding slog through sand and of course fording the river many times. Since we had low water it probably would have been worth taking the Dirty Devil and not the alternate.

Also, the guidebook makes drinking the Dirty Devil worse than it is. The key is letting it settle overnight. It comes out as brown but that's the huge sediment load. After settling overnight I just transferred the mostly clear water to another bottle, treated it and surprisingly it tasted just fine. Maybe a tinge alkaline. The sediment left in the original bottle was amazing. Without the Dirty Devil it's a long 30 miles between sources. I had no issues drinking it.

-Section 4, mile 0.3, mapped route across from landing strip seemed like an impenetrable wall. Better place (and the place I think the guidebook referenced as 0.3 from after the bridge) was a couple hundred feet before the "47" road mile marker (this is about 0.2 before what you have mapped), easy way up and then an obvious easy chute on the left

-Section 4, mile XX - Class 4 chimney we were able to easily hand our packs up in 2 pitches, no rope was needed

### **Hanksville to Escalante:**

In hindsight I'm not sure I would take the Escalante detour again. I agree with liking to be able to control my town fate but there is an awful lot of road walking out of town and it's very dry. Potentially 50 miles without water depending on the year (Grosvenor arch dam was bone dry this year and last year according to Pace's journal and this seems like the only guaranteed water in the 50 miles) and luck from Escalante to Hackberry Canyon. Also, with Colt mesa dry before Escalante that is also a 30+ mile water haul. I had unseasonably cool temps so this wasn't a big deal but in heat this would have been some pretty long hauls without water and seems important to highlight for the future. Also, it seemed that a lot of cars were going to HITER in the morning and would be going back to town in the afternoon so that would be the best timing to hitch (I walked HITER road 10 miles and had 15 cars coming toward me and only 1 the way I was walking in the early AM). While, Nacho and Speedo's record is amazing I wonder if this turns people off when the hitch might not actually be that bad. Just another opinion. I haven't done the official route so I can't exactly compare and I've heard the Escalante River can be brutal.

The Hanksville grocery is the same as Escalante (G3). I'd give Hanksville G3- at best. It was terrible and pretty cleaned out when I got there which I've read/heard isn't that uncommon (Pace had a similar experience). The Escalante grocery was better than Hanksville although not amazing. Might also mention the Prospector Inn restaurant

serves hiker sized portions and the old woman owner was super nice to us and seems to like Hayduke hikers.

## **Escalante to Tropic**

Cannonville, the all in one gas station / market / Inn has a nice indoor seating section to loiter for hours and microwave frozen stuff. They were very nice to us.

Tropic has at least 4-5 motels or cabins. 2 restaurants, neither open for breakfast in April (the restaurant connected to the market and also a pizza place). Would also note this is a good place to mail a package of food to Jacobs Lake for the stretch from Jacobs Lake to South Rim grand canyon.

## **Tropic to Kanab**

Singletrack you note at Park Boundary is signed as the Tropic Trail. Wide and groomed for horses.

I also highly recommend changing up Skurka's route. Instead of taking the mapped Queens garden trail take the unnamed trail on the topo just to the west. This is the absolute best part of Bryce (it takes you into the Queens Garden proper). Take this to the Rim at Sunrise point, walk the Rim to Sunset point, descend on one of the Navajo trails, connect to one of the Peekaboo trails and then back up to the Rim at Bryce Point. This adds a couple miles but there is nothing like Bryce in this world so enjoy it.

At Sunset Point you are a mile from the visitor center where you can get the required permit, however there is a new major issue. Bear canisters are required and loaned for free except how will you return it? I wasn't carrying it to Kanab and mailing it back so I had a host of excuses ready depending on where I was caught and just stealthed my way through the park. Late April is still early season and I had no issues.

Park Wash: About a mile after the old cowboy shack/spring, you lose the road and have to follow the deep sandy wash for 2 hours to the windmill where the road starts again. I was under the impression there was road the whole way and kind of kept looking for it so maybe a note would be helpful.

## **Kanab to South Rim**

Suggest adding GC quadrants to your maps to make it easier to figure out the permit/where to camp.

Ridge Tank (534.5) does not exist where it is mapped. Buffalo Trick tank is also called Ridge Tank (map calls it Buffalo Trick tank but then there was a wood forest service sign at Buffalo calling it Ridge Tank). This is a rainwater catchment system that collects in a huge closed tank and then flows 100 yards down to a dirt impoundment. Ok water in dirt impoundment and couldn't see any way of getting fresh water from closed tank. (also you can check AZT water report to see that they also call Buffalo tank, Ridge tank).

Also, about 1 mile before Buffalo Trick tank there was a 10' long, 4' wide, 1' deep metal tank next to the trail with pretty good water in it. Hard to tell if it was rainwater or somehow coming in.

Warm Fire: Trail has been cleared and reopened. It's a long, windy burn area. Hope for cool weather at 9,000'.

## **South Rim to Colorado City**

Suggest a note that an alternate from south rim would be bright angel to tonto trail to north bass trail up to Mauv saddle. This would avoid snow on the Kaibab plateau if a hiker was early. This route is harder and longer but if you had to take the Kaibab bypass then you might also have to take this. Pace, 2012 did this early season.

Section 13, Mile 0.0: The 0.4 cross country down the gully is now the Arizona Trail and good single track to meet up with Point Sublime rd.

We saw 4 bison between the North Rim trailhead and Swamp point. Seriously!

Teddy Roosevelt Cabin is fairly clean and fit for sleeping if the weather is bad. The metal bunks don't look too comfy.

I'd take the floor. No obvious rodent issues.

Miles 28.5-32.6: This was insane! Having a partner will definitely help. We passed our packs down at least 4 times (no rope needed but made climbing down much easier) and one person carried packs across the deep plunge pools at least 4 times which kept our packs dry as the pools were waist deep at least many times.

Mile 30.2: Use trail which was almost non-existent was about 300' before the pour off. There was a small cairn. Climb up to the first bench (but don't go up onto the rock bench) and sidle under the bench. Round the corner and follow the obvious good ridge to its end and then drop off the left side into the western canyon. The bottom was 0.2 before your red dot and then we walked this side canyon 0.2 to meet back up with Saddle canyon at your red dot. There were occasional cairns and big one's at the bottom like this was definitely the route but who knows. It was a good option.

Around 31.6 we encountered 2 almost impassible 15' down-climbs close together. The first one is two pitches and I couldn't comfortably get down the 2nd pitch. A tall person might. The 2nd down-climb was a huge smooth boulder that would be tough as well. Before the first down-climb there was a cairn on the left and a decent route around both down-climbs.

Mile 32: Just before the 150' impassible pour off we had to swim across an over the head deep pool. Make sure you have a trash compactor bag lining your pack for this section!

Tapeats creek: Do not underestimate the power of the Tapeats. If you believe the water will be high do not attempt. I forded the river about a dozen times about mid-thigh deep which was fine. If you had to do a waist deep ford you could be in trouble. Also there is a 1/4 mile section where the River is wall to wall and you have to walk in the very powerful flow. Something waist deep would be very dangerous. FYI, the "real" Tapeats doesn't start until after the Tapeats cave stream from the North. This is where 99% of the water comes from.

Mile 42.1: There is a decent use trail here. I picked it up about 0.2 from Deer creek after the brush fades out into rock. The use trail fades as you get nearer to where you are supposed to pick up the game trail up the talus which was then challenging to find.

Mile 44.4: There is an ok use/game trail for about 1.25 miles from this point. After that it's a choose your own boulder adventure. Saw lots of Bighorn Sheep in this boulder walk.

Mile 62.6: There is a decent horse/game trail that actually starts around Jumpup to Chamberlain and then it's a very good horse trail.

## Colorado City to Zion

Colorado City Alternate: I'd highly recommend the alternate. Walking through Colorado City and Hilldale is a trip, you can get food and drinks in town and the route out of CC was actually very, very cool (although also very, very sandy!)

Resupply Update: The market in Colorado City has been closed by the church. Several other options: A) Downtown CC there is a gas station with limited amount for resupply and a few hot items (corn dogs, etc), a pizza place and we were told a fried chicken place. B) 2.5 miles past the turnoff to downtown CC (continuing on main highway) there is the Merry Wives cafe (good food) and attached gas station convenience store with a slightly better selection than the one downtown. There is also a health foods store with a selection of dried foods you could buy. You can cut over to downtown and only add about 1.25 miles total. C) Couple miles before CC on the main highway you pass the community of Centennial Park. It is a short ways off the road (maybe 1/2 mile?) and we were told and read that a new market has opened or is opening up there very soon. D) My preferred method is to hitch the 25 miles west to Hurricane which is a largish town with good, cheap motels and lots of food. Other than Moab this was easily the best town on the trail as far as good food, resupply and good cheap motels. It was worth hitching back and forth.

Alt Mile 10.5 (approx): There does not appear to be a way not to trespass across Short Wash where the pack trail is mapped. There is a better, legal way. Continue on the dirt road until the ridge that splits Water and Short canyons. On your right is a small dirt parking area and good, sandy, wide use trail that legally takes you across the wash and onto

the mapped trail. This isn't the kind of place you want to be trespassing. There is all kinds of random crap going on in the wash before this point.

There is water on the alternate in short Creek and good water in Squirrel creek too. In Squirrel, get water about halfway up and before you start climbing steeply. You won't get near it again. After this the route is dry until the East Fork of the Virgin river.

54.2: The boulder/waterfall situation seems to have changed. I had fairly low water and there was no right side eddy option. Water streaming over the falls and seemingly very dangerous to get over. Just before it (like 50') on the left bank/south side, there is a short, challenging, but totally doable and not dangerous way around. You have to climb about 30' up and then squeeze through a narrow crack for a bit. Packs off for sure several times but not too bad to get through.

54.9-57.7: There was a use trail and/or cairns almost this whole way. Gets better/easier to follow the closer you get to the saddle.

Weeping Wall: Less than an hour after finishing I was at the Spotted Dog all you can eat breakfast buffet. Now, that's how you finish a trail!

## **Travis Anderson -- Spring 2012**

### **General**

My name is d=rt. I hiked the HDT with Shaggy and the help of your resource bundle 3/21/12 - 5/6/12. Thank you very much for the information you've made available. I probably wouldn't have even attempted the trail, at least for a couple years, without the beta. I meant to keep better notes of feedback to send. However, your information was generally so spot on that I forgot about it most of the trip. I expected mistakes that never materialized. Almost all of the water information even seemed accurate, though your reliability scale was very conservative for our trip. So, I present to you the limited feedback I do have.

### **Printing**

The maps were awesome. We printed them on 8 x 11.5" paper and that was sufficient. We only once wished for larger maps. It would have been helpful in several places to have the dirt road numbers labeled on the map. The format of your water chart was great.

### **Handbook**

The Bryce extension works as mapped. However, it is worth noting Bryce Canyon N.P. now requires a bear canister for overnight camping within the park. Luckily, the ranger we talked to when applying for a permit in person let us through without a canister though.

The huge tank at Grosvenor Arch was very dry mid April.

All springs mapped were running on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon including the "hit or miss" seep at Muav Saddle 4/29.

There is a misplaced water source icon on map 7 for section 13. The reliable source "in second cleft. . . 1/2 - 1 mile above Jumpup" was flowing and the description was accurate, including the location. The spigot icon is misplaced, understandably so given the description. The cleft where the icon is now placed actually cliffs out 100+ feet above the floor. The spigot should be moved to the next entrant upstream due north at the "V" in "MOHAVE CO." The "second cleft" is an accurate description from the hiker's perspective on the ground.

Stave Spring, placed in your water chart at mile 804.7 and mile 62.7 in section 14, is incorrectly placed. The spring is correctly labeled on the map beyond the mileage indicated by the water chart. The mileage in the guidebook is correct, if I remember correctly.

## **Ben Mayberry -- Spring 2011**

### **Section 1:**

Water:

- 10.6 I saw water in Willow Spring but didn't take a close look
- between 10.6 and 12.2: there was water seeping out of the sandstone near the confluence of the side canyon and Courthouse Wash. The flow was not collectable but there were several deep potholes.
- 12.2 to 23.1: Courthouse Wash had flows for most of its course
- Kane Springs: abundant flow
- Kane Springs Creek: good flow for as long as the HDT paralleled its course

Route Conditions:

- 12.2 to 17.6: north of the bridge at mile 17.6, Courthouse Wash had awful bushwhacking, probably the worst of my trip. I would seriously consider detouring around it if I had known how bad it would be.
- 17.6 to 23.1: great use trails through here

### **Section 2:**

Water:

- 25.4: the water in the wash here was super alkine and barely drinkable. I did not check the source of the spring.
- 26.8: there was a stock pond less than a mile to the west of this road junction, immediately off of the HDT. It appeared to have a good amount of water in it but I did not look closely
- 35.1 to leaving/entering Indian Creek: abundant flow through Indian Creek. The water was silty but not terribly so
- 44.3: there was a small amount of water flowing just above Lower Jump
- 45.6: there was an incredible spring/flowing H<sub>2</sub>O just west of the confluence of Little Springs Canyon and the side canyon to the east of it. It would be impossible to miss: there's a lot of water and the canyon turns into a lush jungle of vegetation

Route Conditions:

- between 32.3 and 35.1: I was able to climb up the ramp and around the pour off without too much difficulty. It is probably much easier to up climb than down climb

General:

- 2.7: Base Camp Adventure Lodge is located along the river here. I passed by it in the dark but the next morning the owner (I think?) drove by me on the road and we had a brief conversation. He was familiar with the HDT and asked why I hadn't stopped by their facility – it wasn't clear if he was being hiker friendly or just demanding my business. I grabbed a flyer for the lodge, which lists their contact info as:

Skype: 435-258-6264

Cell: 435-260-1783

Email: [basecamp@letsplaysoccer.com](mailto:basecamp@letsplaysoccer.com)

Website: [letsplaysoccer.com/basecamp](http://letsplaysoccer.com/basecamp)

### **Section 3:**

Water:

- 21.7 to 22.2: some small potholes through here after recent rain
- 37.97559 N, 109.88542 W: I got off course and discovered an excellent piped spring here that feeds a trough. There was obvious cattle activity but the pipe had a strong flow of clean water.

-Fable Valley had good flow from the side canyon that enters from the south until you exit. Some intermittent water above the side canyon entering from south

General:

- 22.2: there are campsites and a fire ring at the end of the jeep road just to the NW of this mile point
- 37.584993 N, 109.522863 W: There is a BLM cabin located here. I got off course and walked past it. It was in use by a trail crew at the time. I don't know that it would be of any use if it was unoccupied. Maybe in an emergency.
- 39.0: There is some kind of old cowboy/rancher dwelling built under a cliff in this area, at the end of a jeep road the splits to west from the HDT. The door was open and it appeared unoccupied but the inside was littered with mice crap. It'd make an interesting place to camp except for the hantavirus concern
- 54.1 to 55.1: I opted not to cut cross country and followed the road to the trailhead instead. Avoids stomping on crypto and the Sundance Trail is worth adding a few extra miles to your hike

Trail Conditions:

- Fable Valley Tr: a trail crew had improved the trail the same day I hiked on it. They had only done the first several miles but I believe they intended to improve it farther up as well. In any event, the note "difficult to follow early on. If you lose it, go cross-country until you find it again" is probably not applicable any more.
- 40.7 to 42.2: I did not take the red-line route you have drawn and seriously regretted it. Heading east, I got on a use trail that I thought might circumvent the huge pour-off without climbing all the way to the rim. It didn't work out that way and I ended up exiting the canyon just downstream from the pour-off. It involved multiple Class V climbs and pack hauls plus a handful of Class IV scrambling and general utter uncomfortable-ness. TAKE THE RED LINE ROUTE

## Section 4:

Water:

- 4.0: There were several good-sized but very muddy potholes in Rock Canyon just north of the jeep road
- just west of 21.0: there was a small flow and some pools of water through here
- heading east from Highway 95, I encountered flowing water in Poison Springs Canyon at the first cottonwood trees that I saw. It continued to flow steadily from there for several miles before becoming intermittent then disappearing

General:

- 6.1 to 13.1: there were a number of cairns on the Red Benches (they were not the Chinese Trail ones) that did not lead in the right direction. I followed a series of them to the edge of the cliff, far to the west of the chimney that leads off/onto the Benches. It'd be best to ignore any cairns you see and just stick to your maps

Route Conditions:

- 15.0 to 9.4: I encountered the worst quicksand of the trip along the Dirty Devil. As in, plunge-in-up-to-your-knees-instantly quicksand.

## Section 5:

Water:

- 10.9: amazing, snow-melt water in Crescent Creek
- Granite Creek: ditto
- 23.7: terrific flows of snowmelt in Sweetwater Creek
- h2o trough just before 31.9: this was the worst-tasting water I found on the entire HDT. The trough was full of orange-ish water, probably tainted by a rusty pipe, with chunks of orange scum floating in parts. I swallowed one mouthful then poured out the rest when I reached the delicious waters of Sweetwater Creek
- 37.1: good flow down here but the area had been pulverized with cattle activity

General:

- 20.5 to 23.9: the guidebook's recommended route through this section made no sense to me so I disregarded it. From what I saw, Sweetwater Creek was a steep ravine with copious water flowing through it – why anyone who think of ascending/descending via this ravine... I don't know. From mile 23.9 I followed the ridge to the west of the

Sweetwater Creek side canyon and followed it to the dirt road at mile 21.9. I then headed east a short ways on the dirt road in order to begin ascending the ridge that leads to a point that appears in between the words "South" and "Creek" on the topo map, just to the west of where the HDT gains the ridgeline. I then followed the ridgeline to the HDT route. Hiking this way was generally across broadly rounded, if steep, terrain that was sparsely vegetated with junipers. It seemed much easier than what the Sweetwater Creek route looked like.

-leading up to 41.6: there were small flows through Swap Canyon for maybe a mile or two leading up to 41.6. I did not bother to check either of the marked springs because of this

#### Route Conditions:

-14.1 to 17.8: encountered snow on the north facing slopes through here but it was well-consolidated and easy to hike on

-35.3: the route up to Tarantula Mesa was well cairned and relatively simple to up climb. I did not need to haul my pack.

-41.1: there were cairns on Swap Mesa leading the way to the drop-in point but on my way up from Swap Canyon I did not see anything and had to just watch my maps closely

#### Section 6:

##### Water:

-before 2.2: I encountered a knee deep pothole that I had to wade through. It was murky but wet

-intermittent water in Lower Muley Twist Canyon, predominantly in the southern half of the canyon

-12.5: tons of water in Muley Tanks. I hiked uphill a bit and counted four potholes, all big enough to bath in (for reference, not a suggestion). I saw no trace of the wagon tracks as I approached from the south so I simply cut west to the Navajo sandstone layer of rock and followed it until I found the Tanks

-17.9: I encountered intermittent flows and pools from mile 17.9 continuing upstream for 1-2 miles at least

#### General:

#### Route Conditions:

-19.5: make sure to hit the wagon track. I just read a journal entry

(<http://www.trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?id=347824>) from some other HDT hikers who tried to descend via the canyon to the north of the wagon tracks. They reported multiple pour-offs (which they descended anyway...)

## Escalante Detour:

##### Water:

-9.3: I found water from where the roadway entered the Moody Creek wash until it left at mile 9.3. The water didn't appear cattle fouled but it did have a surprising amount of green, scummy, algal growth

-"Tank was dry in Feb'08": ditto for when I was there. In fact, it appeared ruptured/incapable of water storage

-22.6: I encountered flows and pools of water from at least here (maybe even higher up canyon) all the way to the Escalante

-there was flowing water through much of Harris Wash, although it was intermittent to the west of the trailhead

-49.6: saw first h2o in Harris Wash here but it was accompanied by massive cattle activity and only flowed for a short ways

-72.9: intermittent flows of water began after shortly to the north of Dave Canyon and continued into Escalante

-83.7: Death Ridge Reservoir did not appear capable of water storage. I did not check the spring.

-91.0 to 87.5: I saw water in several of the washes that the roads cross through here. By water I mean there was basically enough to get on your knees and drink it through your lips

-77.2: the earthen tank just to the east of here appeared to have a surprising amount of water in it. However, it was still frozen over at 10 am in late April, so it may have just been very shallow

#### General:

-I didn't consider the Escalante Outfitters to be hiker friendly. Another HDT hiker told me he called them about sending a maildrop there and was given an "Ugh, why don't you just use the PO?" response. I think their price of \$16 (\$18 after tax) for a campsite is outrageous. I can't say they were hiker-unfriendly

-71.4: heading eastbound, I used Paradise Point and Canaan Peak as landmarks on the horizon and then just picked my way across the terrain. This probably resulted in approximately the route you have mapped out

Route Conditions:

- 0.9: there was a cairn marking the obvious place to leave the mining track and begin ascending to the pass in Circle Cliffs
- 28.0: fording the Escalante was surprisingly easy, not higher than knee-deep
- Harris Wash: there was a terrific use trail for most of the way from the trailhead to the Escalante. Also lots of cattle activity

## **Section 8:**

Water:

- 0 to just past 1.7: I saw 5-10 different potholes through here with collectable amounts of water. The farther upstream the pothole was, the better the water was. The lowest potholes were quite murky and filled with various floating objects while the highest were crystal clear
- 11.2: like someone turned off the faucet here – went from good flows in Hackberry to a sandy wash almost instantly, make sure to stock up here if you're heading eastbound

General:

Route Conditions:

- there were at least two Class III climbs in Round Valley Draw, I thought. The one that is mentioned is obvious but there was another one, partially formed by chockstones, that I hauled my pack on
- I forded the Paria 95 times

## **Bryce Canyon Ext:**

Water:

- Yellow Creek and Right Fork Yellow Creek both had clear water, as opposed to the silty runoff I found in nearly every other drainage
- If you take the Riggs Spring Trail to Rainbow Point, there is a terrific spring with a very strong flow just below Yovimpa Pass

General:

- Cannonville has a market, an inn, and a GS-E NM Visitor Center where you can get your permit if you're heading east and just about to enter the Grand Staircase. I spent the night in Tropic but would've pushed a few more miles if I'd known that Cannonville was basically a full-service town
- I had no problem getting a backcountry permit for BCNP. The backcountry office told me there were only three people in the backcountry the night that I camped out. Granted, the forecasted low that night was 15 degrees F
- The Bryce Canyon Extension basically works as you have it mapped out. When I entered the park, I took the Riggs Spring Trail to Yovimpa Pass then up to Rainbow Point. This probably helped me avoid some of the snow that was still lingering and the trail seemed more obvious than the Under the Rim Trail at this point. Going from the Bryce Canyon amphitheater into Tropic, there were numerous trail, not all of which were on the maps. I just kept taking the trails that headed in the correct direction and eventually was spit out on the road leading into Tropic

Route Conditions:

## **Section 9:**

Water:

- 27.0: there was water flowing for several miles through Bullrush Gorge, from the road at 27.0 almost all the way to Adams Spring
- 31.2: Adams Spring had a great flow from its source and even flowed a short ways down the creek bed
- 38.8: windmill was dry
- 40.8: small amount of water in cattle tank

-43.4: there was a 2" wide circular tank just off the road that was filled with plants and tadpoles, makes sure to keep going on the road past this to reach the clear spring, which had lots of good water in it  
-"good pothole water along this stretch" is a questionable description. There were some potholes but they were very muddy. It had rained recently, so they might be more settled out after a couple of dry days

General:

Route Conditions:

-there was snow on the Under the Rim Trail for several miles leading down from Rainbow Point, even in late April.  
-because it was early in hiking season there, Bryce Canyon hadn't sent out trail crews yet to clean up the winter detritus on the trails. There were lots of blowdowns and a couple of landslides on the trail. I imagine this stuff is cleaned up every year but it was bad at times because I was breaking trail for the year  
-50.9 to 63.2: there were good cattle trails through much of Buckskin Gulch. Easier to follow than the wash and kept me out of the sticky-mud canyon bottom

## **The Wave Alternate:**

Water:

-I got caught by a rainstorm while passing through here, so I sheltered under a sandstone ledge. The next morning, there were potholes filled with water just everywhere, some of them 6' deep or so

General:

-didn't bother with a permit. No problem, worth it

## **Section 10:**

I spent most of this section on the roadway that leads to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon – the Kaibab Plateau still had several feet of snow so I just road walked. As such, I don't have any notes on the HDT through here

## **Section 11:**

Water:

-seep 150 m E of Marion Pt: there were several liters of water in the catchment jugs but the seep did not have any visible flow/drips  
-great water in Nankoweap  
-great water in Kwagunt  
-46.5: Page Springs had a deep, clear pool

General:

-if you're traveling east on the HDT, it can be difficult to find the trailhead for the Nankoweap Trail in Nankoweap Canyon. My guess is that 99.99% of the people that hike on the Nankoweap will have hiked down it before they hike back up, so there is no need for the trailhead in Nankoweap Canyon to be conspicuous. You might add a note on the map about it being right by the black Cardenas Lava Ridge, just to give hikers an obvious landmark to search around  
-heading eastbound, I went approximately 1 mile north of the recommended ferry point to a spot just before Sixtymile Rapids where there are beaches on both sides of the river and the Colorado is fairly flat and smooth. A raft was able to beach on the east side then row directly across to the west side and drop me.  
-39.7: you might want to clarify that there is a bit of a scramble up a talus pile as well as a Class 3 scramble on the W side of the Papago mouth. Or drop the note entirely since there are numerous Class 3 scrambles on the HDT that aren't mentioned on the maps – I basically just assumed there would be Class 3 & 4 scrambling on the HDT and didn't feel like I needed it pointed out every time

Route Conditions:

-start to 2.0: encountered some snow through here but it was fairly well consolidated  
-Little Colorado River: don't try and cross where there are large boulders in the river. I was thinking I could use them

to rock hop... instead there were deep channels cut by the water on either side of the rocks and I got much wetter than I needed to

## **Section 12:**

### Water:

-1.7: flowing water in Cottonwood Creek

-6.6: flowing water in Grapevine Creek

-12.0: Boulder Creek was dry

-14.9: dry

-17.7: dry

### General:

-I tried to go through the proper procedures for getting a permit and failed. It's pretty burdensome for an HDT hiker. So I went without one and had no problem.