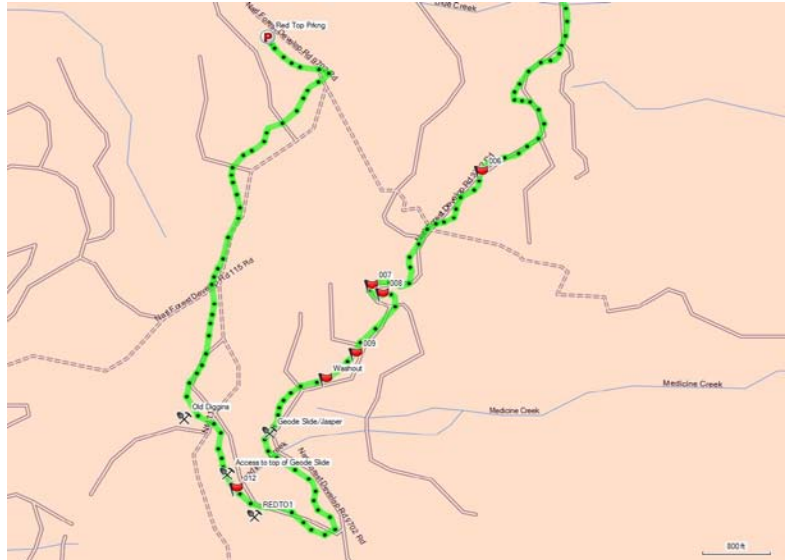


The Road to Red Top as of August 7, 2011 - Christina Morrissey - (cmvw@frontier.com 425-398-1300)

USFS Rd 9702, coming off USFS Rd 9738 and HW 97 experienced a major washout sometime in the last month. I went up Saturday evening to see for myself what was what and to take pictures so that everyone could judge for themselves.

The washout occurs at the turn before the major slide, about 2.4 miles from the intersection of USFS roads 9738 and 9702 and 1.9 miles from the parking lot at the top of the Red Top. Almost half of the edge of the road is compromised and in wet conditions, does not appear safe. When the road is completely dry, however, vehicles can pass by on the right. Oversize vehicles like RV's cannot. In fact, the pit toilet at the parking lot at the top is no longer being serviced because the maintenance truck cannot get there at the moment. (So be warned: the unit is not locked, but there is no TP paper, and while it was not particularly fragrant when I checked, it may become so, etc.)



USFS road 9702 from the beginning of the intersection off 9738 remains a rough road and this last winter/spring has not helped in any way! While the road is not as yet a high-clearance vehicle/4 WD only road, and two-wheel drive regular cars can slowly make their way to the top, please urge drivers of especially low-slung cars not to try taking their vehicles up this road! Carpool! The road base is down to the base rock in many areas now, and the flags on the map above indicate several severe "bumps," gullies, and other "interesting" road conditions. In addition, #12 indicates where the road edge has sunk and is almost ready to move away and down the cliff edge, so beware and have your vehicles stay to the center in that area. Some one has made an attempt at a crude arrow to keep cars away from that area on the right as you are on your way up. Note: While taking pictures, I found agates worn out in the road itself, so be sure to check!