

GRAY WOLF / BCH-PENINSULA TRAIL CREW NOTES

6/8 – 6/9 (with pre-work done over 4 days prior to the crew's arrival)

Location: Bogachiel Trail, Kahkwa Creek crossing

Crew members:

Rebecca Wanagel
Martin Knowles
Larry and Sherry Baysinger
David Graves
Larry Lack
Jacob Baker
Randy Kraxberger
Patrick Williams
Mike Bonomo
Jonathan Hamlin
Josie Dean
Ted Spoon
Greg King
Randy Mesenbrink
Harold Wiese

Estimated On-Trail Volunteer Hours: 221 for Gray Wolf Crew / Peninsula Chapter and Harold Wiese (Olympic Chapter). There were also many hours from the Baysingers, but those hours are listed on their separate report / grant match.

Report written by Rebecca.

Objective: Install a (hopefully) more permanent solution to the annual stock crossing issue at this creek.

Metrics achieved:

1. Riprap installed along edge of creek per Forest Service specs.
2. A 12-gabion basket wall was constructed as a retaining wall, again per Forest Service instruction.
3. Backslope was widened and tread re-established.

Special note: None of the above work took place in the creek. Everything was carefully done along the edges of the water, per Forest Service hydrologist. Rock was collected for the gabion baskets in the old dry creek bed, not one was taken from the currently-flowing water.

Much work done was beforehand by Larry and Sherry Baysinger, Martin Knowles and Harold Wiese. Before the 6/8-6/9 crew arrived, they achieved the following over 4 days:

1. Brushed the trail to avoid the brush snagging on the gabion baskets when hauled in.
2. Straightened and leveled the footlog over Hughes Creek to make it safer for the crew to cross.
3. Opened up the horse ford and sawed out another tree that had come down on the trail.
4. Removed planks that a hiker had thrown into the trail to avoid mud. Then removed them again when the hiker threw them back in – this time cutting up the planks and dispersing them.
5. Packed in 12 gabion baskets.
6. Packed in rigging and other tools.
7. Set up a highline for moving rocks across the stream.

The backstory to this project is that the Kahkwa Creek crossing on the Bogachiel Trail has been an annual problem. Every year this seemingly innocuous little creek turns into a raging river, as evidenced by the height of the water line. At the time of the project, it was mid-calf deep at its deepest point, many places were able to be rock-hopped across. Anyway, since the water level rises so much, it also tends to round the bend and slam into the spot where the trail enters the creek – which is where stock needs to go (hikers can take a nature-donated log across and follow a short bypass trail to get back to the real trail). This is an important issue because it's the ONP stock access to be able to take care of the Bogachiel Trail, also part of the PNT National Scenic Trail.

Martin Knowles, Larry Baysinger, and Rebecca Wanagel looked at this site together with Forest Service staff – some of them twice. A plan was made and then remade when the creek shifted again. The final plan ended up having us build a gabion retaining wall and also to place riprap to help the water not round the bend which would drive it behind the new wall. ***Everything was done along the edges of the creek, not in the water.*** Here are some pictures.







