



Gray Wolf Trail Crew in partnership with BCHW, Peninsula Chapter

Middle Gray Wolf Trail (#834.2), Olympic National Forest
24 September 2025



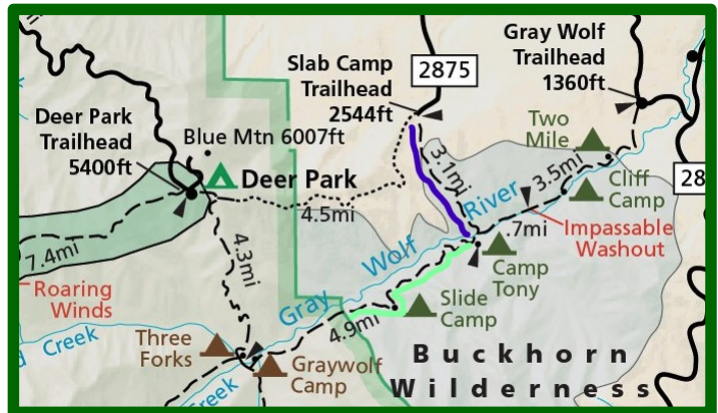
Crew members

David Graves Jon Behar
Joanne Graves Fred Inman
Eric Nagle

Quick Stats

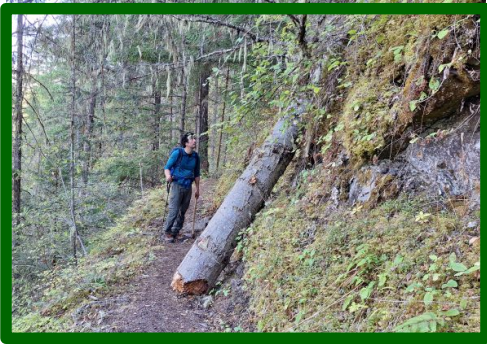
On-trail volunteer hours: 45
Hours including travel time: 60
Miles worked: 2.9 miles
Total miles hiked: 12 miles
Trail standards: Stock use

Objective: Clear the middle Gray Wolf trail (green) to the National Forest / National Park boundary. According to a spring scouting hike, this would involve 8-10 trees. National Forest access to the middle and upper portions of the trail is now via the Slab Camp trail (blue) with its bridge over the Gray Wolf river. The earlier connection between the lower Gray Wolf trail and the middle-upper portions was lost when an early 1990s landslide destroyed the trail's own bridge over the river. Access is also available by hiking down from the Deer Park campground in Olympic National Park.



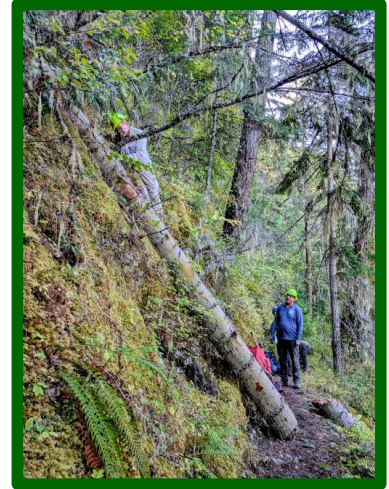
Achieved:

Overall, 18 trees were removed from the trail. This portion of the trail is all in the Buckhorn National Wilderness so no power tools are allowed. With one or two exceptions, the fallen logs were reportedly small so this was not expected to be an issue. After hiking down the Slab Camp trail to reach Camp Tony, the crew split into two teams. Most of the logs removed were of six-inch diameter or smaller. Several had been cut in the past but had either been cut short or had slipped back into the tread corridor. Two larger logs were removed by the team with a 3½-foot crosscut saw.



Cutting to stock-corridor standards was easily done for all the fallen trees but one. Due to its lie on a steep slope, cutting the tree back to stock clearance involved a member of the crew clambering up the hillside and cutting the log from

above. The base of the log was then pulled away, letting the rest of the 12-foot billet fall to the trail where it was rolled over the side while the top 30-feet of the tree remained on the hillside.



Capping off this crew was the prospect and all-too-tiring return on the Slab Camp trail with its 1,400 feet in elevation gain. The affects of fall were definitely noticeable with the leaves turning yellow and the early dimming of the skies as the crew hiked out.

Task(s) remaining:

1. Remove 36"-diameter log from on and above the trail. The crew was able to remove all trees except this one. This tree fell years ago; at that point the

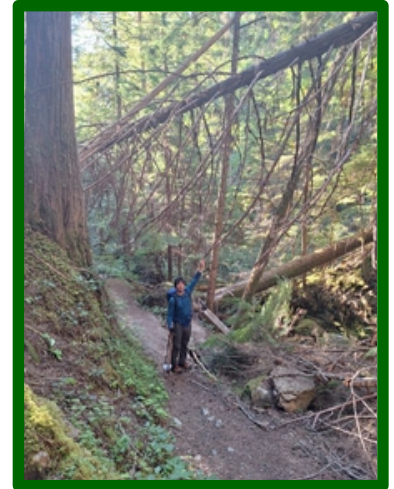
end was cut off and removed with the base portion left on the slope above the trail. One end of this base has now let loose and rolled onto the trail.

With a small crosscut saw, our only option was to whittle down the log and create a path around its end. The latter involved relocating several smaller billets cut in years past but left right next to the trail. We did not remove the end tongue of the log as that appeared to be the only thing keeping the

entire log from rolling down into the trail. From the final photo (bottom right), you can see that the log is off the ground except for its two ends and very little is holding the upper end in place. We braced the lower end of the log with one of the smaller billets that were laying about. Next summer, we'll come back with a longer saw and more time to remove the entire log.



2. Much of the trail's width has been reduced due to debris falling from the upper slope. In places, this has left a much narrower than original tread. Brush growing out from the hillside is a further hindrance to users trying to stay away from the steep downhill outside edge of the trail.
3. Also, as long as we'll be working in the area, a few new things need maintaining on the Slab Camp trail. We haven't worked there since the spring.



David Graves
Gray Wolf Trail Crew