



Gray Wolf Trail Crew - in partnership with - BCHW, Peninsula Chapter



Little River Trail, ONP

January 25, 2026

Report by Rebecca Wanagel

Crew Members:
Rebecca Wanagel
Martin Knowles
Barbara Maxwell

Quick Stats

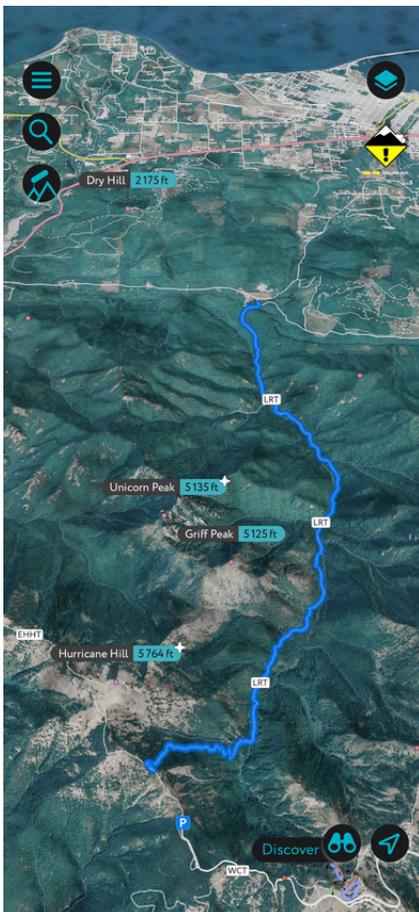
*On-trail volunteer hours: 21
Miles worked: 2, but this
required 9 miles of hiking.
Trail rating: Hiker and stock
for the first 2 miles, but this
trail is not stock friendly past
that.*

Objective achieved:

1. Clear trees off the trail from where WCC left off (mile 2.5) to the fifth footlog, which is mile 4.2. Scout a short ways past that for future reference.

Future work:

1. Clear the top of the trail from Hurricane Ridge down to the footlog where we left off. That crossing is the break between a gradually inclining trail to one that climbs (or drops, depending on your direction) about 1,000 feet per mile. Best to log out the rest of it from the top down.



Here is a map for reference. You can see Little River Trail takes off from the top of Black Diamond Road, just after you turn onto Little River Road. I point this out because, really, this trail isn't at all far from town. And yet, after about 2-ish miles, you feel like you're in the most rugged, wild heart of the Olympics. It rises up to Hurricane Hill, at 5200 feet.

In the first 4-1/4 miles you cross the river no fewer than 6 times (5 of them on footlogs), plus another creek crossing on a bridge built by BCHW. At the fifth footlog the trail changes to a seriously steep grade. Until then it is rising at a gentle average 230-ish feet per mile. (fun fact: BCHW also constructed the first footlog, at mile 2. It is a long crossing and a massive tree with a robust handrail - still in great shape).

The trail gets more and more wild, with awe-inspiring views of the river that you are nearly constantly alongside once you cross into the National Park. Towering boulders covered with dangling swordferns and glistening moss, deep canyons and a wild, boulder-strewn river make you forget you are only a few miles from town. This is a truly amazing trail - one well worth the hard work.



What a mess! However, bad as it looks, this project didn't take us long to get it cleaned up.



This was a huge pile of branches that took all three of us about 10 minutes to toss off the trail.





This one was a large doug fir, which is quite heavy, so I cut the rounds thin to keep them a manageable weight.



This was our topmost project, right before the 5th footlog and our stopping point for this day. It was a large shattered cedar. We've cut logs like this many times in the past. They always look deceptively simple ("oh look at that space where the log has split in half, this will be a piece of cake"). But I made a poor choice in where to start nibbling away at this mess. I should have started more in the middle of the log, but started towards the lower end which wasn't as completely split and also wedged up against the rest of the tree. Anyhow, I got the bar stuck (haven't done that in a while) and gave Barbara the satisfaction of making the weight of the carried spare bar well worth it! Swapped it out and off we went again. This project had a delicious cedar odor.