



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



Little River Trail, ONP

April 11, 2026

Report by Rebecca Wanagel

Crew members

Ian Davis
Bernt Ericson
Paul Kamps
Rebecca Wanagel

Quick Stats

On-trail volunteer hours: 36
Hours including travel time: 44
Miles worked: 1
Miles hiked with equipment: 8
Trail rating: hiker / stock*
*see note at the end of
this report.

Objective:

Clear Little River trail of recently-downed logs from about mile three to four.

Achieved:

Cleared all downed logs in this area except one which we will return to later. About 11 trees - several had complexity and / or size. That combined with the hiking was a full day. And it was raining ... all day.

Future work:

Clear the rest of the trail in a top-down mode later in the season when Hurricane Hill is accessible to cars.

You may remember we and WCC recently cleared this trail as far as the 5th footlog, which is about 4.2 miles. However, a major and very localized wind event happened recently between mile 3 and 4. I was relieved the trail wasn't impacted more than it was. That being said, the trail was obliterated in two separate (short) areas and about 12 trees were down across the trail. Some of these trees were under extreme tension. As always, we thought through our cut plans carefully and always checked our plan with the other sawyers before proceeding.



This was a set of two logs, both had fallen to the uphill side. The larger of the two had its rootball halfway down to the river. We knew this one was going to stand up after cutting and the bottom bind was severe. Paul got to do the release cut and it started snapping and pulling apart about when he put the saw to the wood. However, he handled it expertly and the log was released cleanly. Up it went!



Ian Davis is relatively new to our crew. We think he is an amazing addition to the GWTC and hope he continues! He was a crucial part of our team today and always has high spirits and a curious, eager-to-learn demeanor.



Some of the logs were non-complex like this one. However, logs at this height and size tend to be difficult for hikers to get over without getting soaking wet.



An overturned tree took out the trail for a short section. We quickly cut out one small rotten blocking log, but otherwise, this area needs a tread crew on a different day. Hikers are getting around this easily and have already beat in a path, so this project is not urgent.



This is the cedar we decided as a team to leave for another day, which will be soon. The picture does not convey it well. The cedar is larger than it looks, very long, and completely detached from its rootball way up that very steep hillside. The chances of this thing sliding are 100%. That is not a problem for us, but does mean that we will have to cut it multiple times as it continues to slide down the hill (my joking term for that is a conveyor belt tree). It could take several hours and we had other big projects waiting up ahead. We decided to save this one for a better weather day when it can be the sole focus.



For as dramatic as this fir looks with its rootball way up there, and clearly snapped from the force of the fall, it was not difficult to cut. Bernt handled it with ease. And then we took lunch sheltered as best we could from the rain.



The second area where the trail was taken by a downed tree. You can see the trail goes right underneath the rootball. Hikers had clambered up around the back side, which you can see in the right picture. There being no way to retrieve the original trail line, we decided to cut out the top tree above the large rootball, and realign the trail to meet up with the original on the other side of this mess.



We chose the route to be above the standing tree because on the lower side the ground drops off sharply. The tree we're cutting is larger than the picture says it is - it was about 36" and the bark was full of dirt that had splashed onto it from its rootball. The dirt we had to clear away from underneath was full of rocks.



We cut away roots, smoothed out a tread and opened up a path. This is just fine for hikers. Is it to stock standards? No. You can see that the opening is not to typical stock standards although a horse there for recreation rather than tool packing could get through. For more on this see my note at the end of this report.

Just beyond this, for another 100 yards there were about 4 more trees and tons of branches. We cleared the trees away easily enough and Ian worked diligently to remove all the branches and clean up the really messy trail.

With that, except for the hillside cedar that we will do sometime soon, the trail is clear once again to the 5th footlog.

A note on accessibility for stock on Little River trail:

This trail is rated as a stock trail. However, at the moment, there is no way for horses or mules to go past about mile 2, which is where the first footlog is (there are two bridges before that but they are fine for stock). In fact, there is even one tree across the trail in the DNR section, shortly before the ONP boundary, that maybe a horse could squeeze past, maybe not? In any case, that would be a tricky tree to remove safely.

At mile two, the trail proceeds to cross the river five times before it then takes a sharp turn upward and becomes almost unbearably steep. I do not believe any rider would take their horse past the 5th crossing due to the steepness. But even getting to that footlog is another story.

As we were crossing the river multiple times, Ian and I looked closely for signs of old horse fords. We discovered that each crossing does (or did), in fact, have a ford. All of the fords are old and overgrown. They would need a lot of work to resurrect, but they were there and usable at one point.

If / when the fords were to be re-opened, this would only be realistic to use when the river is very low (August and September). Even with the rushing water, I can tell there are a lot of boulders that animals would need to be able to see to negotiate safely.

If ever equestrians would want to use this trail again, there are many places on the trail that would need a great deal of work to get it back to stock standards.

In summary, this trail is "rated for stock" but in actuality that is not realistic at this point.