



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

Lower Dungeness and Gold Creek, ONF

April 25, 2026

Report by Rebecca Wanagel



Crew members

David Graves
Hannah Graves
Martin Knowles
Rebecca Wanagel

Quick Stats

On-trail volunteer hours: 24
Hours including travel time: 38
Miles worked: 7.0
Trail rating: hike / bike / stock
Condition of the road:
Even worse than last year ...
hard as that is to believe.

Objectives:

1. Complete annual maintenance on the perpetual slide area at about mile 1.5. This needs to be retreaded every year.
2. Clear all logs on the entire Lower Dungeness trail and also target a group of logs that were reported on the lower part of Gold Creek trail.

Achieved: Both objectives were achieved.

Future work:

1. There is a ripped-out part of the tread on the lowest $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the Dungeness trail, the section that goes from the hairpin parking area to the large parking lot below. That will need to be addressed. Not urgent but it's annoying to get through and blocks stock / bikes (I say not urgent because people can always access Lower Dungeness trail on the hairpin turn rather than the lowest parking lot).
2. Puncheon over Bungalow Creek on the Lower Dungeness trail (about $\frac{3}{8}$ mile south of 3:00 Ridge trail junction) is rotten to the point where it's a safety hazard. That needs replacement.

This day was prompted by the dual events of the landslide area needing its annual tending, and some downed logs were reported. The logs on Lower Dungeness were sparse and simple to cut. The only way to clear the entire trail is to hike the whole thing from one end to the other. Therefore, David and Hannah met Martin and Rebecca at the Gold Creek trailhead and all rode together to the top of the trail, leaving Martin's car at the bottom.

Martin and Rebecca hiked with the saw and equipment for the entire Lower Dungeness trail, taking out the couple of handfuls of logs along the way. Once back at the car, a short break and then on to the logs that were reported on the lower part of Gold Creek trail.

David and Hannah went to the slide area to retread it and back to their car at the top.

The road from Palo Alto down to Dungeness Forks is better because the Forest Service cleaned up the rock slide to reopen the road. However, from there to the Upper Dungeness trailhead has potholes even deeper and more numerous than existed last year. It dampens the enthusiasm to go back to this trailhead until that is graded.



David and Hannah addressed the landslide area - an annual event.

This section has been problematic for eons. The plan is actually to bridge across the river and then another bridge back over to route the trail away from this. The Forest Service is looking into that and getting the appropriate -ologists to do their analysis in preparation for this plan. It is impossible to route up above this slide, so going over the river and back is the only solution. It's been done before. There is a place at 2 miles on Little River trail (ONP) where exactly that happened.



These were the trees reported on Gold Creek, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the trailhead, before the footlog. They were difficult to get over, really blocking the trail.



Honestly these were not challenging to cut, big and imposing as they look. But they did take some time.

You can see the angle I am using is pretty sharp. That is because we analyzed that the log to the picture left was going to drop, so we were giving it clearance space.



We cut everything to stock standards since it is a multi-use trail. Martin is taking out the last piece in this picture so the clearance is good and wide. This cedar was aromatic when we cut it! It was fresh, not rotten, fallen clearly due to wind, not rot.



See that spire in the background? That is the piece left standing when this cedar was blown over by the wind.



Another cedar. This one blew over intact, so its rootball uprooted. When a tree is blown over in the place where it was standing, we are always quite confident that the rootball will settle more, but it will not tip or roll because it has so many roots still in the ground. Martin is doing the release cut down below the trail to remove a whole bunch of weight, making it easier to cut up close to the rootball for the second cut.



One thing I don't love about cuts near the rootball is there is always a lot of dirt on the bark. This has to be thoroughly cleaned or, sometimes more efficiently, the bark needs to be chopped off. Martin is working on that while I was clearing a few other tree chunks that came down in whatever wind event hit here. Lots of branches to clean up too.

Notice the rock? Isn't that strange? That rock is clearly water smoothed and carved. The roundness and the hole were caused by eddying water - I've seen that a lot in rivers. What was it doing above the trail so that it could fall down onto the trail?



I did the final cut up near the rootball. It had already settled a lot so it didn't have much farther to go before it was sitting hard on the ground. No problems with the cut or rootball movement.



All cleared! It does need some treadwork near the rootball because it's tipping and crowding the trail a bit. However, I discovered that PNTA will be working on Gold Creek trail in July, so I'll go ahead and let them take care of the necessary tread work. We were not prepared with tools nor time to deal with treadwork at that moment.