



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

Duckabush (upper), ONP, June 20-24, 2026

Report by Rebecca Wanagel



Crew members

Jon Behar
Ian Davis
Tim Goss
Matt Houghton
Paul Kamps
Martin Knowles
Randy Kraxberger
Sonya Langford
Eric Nagle
Elizabeth Storm
Mark Subbotin
Rebecca Wanagel

Packers and Team

Harold Wiese
• Sugar
• Archie
• Belle
• Katy
Rachael Taylor-Tuller
Matthew Tuller
• Dolly
• Biskit
• Maize
• Woody
• Blue
• Possi

Quick Stats

On-trail crew hours: 530
(includes packer time,
both round trips)
Hours including travel time: 588
Miles worked: 8.5
Miles hiked: approx 45 each
Trail rating: hiker / stock
Logs cleared: about 120

Objectives:

1. Clear about 120 logs from 7-Mile camp to Lacrosse Pass junction (about mile 15), plus one problematic log part way up Lacrosse Pass trail.
2. Do "triage brushing" wherever necessary for stock and packer safety and delineating where the trail is. We purposely did not bring power brushers for this trip. Our goal was to clear all the logs and make sure pack animals can get through so that the ONP crews heading up later this season can dive deep into other work, including a more thorough power brushing.
3. Do tread work where necessary for stock safety.

Achieved: All objectives were achieved.

Day 1:

- > Load up pack animals.
- > Head to 7-mile camp. WTA had cleared the way and done some tread and brushing to that point. We are grateful. The packers had no trouble. ***It was very exciting seeing the animals get this far where they hadn't been in a long long time, due to all the work done by GWTC and WTA in the ONF portion of this trail (see earlier crew summaries).***
- > Unload at 7-Mile camp. Set up camp, say goodbye to the packers, grab some lunch and get a little bit of work done for the afternoon.



Who knows when the last time was that 7-Mile camp saw hoofprints??

OUR HEROS

Harold and Sugar



Katy



Archie, who got in trouble for nipping at Belle and had to wear the mask of shame.



Belle



Matthew and Dolly



Blue



Maize



Possi



Woody

Day 2:

- > Hike.
- > Take the sheath off the saw.
- > Cut the log to stock standards.
- > Put the sheath back on the saw.
- > Repeat.

We made it to two logs shy of 10-Mile camp, which is about 3.5 miles from our camp.



Before



During



After



During



After



Before



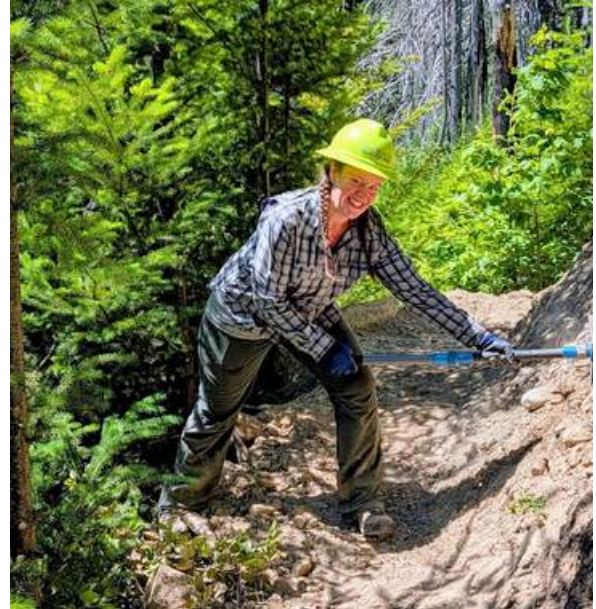
During



After

Day 3:

- > Break down camp.
- > Move camp to 10-Mile Camp.
- > Go back a short distance to clear last two trees.
- > Then the team split into two. One team went on up the trail clearing trees above 10-Mile camp. The other team went back about ½ mile to fix up some tread issues that would have caused safety concerns for stock.



The tread crew had it waaaay harder than the logout crew because their work took them into a place that was baking in the sun on the hottest day of our trip. They were absolute troopers, dedicated to the mission of making the tread better for hikers and safe for stock.

Always a team, they watched each other for signs of heat exhaustion, and made sure they were each taking breaks in the shade and drinking enough water.



Before. Ok for hikers, not for stock.



It was resting on a boulder with a long cantilevered piece that had ripped off from the rootball.



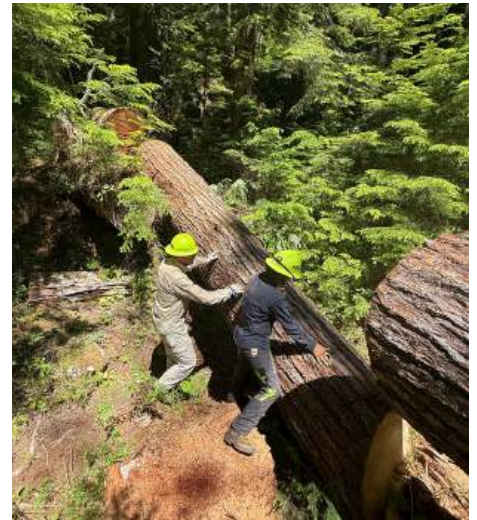
We decided to get rid of that piece first.



Now that long extended piece is out of the equation.



Good angles on the other cut so the main portion could drop.



That gave us this. Just need to chunk it up now.



We all took turns chunking it up.



Finished!

Also ...

Days 1, 2 and 3 had more than sawing going on. The brush on this trail was (is) the stuff of nightmares. I had decided ahead of time that our crew would be logging it out and doing only handbrushing where critically needed – to make it so the ONP crews can get packed in later with power brushers, rigging, etc to really dig in deep to some problems on this trail.

We cut things back that met the following criteria:

- > Vine maples or branches that were at packer eye level.
- > Brush approaching creeks that packers and hikers need to see.
- > Conifers that were growing thickly on each side of the trail, completely obscuring the trail so you wonder where to go.

Between 7-Mile and 10-Mile camps is the site of the 2009 lightning-started fire. Like any former fire zone, the brush grows back with a vengeance, and the young trees take root to start again. That's what's going on here.

Anyone who wasn't running a saw was working hard with their handsaw and loppers on this brush. At one point the entire team put down their saws and every single one of us worked on creating a path through a thick forest of young conifers.



An example of a place where we couldn't see the trail at all, and then after some hand clearing. The trail is at least visible!

Day 4:

Today we worked to the junction of Lacrosse Pass trail. We also took out a problematic tree part way up Lacrosse Pass trail that I knew about from scouting. This junction is 5 hard miles from our camp. It was a long day, but we got it done. Originally we were going to continue logging out for ½ mile past the junction because we knew from a scout that there were some logs there (not much). The day got too long so we had to adjust the goal and not one of us really wanted to make the hike all the way back up there the next day.



Girl-power saw team.



The boys were busy too.



Before / during



After. This was the problem log on Lacrosse Pass trail, that's why it isn't cut to stock standards like the rest.



Widening long-ago cut logs to make more room for pack animals.

Stopping at Crazy Creek for a break and some scenery on the long way back to camp.

Day 5:

Break camp. Cache tools at 10-mile camp for the Tullers to pack out. Hike out.

Before this year we had to lug all the tools back to 5-Mile camp for pickup, then go back to camp and hike out again the next day with our camp gear. This year we get to make the hike ONCE because FINALLY stock can get to 10-Mile camp again! (at least that's what we were hoping)



A week later ...

Rachael, Matthew and Co. head back up the trail, bypassing 7-Mile camp and heading to the stock camp at 10-Mile.



Success! Here they are lounging at Ten Mile Camp!



The brush was still quite bad, though not nearly what it would have been had we not done all that hand brushing. They got through it with no problems except for one run-in with yellowjackets, and the whole herd got to rest and hang out in solitude at Ten Mile Camp.



Biskit saying, "We're here!"