



Gray Wolf Trail Crew in partnership with BCHW, Peninsula Chapter

Lower Big Quilcene Trail (#833), Olympic National Forest

18 October 2025



Crew members

David Graves	Rodney LeMay
Jon Behar	Mark Subbotin
Joanne Graves	Rebecca Wanagel
Martin Knowles	

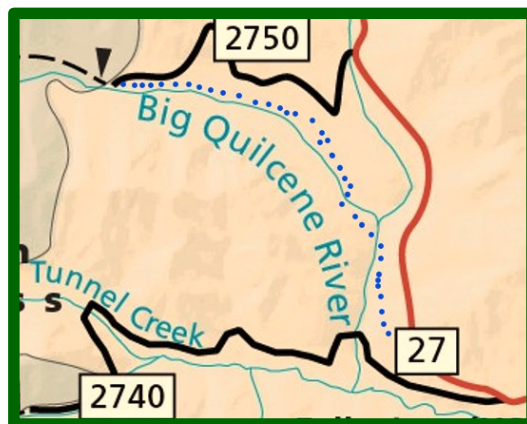
Quick Stats

On-trail volunteer hours: 49
Hours including travel time: 68
Miles worked: 4.6 miles
Total miles hiked: 9.2 miles
Trail standards: Stock use

Objectives:

- Clear drainage features on the trail (blue dots) to at least the 3-mile point.
- Address serious rutting on a particularly steep section of the trail and investigate alternative alignments for that section.
- Clear saplings taking over one section of tread and rebench other slipping tread.

Clearing drainage features on the LBQ is an annual fall task as several streams flow down the adjoining hillside and across or under (via culvert) the trail. When not maintained, these water flows end up flooding the trail and using it as their path of least resistance.



The LBQ trail has one particularly steep section from the 2020-2021 reroute. A deep rut developed down the middle of this section. This is the first year that this has happened. The rut was not only an impediment to trail users but would lead to significant trail erosion once seasonal rains start. The rut appears to be the result of bicyclists having to apply continuous braking while descending the section.

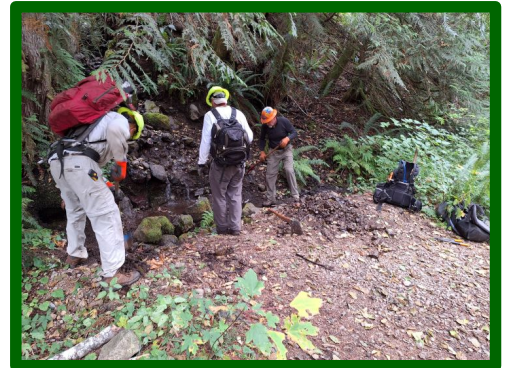
Finally, alder and conifer seedlings had chosen to recolonize a section of the reroute. These needed to be removed while small to avoid more arduous future work.

Achieved:

Five culverts were checked and cleared by removing logs that had fallen in the drainage plus emptying catch basins. These catch basins are at the base of the hillside where streams come down



and are about to flow into the culverts. Each year, the basins fill with rocks the streams have washed down the hillside and each year we have to clean them out so there's capacity to catch the next year's rock migration.



The second part of the drainage work was to restore stream crossings that had widened across the trail. This too is an annual occurrence. The crew got the water back flowing into the channels that had been worn down by heavy trail use.



Fixing the rut on the steep reroute section was relatively quick and easy. We could not determine what changed this year for the rut to be created so our only options appear to be to resign ourselves to recurring repairs or to re-align the section to eliminate the steepness. The crew investigated several re-alignment options and settled on the most likely to improve the situation.



After hiking further, two folks tackled a 130-foot "thick grove of hundreds of [young] alders ... along with thousands of fir and hemlock starts." These were pulled, dug, and scraped from the tread rather than cut so as to prevent the trees from regrowing all too soon. The team then hiked to the 4.6 mile point and hand-brushed another 100 feet plus cleaning out three culverts.



Task(s) remaining:

1. Pull young maples and alders growing sporadically alongside the tread and will eventually impede the stock and then hiker/biker corridor.
2. Brush and rebench short sections of trail that are threatening to migrate downhill as trail users shy away from brush starting to grow heavily on the uphill side.
3. Brush the upper two miles of the trail.
4. Get ONF feedback on pursuing a re-alignment for the steep reroute section.
5. Upon receiving ONF approval, replace failed Jolly Creek bridge.