

Two-Mile Bridge on Olympic Adventure Route

April 29 – May 5, 2022

By Donna Hollatz

Early this spring it was discovered that a log bridge at the two-mile marker along the OAT Trail had become dangerously rotted. Justin Zarzeczny (DNR), Steve Gray (County Transportation Planner), Tanner Boggs (Clallam County), and Tom Mix (BCHW engineer) set about designing a replacement bridge suitable for hikers, bicyclists, and stock and making plans to get the failing structure rebuilt.

During the week of April 29th through May 5th a crew of about 40 different workers put brains and brawn together to get the job done. Volunteers came from Peninsula Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Peninsula Trails Coalition, and the County Chain Gang, with only 10 or 12 people working each day, depending on the work to be done. The Chain Gang worked 1 ½ days and moved 7 yards of dirt. They appreciated being able to do something they considered constructive in the great outdoors.

A log of the right size was found about 60 yards away. It was then peeled, slid into place using Griphoists, cables, and pulleys, bucked to the proper length (2 pieces), and lifted over the creek bed by a BCHW rigging crew. While that process was taking place, other volunteers removed the old bridge, dug out and leveled the abutment ends, and placed gabion baskets, filled with rock, as a foundation for the new stringers. All the tools, gravel, and large rock was moved down the trail about 2/3 mile from the trailhead (near Karpen Road) to the job site with four powered, tracked, totes.

Some of the planks from the old bridge were sound and able to be re-used on the new bridge. A bull rail was installed down each side for safety, and the approaches to the bridge were rebuilt. This was an amazing work of coordination between several groups and resulted in a beautiful new bridge!

Thank you to Gordon Taylor for providing the photos.



Removing the old bridge.



Peeling bark from the log that will become the new bridge stringers.



Preparing the ends for the new bridge placement.



Moving rock to fill gabion baskets.



Some of the rock was moved with power totes.



Sliding the stringer log pieces toward the bridge.



Placing the stringers on the gabion base.



Stringers in place.



Adding bridge decking.



Attaching bull rail.



Repairing approaches.



Finished structure!



First bicycles across.



Proud members of construction crew!