



Gray Wolf Trail Crew in partnership with BCHW, Peninsula Chapter

Lake Quinault Recreation Trails (#854/855/860/888)
Olympic National Forest
15-17 April 2026



Crew members

Bernt Ericson	Ian Davis
Bill Mueller	Joanne Graves
David Graves	Julie Metzger
Eric Nagle	LaVonne Mueller
Fred Inman	Martin Knowles
	Theodore Spoon

Quick Stats

On-trail volunteer hours: 173
Hours including travel time: 227
Miles worked: 0.75 miles
Total miles hiked: 3.4 miles
Trail standards: Hiker

Objectives:

- Do annual maintenance on the south-shore recreation trails near the Quinault lodge and ONF/ONP visitor center.
- Remove fallen trees blocking the trails.
- Restore drainage features / repair damage.
- Brush the 7.5 miles of trail where (mostly) salmonberry is regrowing into corridor.

Achieved:

After scouting the trail, we determined that the winter's damage was not as severe as in other years. That meant our crew could handle it in the two full and two half days allocated. By end-of-day Friday, all the listed tasks were completed.

The map to the right, created after our scouting trip, shows the trees and some of the work scouted just on the western side of the nature trails.

As seems typical, the upper Gattion Creek loop on the eastern end has the majority of the fallen trees.

Quinault National Recreation Trail System
April 2026

KEY TO MAP
 - Trail
 - Partial Fire Accessible Trail (Red/Orange Lines)
 - Park Road
 - Drive Road
 - Creek
 - Bridge
 - Village Boundary

Locations approximate.

Legend: Y = salmonberry, L = salal, d = minor drainage, D = major drainage

Notes:
 - All trails: clear bridges/puncheons of debris
 - West Falls Creek trail: brush salmonberry on lower half

Getting to work:

We split into three teams each day for tree removal, drainage/tread, and brush removal.

Tree removal this year was fairly straight-forward with neither any immensely large trees nor complicated situations to address. Still, covering the entire trail system while hauling saws, fuel, and other gear was not a walk in the park.



Drainage and tread repair:

- The Quinault area gets a lot of rain so there's always work to restore drainage features and to repair washout areas. This year also saw one tree tipped over so that its root ball tore out a portion of the trail. (The tree trunk also made a very enticing though risky creek crossing.)

Steep washout area worsened by hikers cutting downhill to reach a off-trail view of a nearby waterfall.



Root ball pullout that left a crater in the trail. Solved by a much dirt filling and slight re-alignment of the tread.



ADA trail and bridge where clogged drainage led to gravel covering bridge. Drainage restored and bridge cleaned.



Brushing:

Salmonberry, salal, and other verdure thrive in the Quinault climate. The open, sunnier area of the trail provide a natural space for the plants to grow into. Some of the brush merely gets the local visitors wet, but there are sections where it really entangles the hikers and obscures the trail.

Each year there is the repeated task of re-opening the corridor. Spring pruning is not the best time for discouraging plant growth, but it's the only time we're out there. Forest staff and local volunteers continue brushing through the season.

