

Article for Trailhead News

October 6, 2025

From: Rebecca Wanagel, Graywolf Trail Crew leader

Graywolf Trail Crew joins Peninsula Chapter

With great excitement I would like to announce that the Graywolf Trail Crew has become a program within Peninsula Chapter of BCHW, thereby formalizing an already-great partnership of several years.

The Graywolf Trail Crew does volunteer trail work primarily in the Olympic National Forest and the Olympic National Park. We have a different role in each one of those landowners.

Olympic National Forest:

Volunteer trail crews keep all of the ONF trails maintained. ONF relies 100% on volunteers for their trail maintenance because they do not have any budget for a trail crew. Were it not for volunteers, there would be no trails left in the ONF. There are several groups doing this important work. We are one of them. A set number of trails are assigned to us, and we have informally adopted a few others because they appeared to be getting sporadic or no maintenance.

Olympic National Park:

The ONP has a highly-skilled trail crew and incredible packers. Therefore, our niche is to help keep trails on the map that the paid crews can't get to. We've done maintenance on many miles of deep backcountry or frontcountry trails that could otherwise be deteriorating. Basically, we help pick up the trail needs that were deferred by budgeting, time or staffing constraints, or some combination of all three.

Our work in both the ONF and ONP takes this hearty group literally all over the peninsula. And always we keep stock standards in mind, trying to keep trails open to stock if the trail is rated as such.

Please enjoy perusing the Graywolf website, if you haven't done so already. We can be found at www.graywolftrailcrew.org. There, you can sign up for crews. You will also see a page (called "Where We Work") that shows what we've done for each trail: lots of picture-filled summary reports. If you've missed some reports or want to re-read them, you can always find them on our website.

The Graywolf Crew is proud to be an official program under the Peninsula Chapter which is known, among other accomplishments, for their active role in keeping trails open as well as for their long-term ability to obtain RTP grants. Both groups, now as one, are excited for this joining of forces. Together we are stronger for trails.

Rebecca Wanagel