

## TRAIL CREW NOTES

3/18/2023

Start time: 8:30 am

End time: 2:30 pm

(6 hours)

Location: West Elwha Trail, ONP

Crew members:

Rebecca Wanagel

Martin Knowles

David Graves

Joanne Graves

Bill Mueller

LaVonne Mueller

Paul Kamps

Jim Johannes

**Holy WOW what incredible spring weather** and what a glorious day from start to warm cinnamon roll finish! Many thanks to Don and Bobbie Stoneman who provided us with parking, food, drink and wonderful company after a really “hard” day at work.

Accomplishments: We started out thinking this was just going to be an impromptu easy logout, and not very many logs at that. Well, we were correct in the quantity thanks to the expert scouting of Toni Harms ahead of time. However, the BIG CEDAR didn't turn out to be a BIG DEAL after all – Paul and Martin had that cleared in no time flat. I smelled that fresh cedar sawdust from a ¼ mile away on my hike out. The logs, of course, were spread out from start to nearly finish as the last one was on the now-broken puncheon just above the site formerly known as Altair Campground.

This crew being this crew, much more got done than was on the docket. At least 3 water muck problems were addressed. One of them were two pipes that had their ends completely buried in debris, so they weren't functioning at all and the water was inundating the tread. Tread was rebenched in areas (carefully avoiding orchids, of course), drainage cleaned out, raking done down to the first footlog crossing and general trail cleanup. Some of the log cuts required a bunch of branch and debris cleanup. And, of course, to even get to the work required a fair bit of hiking. Which was not a hardship (reference first 6 words of this report).

In all we cut 18 log projects ranging from 4 inches to 40 inches in size. I would say nothing was complex with maybe the large one being the only one that required a few minutes of planning ahead of time.

As for me ... I was apparently in a different universe. I must have messed up my watch when I reset it for daylight saving time, because the entire day I thought it was 40 minutes earlier than it actually was. I knew I came out a little late ... but I thought about 15 minutes late because Jim and I couldn't resist that pipe cleaning project. I didn't notice my watch was off literally until I was about to arrive back home and I glanced at the clock in my car. Oops. Sorry. More cinnamon rolls and coffee for you!

Such an amazing day on a special trail with so much history behind it. Joanne is adamant that there is a LOT MORE WORK to do on that trail ... I'm thinking when we can find some time we can go back in there with just tread tools and address some tread problems here and there. That will also give us a chance to take another look at the drainage. Someday that footlog over Hughes Creek needs to be replaced. That's a whole different project that will have to be planned out with Larry Lack, and some folks with mules will need to be involved.