

## Trail Report Summary October 2023

### Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State and Jamestown Tribe

Jamestown S'Klallam Land between Miller Peninsula State Park and DNR Connector Trail that goes to ODT at Pearce Road: This is a trail that we built in 2019 and some maintenance was needed.

Work parties were held on Thursday and Friday, September 28 and 29 to haul gravel about 1/2 miles along the Jamestown North Trail to fill some wet spots and mitigate the mud that occurs during the winter months. Jim Hollatz took the power totes to the end of Cat Lake Road, then took his flatbed trailer to Del Sage's where Del used his excavator to load about 2 1/2 yards of pit run onto the trailer so it could be taken back to the Cat Lake Road staging area. Gravel was shoveled from the trailer into the totes and then "motored" to the spots where needed, dumped, and leveled. Rick King and Jim drove the totes, Tom Mix cleared some trees from the trail, Joan Wildman, Donna Hollatz, and Suzanne King did the treadwork. One load of gravel was done on the 28th, then Rick & Suzanne and Jim & Donna went back to do a second load on the 29th. The area will be reevaluated after the wet season to see if more fill is needed.



October 3rd: Jim and Donna drove to Aerospace Road and walked south on W. Diamond Point Trail to remove a blocking dead tree that had fallen. It was about 8" diameter and 40" above the ground with some bind, so the chainsaw was definitely needed, but it was a quick fix.

### Bill Mueller, OAT Trail (Thursday Trail Crew) and NOLT:

Here's what the Thursday crew accomplished in September.

September 7: Six crew plus leader Jeff.

Work was around MP 4.5 of the OAT. The focus of this work party on this section of trail and the other September work parties on other sections of the OAT are to restore the trail to its original specifications. This typically involves widening the tread back to 36 inches, removing encroaching vegetation from the tread edges, reestablishing a 2% out slope for drainage, and rebuilding under-functioning "drain dips". If needed, new drain dips are constructed where drainage is obviously a problem and muddy spots and/or pools show up during the wetter seasons. Tools of the trade are pulaskis, mcclods, rhinos and shovels. All these are tools designed for forest service fire fighting. None are mechanically powered. On occasion, logs, trees, roots and brush are also removed using powered equipment but the majority of the work is solely human powered. It is a good "workout" without a gym membership.

September 21: Nine crew plus leader Jeff.

Work was around MP 10 of the OAT. Tread widening, out-sloping, drainage repair and drain dip reconstruction/construction were the main tasks.

September 28: Twelve crew plus leader Jeff.

Work was again around MP 10 of the OAT, continuing to the west from where the work left off on the 21st. Activities were the same as before. Lots of exercise again.

So for the month of September, the OAT was treated to a lot of TLC from the dedicated Thursday crew. The work is continuing on into October along this same general area of the OAT. If you are reading this and may be thinking that this seems like it could be rewarding (and even fun, believe it or not), the crew warmly welcomes newcomers. Simply contact the Clallam County volunteer coordinator for more information (Jeff Ralston: [Jeff.Ralston@clallamcountywa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Ralston@clallamcountywa.gov)). Also, the Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) provides sandwiches, snacks and beverages for the crew. (Another incentive for joining???)

### **Rebecca Wanagel, ONF and ONP**

ONF:

9/16 – Sleepy Hollow

David Graves, Martin Knowles and I (Rebecca) scouted Sleepy Hollow trail to familiarize ourselves with it and try to ascertain where the stock issue is. We determined this trail is in remarkable condition (cared for by, I presume, PNTA and EMBA). Afterwards, I communicated with Jeff and Theresa to confirm the one spot that is an issue for stock.

9/18 – Sleepy Hollow

LaVonne and I went back to the trail to walk the 1+ miles to the confirmed issue to take a look and see if we could come up with a possible plan. We devised a plan we thought would work (not having any of the background knowledge of this trail but having good eyes for trail solutions). Returning to the laptop, I sent out the plan as what we would do if we were to work on this issue. The end result is there was some background provided and doubt from some that the devised plan would work. Rebecca felt it would be better handled by folks who have more knowledge of the history of this trail, with the offer to help if and when needed.

9/20 – Lower Big Quil

This was a Gray Wolf crew led by David Graves. Brush, tread and drainage. Please see attached summary report.

9/27 – Lower Dungeness

This was a Gray Wolf crew led by David Graves and Mike Bonomo. Brushing and tread. Also, ONF personnel came out to meet with Mike, scout and discuss the possibility of an ONF solution to the perpetual slide area 1 mile below the upper trailhead. The plan is to route away from the current trail via bridge, build a connector trail to another bridge which will take users back to the original trail. This project belongs entirely to ONF with the knowledge that the Gray Wolf Crew and BCH are on standby to help if necessary. Don't get too excited, as they still need to do NEPA and get the funds. They hope to use the Great American Outdoor Act.

There has also been a lot of discussion about this trail in terms of all the rotten and / or failing puncheons along the length of the trail. We (Gray Wolf Crew, ONF, BCH) are connected about this and I will be coordinating more agencies in the near future in the hopes we can do something about all the rotten boardfeet of puncheon before someone or some animal gets hurt.

ONP:

9/22 – Deer Ridge (upper)

This was a Gray Wolf crew led by Rebecca. Removal of one stock blocking leaner, and otherwise all rebenching and widening of the tread. Please see attached summary report.

9/23 – Little River

This was a Gray Wolf crew led by Rebecca. Logout, tread, drainage and brushing – working from the top down. Please see attached summary report.

10/6 – Little River

This was a Gray Wolf crew led by Rebecca. We went back in to finish logging out the remainder of the trees on the upper half of the trail. Mission accomplished as we removed 30 more trees in addition to the 20 or so from the first work crew. Long day again due to the miles we needed to hike to get to the work and then out the bottom of the trail. No summary report attached for this one.

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Other news: David Graves put together a website for the Gray Wolf Trail Crew, and established a new email for us.

[www.graywolftrailcrew.org](http://www.graywolftrailcrew.org)  
[info@graywolftrailcrew.org](mailto:info@graywolftrailcrew.org)

The website is fabulous, please take some time to peruse. The Gray Wolf Crew and BCH-Peninsula work tightly as partners at this point. What that means is the Gray Wolf Crew is doing the work and BCH is providing mileage reimbursement and occasional per diem (when appropriate) through grant funds. Also, the GWTC has access to the tool trailer, though we very rarely use it (only when we need rigging supplies, which is rare). We have many of our own personal tools, or tools we've acquired with the help of donors and ONF. The GWTC would enjoy having more folks from BCH come out to volunteer on the work crews. Most of what we work on are or are supposed to be stock trails and we do our work to stock standards. The signup site is now accessible through the website, and you can always email with questions. All are welcome to come out and dig in the dirt with us.