

Monthly Trail Report for the Board and Membership March 2024

Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State and Jamestown Tribe

Miller Peninsula, Feb. 5, 2024: Jim Hollatz, Judy Dupree, and Sandy Isly rode from the trailhead to the Bluff Trail and removed 12 large blocking trees. Jim took an extra horse with the chainsaw and provided some chainsaw instruction and practice for Sandy Isly as they worked. It was a full day, but much was accomplished.

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

The work in February was focused around MP 8.0 of the OAT. On the three work days (one canceled due to weather), focus was on tread widening back to the 36" specification. Tread creep was remedied and erosion control (drainage) was brought back up to functionality. Some new drainage dips were added in places where obvious water issues still needed to be addressed. Additionally, gravel was added to some trail sections to improve traction and provide out-slope for drainage. This section of the OAT is now in excellent condition.

Work details:

2/1/24: 13 workers provided 54 basic skill level hours and 20 skilled level hours starting at MP 7.5.

2/8/24: 14 workers provided 66 basic skill level hours and 20 skilled level hours starting at MP 8.5.

2/22/24: 10 workers provided 54 basic skill level hours and 6 skilled level hours starting at MP 8.0.

Work is continuing in March near the west end of the OAT near MP 21.5.
Stay tuned.

Rebecca Wanagel, ONF and ONP

ONF:

2/19

Lower Big Quilcene, 2 crew members

David and Joanne Graves went to Lower Big Quilcene to take a closer look at the failing culvert problem and to scout the rest of the trail for upcoming crews. Scouting is a critical part of what we do, as it gives us specific information we need so that we bring the right size crew and the right tools and can make a plan. They deemed the failing culvert to be of critical safety urgency, so David scheduled a crew immediately to address it.

2/22

Lower Big Quilcene, 5 crew members

David led this follow-up crew to address the safety hazard of the failing culvert about a ¼ mile from the trailhead. They uncovered the wood box culvert, identified failing planks, cordoned off failure areas and repaired a separate stream crossing to remove the flow from the trail.

See summary report attached to this email.

Other: There were two scouts that were supposed to happen with ONF personnel (the stock bridge at the bottom of Slab Camp trail, and the entirety of Lower Dungeness). Both happened to fall right within the small window of time when we had cold and snow, so we ended up having to reschedule. Those are rescheduled for April 19 and May 3.

Another scheduled scout with ONF personnel is March 29. That one is for the Kahkwa Creek crossing on the Bogachiel Trail just inside the ONF boundary. This one is a request for help from Larry Baysinger, Mt Olympus BCH, and we are meeting with ONF on site to discuss the project before proceeding.

ONP:

2/17

West Elwha Trail, 8 crew members

Clear 3 trees and remove a rock slide.

See summary report attached to this email.

2/23

Heather Park Trail, 3 crew members

Clear downed trees at mile 1.0.

Martin and Rebecca, at the request of John Wegmann, went with John to clear these trees. There were technically 2 trees, but one crossed the trail twice, so it felt like 3. Mission accomplished and John knows he can call us anytime with a request for help on this trail.

Note from Rebecca:

February was less busy in the trail world than normal, but looking at the calendar for March and on out, it's slammed. Saw classes, logouts, trail crews in ONF and ONP ... a really crowded calendar.

Please remember that we have a website and anyone can sign up for Gray Wolf Trail Crew work crews through the link on this site. All members of BCH and GWTC are welcome on these crews – and new folks are always encouraged so please spread the word. The backcountry crews are posted way in advance and the day crews are posted more sporadically, as necessary, throughout the year.

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