

## Monthly Trail Report for the Board and Membership June 2024

### Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State

On May 17, Jim Hollatz and Bob Hoyle worked on the ONF bridges near LeBar that had suffered broken railings from falling trees over the winter months. The project entailed hauling lumber and tools to the job sites using one of the motorized totes that Peninsula Chapter has. They camped the night before and put in an 11-hour day of hiking and carpentry, but the bridges are good for another year!

Jim and Donna spent 3 days finding a route and flagging a proposed new horse trail that the County has proposed building at Robin Hill Farm. The trail will add about a 1-mile loop to the existing trail system so riders can travel out toward the east edge of the park and back to the meadow near Davonhill Lane. There were nasty areas of nettle and salmonberry and a couple of swampy canyons, so finding a good route was a bit of a challenge. The next step will be official County approval, then work can begin. Riders will appreciate having more distance to ride within the park.

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

The bridge over Whiskey Creek then decided to collapse, so more bridge work for the crew. It was decided to install a new bridge across the creek at the location of the existing horse ford. (FYI in case you haven't heard, the county has funding to purchase a stock usable multi-purpose fiberglass bridge for this crossing at about a \$75,000 sticker price.) To make this work for all users, major revisions to the approaches leading to the new bridge were required to change the horse ford into a multi-use bridge crossing. Switchbacks and approach turns were to be rebuilt or replaced for the new crossing.

Lots more dirt moving, gabion basket trail tread footings, trail grade modification, and bridge footing location for more bridge support structures were undertaken and will be on-going.

Job security guaranteed.

### Rebecca Wanagel, ONF and ONP

#### OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST

#### **5/24-5/2, (4 days) Upper South Fork Skokomish (some of the last day was ONP)**

Please see attached summary report for the work completed on this trail.

The first 3.2 miles of this trail are supposed to be stock accessible but are currently not, and haven't been for a while. Rebecca has a specific list of the problems that make this currently not stock passable. I will put it out to membership of all the chapters to see if there is genuine interest in getting this trail open to stock again before we decide to take action.

#### **5/15 and 5/29, Lower Dungeness**

David Graves led two crews on this trail to clear downed trees and tend to other trail issues. Please see attached summary report that wraps both of these crews into one report.

#### **6/8 and 6/9, Bogachiel Trail**

At the request of Larry Baysinger, the Gray Wolf Crew went out for two days of extremely hard work to help put in a more permanent solution to the perpetual problematic crossing at Kahkwa Creek crossing, approximately 1.5 miles from the trailhead. Larry and Sherry in addition to Martin Knowles and Harold Wiese put in several hard days of work before this crew arrived to prep the trail and pack in the gabion baskets (12 of them, each one six feet long), pack in the rigging and set up the highline for moving rocks across the creek. Then the weekend crew worked really hard to complete this project, but were treated to a delicious dutch over dinner by Sherry. Please see attached summary report.

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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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