

**Monthly Trail Report for the Board and Membership**  
**Report written by Rebecca Wanagel**  
**May 2025**

**Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State**

April 18th: We took a pack horse and chainsaw to cut and removed a fallen, dead madrona from the E. Diamond Point Trail and cleared overhead leaning trees on Fireweed Road. At this point, there is a blocking tree on the north end of Belly Deep that we have not had time to address.

May 1st: Jim joined the Thursday Crew for a day of trail maintenance at Robin Hill. The new trail there is looking great in most areas. Additional work is planned to install some turnpike across a wet area and do more benching and add gravel to the northern sections of the trail. Tom Mix is coordinating those activities. The County will provide gravel and equipment rental.

May 6th, Miller Peninsula: A work party of 5 used brush trimmers to cut back salal and other brush from the edges of E. Diamond Point Trail in the "Madrona Forest" area. About a mile of trail was finished and there is another half-day of work remaining. Three large, dead, "danger" trees were removed along that stretch of trail.

Eight additional work parties are planned at Miller on Tuesdays and Saturdays: May 13, 20, 24, and 31 and June 7, 10, 21, and 24. These will be from 9am to 2 pm. No horses are needed for these excursions. Work will be brushing and clearing trails and adding gravel in one wet area of Cat Lake/W. Diamond Point Trail. So far we have 2 or 3 people signed up for these excursions. We are hopeful that a few more members will volunteer. Please RSVP to [jdholatz@gmail.com](mailto:jdholatz@gmail.com) if you can help any of those days. We need swampers and people willing and able to use shovels, pulaskis, and rakes.

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

During the month of April, the work was first focused on rebuilding the trail through a new logging clearcut at MP 11. This meant establishing appropriate drainage/erosion control and tread construction to create a trail meeting specifications. Woody debris and muck had to be removed from the trail path to accomplish this. Adding sand and/or rock and gravel was done where needed. Aesthetic features were also taken into account with tread sides and visibility issues addressed to make the trail inviting. In all, lots of hard work done.

04/03/25: 14 workers donating 60 basic hours and 24 skilled/sawyer hours

04/17/25: 11 workers donating 60 basic hours and 6 skilled/sawyer hours

The last week of April involved rehabilitation of the trail through an older forest thinning project around MP 5. Several issues involving wet/muddy areas were addressed. Tread was widened to specification and aesthetic issues addressed to make the trail more inviting. This included removing woody trail intrusions such as encroaching tree stumps, logs/wood along sides of the trail, and overhanging branches trimmed back. Drainage was constructed to dry out the wet/muddy areas. Again, hard work.

04/24/25: 12 workers donating 66 basic hours and 6 skilled/sawyer hours

In all, more work was accomplished by the trusty Thursday trail crew and more to come.

## **Rebecca Wanagel, Gray Wolf Trail Crew, ONF, ONP, Saw Program and Safety**

### **OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST**

4/12:

Lower Big Quilcene bridge railing repair. See attached report

4/16:

Lower Dungeness puncheon replacement / turnpike conversion. See attached report.

4/23:

Lower Graywolf logout. See attached report.

May 2-4:

Regional South Fork Skokomish work crew. Report already sent to the board by Joan.

### **OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK**

4/18-19 Humes: We went to Humes Ranch for two purposes, both having to do with the upcoming 8-day crew I have scheduled to clear the Dodger Point trail in July:

1. Clear the main trail to Humes and the stock route above Humes.
2. Search for a viable way for stock to get across the river to avoid a washout that is preventing them from getting to the suspension bridge. I was hoping to have stock pick us up from Dodger Point at the end of our crew to bring the tools back down.
  - a. A route was found. However, in order to get it up to snuff for good stock standards, it would have to go through a compliance review. That process typically takes at least a year and would likely get denied anyway because the path we found is an angler's path, but not an "official" trail.
  - b. Therefore, I revised my plan for how we'll go about the Dodger Point trip. A revision was necessary because there is no good place to camp with water on the way up, so I am planning a way to clear the entire trail while base camping out of Humes. No easy task. Stay tuned ...

5/10:

Smokey Bottom trail. See attached report.

5/11: Scout Elwha-Hurricane for upcoming crew. Determined that this crew will have to be postponed (the Hurricane Hill road to the far parking lot hasn't been opened yet and we want to work this brutally steep trail from the top down) and scheduled another round of work on Smokey Bottom instead.

### **SAW PROGRAM**

Nothing new this month.

### **SAFETY**

Olympic National Forest has solidified for us the protocol for letting PSICC (Puget Sound Interagency Communications Center) know about our plans. We now have an official form that we're supposed to use to give PSICC our emergency information for multi-day use. For day crews we will continue to check in and check out as normal with them, but we do always email them ahead of time to let them know we'll be out there. When we email, we always let them know what trail, when, what we're doing (especially if sawing), crew size, etc.

We will now start using the official form for overnight trips, which is the same one ONF uses for their employees, and is the format that PSICC is used to.

We've also been updated on PSICC's staffed hours, which vary throughout the year depending on the season.

***Please remember the Gray Wolf Trail Crew and BCHW-Peninsula have a solid partnership. Anyone can sign up for a work crew.***

***Gray Wolf Trail Crew website:  
[www.graywolftrailcrew.org](http://www.graywolftrailcrew.org)***