

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

Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State

Trail Report:

August is not usually a big month for wind and fallen trees, but Miller Peninsula has a forest full of dead and rotting trees, so the wind does not need to blow for them to fall. We took a pleasure ride at Miller (with no chainsaw) on July 30th and came across a big alder at the top of the trail that leads from the Beach to the Bluff. We were able to get around it that day, but took the horses and saw back on August 10th with the plan to remove it. When we got there, someone had done a great job of clearing the trail, so we rode along some of the frequently used trails to check for places that needed work. We did remove one log on the Bluff Trail and pulled a number of Tansy plants on Bluff Trail, Fireweed, and Cable Trails. There was not enough Tansy growing this year to warrant a work party to spray the weed. Judy Dupree and Suzanne King also helped pull Tansy on one of their trail rides this month. (We later learned that the State Park Ranger had cut out and removed the big alder!)

We have two local frequent trail users who send us reconnaissance about trail blocking trees. On August 31st we got news that the Beach Trail had a large blocking tree, plus there were smaller trees that had fallen on E. Diamond Point, W. Diamond Point, and near the Bluff kiosk. We rode out on September 3rd and removed all of those. The one across the Beach Tr. was about 20 inches, so the picture we had been sent was very helpful in letting us know we would need a big saw!

Theresa Percy has had two trail work parties on the DNR trails near Sage Camp to get some new trails spruced up for the Prize Ride on Sept. 13th. We really appreciate that quite a few volunteers turned out to help with those projects. It will mean that the riders will be able to ride "trails" and avoid sections of the DNR roads.

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

The Thursday trail crew was focused on the OAT around MP 11.5. This area is the site of a recent clear cut and Bear Creek. Much of the effort has been to get the two bridges over Bear Creek demolished and then replaced by somewhat different designed bridges. This effort involved securing the availability of four new fir stringer logs and getting them transported to the bridge site. Cedar sill logs were also needed, and a suitable downed cedar was found and sills cut. This effort is continuing into September. Additional smaller work parties have been carried out and more in the future still needed. The hope is to get the bridges replaced before a work window closes around September 15.

Along with bridge work, the tread repair/replacement through the clear cut continued. To get all this done, the crew was split between the bridge crew and the tread crew. The tread work is probably finished but the bridge work goes on.

Trail crew size averaged about twelve during the month. So... work hours are roughly 6 x 12 x 3, or 216. Too much fun!

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

OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST

Nothing to report this month. Our efforts have been focused on ONP.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

August 9-14

Appleton Pass / Boulder Lake and Olympic Hotsprings trails. See attached summary report for this 5-day crew.

August 22

Elwha-Hurricane Hill. See attached summary report for this 1-day crew.

September 1-4

Upper Graywolf and Three Forks trails, logout. See attached summary report for this 4-day crew.

SAW PROGRAM

Nothing new to report.

SAFETY

Nothing new to report.

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.graywolftailcrew.org