

Monthly Trail Report for the Board and Membership
Peninsula Chapter and Gray Wolf Trail Crew
Report written by Rebecca Wanagel
October 2025

Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State

It's been a quiet month since the September report. Upcoming: Some trees are down at Miller and the Elk Creek (NOLT) project is going forward, so October will be rather busy.

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

Olympic Adventure Route:

The Thursday trail crew had mixed activities in September. The breakdown is as follows:

9/04/25

Sixteen workers were split into two groups. One went to MP 8 of the OAT to perform the usual maintenance operations of tread widening and drainage rehab. The other group convened at MP 11.5, the location of bridges across Bear Creek. That group was involved in demolishing one of the two existing bridges over Bear Creek and readying the site for construction of a new bridge. A by-pass was put in place for the construction period.

9/11/25

Eight volunteers went to work around MP 14 of the OAT doing typical trail maintenance of tread widening and drainage rehab.

9/18/25

Eleven volunteers worked around MP 11.5 finishing work on the new bridge (first one of the two) over Bear Creek. Work included preparing the approaches to the bridge and re-working the tread approaches including a switchback turn. Revegetation of the area also was undertaken.

9/25/25

Nine volunteers took a longer hike to MP 17 of the OAT to carry out significant tread widening of the trail including drainage rehab also. One volunteer spent a while around MP 16.5 reworking drainage issues surfacing from earlier trail repair of damage due to logging.

So in all, the OAT is getting attention to keep it going as a premier multi-use trail even getting international recognition.

North Olympic Land Trust:

It's been a while since NOLT has called upon us for help on a project. Recently they have turned their attention back to the Elk Creek property in Forks. On that trail they are getting rid of a failed puncheon across a mucky stream bed. They will replace it with a culvert or two and turnpike – overall this will be much more sustainable than puncheon. They have done one day on the project but more to come. *Feel free to contact Bill (lsmwj@olypen.com) if you would like to help out.*

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

***** The most exciting news! The Gray Wolf Trail Crew is now officially a program within the Peninsula Chapter of BCHW. We are now one. Together we are stronger for trails! *****

OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST

9/19 and 9/27:

Snider Ridge, the ridge that runs between Mt. Muller and Kloshe Nanitch trails.

*This was a major effort to rehabilitate this neglected trail back to stock standards (it was so bad that even hikers without horses were having trouble hiking it). This was a missing link in what can be a wonderful (nearly) loop trail. I say nearly because Klosche Nanitch and Mt Muller trailheads are a 5-minute car ride from each other, but a short car shuttle can make this a delightful one-way hike / ride. It is a difficult trail to maintain due to the fact that it's up at 5,000 feet and a difficult hike and / or drive to get to it.

Please see attached summary reports.

9/24

Upper Graywolf Trail, ONF portion.

This is the part of Graywolf that is called "upper" because it's on the other side of the river from Slab Camp, yet still in the ONF. So sometimes we just call it "mid." By clearing this, that means the Graywolf Trail Crew has cleared its namesake trail from the lowest trailhead all the way to the Cedar Lake junction, approximately 14 miles, in one season. Some chainsaw, some crosscut – depending on the land manager and Wilderness rules. Please see attached summary report.

Upcoming: some more attention to the Lower Big Quilcene trail, October 18.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

Nothing to report this month, our efforts were focused more on ONF. We were supposed to have a crew on October 11 to finish up some brushing and tread work on the Elwha-Hurricane Hill trail, but I had instructions to cancel it due to the government shutdown. That was disappointing as I do not foresee getting back to it until next season.

SAW PROGRAM

Nothing new to report.

SAFETY

Nothing new to report.

Please remember the Gray Wolf Trail Crew is a program within BCHW-Peninsula. Anyone can sign up for a work crew.

Gray Wolf Trail Crew website: www.graywolftailcrew.org