

Monthly Trail Report for the Board and Membership
Peninsula Chapter and Gray Wolf Trail Crew
Report written by Rebecca Wanagel
July 2026

Donna and Bill's reports include the description of the work. Rebecca's reports are via attached narrative summaries with pictures.

Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State

Miller Peninsula and Clallam County Trails

June-July Trail Report:

June 24, 2026 - A 12 inch tree was reported to have fallen lengthwise down the Bluff Trail blocking about 20 feet and very difficult to navigate around because the salal brush was very thick in that area. We parked off the Burling Road entrance to the park and took the horses and a pack horse and chainsaw in through Manzanita to the Bluff Trail. We rode across the Bluff to be sure nothing else was down, then cut up and removed the log. It was one of those jobs that required an hour's ride to the site and took about 15 minutes to clear the obstacle, but it was a lovely day for a ride!

July 1, 2026 - Trees were reported down across the Beach Trail. We drove down Fireweed Road to the Beach Trail, then hiked in with the chainsaw and fuel. Three trees had fallen, with one hanging across the trail at about 60 inches high. Jim had to climb up the hillside to get the first piece started, and there were some big pieces to roll off the trail, but we got it opened up for the holiday weekend.



Call or text Donna Hollatz (360-808-3965) if you want to help us.

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

Thursday trail crew report.

The crew has been split into two separate projects. One is the usual of tread widening, drainage rehabilitation, brushing and tree trimming. This is taking place around MP 9 of the OAT. This is typical trail maintenance.

A second crew has been working on a major repair project at MP 8.3. A failed puncheon was removed. A new shorter puncheon/bridge was constructed with new approaches designed and built utilizing turnpikes. The materials, including new stringer logs, were gathered and brought to the site. Cedar planks for the bridge deck were previously hewn from a large, downed cedar tree at a different site on the trail and transported to the bridge

site and installed. One more day of finish work is scheduled, and the bridge will be open for use, including use by stock. A big project will be successfully finished. New adventures coming up.

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

OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST

6/11, 6/12, 6/13

Lower Big Quilcene realignment to bypass a section that was too steep. ***See attached report.***

6/23

Lower Graywolf logout and bridge repair. ***See attached report.***

6/30

Slab Camp, tread / turnpike restoration, log removal. ***See attached report.***

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

6/20-6/24 backcountry crew

Duckabush trail logout and handbrushing in ONP. Stock support used to get equipment to and from the work zone. See attached report.

SAFETY

This is the time of year when ground yellowjackets and / or hornets tend to become rather cranky. This poses a problem for pack strings and trail workers alike. As volunteer trail workers, we tend to have numerous problems with stings each year starting in July but most especially on our crews in August. Keep alert for signs of a disturbed nest.

SAW PROGRAM

While working on the Duckabush crew, we took the time to train and certify or recertify four people who work with the Graywolf Crew.

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



Gray Wolf Trail Crew -in partnership with- BCHW, Peninsula Chapter

Lower Big Quilcene, ONF
6/11, 6/12 and 6/13/26
Report by Rebecca Wanagel



Crew members

David Graves	Randy Kraxberger
Bob Hoyle	Eric Nagle
Paul Kamps	Ted Spoon
Martin Knowles	Mark Subbotin
Kristie Kocurek	Rebecca Wanagel

Quick Stats

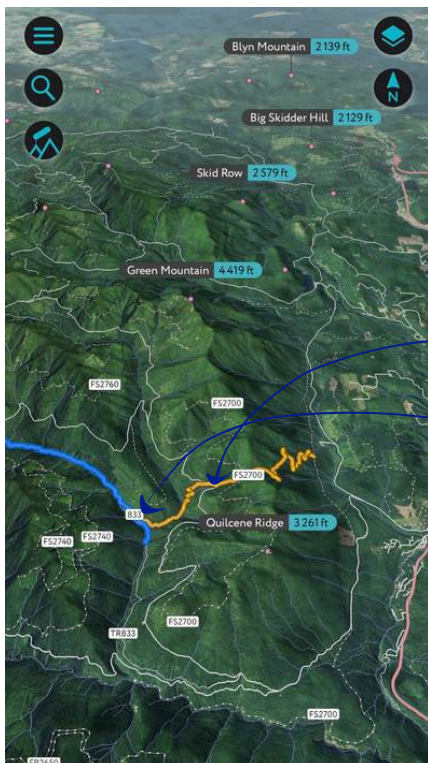
On-trail volunteer hours: 155
Hours including travel time: 224
Miles worked: 300 feet
Trail rating: stock / bike / hike
Weight of all the tools we carried
down and back up:
We don't want to know.

Objective: Realign a section of trail that was unsustainably steep. Original section was about 100 feet long. New tread that achieves the same elevation gain is 300 feet long.

Future work: Check on the new tread next fall after a summer of use and touch up as necessary.

Between this realignment and the one we just did on West Elwha (ONP), the Gray Wolf Crew never ceases to amaze me. Not only in how fast we get these jobs done ... along with all the hiking to even GET to the job site ... but we do it extremely well. This job involved everything from sawing to stump removal to rock crushing to tricky tread problems and climbing turn design in a tight space.

We had a section of trail on LBO that was way too steep. Bikers were hard on their brakes, horses were hard on their hooves trying to slow down before the turn at the bottom. Erosion was happening (we mitigated this last fall, but it would have come back). We decided this section needed to be realigned, and our ONF Recreation Shed Manager, Brent Freeman, agreed and approved our route.



We parked where Notch Pass trail (yellow) crosses FS road 27. Each day we hiked down and back up Notch Pass trail to access LBO (blue) because it junctions close to our work. This made it only about 1.5 miles to the job site, rather than 3.5 from the LBO lower trailhead. But it was uphill most of the way out each day.

Park and hike down.

Job site.



Job site.
100 feet of too steep tread.

Realignment (thin red line)
300 feet of sustainably
graded tread.



This is what it looked like in the beginning when we were laying the flag line..



Looks like a trail, eh? It does to our eyes ... are you wondering how we decide where to lay the trail in this forest?

There are a lot of factors. The steepness has to be sustainable. There has to be room to put in a climbing turn if necessary. We need to place it where we can cut the tread entirely into the hillside and not rely on structures. Trees, rocks and other features also help define the line. The final product needs to look natural, flowing organically through the woods. Nature doesn't do straight lines, so we don't either. We strive to make it look like it's resting on the terrain rather than plowing through it.

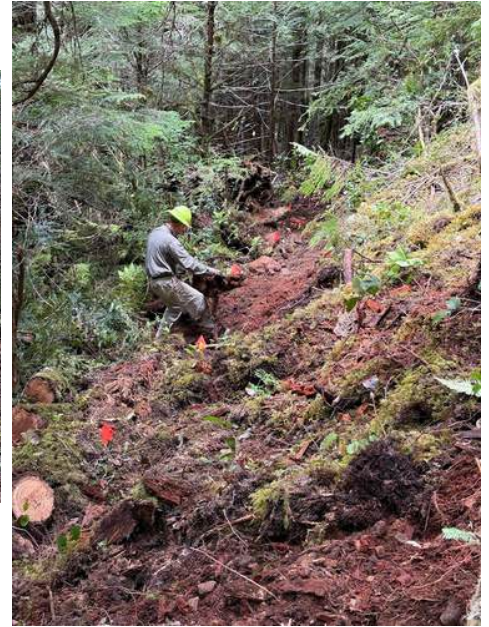
This is what it looks like when we first uncover what will be our new trail.



Lots of sawing



*Getting rid of a thick layer of "duff"
(organic material)*



*Moving logs and branches that have
been cut.*

*This is what it looks like to get the tread roughed in.
Pulling stumps ...*



Hammering rock to bits



*(remember this picture and the
size of that rock ...)*

Digging in the new tread. Getting rid of all duff, roots, rotten embedded logs and stumps. Moving a rootball off the trail.



This is what it looks like to fine tune the product. We are checking for stock and bike suitability, double checking for pockets of duff, making sure the tread is solid and cutting back branches to stock standards.

This hillside had a LOT of rock in the dirt. This was excellent. Rock is gold to trail builders. When we dig out rotten trees or stumps, we end up with holes. Those have to be filled with rock before dirt. When we lay a log to better hold the edge, it has to be lined and filled with rocks. Any low spot needs to be brought up with rocks. Rocks drain the water and hold the trail solid rather than letting it sink. It stands up to hooves and tires.



This is Kristie, new to our crew! What a great fit. Kristie got taken under our collective Gray Wolf wings and we definitely look forward to more days on the trail together!



If we all stare at the problem for long enough, it might just fix itself ...



It was super helpful having Bob from Buckhorn Chapter BCHW join us for our last day. He helped us make sure all was okay for stock.

(I missed getting a picture of another important job which was Mark going along the new trail with a handsaw and extendable loppers - cutting out the corridor to 8-feet wide by 10-feet high, stock standards.)

Meet the new trail. From top to bottom





This is what it looks like to admire a job well done.



The old trail behind the guys has been filled with material and decommissioned.



Look back at the picture of the rock I told you to remember. Randy is pointing to where it was!



The crew! Left to right: Randy, Ted, Martin, Rebecca, Mark (back), Bob (front), Eric, David.

Missing on this day but very much part of the crew: Paul and Kristie.



Gray Wolf Trail Crew -in partnership with- BCHW, Peninsula Chapter

Duckabush (upper), ONP, June 20-24, 2026

Report by Rebecca Wanagel



Crew members

Jon Behar
Ian Davis
Tim Goss
Matt Houghton
Paul Kamps
Martin Knowles
Randy Kraxberger
Sonya Langford
Eric Nagle
Elizabeth Storm
Mark Subbotin
Rebecca Wanagel

Packers and Team

Harold Wiese
• Sugar
• Archie
• Belle
• Katy
Rachael Taylor-Tuller
Matthew Tuller
• Dolly
• Biskit
• Maize
• Woody
• Blue
• Possi

Quick Stats

On-trail crew hours: 530
(includes packer time,
both round trips)
Hours including travel time: 588
Miles worked: 8.5
Miles hiked: approx 45 each
Trail rating: hiker / stock
Logs cleared: about 120

Objectives:

1. Clear about 120 logs from 7-Mile camp to Lacrosse Pass junction (about mile 15), plus one problematic log part way up Lacrosse Pass trail.
2. Do "triage brushing" wherever necessary for stock and packer safety and delineating where the trail is. We purposely did not bring power brushers for this trip. Our goal was to clear all the logs and make sure pack animals can get through so that the ONP crews heading up later this season can dive deep into other work, including a more thorough power brushing.
3. Do tread work where necessary for stock safety.

Achieved: All objectives were achieved.

Day 1:

- > Load up pack animals.
- > Head to 7-mile camp. WTA had cleared the way and done some tread and brushing to that point. We are grateful. The packers had no trouble. ***It was very exciting seeing the animals get this far where they hadn't been in a long long time, due to all the work done by GWTC and WTA in the ONF portion of this trail (see earlier crew summaries).***
- > Unload at 7-Mile camp. Set up camp, say goodbye to the packers, grab some lunch and get a little bit of work done for the afternoon.



Who knows when the last time was that 7-Mile camp saw hoofprints??

OUR HEROS

Harold and Sugar



Katy



Archie, who got in trouble for nipping at Belle and had to wear the mask of shame.



Belle



Matthew and Dolly



Blue



Maize



Possi



Woody

Day 2:

- > Hike.
- > Take the sheath off the saw.
- > Cut the log to stock standards.
- > Put the sheath back on the saw.
- > Repeat.

We made it to two logs shy of 10-Mile camp, which is about 3.5 miles from our camp.



Before



During



After



During



After



Before



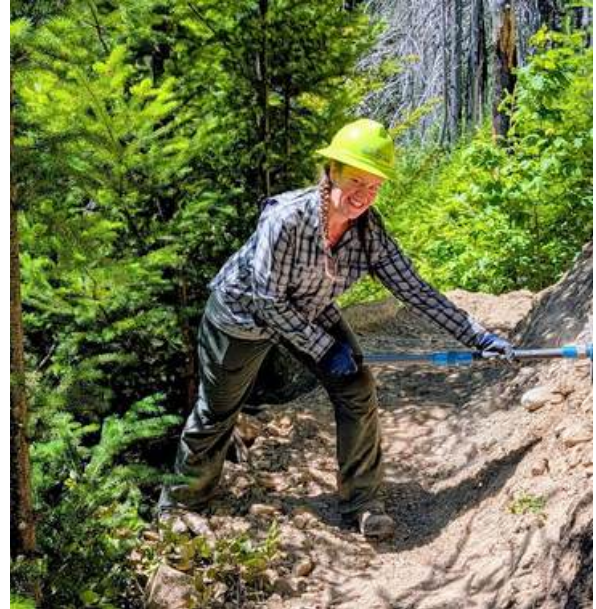
During



After

Day 3:

- > Break down camp.
- > Move camp to 10-Mile Camp.
- > Go back a short distance to clear last two trees.
- > Then the team split into two. One team went on up the trail clearing trees above 10-Mile camp. The other team went back about ½ mile to fix up some tread issues that would have caused safety concerns for stock.



The tread crew had it waaaay harder than the logout crew because their work took them into a place that was baking in the sun on the hottest day of our trip. They were absolute troopers, dedicated to the mission of making the tread better for hikers and safe for stock.

Always a team, they watched each other for signs of heat exhaustion, and made sure they were each taking breaks in the shade and drinking enough water.



Before. Ok for hikers, not for stock.



It was resting on a boulder with a long cantilevered piece that had ripped off from the rootball.



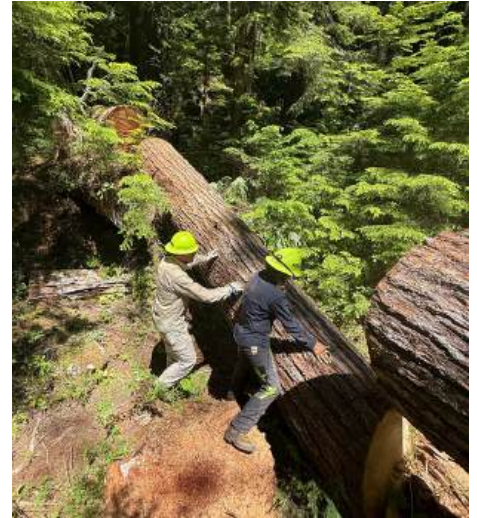
We decided to get rid of that piece first.



Now that long extended piece is out of the equation.



Good angles on the other cut so the main portion could drop.



That gave us this. Just need to chunk it up now.



We all took turns chunking it up.



Finished!

Also ...

Days 1, 2 and 3 had more than sawing going on. The brush on this trail was (is) the stuff of nightmares. I had decided ahead of time that our crew would be logging it out and doing only handbrushing where critically needed – to make it so the ONP crews can get packed in later with power brushers, rigging, etc to really dig in deep to some problems on this trail.

We cut things back that met the following criteria:

- > Vine maples or branches that were at packer eye level.
- > Brush approaching creeks that packers and hikers need to see.
- > Conifers that were growing thickly on each side of the trail, completely obscuring the trail so you wonder where to go.

Between 7-Mile and 10-Mile camps is the site of the 2009 lightning-started fire. Like any former fire zone, the brush grows back with a vengeance, and the young trees take root to start again. That's what's going on here.

Anyone who wasn't running a saw was working hard with their handsaw and loppers on this brush. At one point the entire team put down their saws and every single one of us worked on creating a path through a thick forest of young conifers.



An example of a place where we couldn't see the trail at all, and then after some hand clearing. The trail is at least visible!

Day 4:

Today we worked to the junction of Lacrosse Pass trail. We also took out a problematic tree part way up Lacrosse Pass trail that I knew about from scouting. This junction is 5 hard miles from our camp. It was a long day, but we got it done. Originally we were going to continue logging out for ½ mile past the junction because we knew from a scout that there were some logs there (not much). The day got too long so we had to adjust the goal and not one of us really wanted to make the hike all the way back up there the next day.



Girl-power saw team.



The boys were busy too.



Before / during



After. This was the problem log on Lacrosse Pass trail, that's why it isn't cut to stock standards like the rest.



Widening long-ago cut logs to make more room for pack animals.

Stopping at Crazy Creek for a break and some scenery on the long way back to camp.

Day 5:

Break camp. Cache tools at 10-mile camp for the Tullers to pack out. Hike out.

Before this year we had to lug all the tools back to 5-Mile camp for pickup, then go back to camp and hike out again the next day with our camp gear. This year we get to make the hike ONCE because FINALLY stock can get to 10-Mile camp again! (at least that's what we were hoping)



A week later ...

Rachael, Matthew and Co. head back up the trail, bypassing 7-Mile camp and heading to the stock camp at 10-Mile.



Success! Here they are lounging at Ten Mile Camp!



The brush was still quite bad, though not nearly what it would have been had we not done all that hand brushing. They got through it with no problems except for one run-in with yellowjackets, and the whole herd got to rest and hang out in solitude at Ten Mile Camp.



Biskit saying, "We're here!"



Gray Wolf Trail Crew

in partnership with

BCHW, Peninsula Chapter



Lower Gray Wolf Trail (#834), Olympic National Forest

23 June 2026

Crew members

Jack Bochsler	Joanne Graves
David Graves	Fred Inman
Hannah Graves	

Quick Stats

On-trail volunteer hours: 42.5
Hours including travel time: 54.5
Miles worked: 4.2 miles
Total miles hiked: 8.4 miles
Trail standards: Hiker

Objectives:

- Clear twelve fallen trees.
- Patch hole in puncheon deck.
- Clear debris from small slide area.
- Place "end of trail" sign.

Early spring reports from hikers said that about eleven trees had fallen across the trail. These reports were very useful in that they not only told us of trees down but gave their approximate sizes and locations. Since none were said to be very large nor a significant blockage to hikers, work on this trail was postponed until June as more critical work on other trails needed to be completed first.



Achieved:

The crew removed all the fallen logs from the trail. It was excellent experience for Fred and Jack who are A-certified crosscut sawyers looking to achieve B-certification.



Factors such as double logs close together, strong side binds, and highly-tensioned rootballs provided a wide



assortment of factors for them to analyze and then to evaluate the effectiveness of their cut plans. They also took turns practicing their saw-lead skills by instructing Hannah on cutting techniques.



Aside from removing the trees, the crew accomplished three other tasks: 1) rebenching a small slide area by clearing rock/soil that regularly slides down into the tread, 2) clearing a puncheon from much debris on and between the planks, and 3) adding an end-of-trail sign. The first two were routine maintenance that may seem less important than removing trees, but can easily lead to an impassible trail if

the slide tread disappears or the puncheon rots out. The last task was particular to this trail; hikers have reported in trip reports that they are unsure where the trail ends and have inadvertently kept hiking toward the dangerous slide area which years ago took out the cross-river bridge.



Finally, what would a trail crew be without a kind leader giving everybody a break from a nearly 8.5 mile working hike in warm weather by relaxing in the cool shade near a warbling mountain stream. 😊



Task(s) remaining:

1. Removing the ever-intruding brush from the tread corridor particularly on the first river flats and the upstream ascent from them.
2. Rebenching the tread on the upstream ascent from the first river flats.

David Graves

27 June 2026



Gray Wolf Trail Crew

in partnership with

BCHW, Peninsula Chapter



Slab Camp Trail (#838), Olympic National Forest

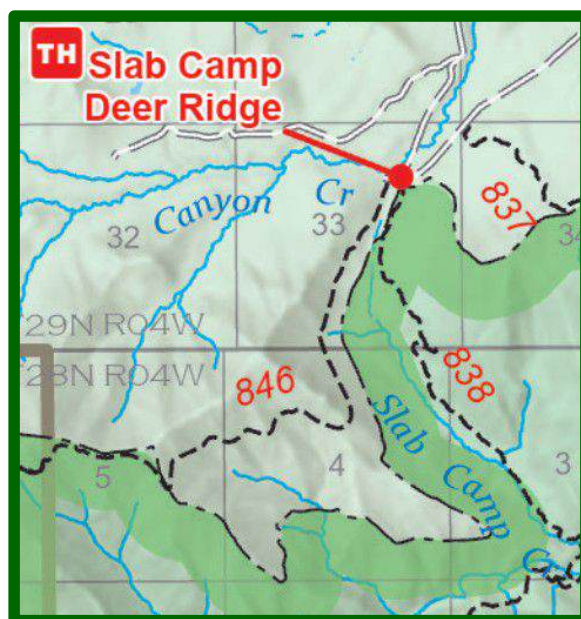
30 June 2026

Crew members

David Graves Deni Lojko
James Miller Joanne Graves
Miguel Reabold

Quick Stats

On-trail volunteer hours: 35
Hours including travel time: 42
Miles worked: 2.1 miles
Total miles hiked: 6.2 miles
Trail standards: Hiker / Stock



Objectives:

- Repair trail where tree rootball had pulled out from trail.
- Cut back tree trunk poking into trail corridor.
- Remove partially-fallen tree that is leaning across the trail corridor.
- Remove, if feasible, 40ft cedar leaning over trail with branches down into trail corridor.



Achieved:

Sometime this winter, a cedar next to the trail fell over and its rootball went from being under the trail to being next to a large hole in trail. We came across the problem during a March scouting hike.



The rootball not only pulled out some dirt and rock but parts of a turnpike that was built over it including a section of geotextile fabric. The crew pulled and relocated the rocks and the fabric; the latter had to be cut from the cloth that was still under the intact section of trail. The burrito wrap construction (fabric/rock/fabric) will help keep the rocks from sinking into the wet clay underneath. This was covered by a mix of dirt/clay and smaller rocks.



Following this primary project, the crew also cut back a tree stump projecting into the trail and removed another tree leaning into the stock corridor.



Like last week, the crew had lunch at a lovely riverside camp. Unlike last week, the weather was cool so the crew hastened



back to work and the uphill hike out so as to warm up. 😊

Task(s) remaining:

1. Remove the large fallen cedar hanging over the trail with branches down into the trail corridor. Best with multi-sawyer crew.

David Graves, 3 July 2026