

Trail Report Summary

May 2023

Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State and Jamestown Tribe

April 17 - 19, 2023 Thirteen chapter members and a member of Pacific Trails Coalition (Alan Barnhard) volunteered time and equipment to help the Clallam County Conservation District put 200 yard of mulch around 22,650 plantings of native trees and shrubs in the River's Edge floodplain near the mouth of the Dungeness River. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe owns the 56 acre property at the end of Towne Road. Clallam County partnered with them to move the 50-year-old levee (built by the Army Corps of Engineers to prevent flooding) and rebuild it farther from the river. The Conservation District planted the trees, which will create in-stream islands and trap woody debris as the river floods and creates side channels. This will slow stream flows, capture sediment, and create excellen salmon habitat while also improving the water quality for shellfish beds in Dungeness Bay. Chapter members donated the use of 2 tractors with front loaders, 5 pickup trucks, and a flatbed trailer to help with this project, plus the volunteer hours to use their equipment. This is another example of how our chapter cooperates with other conservation agencies.

April 21: Rebecca Wanagel, Martin Knowles, Theresa Percy, Donna and Jim Hollatz and Anna (Del's daughter) again scouted the connector trail project out of Layton Hill Horse Camp. Some flagging was put in and plans were made for Donna and Jim to get started on this DNR project. If they need more help, Rebecca has offered to contact the Graywolf Crew to see who would like to lend a hand.

May 1: Jim and Donna Hollatz and Theresa walked another one of the connector trails so Jim could see it. Jim and Donna will go out one day soon to brush it out better, then we will call a work party of chapter members to rough-in a trail.

Theresa and Anna are planning to do a more thorough flagging on "Jeff's Trail" section, then we will access it again. We hope to get both of those new trail sections done by the end of June so they will be ready to ride for the September Prize Ride.

April 27 & 29, 2023 Jim and Donna took horses, a pack horse, and a chainsaw to clear trail blocking trees that had fallen during our April windstorms. Five large trees were removed from the Bluff Trail and 4 from Manzanita on April 27. On April 29 two large cedars that had come down together were removed from the unnamed trail that goes from Cable Trail to the Don Tucker property. Two spots on Cable Trail were cleared of an overhead hanging tree and encroaching trees and brush along the sides. Belly Deep remains uncleared (passable, but needs quite a bit of work).

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

Info not available at the time of this report submittal, but will add this to the next monthly report.

Rebecca Wanagel, ONF and ONP

April 15 and April 22: Rebecca Wanagel and Martin Knowles led two 10-mile round trip hikes to prep the large, complex trees at Five Mile Camp that we will be sawing. Crew reports for this submitted earlier, but attached here. Cut day will be May 13. Stock support is arranged for this day. On our April 22 prep day, the two packers who will be supporting us on May 13 (Harold Wiese and Mario Porras) came out to become familiar with the trail and the project before the actual cut day.

April 29: Rebecca Wanagel and Martin Knowles followed up with the April 8 saw class to train and certify 3 people (Rob Rutherford – llama packer, Donovan Rafferty – long time ONP volunteer ranger, Eric Nagle – frequent Graywolf volunteer). We used logs surrounding the Littleton Horse Camp. Larry Baysinger had done the same the day prior with one other person from our saw class (Craig Brundle, new trail boss for Mt. Olympus chapter). All will receive guided training on trails this season.

April 13, April 22, May 2: David Graves led crews to scout and prepare the Lower Big Quil (a stock trail) for the packers and crew that headed in on May 6 to cut out two large, blocking trees. Reports attached.

April 21: Rebecca attended a zoom planning meeting for the upcoming LeBar / Lower Skok work party.

May 3: David Graves and Martin Knowles led a crew to repair the smashed railings on the Graywolf bridge at Slab Camp. It was intended to be a temporary repair. But it was so well-done and solid that I consider it a permanent fix until such a time that the next tree smashes the bridge (it's happened twice so far). They also removed a tree that was blocking the horse ford. Report attached. Keep in mind, this bridge was built large and strong enough to take stock, but there is absolutely no way for stock to actually get up onto this bridge. We would like to address that next season, once and for all, but that is a huge project.

May 6: Rebecca Wanagel and Martin Knowles led a crew on the Lower Big Quilcene trail (stock trail, as mentioned above) to cut out the two large blocking logs that were two miles below the upper trailhead. Another part of the crew worked the upper part of the trail doing brushing, tread, drainage. David and Joanne Graves went in early to sweep the lower part of the trail again to the cut site, to make sure new stuff hadn't come down to block the packers. We met and worked with packers Rachael and Matthew Tuller for the first time (animals: Woody, Biscuit and Maize). They are amazing and we will continue to work with them in the future. FYI, they own Lost Peacock Creamery, a goatery, and they brought us some of their incredible goat cheese. What a delectable treat! Report attached.

May 6: Rebecca Wanagel and Martin Knowles detoured in to take a look at some reported logs on the lower reaches of Gold Creek trail. That is good training grounds and we will take in a couple of sawyers to clear that mess. However, about 1.25 miles before the Gold Creek turnoff, there are two large blocking rocks in the road. Cars and pickup trucks are eeking around. The downhill edge is slumping and it is an extremely steep dropoff. I feel like someone is going to tip over there eventually and I am extremely uncomfortable driving around it. I reported this to ONF and will be happy to take sawyers in there once the road is clear and safe again. **MEANWHILE, NO STOCK TRAILERS CAN GET AROUND THIS. REPEAT: DO NOT TAKE STOCK TRAILERS ON THE UPPER DUNGENESS ROAD UNTIL THOSE ROCKS HAVE BEEN CLEARED.** See attached pictures.

May 7: Rebecca Wanagel and Martin Knowles met with Dan Dosey on his property to get some tips and practice for felling snags. The Duckabush project has a snag that needs to come down before we can start the project. Thanks to Tom suggesting it, I asked Dan and he generously donated some of his afternoon time to giving us some training. Tom also guided us to choosing the correct rigging equipment, and has given us tips and documents for the rigging we might also have to do on the Duckbush project. We will be practicing that ahead of time as well, to make sure we're ready and safe for May 13.

May: Alex Weinberg, ONF, asked for a list of tools we would like supplied by the FS. Rebecca submitted a wish list.