

GRAY WOLF / BCH-PENINSULA TRAIL CREW NOTES

1/17/25

Location: Lower Dungeness trail, ONF

Crew members:

Rebecca Wanagel

Martin Knowles

David Graves

Bill Mueller

LaVonne Mueller

Estimated On-Trail Volunteer Hours: 23

Report written by Rebecca.

Objectives met:

1. The main objective was to clear a jackstraw (multi-log) mess that was on the trail 1.25 miles up from the lower Gold Creek trailhead.
 - o Secondary objective was to use this complex project to give David more practice with the chainsaw because he was certified last year.
 - o Bonus objective of some tread repair / cleanup was done by Bill and LaVonne who worked near the junction of the trail near the bend in the road. Between there and the lower trailhead is some mucky wet clay trail that needed tending.

Future work – crew is scheduled for 2/15 and is on the signup link now.

1. Since Bill and LaVonne started cleaning up the ½ mile section between the bend and the lower trailhead, we decided we should keep going with that. It has some tread repair, drainage and brushing needs. Also, it needs some culverts cleaned out.
2. Move the leftover rootball from the above project off the trail. It's hovering over the trail. Will require root digging and cutting and perhaps a come-a-long.



This bundle of logs involved 4 rootballs, approximately 8 trees, a steep hillside and many severe binds. The trees were not large.



We determined the uppermost of the 4 rootballs was unable to move at all. That means we can allow for one side of the log to remain stable (straight out from the rootball) while the other side will spring back into its old, straight position.



You can see the trees bowing away from sight proving there is extreme bottom bind. That means the trees fibers are being compressed on the bottom, and once cut they are going to want to spring back to a straight position. These trees haven't been down very long, so they still had a lot of spring in them.



Though we had made a plan for the entire project from start to finish, we also decided the best way to approach it was one log at a time. Get each one cut in the way that seems safest, and then look at the next one to make a plan.



You can see from this cut how much these trees want to spring back into place.

We are doing this project from the top down, which is a bit unusual, for this reason:

To make our release cuts down by or on the trail would require us to stand below a looming rootball.

That rootball had the weight of several trees on it. If we cut down below that, we have no guarantee that the sudden release of the weight won't send the rootball tumbling down.

It was safer with this project to take it one piece at a time from the top down.



This was the next rootball down.



When released, this one had quite a bit of spring. Notice David had used an angle to allow for this movement in a way that wouldn't put himself at risk nor would it grab the saw. You can see it sprung up and also started moving down – the tips of all these trees are down in a draw, most of them just hanging in the air.



After clearing off all the logs that were on top, next was to get rid of this log with the wobbly rootball. Notice the clear escape path for the sawyer behind him and just barely out of view down to the left is a live tree that provides an extra margin of safety from the movement of the bound log.

After cutting this one, we ended up taking a little extra time to get rid of the rootball entirely.



Now the last tree, the one with the largest rootball. But now everything is cleared off of it so we were able to analyze the rootball and determine it most likely wasn't going to roll.

Still, I'm cutting from the safe side with a clear escape path, as we always do.



I put a notch in the top to allow the tree room to collapse on itself as it tipped. Finish cut was from underneath. I am glancing between my cut and the rootball, to watch for any unexpected movement.



Uneventful and safe, the way we like all our cuts. Time to lop off the remainder of the log.



All cleaned up! That's the looming rootball I'd like us to get rid of on the next work crew.