

## GRAY WOLF TRAIL CREW NOTES

9/22/23

Location: Deer Ridge Trail (upper), ONP

Crew members:

Rebecca Wanagel  
Martin Knowles  
David Graves  
Joanne Graves  
Jim Johannes  
Lisa Turnberg  
Neil Turnberg  
Paul Kamps

Estimated Volunteer Hours: 6.5x8=52

(Hours do not include driving, admin, organization and prep time. Only active working time.)

Report written by Rebecca.

Objectives:

1. Clear a leaner that was partially blocking the trail (approximately one mile from Deer Park Campground). This trail is supposed to be a stock trail and the leaner was definitely a blocker for a rider and animal.
2. Clean the trail hinges, bang back rocks where the tread is too narrow, re-bench, shore up the trail – all to try to get the trail back to original position, widen it in places, and stop tread creep.

We had a wonderful, fun day up there on Deer Ridge. Our start point was Deer Park Campground, strangely quiet after the hustle and bustle of summer traffic. Even Donovan, volunteer ranger of lore, had headed back to civilization weeks prior. The weather was lovely, albeit smoky from the fires going on in the Olympics. Despite the haze, the views never fail to astound.

Here is a summary of our day.



One of Jim's projects was to shore up this curve that keeps sluffing down. Lisa mentioned that this draw is the last place to hold snow in the spring, so the sluff is likely due in part to that. Plus, the soil is just really loose along here.



Joanne is a hard worker so it's a bit tricky to actually capture her face. I asked her to look up and snapped this wonderful picture with her big smile and the amazing view beyond.

Side note: Joanne is using one of the new Rogue hoes we now have as a Graywolf Crew. These were bought for us by ONF and they are absolutely terrific tools! Bye bye grub hoes forever!

For the record, what you're seeing is the Gray Wolf valley on the left, the jagged peak being Walkinshaw. The next valley over is Cameron, with McCartney Peak in the background. We worked on Cameron trail for 6 days this past July. Grand Valley is the next one over on the right that is obscured by the trees.

Another side note: in looking at the picture, we need to find a way as a Gray Wolf crew to get matching hard hats with our logo on it – just to avoid confusion. I'll work on that. 😊



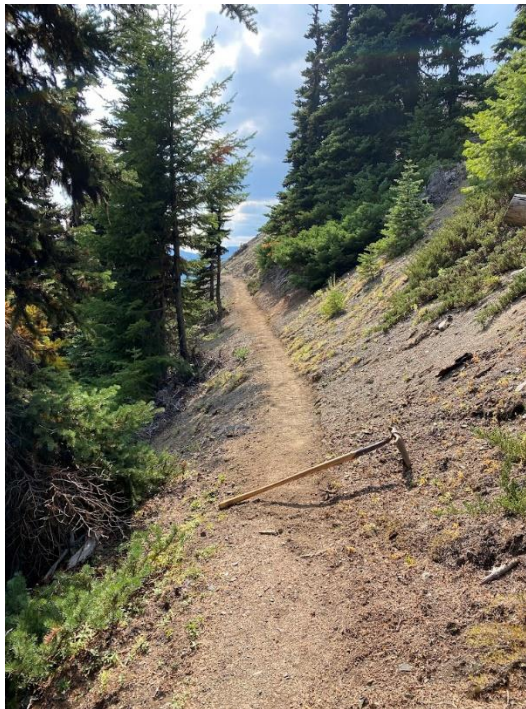
Typical before and after of tread that's been re-established.



“Should I bring my pick mattock?” asked Jim of both Rebecca and David. “Why no,” we both replied, “we don’t think it’ll be necessary up there as we think most of what we’re working on is soft material.”

Oops.

So we did a lot of rock banging with the hoe end of our pulaskis, trying to regain some tread width especially since this is supposed to be a stock trail. After a couple hours of that, we had to switch to farther along the trail where the material was soft. The rock banging was taking its toll on all of us.



More nice tread work. We also worked further down the trail where it gets wooded again. We really had to clean that hinge well because so much duff and debris had collected and narrowed the tread. Unfortunately, I didn’t get a picture of that, but you can imagine how nice it looks. Safer too – some of the tread was sloping enough that it was easy to lose your balance.



Top left: picture taken of the leaner from the downtrail side last fall (2022) when we first scouted this.

Top right: Paul analyzing the tree. Martin and Paul had to think carefully about this one because – though you can't see it in the pictures – the tree is bound up in branches above and it is double-trunked. Skilled analyzing and sawing was necessary.

Bottom left: Tree successfully removed – working on getting the rootball out of the way. (you can see a leg).

Bottom right: Cleared!