

## GRAY WOLF TRAIL CREW NOTES

10/06/23

Location: Little River, ONP

Crew members:

Rebecca Wanagel  
Martin Knowles  
Jim Johannes  
Paul Kamps  
Ken Scott  
Weston Scott

Drivers:

Eric Nagle  
Josie Dean

Estimated Volunteer Hours: 64

(Hours do not include driving, admin, organization and prep time. Only active working time. The exception here being the crew getting a ride up to Hurricane Ridge to work the trail from the top down again)

Report written by Rebecca.

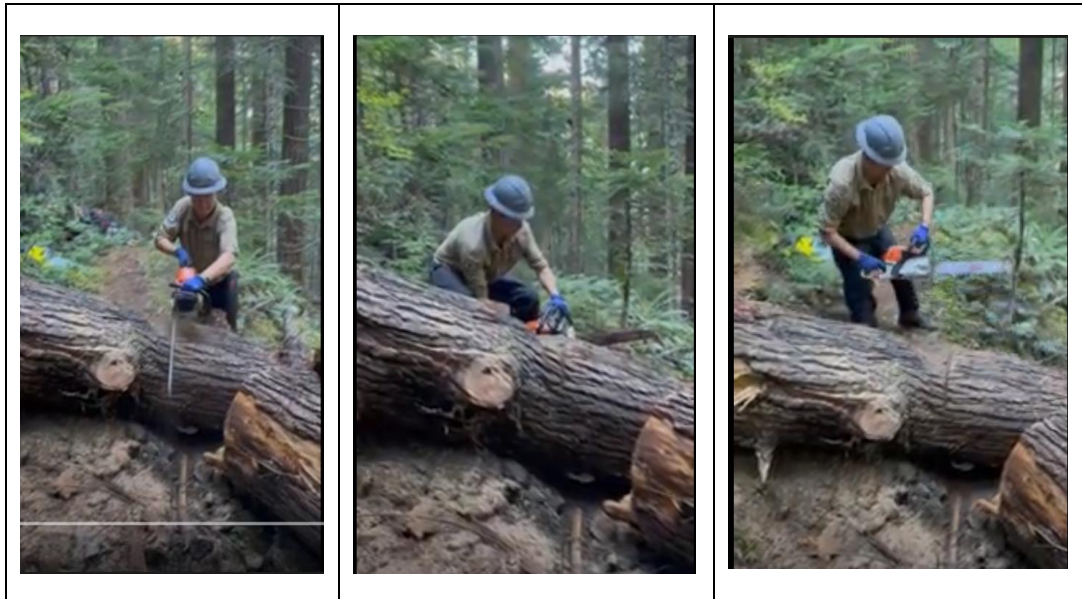
Objectives:

1. Finish clearing the trees in the top half of the trail.
2. Hand brush and pull saplings to prevent the tread from getting closed in.

We had approximately 30 more trees to clear on this trail that we did not finish last time we worked on Little River. That was our main focus, but we also wanted to really make a good dent in the number of saplings that were growing alongside the trail. Saplings turn into trees and before you know it, the trail is closed in. Like last time, we decided to work in only one direction, from top down. Yes, that meant we had to hike out the last 4 miles just carrying tools, but that was preferable to an out and back with a crazy steep uphill after mile 4.

This time around the weather was perfect. Skies were clear of smoke, temps were just right and we had no issues with being cold and muddy.

We didn't get much in the way of pictures on this trip, so there is a short story on the next page.



Weston Scott joined us for the first time today, with his dad, Ken Scott. Turns out, Weston has worked two seasons on the PNTA trail crew. He came to us with his B certification for chainsaw use, but not tons of experience yet. He and I (Rebecca) worked together on this day to get him some more “trigger time,” as we call it.

We worked together to look at the trees, analyze them in terms of binds, cut plan, hazards, etc. And we worked on mandatory and safe saw handling skills. I was impressed with what had obviously been drilled into Weston with PNTA. Things like putting the chain brake on habitually whenever you move with the saw, acceptable methods of starting the saw, proper stance, etc. In this collection of stills grabbed from a video made by his proud papa, you can see Weston learning how to make that offside cut first, cutting off stobs for safety and ease of moving the billet, and – though you can’t tell because it’s a still shot – putting that chain brake on by habit when changing position. It was fun and satisfying to watch Weston gain fluency and confidence as the day went on. We sure hope he will continue to volunteer with the Gray Wolf crew!



Before and after shot of a tree that was cut years and years ago. It was a narrow slot with a step cut out of the tree itself. Martin and Paul decided that that was silly to leave it as is and they took it out once and for all.

Meanwhile, Jim and Ken were diligently clearing hundreds of trailside saplings and other encroaching brush – easy to do now but critical for sustainability of the trail. They also did some tread work when we cleared trees and left the trail a mess. Great team work and a fun day.