TRAIL CREW NOTES

April 1-4, 2023

Location: Quinault Nature Trails around the lodge and Forest Service station area, ONF
Total work time(on trails and including cleaning up the bunkhouses at the end): **187 hours**
Total driving time to get to and from the work site: approximately **66 hours**.

Crew members:

Rebecca Wanagel
David Graves
Joanne Graves
Mike Bonomo
Martin Knowles
Paul Kamps
Mel Melmed
Lori Martinelli
Bernt Ericsen
Bill Mueller
LaVonne Mueller

The first day, 4/1, was arrival and about 3 hours of scouting the trail system – we split up to achieve this.

Sunday and Monday (4/2 and 4/3)

Quinault Rainforest Nature Trail:

1. Removed fallen 6" tree and rootball from blocking trail
2. Cleared Mercantile trail (0.6mi) of low hanging branches/brush plus re-established drainage for numerous (20?) low spots of water and cleared them of accumulated organic matter
3. Shifted 10' of trail uphill 1.5' to counter outslope slippage
4. Extend reclaimed drainage another 25' on Cedar Bog muddy section
5. Restored drain dip and water diversion channel at top of Cedar Bog muddy section
6. Clear moss/plants from between gaps between boardwalk board and railings (100')
7. Cleared another 100' of boardwalk
8. Created a path around a blocking rootball
9. Trimmed previously cut brush down to the ground (it was cut too high)
10. Improved drainage just east of Willaby and the trail started drying up almost immediately

Gatton Creek Trail:
11. Easternmost end (the 3/10 mile closed section): Created a trail realignment (90 feet) to push trail back from that washout that caused the trail to be blocked off. The trail is now completely safe and we re-opened it
12. Ran two power brushers for nearly 6 tanks of gas each on the newly re-opened section of Gatton Creek trail, on to the Rainforest trail (through Cedar Bog), to approximately ¼ mile past Willaby

Creek trail junction. This was about 1.5 miles of brushing on both sides of the trail (3 linear miles of brushing).
13. A team came behind the brushers, cutting out overhanging branches, tossing the brushing debris and raking.
14. Cleared 4 trees requiring chainsaw use
15. Worked 1.8 miles of trail; ADA trailhead of Gatton creek trail to intersection with main trail (0.3 miles) then to the intersection with Cascade Falls Trail (1.5 miles). This included the short loop trail around the "largest" Douglas Fir tree. Work consisted of:
    a. Lopping or cutting down overhead limbs, salmon berry encroachment, and other minor tree hindrances (many apparently due to prior snow load)
    b. Cleaning and Improving drainage to facilitate water flow off of tread as needed
    c. Repairing/restoring tread as needed.
    d. Scrape muck and debris off bridges
    e. Removing 20" mostly rotten log laying across path
    f. Contouring a reroute around fallen root ball that was impeding the trail
    g. Reestablished and improved rock divider that separates water stream from tread at the apex of Gatton Creek trail
    h. Loop trail at large Douglas Fir was particularly dense with Salmon Berry growth along with 2 small down trees that needed removal.
    i. Repaired 10 feet of outside tread wall that had failed and was posing a hazard on the Gatton Creek falls ADA trail. Excavated underlaying foundational soil, harvested 4 two-man rocks to set base, then stacked progressively smaller rocks to create small 3 foot outside retaining wall. Filled in and widened tread. Also, reopened clogged tread drainage up trail from last bridge on ADA trail.
    j. Cleared drain hole on footpath bridge below Willaby Nature Trail leading to shore. Drain was plugged with debris resulting in 2 inches of retained water on the bridge. Scraped debris and muck from bridge. Established a water redirection channel at beginning of bridge. Removed 8" tree hanging over pathway near bridge.
    k. Removed large salmon berry bushes and other overhanging limbs (ahead of brush cutting team) on 1.1 miles of trail from nature trail to Willaby Creek trail

Tuesday (4/4) we cleaned up the bunkhouses that we used and headed out.