

TRAIL CREW NOTES

4/15/23

Location: Duckabush, ONF

Crew members:

Rebecca Wanagel

Martin Knowles

Paul Kamps

David Graves

Miguel Reabold

Eric Nagle

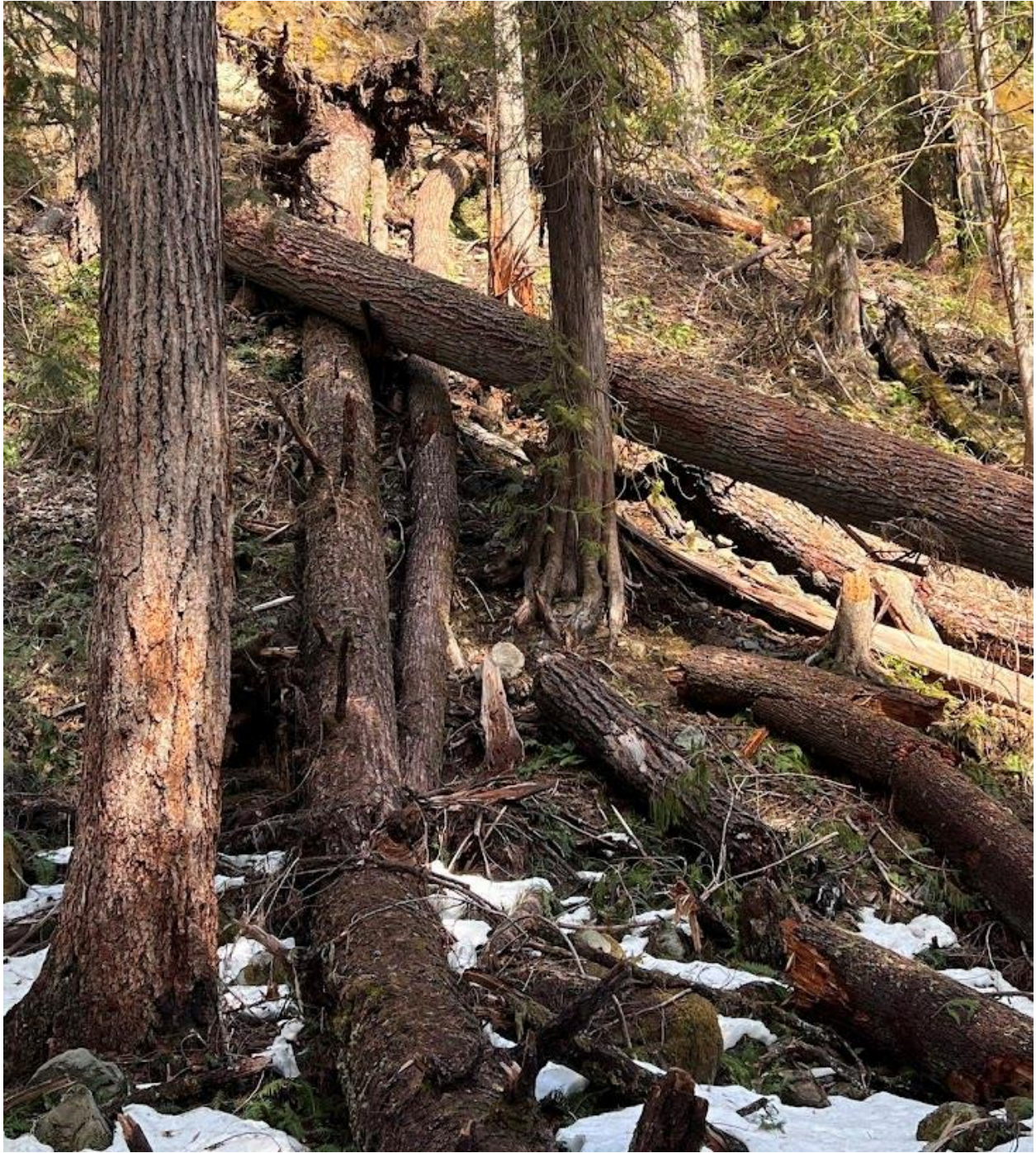
Mike Ratte

This was another 10-mile round trip hike to get to and from the tree cut project above 5-mile camp on the Duckabush. We are prepping the site and trees with two main purposes in mind: safety of the sawyers and everyone involved (that's first and foremost), and making sure the saws don't dull on the first few seconds of cutting. The prepping also gave us a day to continue looking at the project in case there was anything we missed when we first made our cut plan. So far we are still comfortable with the cut plan we developed.

On our list of things to do:

1. Discuss a plan for how to approach our prep with the utmost safety in mind.
2. Clean and cut off all dirt and rock-packed roots that are hanging above the cut zone.
3. Send down any and all rocks that could possibly roll down during or after the cut.
4. Debark both of the trees (necessary because the bark had collected lots of gravelly dirt in its furrows, and collected a lot more when we cut roots down on top of them).
5. Clean dirt out from underneath the cut zones of each tree. This gives the sawyer space without having to worry about driving the saw into the dirt and rocks.
6. Create obstruction-free, safe escape routes for the sawyers.
7. Remove two smaller trees that were in the cut area.
8. Remove a jammed branch (root?) that was in the area between the two trees – it would roll down upon cutting the smaller of the two trees so had to be removed ahead of time.
9. Check in with the on-site WTA crew and check the trail to make sure it was clear for stock and that stock has a place to tie up on the cut day.

We did not completely finish our objectives for the day (the 10 mile hike sorta eats up a good part of the day ...). We will do one more day to finish the prep. The actual day to cut this project will be May 13, with stock support from Harold Wiese and Mario Porras.



LOOKING UP AT THE PROJECT FROM THE EAST END OF FIVE MILE CAMP.



A CLOSER LOOK WHILE ANALYZING TO MAKE OUR CUT PLAN.



PERSPECTIVE FOR THE STEEPNESS OF THE TREES.



WE STARTED OUR WORK FROM THE TOP AND DID NOT HAVE ANYONE WORK DOWN BELOW UNTIL WE WERE DONE TOSSING DOWN ROOTS AND ROCKS. WE ARE LEAVING THAT CEDAR BECAUSE IT IS PRESSING DOWN ON THE DETACHED BASE OF THE "SMALLER" TREE (WHICH CAN'T BE SEEN IN THIS PICTURE BUT THE TWO CROSSING LOGS ARE PRESSING DOWN ON IT AND PINNING IT).



PASSING A STRAP UNDER A LARGE ROOT SO WE COULD CLEAN IT OFF FOR CUTTING.



THIS PICTURE SHOWS THAT MANY ROOTS HAVE BEEN CUT OFF ALREADY – THE TEAM IS CAREFULLY WORKING ON THE LARGEST ONE. WE ARE ONLY CUTTING ROOTS THAT HAVE AIR UNDER THEM – LEAVING ALL ROOTS THAT HAVE ANY ATTACHMENT TO THE GROUND.



FEEDING THE STRAP UNDER THE ROOT.



“FLOSSING” THE UNDERSIDE OF THE ROOT TO CLEAN OFF THE DIRT AND ROCKS.



STARTING WORK DOWN BELOW. REMOVING THE LARGE ROOT MASSES THAT CAME DOWN FROM ABOVE.



CUTTING AND MOVING A LOG THAT WAS RIGHT NEXT TO THE TREE.



CLEANING OUT THE TREE AND EMBEDDED BRANCH (ROOT?) AND ROCKS THAT WERE BETWEEN THE TREES.



STARTING THE DEBARKING OF THE TREES.



SCORING THE BARK TO MAKE IT EASIER TO REMOVE. GOOD ESCAPE ROUTE CLEARED OUT SO IT'S READY FOR CUT DAY.