

## Trail Report Summary August 2023

### **Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State and Jamestown Tribe**

Jim and Donna worked July 15th and Jim and Rick worked July 30th at Layton Hill on DNR land, trying to make the new trail connections that are desired for the Prize Ride. That was the total of July's trail work.

### **Bill Mueller, OAT Trail (Thursday Trail Crew) and NOLT:**

*Trail reports for June for ODT/OAT:*

6/15; OAT MP9

9 volunteers working doing tread widening and repair, replacing gravel and addressing drainage issues on about 1/2 mile of the OAT.

6/22; OAT MP9

6 volunteers continued widening, drainage repair, replacing gravel. New project was installing a culvert along an ATV/vehicle access trail where the OAT crosses. Again about 1/2 mile worked on.

6/29; OAT MP8/9

7 volunteers continuing on widening, drainage repair, replacing gravel. About 1/2 mile addressed.

*Trail reports for June for NOLT:*

NOLT is continuing on new trail construction on a 40-acre property along the Calawah River in Forks. Although the trail is pedestrian only, as a BCH partner, BCH folks are donating time to build this trail. Other NOLT properties do have stock trail systems open for riding which BCHW-PC helps with construction and maintenance.

June 10 and July 1 continued new trail construction which I attended and in the meantime, July 8 saw another work party there again working on the trail.

More work parties are planned to finish this trail.

*Trail report for July – NOLT:*

During July there were three work parties on the Forks trail mentioned above and at this point, the trail is roughed in and somewhat passable. Finish work needs to be done yet before the trail will be officially opened. This is a nice example of BCH partnering with other landowners/managers to provide trail systems for public use.

Clallam County is another prime example of a working partner. It provides resources for the Thursday Trail Crew to build and maintain the ODT and OAT.

Thursday Trail Crew was active in July. However, heat caused cancellation of the July 6 workday.

Short summary of the work done follows. Please note that this work is not as exciting or photogenic as the logouts carried out in the backcountry, so no photos attached.

*(editor's note: pictures are not required for us to know how critical and amazing this frontcountry work is ... on so many levels! The OAT is a world-class, expertly-volunteer-maintained trail used by people from all over; it attracts major events which bring money to our community; it provides joy to hikers, bikers, riders, families, etc; it creates an extremely healthy way for folks to volunteer who can't do or don't want to do those nutso crazy hard backcountry trips AND, this volunteer effort is year-round ... awesome stuff!).*

The current work on the OAT addresses needed deferred maintenance to restore its designed multi-function uses. Not exciting work but much needed to keep our trail system one of the best in the state.

July 13

Eight workers refurbishing the OAT around MP9. Tasks were tread rewidening, outslope reestablishing, drainage repairing and reconstruction. Some brushing also.

July 20

Twelve workers refurbishing the OAT around MP9 again. Tasks were the same as the July 13 work party. More help was present to do the work.

July 27

Ten workers refurbishing the OAT around MP13.5. Again, tasks were the same as the other work parties. Of note was the construction and replacement of a curb log at a switchback turn. A downed cedar log was split lengthwise by our trusty sawyers after being cut to length and then staked in place with cedar posts which were also cut from the smaller diameter section of this cedar log. After back-filling, the turn was again safe and ready for lots of use.

### **Rebecca Wanagel, ONF and ONP**

ONP, Cameron Creek Trail (stock trail), July 12-18 (7 miles cleared of more than 100 logs and tread repaired, plus 3 stock fords reopened).

Please see report attached to the email for this summary.

Next up: Duckabush trail (supposed to be a stock trail), ONP (mile 6.5 to however far we get). This will happen August 12-19.

ONF, Slab Camp Trail (stock trail), July 10 (stock blocking tree removed).

Gray Wolf Crew led by David Graves, please see attached report.

ONF, Lower Dungeness / Gold Creek (stock trail), July 19

Gray Wolf Crew led by Mike Bonomo

Logout of a short but major blowdown of small to medium sized alders and cedars.

ONF, Lower Dungeness (stock trail), July 26

Gray Wolf Crew led by Mike Bonomo.

Cut out blocking tree at the base of 3 O'Clock Ridge. Cleared 2 more trees at the top of the trail. Worked on 3 washed out sections of the perpetually problematic slide area.

ONF, Lower Dungeness, analysis and planning for failing puncheon, August 4.

Mike Bonomo

Mike and Sue Bonomo went back to the Lower Dungeness to do a thorough scout and analysis of a dangerous puncheon that has failed. This is Mike's report with some light editing for clarity:

*WTA built a puncheon a few years back. The spot is a seep. It's a little drier now, but the land on the river side is still moving, it's now about a 70 degree down angle. The soil that the middle sill was in has moved down to the river. That*

*section of the puncheon has dropped about 24". It will fail completely this winter or before. For sure when the seep gets heavy with water again from snow run off or heavy rain.*

*This puncheon needs to be replaced by a 2-silled bridge. There are a lot of large doug fir trees in the area. Falling 2 or 3 for stringers and sills and decking <would be necessary>. Cut into 3 stringers 36" x 70' long. The rest of the logs can be cut (5'x 5") using the Alaskan saw mill on site.*

*Going <rerouting> up an over this failing site will run into more water problems, seasonal water flow causing more problems to fix. By bridging over the seep, it allows the soil to move under the bridged area. That makes it the more sustainable solution.*

*Needed: spikes to nail decking and rebar to pin sill to stringers, stock support to bring in gear, and a class C faller to drop a few trees.*

*I would also recommend keeping an eye on it. If the sills fail completely and drop more it would be best to pull it <the puncheon> out so bikers and hikers and riders don't try to use it. It would be dangerous if this failed with a person or stock animal on it.*

*(editor's note: I cannot tell you how much I appreciate Mike having his eye, knowledge and expertise on this dangerous issue. I 100% trust in his analysis and plan and will be working with him to implement this).*