

**Monthly Trail Report for the Board and Membership
September 2024**

Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State

Our trail crews have been focused on the Robin Hill trail this past month. The trail was roughed in with a small bulldozer, then an excavator was used to improve the tread. Turnpike was built in the wet areas and three culverts were placed. A skidsteer was rented to move rock and gravel to fill the turnpike areas. One day was spent on tread building and at least 2 more days will be needed for that type of work. One more day is also scheduled for moving gravel with a small tractor to complete the turnpike. We have had consistent positive comments about the new trail from users we have met at the park while we have been working. The county has bought the gravel and paid for rental of equipment. We anticipate that the new trail will be ready to use by the end of September and will be a nice addition for equestrians at Robin Hill.

The only work done at Miller Peninsula was cutting out a log on the beach trail on Sunday, September 1st. We drove down Fireweed Road, then hiked into the offending tree and removed it.

Bill Mueller, OAT Trail (Thursday Trail Crew) and NOLT

The Thursday trail crew has spent the last month working/preparing for replacing the failed bridge over Whiskey Creek. The work involved "dirt work" on both sides of the creek at the placement location on Whiskey Creek. On both sides, the approaching trail reroute involved grade changing and installation of new switchbacks and/or climbing turns to accommodate multiple users including stock. Lots of engineering went into the east side switchbacks to minimize the west-to-east steep climb out of the creek drainage. Continued prep work included transporting all the bridge parts to the site manually. (The bridge was designed in three 30-foot sections to be assembled on site.) Then members of the Thursday crew who were able to work on other days than just Thursday began putting the giant "erector set" bridge together. Then for the last two weeks, the Thursday crew finished up the bridge and the approaches to it. The old horse crossing at that location was decommissioned as was the old trail access to the failed bridge. As of Thursday, September 5, the bridge is now finished and the trail is open for all to use.

Effort as specified by Jeff Ralston, Thursday crew leader:
Hours of volunteer and Jeff (paid staff) on...

switchback/approaches: 376
bridge construction: 827

Total: 1203

Next week it is "back to normal" Thursday trail crew work.



The completed bridge.

Rebecca Wanagel, ONF and ONP

OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST

Lower Dungeness:

As mentioned in the last report, a WTA crew under Charlie Romine did do three days to work on two separate short puncheon replacements. They made great progress. The project is not done, but Charlie is able to put 2 more days of crews on the project this month. After that, the Gray Wolf Crew will go in to do some finalizing of the work thus far. There is much more to do in terms of how many feet of rotten puncheon need to be replaced or converted, but we don't want to get too far into dismantling the next one with the rainy season around the corner.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

August 23-30, Upper Duckabush and Home Sweet Home Trails, 8-day backcountry trip.

This was a fabulous, stock-supported trip for which I have a report written. It is attached.

Please remember that we have a website and anyone can sign up for Gray Wolf Trail Crew work crews through the link on this site. All members of BCH and GWTC are welcome on these crews – and new folks are always encouraged so please spread the word. The backcountry crews are posted way in advance and the day crews are posted more sporadically, as necessary, throughout the year.

www.graywolftrailcrew.org
info@graywolftrailcrew.org