

**Monthly Trail Report for the Board and Membership
February 2025**

Jim and Donna Hollatz, DNR and State

Trail Report for January 15 - February 6th:

January 18: Jim and Donna Hollatz and Judy Dupree trailered their horses to the Miller entrance off Burling Road. They took a pack horse with a chainsaw and rode Manzanita to the west end of the Bluff Trail where a 20" fir tree had uprooted and fallen across the trail. Jim cut that out and the women moved the log pieces off the trail. They continued to ride the entire Bluff Trail to the kiosk on Fireweed Road, then they rode Alder Hollow to remove an alder that had been reported across the trail. They rode back to the trailers via Yarrow Trail to be sure there were no obstacles across that route.

January 24: Tom Mix had been checking on the new trail that we built at Robin Hill County Park. (It was finished November 2024). He found some areas that are muddy, so on January 24, Tom, Jim, and Donna went in to begin building a turnpike to mitigate the wet spot. Jim harvested 2 cedar logs, limbed them, and then he and Tom used a power winch to move the logs into position and stake them in place. They measured the distances so Tom could plan the amount of gravel that would be needed. They will put down landscape cloth, cover that with about 6" of drain rock, cover that with landscape fabric, and then add 4" of 5/8 minus to build a good trail. There are some other spots that will need gravel added this spring, too. It will take a number of work parties this spring to get the trails in top shape.

There will be ongoing rides at Miller to remove trees as they fall across the trails. We have established communication with a couple of avid trail users at Miller who are sending us good reconnaissance, which makes it much easier to plan our trail work trips.

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

The Thursday crew was busy in January on the ODT mostly and then one day on the OAT. Details on the work follows.

****January 2**

ODT around MP11. Clearing corridor back to original spec. Work includes brushing back sides and edges, limbing low hanging branches, felling hazardous and/or encroaching trees, cleaning up the debris, and chipping woody material. Chips were sent out away from the trail. Noisy work near the chipper.

13 volunteers; 78 work hours plus drive time.

****January 9**

ODT around MP11. Same work as on January 2.

18 volunteers; 108 work hours plus drive time.

****January 16**

ODT around MP14. More of the same restoring the ODT to original spec.

16 volunteers; 96 work hours plus drive time.

**January 23

No work; Jeff not available to lead the crew.

**January 30

OAT around MP 17. Restoring the trail through a clear-cut section of logging slash. This was about the worst mess that loggers have left after clear cutting a section of timber. The crew re-established the trail corridor and began digging out wood and slash, digging back down to mineral soil. The original trail location could not be totally identified so some of the work uncovered a bit of the original trail and most of the other work essentially began to establish new trail tread. Needless to say, there is a lot more work to do.

13 volunteers; 78 work hours plus drive time.

Total volunteer work time for January: 360 hours plus drive time.

Thanks to the crew for helping BCHW-PC by donating work hours.

Rebecca Wanagel, ONF and ONP and Saw Program

OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST

January 17, Martin Knowles, Rebecca Wanagel and David Graves went out to tackle a multi-tree blow down on Lower Dungeness trail while Bill and LaVonne Mueller did some fine tread work. The report for that is attached.

January 14, David and Joanne Graves went out to do some work on the Lower Big Quilcene trail. Report for that is also attached.

Some crews are already listed on our website (see below for that address) and many more are pending. A main focus this year will be to finish what we started on Lower Dungeness in terms of puncheon replacement or puncheon to turnpike conversion.

David and Rebecca both attended the annual volunteer leader meeting with the Forest Service personnel in Quilcene on February 7. This is always a beneficial and enjoyable time. We hear a summary of what went on the previous year, catch up on personnel, planning and project status for the Forest Service; and discuss / collaborate on projects for this coming season.

- I gave a short presentation on the remarkable success of the Northwest Youth Corps from last summer (recall they did a 100-foot puncheon to turnpike conversion and I made a special report of that for you in September). We expect to get another NWYC group this summer to help us continue with the Lower Dungeness puncheon conversions and we'll be coordinating with ONF on that. We will also be supporting and training the youth crews, as we did last year.
- I also reported on the success of the saw training event (see below).

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

No on-trail work in the ONP for this period has been done, but lots of planning. Rebecca has been communicating with the land manager to plan where we can most be useful to the ONP this year, both with our backcountry crews and our day crews. Scouts, crews and packers are now being scheduled.

SAW PROGRAM

As mentioned in the last trail report, the first-annual Olympics-based saw training / certification event did happen on Jan 31 / Feb 1. Please see the attached report for a description of that. It was a huge success and now I have other agencies wishing they had also participated. I spread the word far and wide but apparently not quite far and wide enough. I am helping those agencies (Mt. Rose Trail Crew and Evergreen Mtn Bike Alliance) find other training opportunities for now: it is not realistic that I can put on another such event until this time next year.

Please remember the Gray Wolf Trail Crew and BCHW-Peninsula have a solid partnership. Anyone can sign up for a work crew.

***Gray Wolf Trail Crew website:
www.graywolftrailcrew.org***