

**Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
March 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order and conducted via video/phone conferencing.

Members Present: Andy Stevenson (Chair), Gordon Taylor (Vice-Chair), Jennifer Reandeau, Justin Zarzeczny, Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Charile Commeree, Erik Rohrer, Bill Biery, and Jim Mraz.

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works/Road Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)
Bill Peach, Clallam County Commissioner

Guests: Lorrie Mittman, Peninsula Adventure Sports

MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dick Gritman moved and Jim Mraz seconded the approval of the February 2, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passed with none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

Updates and reports were provided by Steve Gray on the following ODT projects located throughout Clallam County:

- County ODT-Forks to La Push Trail Corridor Acquisition between US 101 and Ballard Road along the SR 110 corridor and also the related topographic survey of this planned trail corridor by Western Federal Lands Highway Division currently underway.
- County Road Crew work to move back large rocks to block the unauthorized access around the USFS 070 trail gate (east of the ODT-Camp Creek Trailhead) and also to improve the width of the trail around the gate.
- County Road Crew completed work to excavate a plugged culvert at a location approximately ½-mile west of the where the ODT route crosses US 101 (west of Lake Crescent) and also to remove the rock and mud debris across the trail that occurred as a result of the culvert blockage. The County has visited the site several times to monitor flow through the culvert and to remove additional debris.
- County plans to replace the log stringer bridge at approximately Milepost 2.0 on the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT). The bridge is currently signed for closure to equestrian use, and equestrians are requested to ford the creek. The estimated four day project will involve assistance from Backcountry Horseman and County volunteers to replace the bridge. Chain gang assistance may also be used for certain parts of the project.
- Work on the equestrian bypass trail repair and partial reroute at the Whiskey Creek crossing on the OAT continued in February, with the hope if the weather cooperates to complete the project soon.
- The Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe (JSKT) Railroad Bridge Park Project will extend the bridge about 260 feet to the same level of Nature Center; construct an approximately 140-foot long ODT extension to the new extended bridge; and relocate and expand parking areas to the east

of the Nature Center that will be available to ODT users. When completed, trail users accessing the bridge deck will not have to come up a steep ramp. During construction, the trail section across the bridge will be closed starting sometime in July. The hope is to reopen by Labor Day.

In regards to the JSKT project, Mr. Taylor inquired about signage related to the temporary ODT closure and information on detour routes. Discussion followed with acknowledgement that further coordination between JSKT, Clallam County and PTC on public notice messaging and signage about the closure and detours is needed, including consideration of advanced signage at trailheads and kiosks on the ODT both east and west of Railroad Bridge Park.

Mr. Rohrer noted appreciation for the County effort to move back the large rocks at the USFS 070 gate. He inquired what the reasoning was for widening the trail around the gate due to such widening also makes it easier for ATV's to access the ODT. Mr. Gray noted it was widened to improve accommodations for wheelchair access and bicyclists pulling carts. He also noted that it is difficult to prevent unauthorized ATV access on the ODT because they can get around even trail bollards.

Mr. Gray provided a summary of the planned Clallam County Kugel Creek Culvert Replacement Project on Cooper Ranch Rd near the ODT-Camp Creek Trailhead this summer. The project is a fish passage improvement project with construction anticipated to start in July with site work not impacted by fish construction permit windows starting earlier. ODT users will still be able to access the ODT-Camp Creek Trailhead and related parking area via US 101 and Cooper Ranch Road. However, during construction Cooper Ranch Road will be closed just west of the ODT-Camp Creek Trailhead requiring trail users that want to continue west from the Camp Creek Trailhead to get onto US 101 sooner.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. County Thursday Volunteer Crew Project Reports

The County volunteer crew conducted three work party days in February on the repair and partial reroute of the west-side of the OAT equestrian trail crossing at Whiskey Creek.

2. County Maintenance Reports

Reported highlights of County trail maintenance work included:

- Cleared the plugged culvert and removed related trail debris about ½-mile west of the ODT US 101 crossing (west of Lake Crescent).
- Blew surface debris off several miles of the OAT.
- Hauled rock material from the County Joyce-Piedmont Pit to support the repair and partial reroute of the equestrian trail crossing of Whiskey Creek on the OAT.
- Moss treatment in several ODT segments including Kacee Way to Elwha River, east of Bagley Creek, and between Blyn and Sequim City Limits (east of Whitefeather Way)
- Removed ODT bollard near Kacee Way (before trail drops down towards Elwha Bridge) due to it being vandalized once again. There is no evidence (or complaints received) about unauthorized vehicles, dumping, or tree theft related to the bollard vandalism. The County will be evaluating replacement with a drop-down bollard.

3. Other Trail Maintenance Reports

Mr. Gray thanked Mr. Taylor and PTC's efforts for the new port-a-pot site on the ODT-Kacee Way to Elwha Bridge segment. Mr. Taylor noted that PTC received a call from Bill Plumbing (service provider) regarding trash dumping issues within the port-a-pot unit. He indicated that PTC is going to look at putting a trash can at the location with volunteer pick-up.

Mr. Taylor highlighted PTC volunteer efforts in February related to sweeping the ODT between Fairholm Hill to USFS 2918 Road, Port Angeles to Sequim, and Sequim to Blyn.

Mr. Gray acknowledged efforts of PTC volunteer Randall Washburne and others related to a trail repair on the OAT.

Mr. Gritman noted that Tanner (County Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator) is doing a great job.

DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Meeting length and agenda format.

Discussion was had on establishing a meeting time limit. Time limits considered included none as is currently the case to either 1-hour, 1.5-hours, or 2-hours. Chair Stevenson also referred to the agenda changes to move the Trail Project Update/Reports and Trail Maintenance Reports near the front of the meeting and before the discussion/business items that generally take more time.

Following discussion, Chair Stevenson motioned to set a meeting time limit of 90-minutes that was seconded by Mr. Gleason. The motion passed with all in favor. Based on the motion, the meeting will start at 1:30 pm as normal and end by 3:00 pm.

2. ODT Management/Maintenance By Trail Section—Who Responsible?

Mr. Gray reviewed a document titled: "*Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) and Connecting Roads Responsible Jurisdictions (East to West Direction)—Draft*" that he prepared and that was part of the advanced meeting packet materials. The document addressed who is the responsible jurisdiction by ODT segment from east to west. It also classified the segment type into three categories: 1) Separated Trail, 2) Trail Route on Road, and 3) Connecting Road. The "trail route on road" is where an ODT segment was planned to utilize a road corridor (typically low traffic volume) with in most cases no plan in the foreseeable future to move the trail route off the road. Connecting roads are those roads (typically on state highways) that connect current ODT "separated trail" or "trail route on road" sections where the ultimate plan would be to develop a trail route off these connecting roads.

Chair Stevenson appreciated the information and believes it is accurate. He recommended that a next-step would be to provide contact information for the public. Mr. Taylor noted that in his role with PTC he has a list of jurisdictional contacts that he calls when PTC receives a report that PTC volunteers cannot address. Chair Stevenson indicated that a list for the public with one or several contacts may be helpful and recommended the TAC discuss more at a future meeting.

3. State Timber Harvest Sale on OAT between Milepost 4 and 6

Mr. Zarzeczny reported that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will offer a commercial thinning sale this summer that will require closure of a section of the OAT when harvesting begins (as early as Fall 2022). He noted that the DNR I-1000 (aka Karpen Road) gravel forest access road will serve as the OAT detour around the harvesting operation when harvesting begins. The DNR is planning to put language in the contract to expedite work in the area of the OAT to minimize time of closure. Mr. Gray indicated he will email a general map of the impacted trail area to TAC members.

Chair Stevenson inquired about the chances that the commercial thinning operation could leave the trail corridor clear. He also asked for an update of reopening the current OAT segment closure related to timber harvest on DNR managed forest lands in the Whiskey Creek area.

In terms of the upcoming commercial timber sale, Mr. Zarzeczny indicated that the operator will need to drive across the impacted trail corridor to access the timber, but that DNR plans to have a contract clause for the operator to clear out the corridor when completed. In regards to the current timber operation in the Whiskey Creek area, he indicated the harvest activities in the areas that directly impact the OAT are mostly done, but that the area remains too wet to start trail tread and rebuild work. DNR will request the operator can address trail corridor when conditions allow prior to other work in the harvest area, with the hope to get it reopened sometime this summer.

Mr. Taylor inquired whether the pending timber sale on the OAT would impact the GOAT Run event held in September. Mr. Zarzeczny responded that it is unknown at this time when harvest activities and related trail segment closure will begin, but that it is possible it could be in progress. However, he restated that there is an easy detour around the sale area using the nearby DNR I-1000 road. Lorrie Mittman whose company Peninsula Adventure Sports manages the GOAT Run indicated she is aware of the timber sale and concurred that the reroute will work and at this time sees no major impacts to the event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Taylor moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.