

BCHW, Peninsula and Buckhorn Chapters

Project location: Olympic National Park Mule Corral

October 29-30, 2025

Report done by: Rebecca Wanagel



BCHW Volunteers

Rebecca Wanagel	Kris Lenke
Martin Knowles	Jen Bond
Leif Hoglund	Lillian Bond
Penny Aronson	Donna Hollatz
Larry Sammons	Karma Krelle
Helen Shewman	Heather Hamilton
Hannah Jones	Jeff Chapman

Person who made this project happen: Tom Mix

Quick Stats
Volunteer hours: 71
Hours including travel time: 106

THE PROJECT

Due to the government shutdown and resulting furlough of four out of the five Olympic National Park packers, Heidi Brill, lead packer, was tasked with the annual shut down of the corral and the tending and moving of all the mules to their winter pastures. Normally the five packers would be working on this together.

Tom Mix asked if BCHW could help. He ended up going to the superintendent to get special permission for this because the ONP is not currently allowing any volunteers during the shutdown.

Once the word was put out, 14 volunteers signed on. That resulted in an amazing amount of corral seasonal shut-down work being done in two days.

While Heidi was taking off shoes, trimming hooves and moving dozens of mules to Jamestown and other pastures, BCHW volunteers did the following tasks:

- Clean and oil tools
- Scrape the mud field inside mule fence with the tractor
- Move hay, clean out semi
- Clean and oil tack
- Patch all the manties
- Retrieve mule string warning signs from bypasses
- Move, clean, dry and restack stainless steel bear and plastic gear boxes
- Relocate wooden gear boxes
- Remove shades
- Clean and winterize chainsaws







Follow-up note from Tom:

I just got a call from Heidi saying how much she appreciated all the help. She was very impressed with what all got done and that folks had fun and worked safely. She said that 24 mules are on their winter pasture on Jamestown road, 4 are on Cameron's place and that she has 2 at her place. One with Cushings that will be recovering over the winter.

She said that the only thing remaining is the shade cover and some fencing (Rebecca's note: I told Heidi to text me when she's ready for this last task).

Heidi said she met several new faces and really appreciated all our efforts to help her and the mules.

I want to thank all those who put their normal lives on hold to help out. It was short notice and we got a huge amount of work done.

Thank you.