

# OLYMPIC DISCOVERY TRAIL

## SOUTH DISCOVERY BAY

In September, 2017, the Public Works Department completed construction of the long-awaited segment of the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) at the head of Discovery Bay. This 3/4 –mile long trail segment runs from Salmon Creek to Old Gardiner Road along US Highway 101.

The ODT is planned to run 126 miles from Port Townsend to the Olympic coastline near LaPush. It is a multi-jurisdictional project that has been under development for over two decades and spans Jefferson County, Clallam County, Sequim, Port Angeles, and parts of Olympic National Park at Lake Crescent.

Approximately half of the new Discovery Bay segment follows old railroad grade behind the familiar railroad cars seen from Highway 101. The trail then parallels the Highway as it heads northwards on a new trail surface that was constructed on sloping road embankment. The trail has a 10-foot wide paved surface with 2-foot gravel shoulders and grades not exceeding 5%, making it accessible for



The ODT South Discovery Bay construction was particularly complex because of the topography, the narrow right of way available for the trail, and the proximity to water.

all users. Project elements included constructing a soldier-pile wall; installing a welded-wire mesh-faced retaining wall; geosynthetic reinforced earth slope; culvert extension and new fish-passage culvert; removing invasive weeds and replanting with native species; and, filling, grading and asphaltting the trail route.

This newest trail segment provides a wonderful opportunity to view Discovery Bay and the recent shoreline restoration projects completed by the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC). Interpretive sign panels installed by NOSC describe wildlife, ecology and history associated with the area.



A bicycling family uses the new trail that provides views of Discovery Bay, rolling hills and local wildlife.

The project was funded by the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) through its Recreational Resource Grant program and its Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA). Interwest Construction Inc. (ICI) of Burlington, WA bid the project construction for \$987,654.

## OLYMPIC DISCOVERY TRAIL SOUTH DISCOVERY BAY

This trail project was successful because of the cooperation of many partners, including WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC), the Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) and the Peninsula Trails Coalition, who donated \$50,000 to this project.

In Jefferson County, other completed sections of the ODT include the 7.7-mile Larry Scott Trail. Jefferson County was recently awarded a \$1 million appropriation by the state of Washington for further planning, acquisition, and development of the ODT between Discovery Bay and the terminus of the Larry Scott Trail.

In Clallam County, the ODT has been completed from Blyn to the Elwha River passing through Sequim and Port Angeles. Other sections west of Lake Crescent have also recently been finished. A section located on the Spruce Railroad Trail on the north bank of Lake Crescent is complete including reopening of one of the original tunnels. The Olympic Discovery Trail is also part of a larger Congressionally designated National Scenic Trail known as the Pacific Northwest Trail that begins in Montana. Maps and information about the Olympic Discovery Trail are available at the website <http://olympicdiscoverytrail.org>

The Public Works Department is responsible for all aspects of trail development in Jefferson County, including route planning, funding strategies, consultant management, construction management, and maintenance of the Olympic Discovery Trail and the Larry Scott Trail. We appreciate your interest. Please direct questions about the Olympic Discovery Trail in Jefferson County to the Public Works Department at (360) 385-9160 or email [ODT@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:ODT@co.jefferson.wa.us).



Interpretive sign panels along the trail describe wildlife, ecology and history associated with the area.



A soldier pile wall was constructed along a steep grade to allow room for the trail.