PATHS TO THE FUTURE

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

EXPLORE THE OLYMPIC DENINSULA

Visit a dozen sites from Port Townsend to Forks, where trains once steamed and whistled, bursting with timber, freight, and passengers. Now the proud history of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad (Milwaukee Road) is part of the 130-mile Olympic Discovery Trail. You can walk or cycle these routes through one of the most beautiful natural areas in the country. Discover their fascinating past and imagine the paths to the future.



DUNGENESS RIVER BRIDGE

Built by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway, the bridge first carried trains in July, 1915.

Cover: Dungeness River Railroad Bridge, 2015; Photo: Margie Palmer



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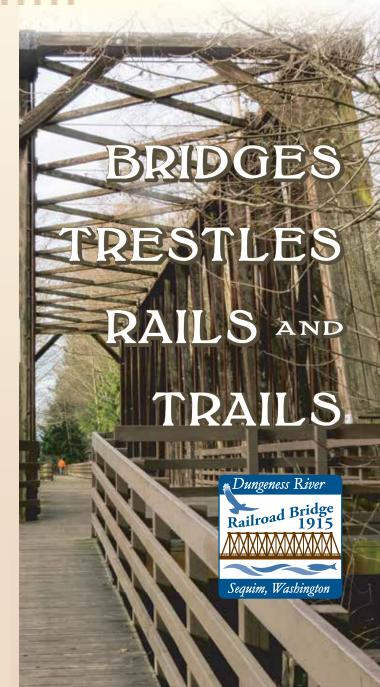
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society www.olympicpeninsulaaudubon.org

Dungeness River Nature Center





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IN ITS HEYDAY...

the Milwaukee Road carried both freight and passengers. It transported logs from Twin Rivers, Elwha and Joyce; manganese from the Crescent mine; manufactured product from Port Angeles; lumber from Carlsborg; and manufactured and farm products from Sequim. In 1924 alone, 2.149 carloads were moved eastward!



Courtesy of the Clallam County Historical Society

FOR ABOUT 70 YEARS ...

the Milwaukee Road continued its North Olympic Peninsula route by barge from Port Townsend to Seattle. For most of this period, the Railroad owned two barges and a tugboat. They made five round trips per week to Seattle, where the trains could rejoin the main line. The tug, which served Bellingham and Winslow, as well as Port Townsend, logged over a million miles in Puget Sound.

1890s

The first of hundreds of miles of North Olympic Peninsula railroad tracks were laid. Many were short rail lines for timber harvests. Railroads enabled loggers to reach deeper into the forests.

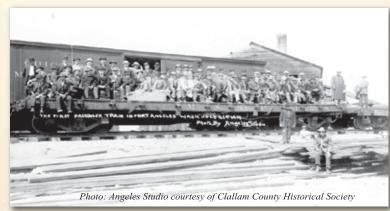


Diane Foss and Foss 118 departing Port Townsend, Last Barge March 29, 1985.

Photo: John Illman, courtesy of the Seattle and North Coast Railroad Historical and Technical Society.

1914–1915

Passenger service began across the North Olympic Peninsula. The coming of the railroad provided a major boost to the development of areas along its corridor.



1918

Celebration of the first passenger train in Port Angeles, Washington, July 21, 1914.

The end of World War I also signaled the end of the U.S. Army's forestry efforts on the Peninsula. In 1917, Lt. Colonel Brice P. Disque had been given command of the Army's Spruce Production Division with the charge of supplying adequate Sitka spruce for Allied aircraft production. At its Clallam County site, plans

called for building 175 miles of railroad, and 2 sawmills, employing 6,000 men in 20 logging camps. Only 36 miles of the Spruce Railroad No. 1 were built before the War ended, and not in time for war production. However, the Division's work stimulated spruce and other lumber production in the following decades, and now the railroad bed is the site of a beautiful lakeside trail.



U. S. Spruce Division. Log train at Joyce, 1917.

Photo: Bert Kellogg Collection of the North Olympic Library System

1931

Passenger rail service was discontinued.

Track removal began.

Milwaukee Road timetable from 1920 shows service from Seattle and Port Townsend, then westward across the Peninsula. It includes early railroad stops, indicated in gray on the map portion of this brochure.

Timetable courtesy of the Joyce Depot Museum.

1988

The Peninsula Trails
Coalitions began plans
to use the abandoned
railroad corridor to
create the Olympic
Discovery Trail from
Port Townsend
to La Push.

1990

The Dungeness Railroad Bridge was purchased for recreational trail use. Many acquisitions followed.

2015

100th Anniversary of the Dungeness Railroad Bridge.



