## Olympic Project Headquarters

## Trackway Find August 25, 2023



August $24^{\text {th }}$ through August $27^{\text {th }}, 2023$, Kirk Brandenburg and John Ray hosted a BFRO expedition upon the Olympic Project property. Approximately 30 individuals participated in the expedition with Shane Corson, Larry Turner, and Chris Spencer of the Olympic Project present as well.

The first night of the expedition, Thursday the $24^{\text {th }}$, multiple groups went for night walks on state land adjacent to the Olympic Project property. One group travelled to a clear-cut east of the property around 10 p.m., where a participant played bag pipes while in the clear cut as well as multiple times while the group walked back to the property on the Olympic Discovery Trail.

Around the same time this was occurring Shane Corson was in a tree stand on the east side of the O.P. property with a thermal imager. He would report later that night he possibly heard several wood knocks nearby but because of thick vegetation even from a vantage point of height was unable to see anything.

Sometime between 11:00 p.m. and midnight it was reported by several participants camping on the edge of the O.P. property that they heard multiple branch breaks and heavy movement directly north of them behind the O.P. main building. It is believed the trackway was made at this time.


Drawing By Chris Spencer

On August $25^{\text {th }}$ Shane Corson and Chris Spencer decided to place game cameras in the woods and scout for a better vantage point to use the tree stand that night. While traversing the thick woods they noticed a fresh disturbance of dirt next to an old growth stump. Both assumed it to be bear activity, until moments later Chris discovered what would be track number 2. This was approximately 1:45pm.

After scouting the area eight tracks total were discovered, all approximately the same size ( 14 " $\times 7$ ") heading in the same direction, South, towards the O.P. property. BFRO members Tim Lund, Shane Johnson, and several others helped scout the area for more tracks, finding several ambiguous tracks both North and South of the more definitive tracks.

All the tracks found by Chris Spencer and Shane Corson were documented with photographs and videos. Five of the tracks were 3D scanned and cast. The $8^{\text {th }}$ track would be 3D scanned and cast nine days later by Chris Spencer.

On August $26^{\text {th }}$ the trackway was measured and plotted with the help of Archeologist David Grant. After measuring the position and taking compass bearings the cast tracks were removed from the ground.

Below are pictures taken from the site map drawn by Chris Spencer followed by descriptions and pictures of each individual track.



## Track 1

Track 1 can be described best as a fern crush measuring approximately $14^{\prime \prime}$ long and $7.5^{\prime \prime}$ at its widest point. It was approximately $9^{\prime}$ from track 2 bearing 220 degrees Southwest. In relation to the horizontal plane (level) the front of the foot was angled 4 degrees up. The ground around it was thickly covered with ferns and deadfall tree debris.

A more diligent search would have no doubt found the tracks between track 1 and track 2 but it's believed the track maker was not stepping with speed at that point in time, making tracks much harder to find if they were discernable at all.


Photo by Chris Spencer

## Track 2

Track 2 was the first track found by Chris Spencer. It was punched into the fir needles approximately 1" with possible toe detail. The track damage to the ground measured 14 " long and $7.5^{\prime \prime}$ at its widest point. From heel of track 2 to heel of track 3 was 35 ".

The track was a right foot bearing 164 degrees Southeast stepping around a tree to track 3 . It should be noted that all the tracks scanned including this track showed more weight being placed at the front of the foot. In relation to the horizontal plane (level) the front of the foot was angled 5 degrees up.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by David Grant

Above Chris Spencer and Shane Corson pull track 2 with Shane Johnson photographing. Track 3 cast is visible as well.

While casting the casting material was mixed too thin and spilled out one side of the track. The track cast itself is not as impressive as the videos and scans but at least one toe is visible.


Photo By Chris Spencer


Photo By Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer

## Track 3

Track 3 was up close to a tree. The tree was examined for hairs, and none were found.
Though a messy track it shows a clear flexible dynamic foot with four of the small toes visible in the cast.
Cliff Barackman pointed out the large toe of the foot was flexed upwards, and the casting material did catch some of the toe stems on the four digits in the cast.

Unfortunately, the 3D scans were less than telling. The camera had troubles with the lighting. But they do reveal much of the weight being placed once again on the front of the foot.

This was a left foot with the ground damage measuring $14^{\prime \prime}$ long and $8^{\prime \prime}$ at its widest. From heel of track 3 to heel of track 4 was $42^{\prime \prime}$. The track was bearing 210 degrees Southwest. In relation to the horizontal plane (level) the front of the foot was angled 6 degrees down.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by David Grant. Chris Spencer and Shane Corson lifting Track 3.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by David Grant, Chris Spencer with cast tracks 2, 3, and 4 visible.


Photo by David Grant. Chris Spencer and Shane Corson examining Track 3.

## Track 4

Track 4 was a right foot bearing 172 degrees Southwest. The ground damage measured $14^{\prime \prime}$ long and $7.5^{\prime \prime}$ at its widest point. From heel of track 4 to heel of track 5 was $38^{\prime \prime}$. The track was compressed $1^{\prime \prime}$ to $1.5^{\prime \prime}$ into the ground. In relation to the horizontal plane (level) the front of the foot was 2 degrees down.

There are visible toes in both the photos and the cast. Cliff Barackman, when examining the cast pointed out the larger toe compressed over a small piece of wood causing the toes fatty tissue to accommodate to either side of the wood.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer
Looking West
from East of
Track 4
色

Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by David Grant. Chris Spencer and Shane Corson Pulling track 4.


Photo by David Grant. Chris Spencer examining track 4.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer
Looking at the large toe, a rounded "canal" runs through it. This is where a piece of wood had been that the tissue of the large toe moved to either side of as the track maker stepped down indicative of a foot with fatty tissue rather than artificial material from a cut out "stomper".


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer
Above detail from the side of the foot and small toe are visible. The casting material filled the large void in the strata that the small toe had punched into giving the toe the impression of being larger in size than it was. It is evidence of the damage to the ground not the actual foot captured in the track casts.

## Track 5

Track 5, like track 1, was more of a fern crush. More time should have been taken with it. Only photos and video were taken of this track. The heel is visibly defined by the freshly crushed fern though.

The track measured approximately 14 " long and $7.5^{\prime \prime}$ at its widest point. Track 5 was bearing 155 degrees Southeast and was approximately 27 ' feet from track 6 . In relation to the horizontal plane (level) the track sat 0 degrees or level.

From center of track 5 to center of the "Dirt Disturbance" was 16 ' feet. After finding the tracks the dirt disturbance originally found was neglected. More time photographing it should have been done but was not. It is however believed now to be related to the track makers' movements through the area.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer

## Track 6

Track 6 partially hit an old root from the old growth stump creating more of a sliding damage to the ground.

The track was 14 " long and 8 " at its widest point while bearing 215 degrees Southwest. In relation to the horizontal plane (level) the front of the foot was angled 38 degrees down. From heel of track 6 to heel of track 7 was 46 ".

The 3D scans once again show a flexible foot with more weight placed on the front of the foot.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer



Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by David Grant


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by David Grant

## Track 7

Track 7 was the most heavily impressed track at $2.5^{\prime \prime}$ deep. The step length from track 6 being 46 " would indicate a larger step and quick movement putting more weight into this track than the others.

The track damage to the ground was $14.5^{\prime \prime}$ long and 8 " at its widest point. The toes curled around a branch on the ground and pushed the branch deep into the impression. Unfortunately, while measuring the track Chris Spencer stepped upon the branch outside of the track popping it up and disturbing some of the details in the track.

The track was bearing 196 degrees Southwest. In relation to the horizontal plane (level) the front of the foot was angled 7 degrees down. From heel of track 7 to heel of track 8 was $38^{\prime \prime}$.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Shane Corson


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer

## Track 8

Track 8 was originally thought to be more of a fern crush like track 1 and track 5. Upon reviewing photographs of the track Chris Spencer determined it should have been scanned and cast. This was done nine days later and though there had been some weather the thick canopy of firs kept the track well protected.

Track 8 was 14 " long and $8^{\prime \prime}$ at its widest point. This track was moving into heavier fern and deadfall tree cover bearing 230 degrees Southwest.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Todd Hale. Chris Spencer and Eli Watson casting Track 8.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Chris Spencer
Upon inspection by Cliff Barackman three small toes could be felt near the branch at the top of the cast indicating this was most likely a left foot.


Photo by Chris Spencer

## Dirt Disturbance

The dirt disturbance initially found was neglected after finding the tracks. All attention and focus went into the tracks. A more thorough inspection of the disturbance should have been done. Pictures were pulled from one of the many videos made by Chris Spencer.

The disturbance was approximately $2^{\prime} \times 3^{\prime}$ and consisted of fresh dirt pushed down from the base of the old growth stump.


Photo by Chris Spencer. Tim Lund filming track 6.


Photo by Chris Spencer


Photo by Shane Corson looking North from track 8 to Larry Turner at track 1.


Photo by Chris Spencer. Looking South at track 1. The orange flags indicate tracks with the blue flag marking the dirt disturbance.


Photo by Chris Spencer. Looking South with tracks 2, 3, 4,5, and 6 flags visible,


Photo by Chris Spencer. Looking South towards tracks 6, 7, and 8. Track 8 is just right of the water jug.

## Conclusions

It is my opinion (Chris Spencer) the trackway was created by a bipedal animal of considerable weight, moving through an area it possibly felt exposed to observation. The depth of the tracks was something unattainable by any human present at the time without some form of mechanical help.

Tracks 2 through 5 indicate the track maker moving quickly, therefore causing more damage to the ground. I believe after track 5 the track maker either slowed down considerably or walked upon the log that runs to the old growth stump where the dirt disturbance occurs. The track maker then moved slowly to the point of track 6 where it launched itself again seeking the cover of the large deadfall trees just past track 8. In short, the tracks found were the result of the animal moving very quickly, putting its full weight into the ground.

The size, shape variations, and depth of the tracks indicates a sizable animal with a living flexible foot damaging the ground as it moved quickly from heavy vine maple cover to thicker fir tree deadfalls.

Tracks 3 and 4 both are the best examples of a living foot damaging the ground differently with each step. Track 3 shows clear toes being splayed much like other non-human primate tracks. Track 4 shows a large toe with fatty tissue capable of absorbing the different ground materials it meets. None of these characteristics are conducive to an artificially made "stomper" making these tracks. These tracks were made with dynamic feet changing and moving with the strata they encountered.

The human activity, specifically bag pipes being played, in the area most likely created some curiosity bringing the animal in closer to investigate.

The reports of possible knocking as well as branch breaking, and heavy movement support the probability of a large animal moving in thick cover where the tracks were found. No lights or headlamps were reported seen when the movement in the area was heard. Whoever made the tracks moved through thick cover in complete darkness.

It should be noted that three months prior to this, Cliff Barackman found several track impressions behind one of the buildings on the property matching the dimensions of these tracks.
The 14 " $\times 7$ " dimensions would indicate a mature female or immature male Sasquatch if these are Sasquatch tracks.

They are not ungulate tracks nor are they double step bear tracks. They are from a bipedal animal of considerable weight as stated above. The shape and size are consistent with tracks attributed to Sasquatch.

There were no claw indentions or any indication of claws in any of the tracks. All the cast tracks show some form of toe detail and heel detail consistent with a primate foot of some kind. Shape and size alone exclude these from being bear, canine, feline, and/or ungulate. They are primate in character walking bipedally.

When all forms of documentation are viewed (video, 3D scans, photographs, and the track casts themselves) it becomes overwhelmingly apparent these were not created by a human foot or some form of fake cut outs. Each track is different showing a flexible articulating foot of great size moving through the forest.

The O.P. property has a long history of Sasquatch activity near it including sightings, suspect vocalizations, and track impressions.


