

On Thursday January 27, eight FOSM volunteers were joined by Kerry Wood, Cibola Trails & Wilderness Manager, and Russell Berman, SRD Trails Foreman, just off Forest Loop Road in the Placitas Area Trail System. The Forest Service plans to work with volunteer groups to expand and formalize the trail system by building sustainable, culturally cleared trails, some of which will replace less sustainable social trails throughout the area. FOSM's task on Thursday was to realign a short section of the North by Northwest (NXNW) Trail #251, close off/rehabilitate the old section, and begin building new trail as part of the expanded system. Temps, topography and soil conditions were ideal (except for one spot...), and the crew made fast progress.

The volunteers were Jenny Blackmore, Sim Cook, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Jim Houle, Steve Roholt, Eric Russell and Cleve Sharp.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore.



A bit chilly in the morning as the new tread takes shape.



While the crew relocates the start of Trail #251, Kerry digs a hole to replant the sign.



The new tread will get “ridden in” quickly.



While the crew relocates the trail, Sim digs a hole to relocate a plant (closing off the old trail).



Newly-minted FOSM member Luis C. is sure to get “broken in” quickly... since he already works with PATA!



Byron tackles one section of frozen turf



Kerry takes his turn



Nice views in both directions, and nice easy digging. We could get spoiled here...