

On Thursday May 12th, after a 20-week winter/spring “break” in Placitas, fourteen FOSM volunteers returned to the East Sandias to continue work on the Wagon Trail extension. SRD Trails Foreman Russell Berman joined periodically, splitting his time between the FOSM crew and the SRD trail crew (clearing corridor to prepare for an AMBA Saturday volunteer work day two days later at the northwest end of the extension, where it will meet the Sulphur Trail). Half of the FOSM crew focused on some finish-work where we left off in December, just south of where the new extension crosses the drainage/social trail in the Sulphur Canyon Picnic Area. Tasks included widening the tread and reducing the angle of the backslope, both of which involved moving a lot of dirt, rocks, roots and stumps. The other half of the crew continued building new tread north of the drainage... which involved moving a lot of dirt, rocks, roots and stumps. Temps were warm in the sun and pleasant in the shade, with a nice not-too-strong breeze.

The volunteers were Michael Arndt, Jenny Blackmore, Phil Cromer, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Bruce Hansche, Jim Houle, Jeff Huser, Mike Madden, Pat Madden, Steve Roholt, Eric Russell, Cleve Sharp and Roland Stumpf.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore.



Dusty digging is par for the course these days. (Mike)



Masks... they're not just for Covid anymore. (Byron, Jeff)



Luis meets the east mountains sideslope



Pat and Jeff have cleared the duff. Now they're benching in new tread.



Cleve uses his mountaineering skills to cut a safe work stance 😊



Progress! And a root.
(Eric, Russell B)



Roland



Eric, Roland

Everyone has their methods. Note the rock bar at the ready near Eric.
(Spoiler: he'll need it!)



Phil and Steve do finish-work south of the drainage. Michael builds new trail north of the drainage. See the difference...?



Jim goes after a stump
with a pick-mattock



Jim goes after a root
with his double bit axe

(Later Jim goes after a rock in similar fashion with his sledge,
but the photographer misses her opportunity.)



Got it. (Luis, Bruce)



Jim and Bruce and the after shot