

On Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, after receiving special permission to work with manual tools in a location close to the road, eighteen FOSM volunteers returned to work high in the east Sandias. Rocky Point Trail is being extended to connect with the Ellis trailhead, so on Tuesday, Cibola Trails & Wilderness Manager Kerry Wood flagged the line for the extension, and on Wednesday Sam Beard's crew used hand saws to clear corridor for Thursday's tread construction. Construction included plenty of root chopping, and at least two sections where large rocks needed to be removed, rearranged or razed. In flat areas the duff was so deep the leader requested that the crew not dig *all* the way down to the solid soil beneath it, as is the usual practice. Doing so would have left a trench for the tread. In addition to building the new extension, a small contingent used brush to assist Jeff Huser (wearing his Sandia Nordic Ski Club hat) with closing off two short connecting sections on the winter ski loop, until next winter. Temps near the crest were nice and cool for the duration of the work day, which wound up being short; with so many volunteers the work was done by noon.

The volunteers were Michael Arndt, Courtnee Bennett, Claudia Bergsohn, David Bernstein, Jenny Blackmore, Sim Cook, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Bruce Hansche, Jim Houle, Jeff Huser, Pat and Mike Madden, Mike Rahmer, Eric Russell, Cleve Sharp, Roland Stumpf and (not pictured) Ralph Wrons.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore.



Jim and Pat near the beginning/north end of the new extension



Bruce and Courtnee start scraping duff. Eric puts his saw away after a little pruning. (Eric and Byron cleared corridor on Wednesday too.)



Mike M and David ponder what to do through this downhill section

'Best get started! (view looking uphill)

Lots of McLeod work here. Trees are flagged two feet below the downhill edge of the trail.



Cleve



New member Mike Rahmer!



Roland



Luis (and Pat)



Jeff takes the top off a deep-set rock. (Good thing Eric suggested bringing a sledge.)



Mike M takes the top off the duff



Claudia goes after a large root



Sim sets some rocks. Michael and Byron will discover more.



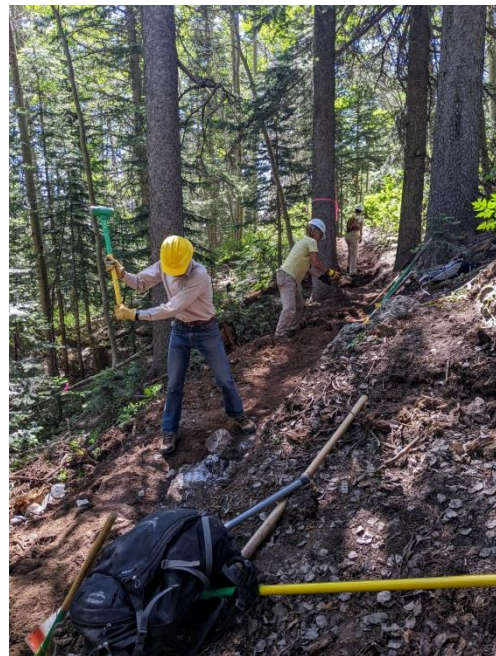
Michael and Sim take turns trying to pry out a rock. Don't bend the digging bar! After another attempt with a heftier rock bar, they decide sledging off the top will be a better tactic.



Michael takes a turn. Claudia keeps at her section.



Bruce takes a turn



Sim takes a turn. Claudia keeps at it.



Like it was never there. The finished section (with Courtnee for scale 😊)



The other rocky section. Before (again) and after.