

On Thursday September 22nd, thirteen FOSM volunteers joined SRD Trails Foreman Joseph Jaffa-Martinez, SRD Trail Crew Lead Lindsay Frensz and SRD crew member Jeff in the vicinity of the Ellis trailhead. The first task was to build an extension to the Switchback Trail. This extension, along with a nearby realignment of the South Crest Trail, had previously been flagged by the SRD, cleared by the FOSM Wednesday crew in July (no small task!), and further cleared and pin-flagged by Russell Berman and Joseph Jaffa-Martinez just prior to trail construction. The extension was short, but rocky in places, with deep duff in other spots.

Once construction was complete, some crew members wrapped up finish-work on the extension while others closed off the old segment, then closed off the old alignment of the Rocky Point Trail (which had been similarly extended in June), before hiking up to begin construction on the Crest Trail reroute. The old segment of the Crest Trail, near its junction with Gravel Pit Trail, was wide and rutted out, with several social trails developing in the vicinity; the new reroute “moves” roughly 450 feet of the trail uphill to a more sustainable alignment. The crew found several rocky spots along the realignment where many hands (and heads) proved helpful. Meanwhile, down at the service road, Joseph relocated the Switchback Trail sign from the old trailhead to the new, before joining the FOSM crew and SRD staff on the Crest Trail. Unfortunately (and amusingly), the arrow on the Switchback sign now points away from the new trail; the arrow was covered with tape as a stopgap measure.

The Crest Trail reroute was nearly finished by lunchtime; the remainder of the workday was spent finishing the new alignment and closing off the old segment. The copious amounts of material left from the July corridor-clearing proved invaluable for trail obliteration. Temps throughout the day were cool and fall-like, with a pleasant breeze, and the aspens near the Crest were starting to turn.

The crew started the work day with a moment of silence for Bob Galloway.

The volunteers were Jenny Blackmore, Don Carnicom, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Bruce Hansche, Jim Houle, Jeff Huser, Mike Madden, Pat Madden, Rav Nicholson, Steve Roholt, Cleve Sharp and Roland Stumpf.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore.

The crew starts on the Switchback extension, clearing debris and raking duff



Byron



Mike



Don starts moving rocks
(Jim, Pat, Roland)



Jim can't resist

Once the new alignment is complete
the crew obliterates the old segment



Steve, Luis



Rav, Steve, Luis



Jeff's finish-work includes
stump removal



Joseph and the relocated
Switchback Trail sign.
What arrow...?

Up on the South Crest Trail reroute, the crew encounters some rocky spots



First this root's gotta go...
(Jim, Mike)



then the top of this rock.
(Jim's favorite activity)

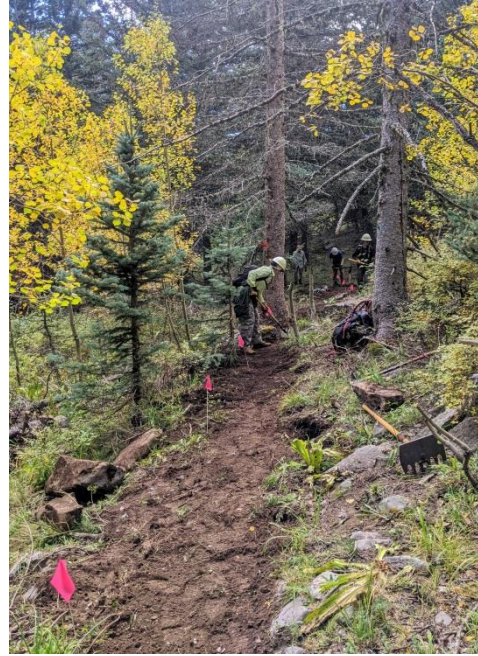


Pat enjoys her solitude

During and after, with the changing aspens



Byron, Rav, Cleve



Rav, Lindsay, Jeff, Don



Look, there's tread under this duff!
Luis, Don, Jim



Cleve, Jeff, Byron: three of
several who took turns
breaking and moving boulders.

One crew member said it was like moving the crest ridge downhill.