

On Thursday March 9, eleven members of the FOSM trail building crew returned to work after a 5-week weather-induced hiatus. However, we did not build any trail. Instead we closed out several social/user trails in the northwest part of the Placitas trail system, under the expert supervision of SRD Trails Foreman Joseph Jaffa-Martinez and Cibola Assistant Trails & Wilderness Manager Russell Berman. Trail closure involved planting prickly pear and cholla cactus, installing several check-dam logs, and pulling debris and rocks onto the tread. Trail Closed signs were also placed near intersections with authorized trails. One of the trails the crew closed was a user trail which ran along a fenceline backing up to several houses. Hopefully the residents will appreciate less trail traffic near their homes. At the end of the day volunteers focused on more fully closing the double-track we had started closing when we built the new reroute of the Sunrise Trail in February. The weather was perfect, temps in the 50's and 60's, mostly sunny and not too windy. Altogether the crew closed over  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of trail! This completes our spring FOSM work in Placitas.

The volunteers were Tayo Basquiat, Jenny Blackmore, John Braly, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Ralph Kopp, Bill Perkins\*\*, Cleve Sharp, Roland Stumpf, Scott Sunde and Ken Wilson

\*\*New to the trail construction crew!!

Photos by Jenny Blackmore



Ken and Bill listen attentively as Joseph discusses log placement for check dams (check dams trap seeds and debris, speeding up the naturalization process)



First you have to get the logs there...



Ladies and gentlemen... Bill Perkins!



Tayo plants a cactus, then a log



Talk about putting from the rough!  
Ralph and Roland harvest cactus  
for replanting.



Luis's prickly pear heads to  
its new home



Scott tucks his in with soil



Ken uses the boot method



Cleve and Bill plant their umpteenth



Roland and Byron make it disappear



Criss-crossing user trails = plenty of work in this spot. Rocks come in handy.



Mole Man! John opts for the “assembly line” method, and spends his day digging holes for cactus.



Still digging... The crew rounds out the day by completing the trail closure we started last month.



A different sort of before and after, for a different sort of work