

On Thursday April 6 ten FOSM volunteers, along with SRD Trails Foreman Joseph Jaffa-Martinez and SRD Trail Crew member Jeff Cervantes, returned to the South Crest Trail, this time near the junction with the Faulty Trail. Like the previous week, the bulk of the day was spent building check-steps (see March 30 report). Additionally, five crew members spent a couple morning hours doing maintenance on the Faulty, working up from the S. Crest junction. This is a steep, fall-line trail segment which would benefit from the addition of steps (or a complete relocation). However, pending pertinent surveys for the needed work, the crew was at least able to pull the significant berm off the edge to mitigate channeling; remove larger loose rocks; and try to direct traffic to the most sustainable line within the existing tread. Meanwhile, the check-step crew began building checks on the South Crest, roughly a quarter mile above (southwest of) the junction. Later both crews joined forces, building more checks just below (east of) the junction. In all, nineteen check-steps were built throughout the course of the day. The weather was perfect – cool and sunny – and conditions were dry.

The volunteers were Jenny Blackmore, John Braly, Phil Cromer, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Bruce Hansche, Jim Houle, Mike Madden, Bill Perkins and Roland Stumpf.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore.



The check-step crew gets started above the junction. The first few of many...

Phil, Mike, Luis

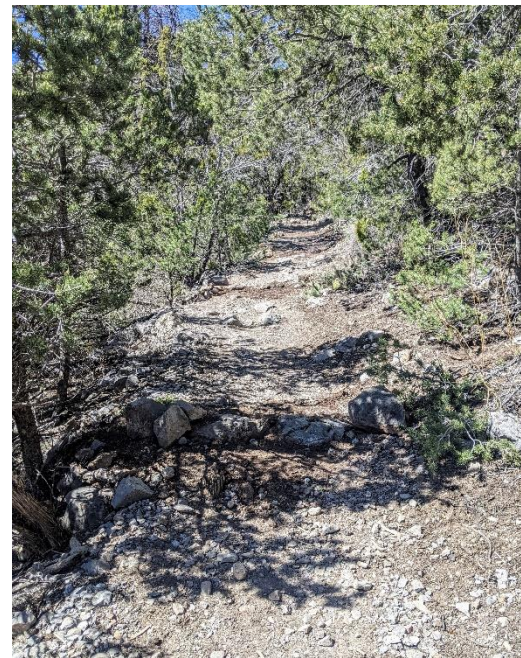
Jim, Mike Luis (Phil digging)



Jim positions a rock, with Roland at the ready



Luis spots a good rock; Mike goes down to nab it.



Looking uphill at completed check-steps (pay him no mind)

What the...? Two of them?



Meanwhile on the Faulty, uphill from Byron, we can see what's in store for maintenance crew #2.



Bill puts some finishing touches on a section near the junction



Sometimes hands work best (John, Bill)



Bruce finds a good place to add some drainage



Byron fills in a low spot above an old check step



Later, reunited below the Faulty junction, the crew builds some check dams to close a trenched-out wider section (foreground), then builds four more check steps to slow down water and round out the day.



Looks good lads. Step test...?
(Phil, John)



After some adjustments
Phil adds the final touches