

On Thursday April 20 eleven FOSM volunteers and SRD trail crew member Jeff Cervantes returned to the Challenge Trail extension, parking at the “red gate” (roughly 2 road-miles above Doc Long) and hiking a user trail and the Old Crest Road south and east to the work site. The corridor for this final section of the Challenge extension was flagged by the SRD and cleared by Sam Beard & Co (and by the SRD in spots) at the end of 2022. The new trail parallels the Crest Hwy, not far below it, east of the big hairpin, and will connect with (and terminate at) Bill Spring Trail northwest of the Doc Long PA.

The crew began the day working along the old roadbed, but quickly turned north onto steep untouched terrain. Jenny Blackmore and Mike Madden pin-flagged the tread line. The area was protected from the high winds, and after a chilly morning the temps became quite pleasant. The soil was moist and not overly rocky. While digging, many commented on the numerous earth worms!

The volunteers were Jenny Blackmore, John Braly, Phil Cromer, Byron Garner, Jim Houle, Jeff Huser, Mike Madden, Pat Madden, Bill Perkins, Roland Stumpf and Scott Sunde.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore unless otherwise noted.

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Byron bundles up
(note the snow)

The crew eases into the day on flat terrain before turning the corner



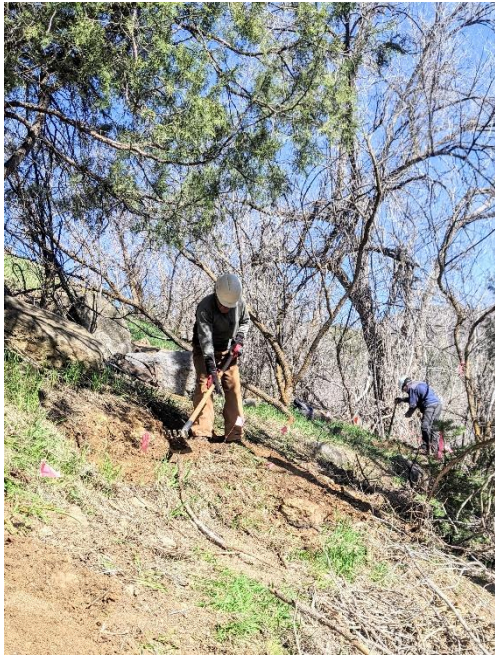
Bill and Scott start scratching the surface. Jim looks for treasure.



Pat, Jeff, John, Scott



John and Bill get their first taste of benching on steeper sideslope
(Scott in background)



After an extended winter grooming ski trails, Jeff and his Rogue hoe are back! (Scott at right)



Jim tackles a tricky section. Later Phil joins in the fun.



Byron and Scott coordinate their root-pulling efforts (note the effort it took to clear the corridor here!).



Pat's section takes shape.



Before – Roland on his section. During – the oak had to go. Phil works on the tread while Roland and Jim chop their respective roots. (John in background)



Mission accomplished



Mike shores up the tread through a wash (wash not apparent in the photos). Luckily there's a good stash of rocks uphill from his project.



The after shot. A nice subtle grade reversal.

See any similarities? :)
(Photo by Bill Perkins)



Bill gets down to add the
final touches to his section.
A thing of beauty!