

On Thursday May 18, ten FOSM volunteers returned to the Challenge Trail extension to build new tread, including a couple realignments around poorly-drained flat sections of previously-flagged trail. The crew was joined by USFS Southwestern Region Trails, Dispersed Rec & Travel Management Program Manager Kerry Wood, who was there to give some on-the-ground pointers to a Southwestern Region employee. The volunteers also benefited from Kerry's presence, as he had several good suggestions for moving the flagged line off the (old Crest Road) roadbed onto steeper sideslope so water can drain from the new trail more easily. Volunteers pulled slash (tree limbs etc, from when the corridor was cleared last fall) onto the roadbed itself to discourage trail users from leaving the trail in those sections – something we will continue to do on subsequent Thursdays. Other volunteers cut out high-stumps and dug new tread. A surprise rainstorm pulled the crew from their work, and the rain continued through the (now muddy) return hike to the vehicles. This provided an excellent opportunity to observe the new trail “in action” during a moisture event. Most of the sections drained well, but there are a few which will need more work – and some of the new sections will need to be completely rerouted. Job security...

The volunteers were Courtnee Bennett, Dan Benton, Jenny Blackmore, John Braly, Sim Cook, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Jim Houle, Eric Russell and Roland Stumpf. (Luis and Eric not pictured)

Photos by Jenny Blackmore unless otherwise noted.



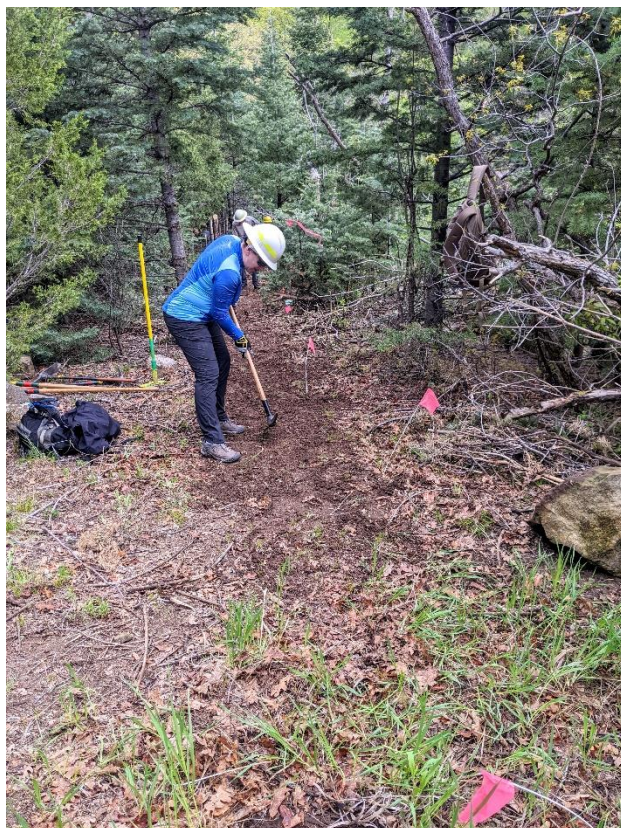
Everyone select a stump!

Dan and Roland start swinging

Sim checks how much farther he has to go



John and Jim in the trees



Courtnee on the roadbed

(Hmm, we'll need to
move that section...)



Kerry and Eva on the realignment

No computer work out here!

Jenny joins the fun
Photo by John Braly

