

On Thursday June 29, fifteen FOSM volunteers returned to the Challenge Trail extension to do finish-work (widening the tread and adjusting the angle of the backslope) along two sections of trail that the crew had built in previous weeks. In addition, a reroute was completed at the VLC (Very Large Culvert) and some drainage features were improved south and west of the VLC. Temps were hot! But cloud cover helped.

The volunteers were Joe Beman, Dan Benton, Claudia Bergsohn, Jenny Blackmore, John Braly, Sim Cook, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Bruce Hansche, Jim Houle, Laura Leon, Mike Madden, Rav Nicholson, Bill Perkins and Eric Russell.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore unless otherwise noted.



What are these people doing??

The approach that the crew currently uses to access the work site includes a short but very steep descent down from the highway.

Tools are passed hand-to-hand, fire-brigade style, through the steepest section.

Photo by Luis Cuadros

The west-side crew finishes the tread touch-ups and backslope on a new trail section near the old roadbed, followed by a final dose of roadbed obliteration.



Swing it Joe! Sometimes backslope work = sledge work



Rubble, rubble, toil... John and Bill move rocks and dirt



The crew: John, Bill, Rav, Joe, Eric



Rav, Joe, Eric

Meanwhile the east-side crew widens other new tread in anticipation of bike and horse traffic.



Introducing Laura Leon! Yay!



Claudia goes after it



Sim and Laura and the green, green grass (and Bruce, Dan, Jim)





Nice backslope! Sim, Bruce, Dan, Jim



Dan and Bruce (and Jim) move dirt. So. Much. Dirt.

During and after, the same section



Dan, Jim, Claudia(L), Laura(R)



Jim, Dan, and some final touches



Photo by Dan Benton

Bruce finds a big rock in the tread line. After some excavation he hikes west to borrow a second rock bar...



Photo by Bruce Hansche

... and Jim. Later Dan (in background) joins the action.



The west-side crew finishes and moves east (Joe, Eric)



Photo by Dan Benton

Jenny and Sim take their turn in the sun



Bill and John move on to improving drainage features

Meanwhile the VLC crew spends the day on a reroute into and out of the drainage



Jenny adjusts the line

You could drive a truck through this thing

Both photos by Luis Cuadros



This rock's gotta go (Byron, Mike)



This one too. Bruce gets waylaid on his return trip with the rock bar.



Luis works just west of the drainage



Photo by Luis Cuadros
Can't take the kid outa Mike