

On Thursday July 13, thirteen FOSM volunteers returned to the Challenge Trail extension for a special-project day with Kerry Wood, Forest Service Trails Program Manager for the Southwestern Region (Eve from the Regional Office also accompanied). The new extension twice crosses the drainage which runs towards Bill Spring, and both crossings needed to be built up closer to the level of the banks on either side. For the lower crossing this meant first moving several boulders, and breaking large rocks into smaller pieces to create the base. It also meant moving countless loads of dirt from the areas where trail builders were “generating” it, down to the drainage to create tread after the base was built up. The process at the upper crossing (at the Very Large Culvert) was similar, only without the boulder field to navigate at the outset, and with a dirt source closer to the work area. Meanwhile the rest of the crew continued doing finish-work and building new tread. Also, Byron worked on a reroute ~3/4 mi back along the extension from the lower drainage; Mike helped him clear corridor, then he cut back vegetation along other parts of the extension (neither of them is pictured). Temps were hot (hard to believe!), but some miraculous cloud cover kept things bearable for nearly the entire workday.

The volunteers were Tayo Basquiat, Dan Benton, Claudia Bergsohn, David Bernstein, Jenny Blackmore, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Mike Madden, Tony Pachelli, Bill Perkins, Eric Russell, Tom Swiler and Mark Werkmeister.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore unless otherwise noted.



The last shall be first: Taken at the end of the day, this photo shows Tayo and Claudia building new tread past the drainage. This is exciting because it means the crew has reached the final short push to connect with Bill Spring Trail!

Finish-work: the seemingly never-ending quest to make sure the new tread is sustainably built, to hold up over time



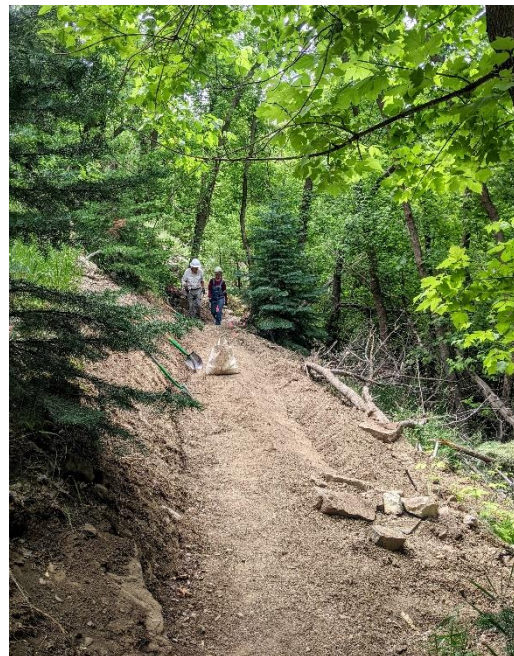
Tayo and Bill widen the tread to provide a good base for horses and bikes (Tayo is standing off the trail)



Claudia pulls out rocks near the backslope which could “push” traffic to the outside edge



Before (from the previous week) and (almost) after on “Bill’s section.” The downslope will be covered with debris to keep users on the trail.



Dirt bagging! From the source...



Tayo, Tom, Bill



Luis finds a good quarry

... way down to the crossing. The pile grows.



Tom and Luis offload. That is not an ant hill.

Sledge work: Making big rocks small



Kerry shows them how it's done



Avert thine eyes!
Eric and Dan and Kerry's flying chips



Work it Werkmeister!
In the background Eve & Luis
and Claudia keep the dirt coming.



Later in the day Eric takes
his turn at the VLC.



Early-during at the lower drainage. Mark, David, Dan, and one of many boulders. Mark drove from Santa Fe to play with the cool kids.



Later-during: the crossing starts to take shape. Note the retaining rocks at the bottom edge.



Dan tests out the new crossing

Crossing #2 at the VLC. These guys are experts now.



Before: Dan, David, Mark and Kerry move large base rocks into place



During: Bill adds to the pile



There's a reason we call it the VLC.
Luis, Tony and Bill find a good dirt source.



Do you think they're counting?



Photo by Dan Benton
During: nearly there!
L-R Tony, David, Bill, Luis



After: a nice smooth in/out
for trail users. Water will
pass through the base layer.

Yes they did!



Photo by Dan Benton