FOSM Trail Report for 10/31/19

With the long stretch of dry fall weather, the Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) trail crew has been able to keep chugging along on the Cienega/Armijo Trail Improvement Project (CATIP) reroutes. A cold morning start in Tijeras but with bright sunshine and very little wind, it turned into perfect trail-building weather.

The crew continued extending Deer Bed Trail today, completing approximately 0.10 mile with another 0.20 mile to go. In addition, the crew completed obliteration of the old user trail bypassed by the new Madera Locura Trail, and on the hike out moved two cached trail signs down to the appropriate intersection. The CATIP effort creeps to approximately 78% complete.

The crew of eleven volunteers consisted of a band of experienced trail builders: Cleve Sharp, Sim Cook, Byron Garner, Jim Houle, Rav Nicholson, Steve Roholt, Eric Russell, Phil Cromer, Bruce Hansche, and Betsy and Bob Galloway.

All photos below by Betsy Galloway unless noted otherwise.

Bob Galloway
FOSM Project Leader

The day started out in Tijeras in the single digits but eventually warmed up nicely (photo by Sharp).

The FOSM pick operators line up to pull the many rocks and level the tread.

There was a lot of mastication debris to move and undernearth we kept finding plenty of rocks.

Gambel oak near the trail showing fall colors.

The new Deer Bed Trail undulates nicely down the slope.

The trail crew works downhill in the distance as Deer Bed Trail doubles back toward Vista Trail.
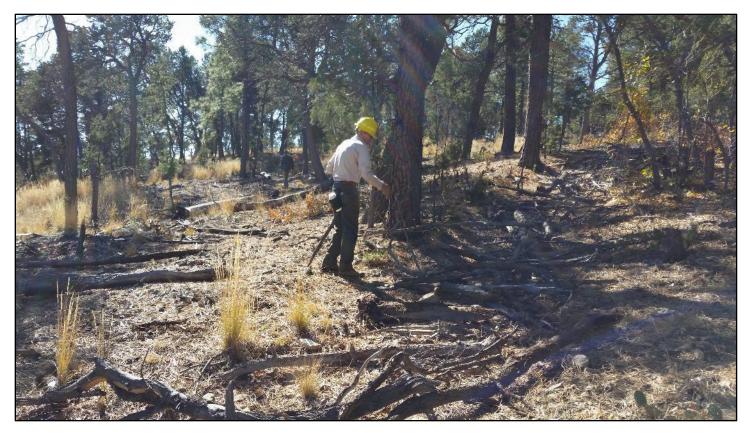

Lunch time! Luckily there was not much wind, and the crew found a spot in the "warm" sunshine.

After lunch, the crew worked to complete obliteration of the old user trail bypassed by Madera Locura.

It was a long section to obliterate but the crew spread out and quickly pulled in plenty of debris.

Piling mastication debris on the old user trail will catch needles and soil and encourage revegetation.

The fall sun highlights the grasses thriving in the heavily masticated area.