

## FOSM Special Project Report for 12/12/19

Another special project by the Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) trail crew on the Cienega/Armijo Trail Improvement Project (CATIP) reroutes.

After a good winter storm over the holidays, a small crew went out to check trail conditions and installed four more trail signs to mark intersections on completed reroutes. The signs were procured with a generous grant by REI to FOSM. There are 30 of 52 CATIP trail signs left to install (and there are 7 more signs already pre-positioned for installation when the opportunity arises).

The crew of six FOSM volunteers were Phil Cromer, Byron Garner, Jim Houle, Jenny Blackmore, and Betsy and Bob Galloway. No power auger for this project. For the planned number of signs and the expected rocky conditions, just hand tools were used today.

The trails were drying but we still found some pretty muddy sections. After a cold start the day warmed into the low 40s with plenty of sunshine and some wind for very nice working conditions. The crew was so efficient we were finished by lunch which we enjoyed in a sheltered area in the sun.

The crew thanks those east mountain folks allowing access from their private property to enable this project.

All photos below by Betsy Galloway.

Bob Galloway  
FOSM Project Leader



This is always exciting! So how many rocks will we hit on this hole?





Hey, hey! We're already getting to depth on this one.



Pack it in. The wet soil and many rocks provided ideal materials to secure the sign.





This hole was more of a challenge. The “persuader” was drafted for this rock outcrop.



Ok, we had to get the whole crew packing this one into the cleft in the rock outcrop.





Grunt! After a lot of rock stacking, this sign is solid. Now if we could only open this trail...



An elk track on the Deer Bed Trail? There are elk in the Sandias...





Another Overlook Trail sign installed. One can almost see out to the Great Plains.



The start of La Barba Trail. We finished this trail section over a year ago. Now officially complete.





The La Barba/Overlook Trails intersection at the top of the ridge. Great views in all directions.



Still a little snow on the ground around the thriving cactus and pinon seedlings.