

FOSM Trail Project Report for 12/19/19

The Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) trail crew completed their last Thursday trail session in 2019 working on another new trail for the Cienega/Armijo Trail Improvement Project (CATIP). There will not be a trail session scheduled for 12/26/2019 so folks can observe Boxing Day (Canada). Whatever that is...

It is late December and we always expect cold starts but the day started out cloudy and stayed cold and windy until around noon. In spite of some frozen soil sections, the crew was able to push new trail tread ahead on an open slope with relatively good sun exposure.

The crew of eight FOSM volunteers were Byron Garner, Jim Houle, Jenny Blackmore, Bruce Hansche, Pat and Mike Madden, and Betsy and Bob Galloway.

Happy holidays and we'll see everyone again in the new year as weather permits. There may be a chance for some trail projects to be held on the west side of the Sandias so stayed tuned.

All photos below by Betsy Galloway.

Bob Galloway
FOSM Project Leader



The crew noticed a ponderosa on the hillside whose top had snapped off in a windstorm...



... and completely blocked the planned trail tread. Get those saws singing, boys!



With the obstruction out of the way, the crew cut tread, fighting the cold, rocks, and frozen earth.



Before: The new trail line here looked deceptively easy before digging into the duff and debris.



During: under the duff and debris we found plenty of roots, rocks, and frozen sections.



After: the new trail section heads south.



Some sections actually had more dirt than rocks. Ok, this guy did manage to find a boulder...



After lunch the weather warmed, the soil thawed, and we found a spot to work out of the wind.



In spite of the challenging conditions, the small crew still managed to cut 425 feet of nice new trail.