

FOSM Special Project Report for 3/9/20

Spring is coming! The Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) were able to squeeze in another work day between weather systems on the Cienega/Armijo Trail Improvement Project (CATIP).

The small crew of volunteers led by Russell Berman, Sandia Ranger District Trails Foreman, included Phil Cromer, Don Carnicom, Bruce Hansche, Steve Roholt, and Betsy and Bob Galloway.

A great day to be out on the trails: full sun, slight breeze, and not too much mud. The crew installed a total of nine signs procured through a grant from REI. There are four more trail signs pre-positioned out on CATIP for later installation.

The first seven holes before lunch were easy, with deep winter infiltration loosening the clay. We expected the same on the last two holes but spent a lot of time fighting rocks in a different area of CATIP. Unfortunately, with the start of goshawk nesting season, we cannot use the power auger until September 1. But the wet soil made most of the digging relatively easy.

All photos below by Betsy Galloway.

Bob Galloway
FOSM Project Leader



Making sure the Cresta Trail sign is level. Over-engineering is never a bad thing.



Three signs installed and the crew heads down Valle Trail towards the Armijo Trail junction.



Packing many rocks in around the sign at the Valle/Armijo Trails junction.



The sign beyond the Armijo Trail junction indicates a dead end at private property ahead.



Whew! Finally deep enough. Planting the sign for the start of Valle Trail.



Last sign before lunch, marking another spur trail from private property.



The crew pitches in after lunch to carve out the La Barba/That Way trail junction.



#@\$%! So why can't I get any deeper than a foot? Who picked out this spot?



There must be a tectonic plate under here. This sign required three holes before finding the sweet spot.



Finally finished! We ran into plenty of rocks here but both signs are in.



Divots dug by the skidsteer in this old road bed section of Armijo are helping with the reclamation.