
REPORT ON THE NORTH FAULTY / NORTH MYSTERY REROUTE PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

The North Faulty reroutes are part of the 2019 STIP. The original Faulty trail was built by David Holmes and his son John. They are mainly known for placing the medallions. The trail was later adopted by the USFS. There is some confusion about the real name. A description by Mike Coltrin in the 2019 *Sandia Mountain Hiking Guide* states:

"..... a trail of unknown origin was forged north from Barro Canyon to Lagunita Seca (below Palomas Peak). The trail is blazed with diamond cuts into tree trunks along the route. I have designated this unnamed trail from the Crest Highway to Lagunita Seca the North Mystery Trail, in keeping with its predecessor. It is possible that one day the trail will be adopted by the forest service; time will tell".

DESCRIPTION: The project was divided into 5 reroutes with 10 sub-segments. Work was begun at the bottom and moved up. It was continuous except for interruptions for the Kiwanis Meadow and Wagon Trail extension projects. We built a total of 4,523 ft of new trail replacing 33% of the original trail. In addition, we obliterated 3,404 ft of old trail thereby lengthening the trail by 1,135 ft. The total number of person work days was 241 days with 23 volunteers working 212 days and 4 SRD staff working 29 days.

LOCATION: The section of concern is a 2.58 mile segment beginning at the hairpin turn on the Crest Hwy above Doc Long to just before the steep descent into Cañon Madera where the Ann Boleyn trail takes off. The entire trail to Sandia Cave is 7.94 miles. Top elevation for this segment is 7,913 feet and bottom 7,477 ft at the Crest Hwy for a total of 581 ft elevation loss and 157 ft net elevation gain.

SUMMARY:

date started: February 27, 2025
date completed: September 4, 2025
months to complete: 6
number of trail building days: 20
number of brushing days: 1
number of volunteers 23
total volunteer days 212
average daily progress: 226 ft per day
average feet per person per day: 19
average number of persons per day: . . . 12 (range 7-12)
total length of reroutes completed: 4,529 ft
length of original section 13,622 ft (2.58 mi)
total length of old trail obliterated 3,404 ft
percent of original trail rerouted: 33.2 %

REROUTES 1 - 5:

reroute #	length	distance from Crest Hwy
1	1,616 ft	0.61 mi
2	1,066 ft	1.53 mi
3	385 ft	2.01 mi
4	469 ft	2.23 mi
5	1,003 ft	2.55 mi
TOTAL	4,539 ft	of new trail built

DAYS WORKED PER PERSON:

FOSM VOLUNTEER DAYS WORKED

Laura Leon	21
Bruce Hansche	17
Claudia Bergsohn	17
Eric Russell	17
John McNett	16
Luis Cuadros	16
Jim Houle	15
Rich Fagioli	15
Byron Garner	13
Bill Perkins	12
Mike Madden	9
Eric Messerschmidt	7
John Braly	6
Mackenzie Gibbs	6
Tony Pachelll	6

Bart VanderPlas	5
Larry Larrichio	5
Roland Stumpf	3
Dan Burwinkle	2
Cleve Sharp	1
Doran Bostwick	1
Jay Wulf	1
Scott Forman	1

SRD STAFF DAYS WORKED

Jen Medina-Gray	17
Chris Secor	10
Canyon Young	1
Kerry Wood	1

Notes on Medallion Trees, Blazes and Faulty Signs

Three medallion trees and one hand made Faulty sign were found. All of these are now off the official trail but a segment of the original trail is being left open for access. The Ann Boleyn tree lies at the very top, currently off the trail, but will be part of a planned reroute around Cañon Madera following a user-created trail known as *Sendero del Oso Furtivo*.

- Ann Boleyn Beheaded G.D. 1536 - Piñon
- Bloody Mary 1553 - Piñon
- Edward VI King of England 1551 - Piñon
- Grimms' Fairy Tales 1812 - Ponderosa
- FAULTY sign on ponderosa

Multiple cut blazes can be seen throughout.

Another FAULTY sign lies at the bottom of Cañon Madera.