

From: Luis Cuadros cuadrosmd@gmail.com

Subject: Report on the Cave Reroute Project of the North Faulty Trail April – July, 2026

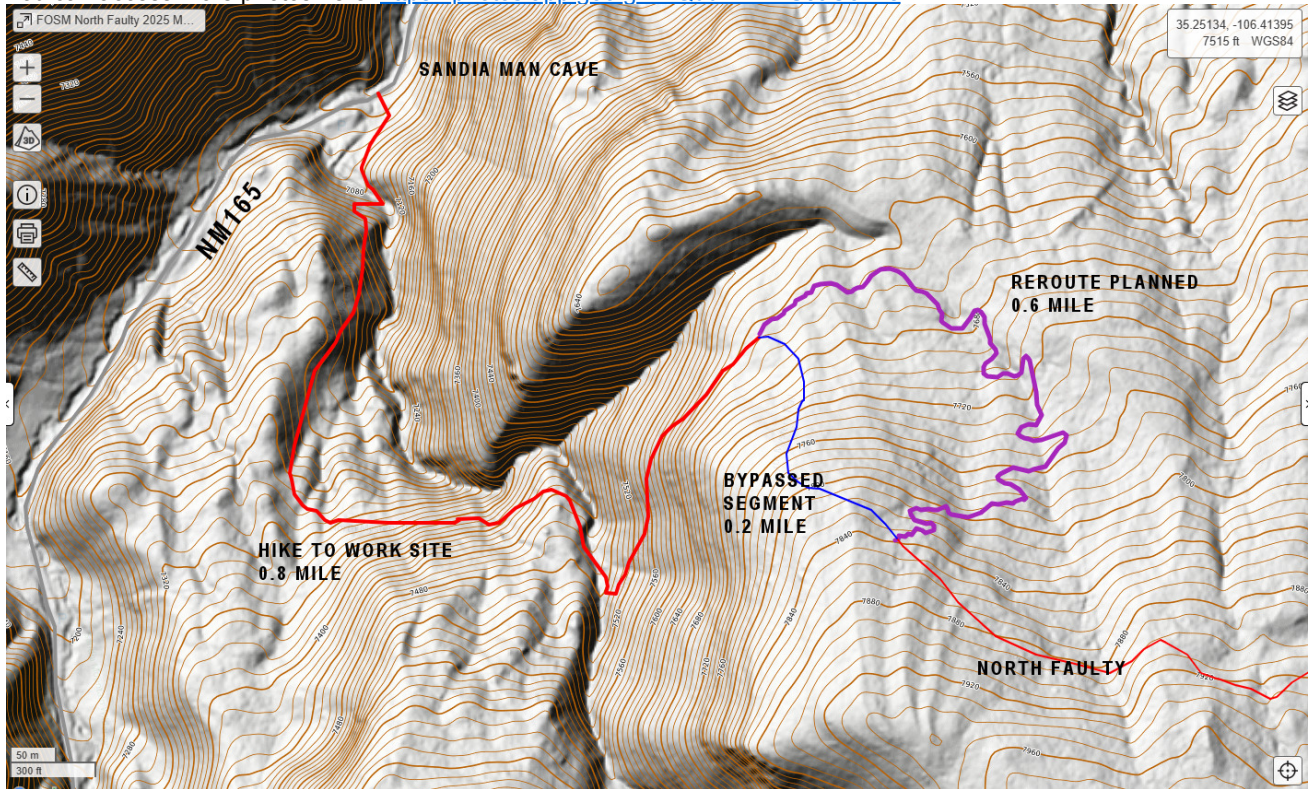
Date: October 14, 2026 at 10:01 AM

To: Chris Secor Christopher.Secor@usda.gov, Chris Casey jochris83@comcast.net, Claudia Bergsohn cbergsohn@gmail.com, Don Fisher donf@swcp.com, Eric Russell russells@swcp.com, Eric Messerschmidt messerschmidt.eric@gmail.com, Erin Gaddis blanksand@gmail.com, Jeff Haas Jeffhaas44@gmail.com, Jen Medina-Gray Jennifer.Medina-Gray@usda.gov, John Braly pinonpenstemon@gmail.com, John McNett mcnett59@gmail.com, Kerry Jones k2jones@gmail.com, Laura Leon libleon60@gmail.com, Luis Cuadros cuadrosmd@gmail.com, Marie marieannvdg@gmail.com, Mike Timmer m.timmer@nmvfo.org, Rich Capener Red55jedi@yahoo.com, Rob Keeney r.keeney@nmvfo.org, Steve Forrest steve4rest@gmail.com, Steve Roholt sbroholt49@gmail.com, Sue Harrelson s.harrelson@nmvfo.org

Cc: Canyon Young USFS Canyon.Young@usda.gov, Padilla, Julie - FS, NM julie.padilla@usda.gov, Ken Born USFS kenneth.born@usda.gov, Russell Berman NFS russell.berman@usda.gov, Joseph C. Giles cliffgiles@comcast.net, Joseph Giles cliff@friendsofthesandias.org

Here is a final report of the Cave Reroute project. It was a fun project of which we are all very proud!

You can access more photos here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/FkQuuBKW4UJJGc1Z8>



Luis Cuadros

**Report on the Cave Reroute
Project 2026 v2.pdf**





Report on the Cave Reroute Project of the North Faulty Trail

April – July, 2026

Prepared by Luis Cuadros

Purpose

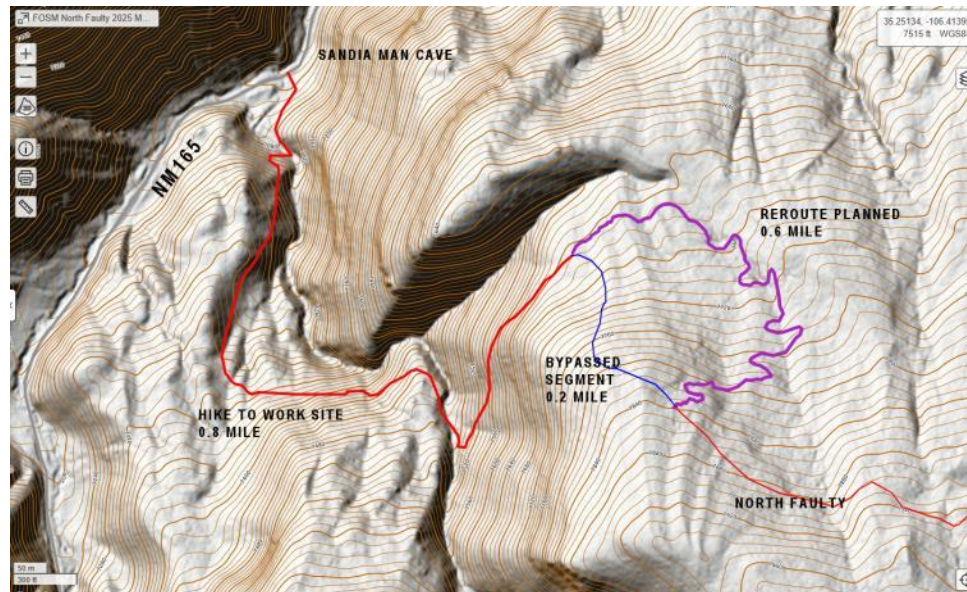
- The purpose of the Cave Reroute Project was to bypass a severely eroded, fall-line segment of the North Faulty Trail. The reroute was intended to establish a more sustainable trail alignment and reduce the erosion associated with the existing route.

Purpose

- Over 12 trail-building days between April 28 and July 14, 2026, volunteers and staff from FOSM, PATA, and NMVFO completed 3,335 feet of new trail, bypassing 1,020 feet of the existing alignment.

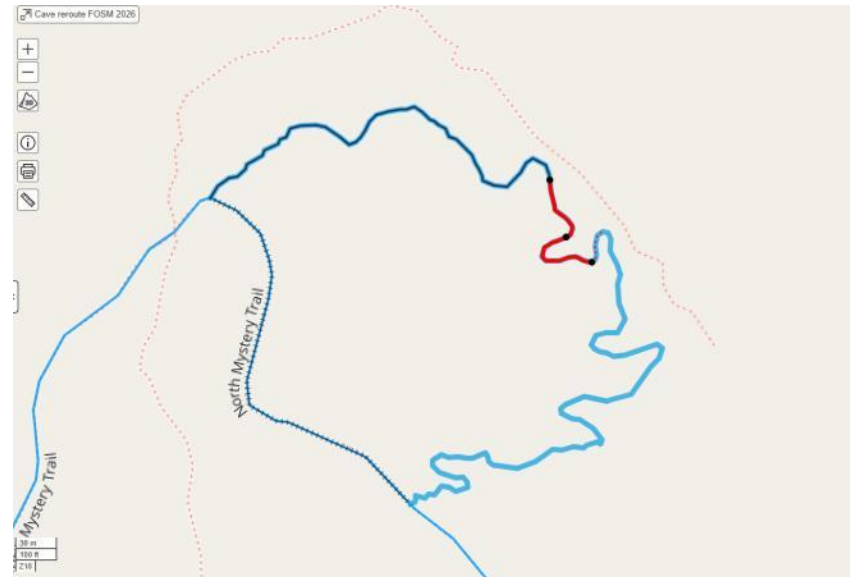
Background

- The Cave Reroute Project was an independent Tuesday trail-building project organized by Jen Medina-Gray. Located in the northernmost section of the North Faulty Trail, the reroute was part of Kerry Woods' original 2019 STIP master plan.



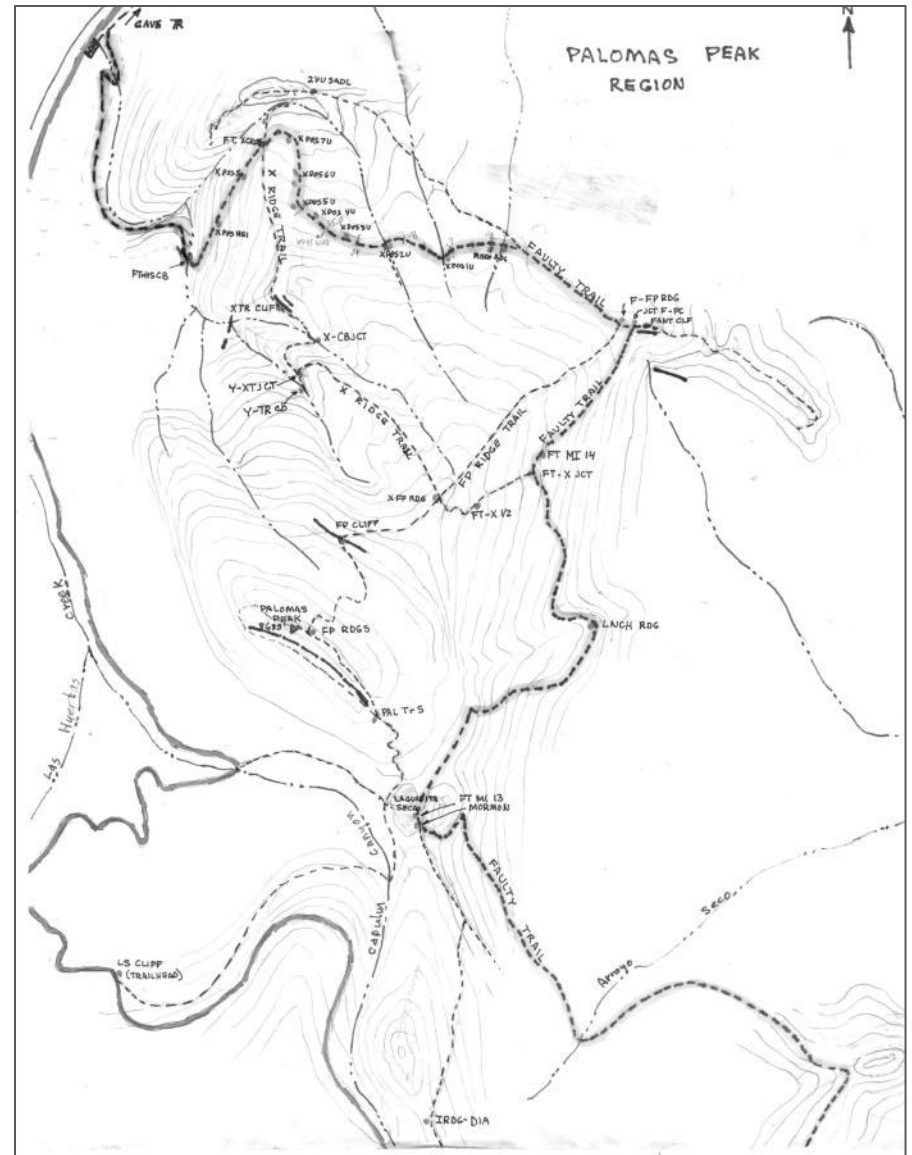
Background

- The project area is accessed from the Sandia Cave parking lot off NM-165, between Placitas and NM-536 (Crest Road) via a severely rutted dirt road through Las Huertas Canyon. The trail is also known as the Mystery Trail, a name given to it by Mike Coltrin.



History

- The history of the Faulty Trail dates to 1976. The final three-mile section, extending from Lagunita Seca, was built by David Holmes and completed in 2006, bringing the trail to its full nine-mile length from Canyon Estates. According to his son, John Holmes, David built this final section entirely on his own. Along the trail were handmade “Faulty” signs and blazes cut into trees. These features preserve a tangible connection to the trail’s history and the people who built it.



David Holmes original hand-drawn map

Organizations Involved

- FOSM — Friends of the Sandia Mountains
- PATA — Placitas Area Trail Association
- NMVFO — New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors
- USFS — US Forest Service, Sandia Ranger District



Project Statistics

- Date startedApril 28, 2026
- Date completedJuly 14, 2026
- Total trail-building days12 days
- Total volunteers and staff21 volunteers
- Average volunteers per day8 (range: 5–10)
- Average daily progress278 ft
- Length of bypassed segment1,020 ft
- Total reroute length 3,335 ft

21 volunteers and staff

- Chris Secor
- Chris Casey
- Claudia Bergsohn
- Don Fisher
- Eric Russell
- Eric Messerschmidt
- Erin Gaddis
- Jeff Haas
- Jen Medina-Gray
- John Braly
- John McNett
- Kerry Jones
- Laura Leon
- Luis Cuadros
- Marie
- Mike Timmer
- Rich Capener
- Rob Keeney
- Steve Forrest
- Steve Roholt
- Sue Harrelson



