Friends of the Sandia Mountains

Annual Newsletter 2026



Processed Wood from Hazard Trees Ready to go to the Woodlot for Donation

October 2026

From the President

by Mike Madden

Right up front, I'd like to acknowledge the Sandia Ranger District (SRD) staff, who partner so well with us. District Ranger Ken Born is someone who listens to us, and genuinely responds to our requests in the affirmative, unless there is a good reason not to. Julie Padilla, Sandra Arazi-Coambs, Andrew Price, Canyon Young and Jen Medina-Gray are the best!

With the dissolution of Friends of the Tijeras Pueblo in early 2026, at the request of Ken and Sandra, the biggest challenge this year was transitioning Tijeras Pueblo Archaeological Site volunteer activity to become an arm of FOSM.

FY2027 elections were held at our October 6, 2026 annual meeting. Officers Kerry Jones (VP), Silke Bletzer (Secretary), and Scott Dietrich (Treasurer) remain in their positions. Chuck Logan was elected President, replacing Mike Madden, who had served for 6 years. Ken Sexe replaced Sim Cook, who had served At Large on the Board for 6 years. Sam Beard, Susan Gregory, Byron Garner, Jamey Browning, Jenny Blackmore, Laura Leon, and Cliff Giles decided to remain on the Board.

Thanks also go to Sam Beard for assembling this Annual Newsletter, and to Silke Bletzer for formatting it. Sam has been producing it faithfully since 2003, and believe me, it's a mountain of work! Back issues are found on our website. All the great work that was done by our volunteers over the past year is described by respective leaders in the pages that follow. Please take the time to read it.

As always, my sincere thanks go to all our volunteers for their hard work, serving in so many capacities in the Sandia Ranger District. Thanks also to the FOSM Officers and Board who made my job easier by taking on so many administrative tasks, to the Crew Leaders who go out weekly and get the job done, and to the Sandia Ranger District staff, whose partnership and appreciation are vital to us fulfilling our mission.

This concludes my tenure as President. I will continue to stay involved and wish Chuck Logan the best!

FOSM in Numbers

by Silke Bletzer

The Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) had another very active year with much work on the trails and many projects. Together, volunteers contributed more than 9,000 hours this year.

FOSM in Numbers FY2026

October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

About half of all FOSM members joined weekly crews in FY2026

- Many others also monitor trails and provide input into Sally's Tree Report
- 30 people put in more than 100 hours
- Luis's crew's work is included in the individual hours
- Data does not include the Tijeras Pueblo crew hours (to be included in FY2027)

Top Ten Volunteers

4198 Hours

Shout out to:
Jamey Browning, Sam Beard, Kerry Jones, Cliff Giles, Laura Leon, Luis Cuadros, Steve Roholt, Byron Garner, Eric Russel, Sim Cook

Total Volunteer Hours FY2024

9004

Total Participants & Hours by Crew **5948**

FOSM Crew	*Volunteers*	Hours
Monday Trail Maintenance Crew	23	1326
Tuesday Paint & Graffiti Removal	13	363
Wednesday General Projects Crew	26	1459
Thursday Trail Building Crew	39	2800

Total Number of active Volunteers

86

Individual Contributions

3056 Hours

Sam Beard Achievement Award Recipients 2026

by Mike Madden



Mike Madden Presenting Sally & Bob Lowder with the Awards (Woodwork by Jamey Browning)

The Sam Beard Achievement Award recognizes FOSM volunteers who go well beyond the norm in dedication as well as years of service. This year Susan Gregory, Cliff Giles, and Mike Madden were on the review Committee.

Bob Lowder and Sally Lowder were each chosen to receive the award for their 26 years and counting involvement with FOSM. Bob for his 16+ years as President, as well as Monday Trail Maintenance Crew Leader, and maintaining the FOSM and CTR email group lists. Sally for her 20 years on the Board, Trail Tree Reports, Membership, Sawyer certs and meds, Tecolote Trail adoption, and chipper maintenance. Thank you!

Monthly FOSM Membership Meetings

by Kerry Jones

Monthly membership meetings were held on the first Tuesday of each month from April to October in the Sandia Ranger station conference room.

Topics and speakers for the FY2026 meetings were as follows:

- October 7, 2025: FOSM year-end update and election results (Mike Madden); EarthCaches of the Sandias (Stan Davis)
- April 7, 2026: Sandia Ranger District update and priorities (Ken Born, District Ranger)
- May 5, 2026: Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District: Partners in Conservation (Steven Glass, Board Supervisor, Ciudad SWCD)
- June 2, 2026: An Overview of the Geologic History of the Sandia Mountains and the Rio Grande Rift (Dr. Les McFadden, Professor Emeritus, UNM)
- July 7, 2026: Stories in the Sky: All About Clouds (Dr. Deirdre Kann, retired NOAA/NWS meteorologist)
- August 4, 2026: New Mexico Department of Wildlife (Joe Acord and Isaiah Gutierrez, Conservation Officers)
- September 1, 2026: New Mexico Wild (Bjorn Fredrickson, Conservation Director, NMWild)
- October 6, 2026: Friends of the Tijeras Pueblo/Tiwa World Mural (Deborah Jojola, Tiwa/Towa artist, and Sandra Arazi-Coambs, USFS Archaeologist)

Meeting attendance generally ranged from 15-25. Please refer to the Membership Meetings page on the FOSM website for further details on each meeting and guest speaker.

Additionally, the FOSM Vice President surveyed board members in early 2026 and compiled a prioritized list of topics for future meetings, which is also available on the website.

FOSM Website, a Great Source of Information

by Cliff Giles

For timely updates and additional detail and photographs to many topics in this newsletter, refer to the FOSM website: https://friendsofthesandias.org/.

In addition to almost daily posting of notices and updates as well as routine functionality and attractiveness improvements, major changes to the FOSM website in 2026 included:

- Addition of a new section of 5 webpages devoted to activities associated with the Tijeras Pueblo Archaeological Site;
- Enhancement of the About the Sandias webpage with additional information about the Sandia Peak Ski Area and Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway plus several bits of Sandia Mountains history;
- A new webpage providing updates about the Sandia Crest closure; and
- In response to a suggestion by Scott Dietrich, FOSM treasurer, addition of a question on the Donate, Join, or Renew webpage requesting new and renewing members to specify area(s) of interest within FOSM activities.
- Reworked the webpage Projects - trail maintenance to explain the relationships between CTR reports, Sally's Trail Tree report, and the activities of the Monday Crew.
- Began saving CTR reports as pdf documents on SharePoint with a link embedded on the Cibola Trail Rangers webpage.

National Public Lands Day Project

by Joelle Hertel, Sam Beard



ES&H Volunteers with Freshly Painted Kiosk

In celebration of National Public Lands Day, September 26, Joelle Hertel and Sam Beard coordinated a FOSM project with the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) ES&H Volunteer Activities Team. This group focuses on environmental, safety, and health work at SNL. Amber Mowery, SRD employee, helped lead the project and provided collection buckets and hand tools for picking up the trash. Twelve ES&H volunteers met the project leaders at the gravel parking lot on Forest Road 333 located at the cattle guard near Tramway Road. The plan for the day was to paint wooden kiosks at the La Cueva and Juan Tabo areas and to pick up trash and trim branches at both sites. The group was split with Sam managing painting at three kiosks at La Cueva PA and one kiosk at Juan Tabo PA while Joelle and Amber walked the area looking for trash and doing trimming.



Preparing a Kiosk for Painting

These two recreation areas have unique picnic tables, benches, remnants of a spring-fed water system and other structures (restrooms and shelters), all built in the 1930s under the direction of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). The tables are dispersed over the area and hidden behind boulders and concealed by brush and oak trees. This was intentional in the original design to blend into nature and harmonize with the natural beauty of the area.

Because the tables are hidden and paths between tables are indistinct, Joelle led the group through the area to locate tables. At the lunch break in the La Cueva rock shelter, the history of the area was presented by Joelle, and reconstruction and restoration efforts were discussed. Following lunch, the group drove to Juan Tabo PA and again walked through the area visiting 14 of the 20 tables to pick up trash. A lot was accomplished by this group to help keep the area clean.



Joelle with ES&H Volunteers and Amber Mowery

The Visitor Orientation Program is Back

by Jamey Browning

Last year the SRD asked if FOSM could help with reviving the visitor orientation program. At one time volunteers staffed the Crest House and the upper Tram terminal to provide information to visitors. This program was suspended with the Crest House closure and the pandemic.

This year FOSM restarted the program, and volunteers staffed the lower Tram terminal, the Doc Long Interpretive Hut, and the hiking trails in the area roughly between 10K TH and the upper Tram terminal.



Steve Roholt at the Tram Terminal

FOSM approached the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway, and they offered to provide space for volunteers in the lower Tram Terminal. We chose not to staff the upper Tram terminal because traffic flow has changed since the pandemic and folks are no longer routed through the terminal upon arrival. Steve Roholt, Peter Rhyins, and Cliff Giles volunteered to staff the lower Tram terminal this summer.

The Interpretive Hut, located within the Doc Long picnic area, has long been used as a place to welcome visitors and provide information about the area. For many years, it was staffed by Forest Service personnel, then switched to being staffed by local Volunteer Site Hosts, then was closed during the pandemic. Since then, a dedicated Forest Service intern, Tony Powell, renovated the hut, giving it a fresh new look and updated displays and information. Volunteer Tim Murphy has been staffing the Interpretive Hut.



This summer I volunteered to walk the trails between 10K trailhead and the upper Tram terminal twice a week to interact with hikers and provide maps and hiking guidance. Out-of-town hikers especially have been very complementary on how well marked and maintained Sandia trails are. With the Crest closure, traffic on King of the Mountain and Golden Eagle trails picked up considerably. Locals discovered that they are great hiking trails.

See also: *https://friendsofthesandias.org/projects/visitor-orientation/*

Monday Trail Maintenance

by Bob Lowder



Group Picture after Successful Work on Kiwanis Meadow Trail

The FOSM Trail Maintenance Crew is a group of volunteers who patrol Sandia Ranger District trails removing fallen trees or those otherwise posing a hazard to users. The team will also cut back vegetation that protrudes into the trails and will perform minor trail tread work when necessary. The most frequently used implements are crosscut/Silky type saws and other hand tools including loppers, pruning saws, Pulaski's, McLeod's and cant hooks. Where appropriate in areas outside wilderness boundaries, chain saws can be used.

In addition to the core group, the crew can include other individuals wishing to help. The team size can vary with the scope of the work to be done. Projects are scheduled based on reports submitted to the Cibola Trail Rangers (CTR) email group or information otherwise received and compiled into the Trail Tree Report maintained by Sally Lowder. As the listed trees are removed from the trails, they are deleted from that report.



Multi-Tree Pile Up on Cole Spring Rd



Clearing Trees on Trail 130S



A Big One on Kiwanis Meadow Trail



Prickly Work on Survey Trail

Trail Tree Report for FY2026

by Sally Lowder, Tree Reporter

This year had a carryover of 17 reported downed trees on 5 trails from FY2025. In addition, for FY2026, there were 236 reported downed trees across the trails. FOSM'S busy workers cleared 320 trees and 2 significant sized boulders. The Forest Gnome came out only 1 time this year. I believe the weather was too hot for our Gnome! Thanks to all our FOSM members, new and seasoned, that came out to work.

Happy hiking and working in the Sandia Mountains. What a glorious place to spend time!

Paint Crew & Graffiti Removal Projects

by Sam Beard

The Paint & Graffiti Removal crew spent 29 project days in the last 12 months removing graffiti from various locations around the Sandia Mountains; a graffiti removal project for the crew almost every two weeks:

Sandia Ranger District Site	**Number of Days**
Juan Tabo Picnic Area CCC Shelter	8
Juan Tabo Picnic Area south boulders	1
La Luz Trailhead	4
Boulders east of Copper Trailhead	1
Embudo Canyon Trailhead	1
NM-337 Big Rock-Climbing Area	1
Ellis Trailhead	2
Balsam Glade restroom	1
10K North Trailhead and boulders	5
Crest area and Nature Trail	4
Kiwanis Cabin	1

On May 7, KOB4 featured FOSM volunteers lead by Sam Beard removing graffiti left by taggers at the La Luz trailhead: Worst Graffiti in Years.

FOSM volunteers and Sandia Ranger District (SRD) personnel teamed up on several maintenance and cleanup projects to maintain and improve recreation facilities for visitors. A few examples include:



In April, 30 rock climbing club members and FOSM members Sim Cook and Sam Beard removed large graffiti tags from the stone wall in the Big Block rock climbing area on NM-337 below Otero Trailhead. About 3 gallons of chemicals had to be used; residue was rinsed off with power washers.

Manny Chavez, SRD Maintenance Supervisor, provided rinse water from a water tank and pump. Five-gallon cans were refilled from a long hose run from the highway to the bottom of the canyon.



In June, Sam Beard, Pauline Ho, and Rick Buss joined SRD staff to clean the CCC Juan Tabo Picnic Shelter ahead of a Congressional visit to sites on the west side of the Sandia Mountains. The crew removed graffiti from the shelter walls, covered tags on painted surfaces with USFS brown paint, swept floors, and collected trash and broken glass. Working with seasonal employee Kenny Capps, Sam also used a pressure washer to effectively remove remaining green paint and chemical residue. At the La Cueva Picnic Area, broken restroom window panels were replaced with translucent white honeycomb plastic, providing light and privacy while offering a safer alternative to glass.

In July, four members of the FOSM paint crew completed improvements at the 10K Trailhead parking lot. The crew repainted exterior areas of the restroom, covered interior graffiti, and refreshed the exterior trim. They repaired deep carvings in a picnic table with epoxy before painting the tabletop and benches. About a dozen small red graffiti tags were removed from boulders using a specialized stone-cleaning chemical. The crew also finished painting most of the remaining parking lot stripes as vehicles moved out of the way.

During June and July, volunteers also painted parking stripes and accessible parking markings at Capulin Snow Play Area and the 10K North parking lot.



April 2026



May 2026



July 2026

Removing Hazard Trees in Picnic Areas

by Sam Beard



Limbing Trees in Capulin Picnic Area

During the summer of 2026, FOSM volunteers conducted extensive hazard-tree removal throughout the Sandia Ranger District. These projects reduce hazards to visitors and help maintain safer recreation areas.

From May through August, volunteers felled, limbed, and bucked hazardous trees in Cienega Canyon, Capulin, Balsam Glade, Doc Long, and Sulphur Canyon picnic areas, as well as at the Sandia Ranger District shop. The work included dead white firs, Rocky Mountain junipers, boxelders, and Gambel oaks.

A total of 63 hazard trees were felled near picnic areas, trailheads, and a campground. Diameters ranged from 5 to 27 inches. In addition, on Forest Road

462 south of the Ranger Station, approximately three dozen dead pinyon trees were felled in a dispersed camping area.

Hazard Trees Felled in Sandia Ranger District in FY2026			
Site	**Date**	**Number of trees**	**Diameter Range (inches)**
Sulphur Canyon PA	6/24	3	8-14
	7/1	3	8-12
Cienega Canyon PA	5/6	3	15-20
	7/22	3	13-19
	7/29	11	6-20
Doc Long PA	8/5	5	11-16
	6/24	2	10-15
Tree Spring Trailhead	7/1	1	10
	7/8	7	5-12
Balsam Glade PA	7/8	2	10-12
Capulin Spring	8/12	6	8-23
	8/19	6	10-27
	8/26	3	8-12
Coyote Trailhead	5/27	2	6-8
Pine Flat PA	5/27	2	10-15
Cedro Campground	5/27	3	8-21
Sandia RD Shop	7/1	1	24
FR462 Dispersed Camping Area, dead pinyons	12/3/25	~ 3 dozen	5-10

Hazard tree projects included:



Chipping Slice at Oak Flat PA

In March, volunteers processed four piles of pine branches at Oak Flat Picnic Area using a chipper supplied by the Sandia Ranger District. The chips were blown into the adjacent forest, completing part of the hazard-tree cleanup effort.

In May, three hazard trees were felled in Cienega Canyon. Additional work there included 21 additional trees in July and August. Twelve dead white firs were removed at Capulin in August.



Processing Hazard Tree in Cienega PA

Projects in June and July addressed more dead trees in Doc Long and

Sulphur Canyon. FOSM also continued processing downed trees between the upper Crest Highway and the communications site fence. Beginning in fall 2025, volunteers limbed and bucked trees previously felled by Forest Service crews to reduce wildfire fuel loads and the risk of falling trees damaging the fence.

In December 2025, volunteers also removed approximately three dozen dead piñon and one-seed juniper trees from the dispersed camping area south of the Ranger Station. The wood was transported to the Ranger Station for later processing and donation.



Bucking Logs at the SRD Shop

In March, volunteers bucked, manually split, and hauled approximately 0.8 cord of wood from a hazard tree felled in Oak Flat Picnic Area. The wood was stacked at the Ranger Station for later delivery to the church woodlot.

In April, volunteers loaded previously processed wood onto a trailer and moved heavy rounds from near the Electronic Site for later splitting and hauling. Additional wood-processing work continued through the spring and summer.

In some locations, the cut wood was left near where the trees fell for collection by homeowners holding USFS fuelwood permits. Other wood was transported for processing and donation through Mountain Christian Church Wood Ministry, which provides firewood to East Mountain families who depend on wood to heat their homes.



Loading Wood near the Crest Electronics Site

Picnic Area Improvements

by Sam Beard



Installing New Steel Bollards at Juan Tabo PA Exit

FOSM volunteers continued to preserve structures like the historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) buildings and maintain recreation facilities in general throughout the Sandia Ranger District through a variety of repair, safety, and improvement projects. Featured projects include:

In November, Sam Beard repaired cracks in the wooden columns of the Doc Long picnic shelters using epoxy, backer rod, and caulk. He also filled a hole in Shelter A's floor with concrete. These repairs improved appearance and reduced water intrusion.

In August and September, volunteers repaired the damaged doors at the historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) restrooms from the 1930s in the La Cueva Picnic Area. Volunteers used epoxy, paint, and steel reinforcements to improve the doors' condition and security. The tops of the doors on two CCC stone restrooms were restored using System Three paste and putty. Sam and Chuck later returned to repair a pintle-and-gudgeon hinge on one of the restroom doors.

Safety and accessibility improvements included installing six removable steel bollards at Juan Tabo Picnic Area in March, in partnership with Forest Service employees.

Fence repairs continued in July, when volunteers replaced damaged rails and a post at Doc Long, Sulphur Canyon, and Cienega Canyon Picnic Areas and at the Tree Spring Trailhead. In September, volunteers replaced four rotten or broken posts in the Upper Cienega Canyon Picnic Area parking lot.



Attaching Poles to a New Post



Crew with 3 Panel Kiosk, Pine Flat PA

In September, volunteers worked with SRD personnel to start to install a new three-panel kiosk at Pine Flat Picnic Area. Four 24-inch-deep holes were dug for steel posts, and the kiosk's center 48-by-48-inch panel was secured with concrete and four bolts and nuts, but rocky soil delayed installation of the remaining two panels, which the SRD crew planned to complete later.

These projects reflect the ongoing partnership between FOSM volunteers and the Forest Service to preserve historic resources, improve visitor safety, and keep recreation facilities clean, functional, and welcoming.

Trail Construction and Reroutes

by Laura Leon

Another successful year for the FOSM Thursday Crew! We averaged 10-12 volunteers per week and were fortunate to have Jen and/or Chris from SRD lead us most weeks. Other SRD staff helped off and on with the repairs to the upper Crest trails that needed rehab from the fire mitigation project. We also had help for 3 weeks from the Talking Talons Youth over the summer. Our season was long because of the limited rain and warmer temperatures. We only took off a few weeks in December and January.

October & November 2025: The crew worked on Old Faulty, rerouting eroding sections and cleaning up existing sections between Cienega and Bill Springs. The slopes were quite steep in some areas.



Area of Erosion... *Repaired with Rock and Dirt*



Working on Steep Slope

December 2025: The crew repaired some rock work on the La Luz Trail and started on the reroute of Armijo Trail.

January 2026: A small crew worked on brushing Piedra Lisa and 3 Guns Trail.

February 2026: We headed out to Placitas to work reroutes on High Voltage. Lots of erosion out in that area that needs to be addressed often. We also tried to do some more brushing on 3 Guns but got chased out by the cold and wind. At the end of the month, we headed back to Armijo to continue work on reroutes. A wall was built on High Voltage. The picture shows the team posing on the wall that had been completely washed out in the heavy rains last September.







March 2026: The crew continued work on Armijo and at the end of the month moved to start work on Pokerchip.

April and May 2026: Pokerchip needed extensive reroutes in 5 areas. The hike in and out was long and the work required lots of moving rock and roots. It started to get quite hot working there by the end of May.

June 2026: The Talking Talons joined us in June and rather than drag them out to Pokerchip, we did some repairs to part of 10K and Old Faulty. Once again, we had an excellent group of youth to help us get the work done. (See also separate TTYL/YCC article!)

July 2026: The crew headed up to the crest to start repairs to the trails where the fire mitigation crews had finished their work. We worked on Rocky Point, Challenge, and Switchback. None of these trails were completely finished as fire mitigation work continues in some areas of the Crest.

August and September 2026: Switchback needed lots of TLC since it was never really dug as a trail but was rather a surface ski trail that got used year-round. We had help from various SRD staff since there was lots of debris to move and the trail digging itself was a challenge with lots of roots. Trail repair on the crest will continue as long as the weather permits.





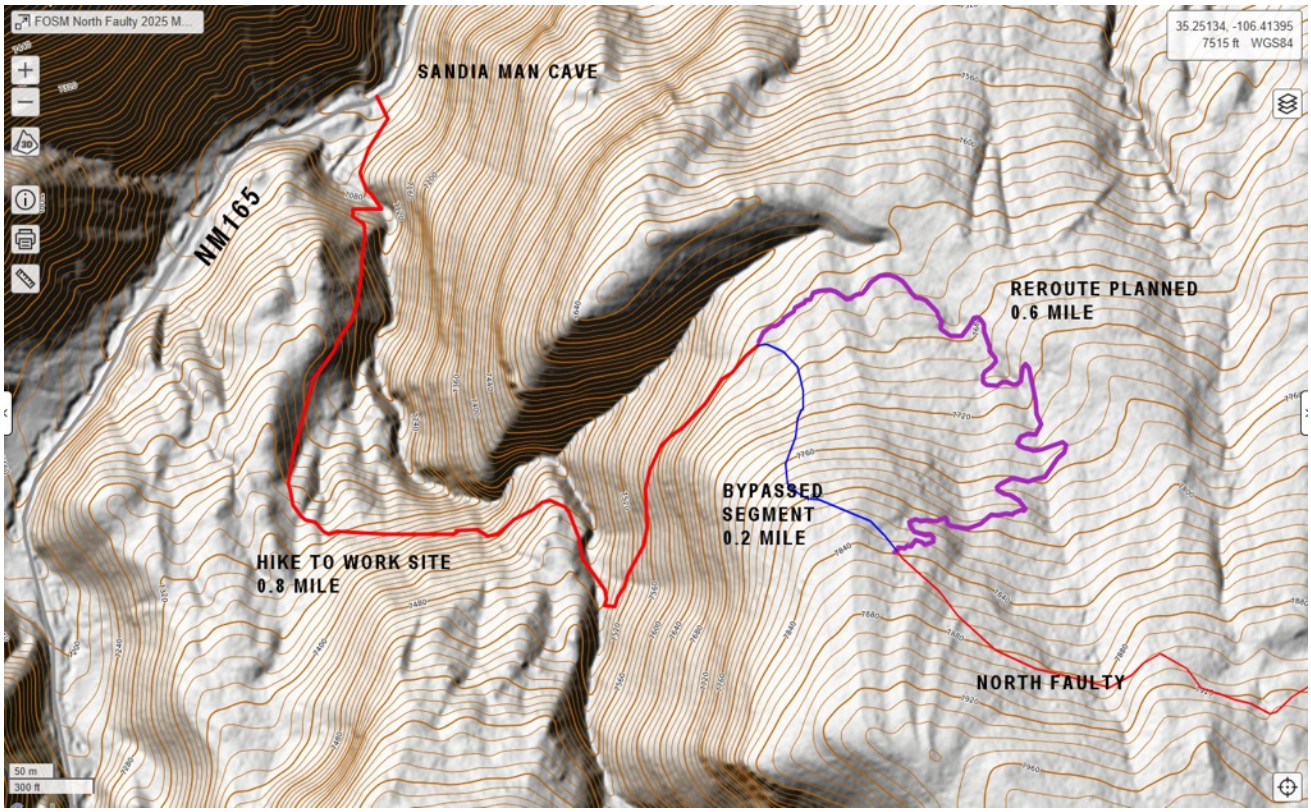
Trail Construction Tuesdays

by Laura Leon



This year, Jen (SRD) set up a Tuesday Trail Construction group to help work through some of the numerous trail projects that the Forest Service would like to get completed.

Contact was made with several organizations that do trail work and the result was a crew of FS, FOSM, PATA, and NMVFO folks. We averaged about 8 workers each week and we worked on the northern most part of North Faulty from April 28 through July 14, 2026. The group created a reroute of 3,335 ft, bypassing an existing 1,020 ft of eroded and rocky trail. The hike in was about a mile uphill from the Sandia Cave parking area. While the views were spectacular, the terrain was tricky with lots of oak stumps and rocks to remove. Midday temperatures were getting pretty hot by the time we finished the reroute in July. At some point in the coming year, we hope to return and work the trail between the parking area and the new reroute.



Rerouted Segment of North Faulty Trail



A Cool Feature



Laura Uses the Clinometer - sort of



Lots and lots of Oak!





Placitas Trail Work

by Luis Cuadros

From fall 2025 through spring 2026, dedicated volunteers made great strides in maintaining and improving the Placitas trail system. Through group workdays, small-team projects, and individual efforts, trail stewards tackled erosion, improved trail sustainability, and strengthened community partnerships.



Looking Up Mustang Alley

Led by Chris Casey and Luis Cuadros, five PATA group workdays brought together volunteers from PATA, Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM), NMVFO, and the local community. Crews addressed severe erosion at the

Handle, Chalk Dust, Strip Mine, and Mustang Alley, along with brushing on Sidewinder.

FOSM leader Laura and SRD's Jen organized two additional workdays on High Voltage and Sidewinder, where volunteers completed tread rehabilitation, crib construction, backslope improvements, brushing, reroutes, and trail restoration. Smaller teams also handled Bootleg brushing, sign repairs and replacements, and berm repairs on High Voltage.



Tim's Toilet Bowl Erosion Work, December 2025

Luis Cuadros also worked on High Voltage, Tim's Toilet Bowl, and upper and lower Sidewinder, completing repairs, brushing, maintenance, and trail realignments.

Between January and March 2026, widespread sign vandalism required multiple outings to remove stickers and clean graffiti. USFS Law Enforcement ultimately stopped the vandalism, but the damage means more than 30 signs will need replacement.

We also conducted comprehensive surveys of trail intersections and signage, user-created trails, erosion following heavy rain, wilderness boundary access points, and boulder blockades along Forest Road 445. These assessments help identify priorities and guide future maintenance.

Beyond trail work, cooperation continued to grow among FOSM, PATA, SRD, and local community organizations.

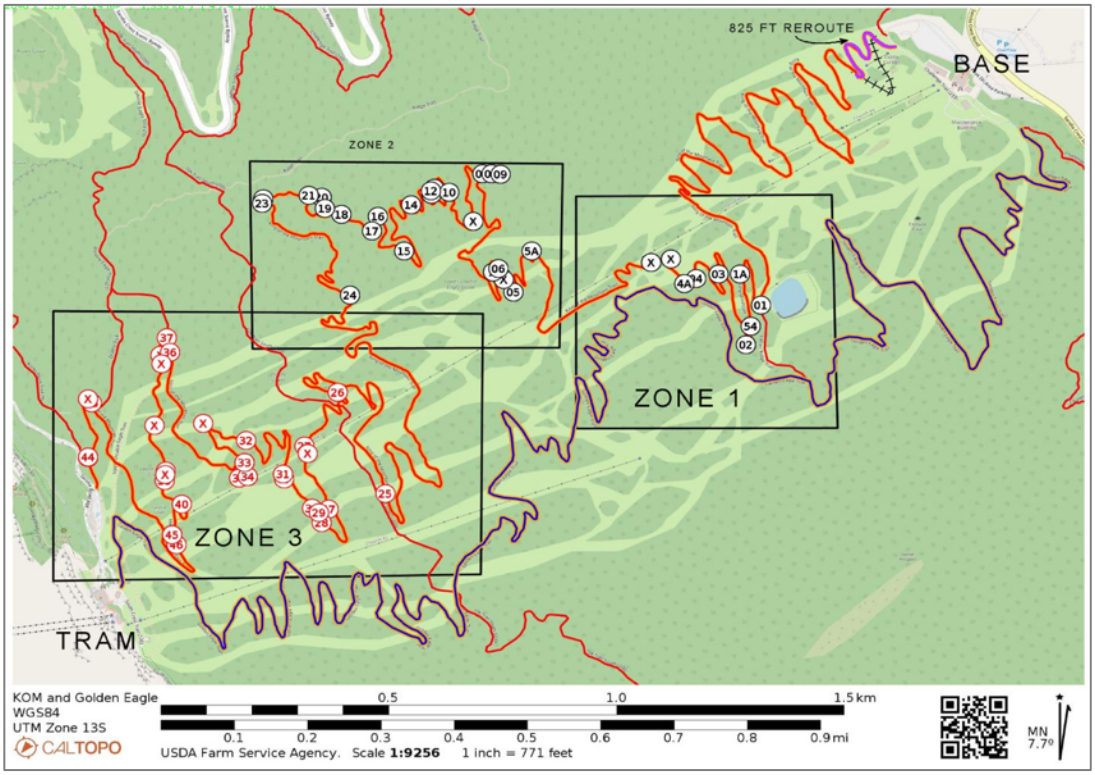
Trails Restoration Project at the Sandia Peak Ski Area

by Luis Cuadros

The 2026 King of the Mountain (KOM) and Golden Eagle (GE) Trails Restoration Project was undertaken to restore access to a historic trail system at Sandia Peak Ski Area (SPSA). KOM is a legacy trail used for mountain bike races since the early 1980s. The classic race route involved an 8-mile climb up KOM followed by a 4.6-mile descent on Golden Eagle. The trails are used by hikers, bikers and equestrians. The area is also used for SAR training and archery competition. Over time, numerous fallen trees and other obstructions had made the trail increasingly difficult to use, contributing to its disuse.

The original proposal presented to SPSA identified 4 primary objectives:

- Clear over 44 identified tree obstructions on KOM. Many of these areas were impassable because of the large and complex obstructions.
- Brush the lower sections of KOM and Golden Eagle.
- Develop and implement a trail-signage plan.
- Reroute the lower section of KOM to address a conflict with newly installed ski-area infrastructure.



Map of King of the Mountain Trail Showing Locations of Obstructions

The project involved extensive field reconnaissance, photo-documentation, measurements, mapping, volunteer coordination, and safety planning. Thirteen additional obstructions were documented, bringing the total to 57. Many of these areas required advanced sawyer skills using crosscuts and chain saws.

Remote areas were accessed from the base via ski runs using 4WD vehicles and a Gator ATV, as well as from above was via the tram and 10K South trail. From July through September, on six



Complex Obstruction #22/23 Requiring Chainsaw Crew

project days, several informal workdays, and solo outings, 26 volunteers removed all trees and obstructions.

Additional work included:

- Brushing - Invasive black locust had narrowed sections of the lower 2 miles of both KOM and Golden Eagle considerably. Multiple teams with hand and electric tools cleared back the thorny brambles.
- Reroute - The final workday on September 12th focused on building a reroute at the KOM entrance, where construction of a Magic Carpet for beginner skiers had blocked the original trail. An 825-foot reroute with four switchbacks was flagged and the trail was built in one day!

New Signs for King of the Mountain and Golden Eagle Trails

by Jamey Browning

As part of the ski area trails restoration efforts, we identified the need for 22 new trail signs for KOM and Golden Eagle. So far, 16 signs have been installed. We expect to finish late fall or early spring depending on the weather. Here are examples of the new trail signs:





The project culminated on October 3rd with a celebration hosted by the Sandia Peak Ski Area where volunteers, vendors, and visitors enjoyed a beautiful day in the mountain sunshine.

OTHER PROJECTS

by Sam Beard

Three Gun Kiosk



On a chilly day in February, a crew of FOSM volunteers replaced the bottom horizontal board, reattached the back panel, added a new hasp for the Yale lock, cleaned the plexiglass, and put a new map in the kiosk. The crew stands with the newly repaired kiosk. The sun finally came out just as we finished working!

Project to Cut Brush on Highway for better Visibility

In October, seven FOSM volunteers cut brush at the intersection of Cienega Road and the Crest Highway for better driver sight distances in both directions on the highway.

YOUTH OUTREACH

Talking Talons Youth Leadership/Youth Conservation Corps (TTYL/YCC)

with Laura Leon, Sam Beard, Cliff Giles, Lou Romero



Aidan Stewart (TTYL Crew Leader), Zoe Lund, Lila Eaton, Kyle Mullen, Beth Power, and Beck Wilson-Scott assisted the Thursday Crew with Reroutes on 10K North Trail

For the last few years, FOSM and the Forest Service have teamed up with TTYL/YCC for summer projects to accomplish important service projects while furthering the TTYL goal of building "… a collaborative, cohesive and multi-disciplinary continuum of mentorship and support for local youth who are passionate about tackling climate change and pursuing conservation work, including: job and life skills training; youth development resources; leadership opportunities; climate change education; and social action projects."

This year, the TTYL/YCC team worked with Laura Leon and the Thursday trail crew on the 10K North reroutes, as well as improvements to the intersection of Bill Spring and Faulty Trails.



Installing a New Steel Roof, Yucca Shelter

They also worked with Sam Beard and Joelle Hertel replacing old shingle roofs with metal roofs on the Locust and Yucca shelters in the Oak Flats picnic area and on the Tunnel Spring Trailhead restroom.

For the reports and more great pictures see Cliff Giles' summary at TTYL/YCC 2026 Projects.



A New Metal Roof, Tunnel Spring Restroom



Beck Wilson-Scott, Aidan Stewart, Beth Powers, Lila Eaton, Kyle Mullen, Zoey Lund, Kiara Laweka

Menaul School Field Trip

by Sam Beard



Mike Madden with Nina Denisova (driver), Chelsea Christopher (faculty), and Menaul School Students

In February, FOSM partnered with Menaul School to clean up trash and locate graffiti in the Foothills trail system South of the Embudo Trailhead as part of the school's annual "Mission Week". The activity was organized by Lou Romero, FOSM Volunteer Youth Programs Coordinator, and Hannah Scanlon of the Menaul faculty.

The students divided into three teams, Coyotes, Hawks, and Bears, hiked and explored the trails, climbed boulders, learned about the local environment, and helped collect trash near a homeless camp. Students provided a report highlighting the different areas covered:

- **Geology:** Students learned how the Sandia Mountains formed, about the Rio Grande Rift, and how alluvial fans shaped the eastern mesa.
- **Power Lines:** They learned about the large power poles, their creosote coating, and how electricity is transmitted efficiently.
- **Native Plants:** They identified mountain mahogany, cholla cactus, juniper, four-wing saltbush, and Apache plume.
- **Wildlife:** They spotted a deer and discussed other local mammals, including mountain lions, black bears, and bobcats.
- **Trail Signs:** Along the route, they observed about a dozen signs in varying conditions, including faded and bullet-damaged signs.
- **Water Management:** They learned how drainage channels behind nearby homes help prevent flooding.
- **Land Management:** They explored areas managed by City Open Space and the Sandia Ranger District of Cibola National Forest.

Although litter was limited, the hike offered a valuable reminder of the importance of protecting our shared outdoor spaces.

For a detailed report and more pictures see the Menaul School update on the FOSM website.



ONGOING INITIATIVES

Adopt-A-Highway

by Susan Gregory, Sam Beard

FOSM has adopted one mile of highway 536, Crest Road, between Mile 4 and Mile 5. Two trash cleanup and brushing events were conducted during FY26. The first cleanup was held on Tuesday, 14 October 2025 and 12 volunteers participated. Seven volunteers picked up trash and five cleared heavy brush along the guard rail. The second cleanup event was held on Friday, 15 May 2026 with a total of 13 volunteers. The group was split with eight people picking up trash and five clearing brush. Susan Gregory organized the events and Sam Beard led the brush clearing efforts.

Adopt-A-Drop Program

by Dan Benton



Piedra Lisa North Drinker System

Adopt-A-Drop program is the name given to the USFS program for volunteers to adopt wildlife drinkers. Forest Service Wildlife biologists and technicians have overseen this program for years, but now they have requested that FOSM manage the program. The USFS will provide guidance.

Wildlife drinkers are scattered throughout the Manzanita and Sandia mountains, from the Piedra Lisa North trailhead near Placitas in the north to David Canyon in the far south. There are 20 drinkers, 14 of which are presently functional. They range from commercial steel and fiberglass units to historic concrete cattle troughs and fountains, to enhanced natural springs, and to one lined pond.

Surface water is limited in the Sandias and Manzanitas, especially in late summer, so these drinkers provide a valuable resource for wildlife stressed by drought and human encroachment. Volunteers are expected to make at least two site visits per year to their adopted drinker and report their findings to the USFS Wildlife Biologist on the prescribed form. Volunteer actions include such things as cleaning debris from troughs, clearing water lines, and adjusting float valves.

The most significant event in the program this year has been the rehabilitation of the Piedra Lisa North drinker, which has been adopted by Susan Gregory. This drinker sits at the top of an exposed knoll above the Piedra Lisa North trail head at a lower elevation than most of the other watering devices. It is one of only two devices of the fiberglass clamshell design, the other one being on the opposite side of the Sandias near the lower Challenge Trail. It was installed so that the water from the rainfall collection clamshell feeds to the drinker trough by gravity, eliminating the need for a float valve system.



Open Basin Joint Sealed with Silicon



Basin and Cap

Although this location receives less rainfall than our other devices, and it frequently runs dry in the summer, there has been a suspicion that the system was also leaking. So, on this past April 16th Susan, along with Andrew Ellis, the District Wildlife Biologist, and Joshua Brunk, the Assistant Wildlife Biologist, visited the site to inspect and repair. They removed the clamshell cap and Andrew and Josh cleaned out the basin. After inspection, Andrew applied silicon to the basin outlet to the drinker and Josh applied silicon to a wall joint. A subsequent visit by Susan after a rainfall showed eight inches of water in the basin and twelve inches in the trough, indicating that the repairs were successful. The attached photos show the work being done and the present appearance of the drinker. Susan will continue to monitor.

FOSM also provides advice and technical assistance to Bernalillo County Open Space, which operates four wildlife drinkers on County Open Space lands adjacent to the Ranger District.

Adopt-A-Trail Program

by Dan Benton

FOSM involvement in the Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) program dates to 1997, when the District Ranger at that time saw the program as a way to cope with the lack of year-round paid staff for trail work. Groups recruited into the AAT program were a diverse cross section of society: civic organizations, church groups, school groups,

military organizations, homeowners' associations, environmental groups, outdoor recreation groups, meetup groups, and people simply living in the same apartment complex.

As recently as 2010, there were thirty such groups in the program, typically committed to three outings per year on their adopted trail. However, that year things began to change, as the Ranger District finally hired its first full-time Trails Foreman and shortly thereafter added the Trails and Wilderness Program Manager Position, and the focus began to shift to trails that most needed work. The addition of the Cibola Trail Rangers network also brought real time, rather than infrequent, attention to the needs of all trails. The result was that as AAT groups aged or lost interest and dropped out of the program, they generally were not replaced with new groups. But the exception to that trend is the Sandia Nordic Ski Club, which came on board in 2021 and now provides most of the hours reported.

Today we have four active AAT groups that reported 486.25 total hours. This number is significantly lower than last year because low snowfall prevented the Sandia Nordic Ski Club from grooming its trails, and volunteers were not able to get higher on the mountain due to the closure for the Switchback Hazard Tree and Fuels Reduction Project. Following are the AAT groups' statistics for this past fiscal year.

Groups reporting hours this year:

- New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club (numerous cross- country ski trails in the Sandia Crest area) with 66 hours (thanks to the efforts of Steve Roholt),
- Friends of the Sandia Mountains (Tecolote Trail and Cienega Nature Trail) with 39 hours,
- Friends of 10K South (i.e., Rav and Ken Nicholson, 10K South from its beginning through the ski area) with 47.25 hours, and
- The Sandia Nordic Ski Club (Nordic Ski trails) with 334 hours.

Caring for Trees Planted Four Years Ago

by Sim Cook

FOSM volunteers continue monitoring young trees planted in two locations in the Sandia Mountains. The Ponderosa pines have surged with the recent downpour, while the Douglas firs have struggled with drought and have not done as well at lower elevations in the Sandias. About 115 trees remain in the two locations from an original planting of 350–400 seedlings four years ago.

Watering requirements vary with tree size, but one gallon can serve three or four trees depending on size. Continued attention to watering and survival will help protect the remaining seedlings.

SIGNAGE AND MAPPING PROJECTS

Protecting Trail Signs During Forest Thinning

by Sam Beard with Pauline Ho, Jamey Browning, Steve Roholt



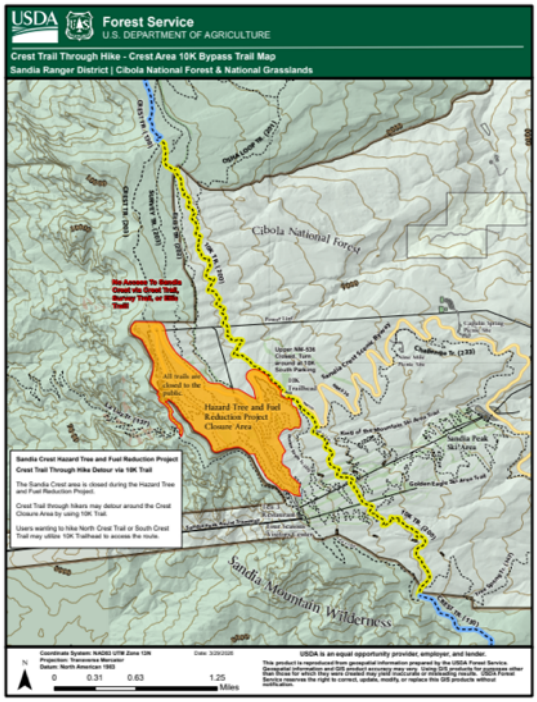
Tim & Chuck Marking a Post and Removing a Sign on South Crest Trail

On April 1, 2026, FOSM volunteers joined SRD's Jennifer Medina-Gray in preparing the Crest Area trails for the thinning and mastication project.

Four volunteer crews worked across the area, removing trail signs where possible and marking others with pink ribbon so they would not be damaged by heavy equipment. Crews worked near Kiwanis Meadow and Cabin, South Crest Trail, Switchback Trail, Buried Cable, and the Crest Nature Trail.

The project identified 66 signs, with 34 designated for removal and the remainder were flagged. Volunteers also removed nine signs from the lower Switchback and Survey area and helped transport a steel map kiosk for future reuse.

Some signs could not be removed because their bolts were bent. The crews marked the remaining signs and documented their locations for the Forest Service. Members of the Sandia Nordic Ski Club also removed cross-country ski trail signs.



Sandia Peak Alternative Hiking Trail Maps

by Jamey Browning

Early this year, SRD asked if FOSM could create special maps to show alternative hiking trails available during the Crest area closure. Four new maps showing alternative hiking routes were created, one example shown here. For all maps go to: https://friendsofthesandias.org/sandia-crest-closure/

Painting The Large Scenic Byway Sign at The Roundabout

by Sam Beard

In March, Rick Buss, Pauline Ho, and Sam Beard painted the red background of the large scenic byway sign that had been built by Ross Ward (Tinker Town founder) a few decades ago. The south side of the sign was in poor condition with paint missing on many parts of the surface.



Work in Progress

Background, letters and the turquoise arrowhead were painted. Loose paint chips were removed with scrapers and wire brushes, and several holes and other damaged areas were filled with epoxy paste and later painted.



Karen Greif in front of the Restored Historic Roundabout Sign

Painting Selected Signs South of the Ranger Station

by Sam Beard

Signs were painted at the following locations:

- Sign pointing to Oak Flat Group Picnic Area
- Intersection of Oak Flat Road and NM-337 – North side of large National Forest boundary sign
- Three signs on FR-252 near Cedro Group Campground
- Sign at vehicle gate behind the ranger station



Painting Sign at Oak Flat PA

New Signage and Updated FOSM Trifold
by Jamey Browning

Tecolote Adapt-a-Trail Signage



Last year, Sam asked for a new Adapt-a-Trail sign for Tecolote Trail, which has been adopted and is maintained by FOSM. The original sign had badly degraded over the years and needed to be updated to use our DBA name "Friends of the Sandia Mountains".

One-inch-thick white oak was used to make a 26" x 19.5" sign. It is the same width as the previous sign but slightly taller to incorporate additional lettering. The sign was carved using a CNC vertical milling machine. Sam finished the sign with Cabot Australian Timber Oil Natural Color. In July, Chuck Logan, Michael Arndt, and Sam installed the new sign.



Old Tecolote Sign



New Tecolote Sign

Tijeras Pueblo Archeological Site Road Signs





In August, Sam and Jamey worked on a project to update the open/closed panels for the Pueblo sign which had degraded with age. Sam repainted the sign. Jamey procured an 8-foot length of 1"x6" of Doug Fir and cut the wood into two pieces. A vertical CNC vertical milling machine was used to route the open/closed lettering into the pieces. Sam painted the open/closed panels using USFS colors yellow-cream and light blue. The panels are designed to be flipped over with "Museum Closed" on one side and "Museum Open on the other side.

We Maintain These Trails Signs



Last year Mike Madden suggested that we create and install "We Help Maintain These Trails" signs to help inform the public about our work maintaining trails in the SRD. I designed the signs and P&M Signs, Inc., in Mountainair was engaged to make 10. So far, 8 have been installed on kiosks in the Sandias and we recently ordered 10 more signs.

Wilderness Trail Signs

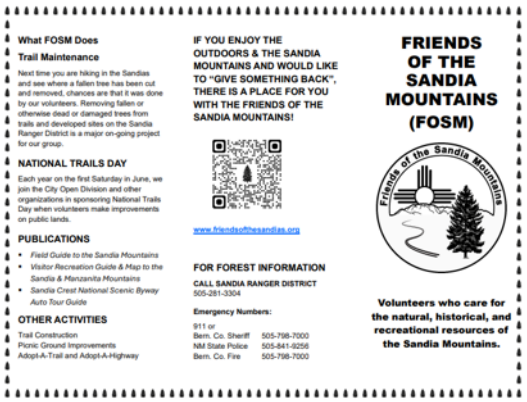
Jen at SRD is working on a project to replace degraded trail signposts in the Sandias with new signs. Last year, at SRD's request, four signs were created for Ellis, 10K, and Survey Trails. This summer the Forest Service installed the new signs. This winter we plan to work on additional signs so that we can continue to replace the old signposts in the Sandias with nice new signs. The next area of focus will likely be the Osha Loop/Penasco Blanco trail area north of the Crest.





FOSM Marketing Trifold

FOSM has a trifold handout used to inform folks about what we do and how to join. This spring we updated the trifold and added QR codes so that visitors can use their smartphones to obtain information about our monthly meetings or to join FOSM. We printed 750 copies to hand out at the Tram, the Doc Long Interpretive Hut, and the Ranger Station. https://friendsofthesandias.org/about-us/





USFS SRD Trail Centerline Data Project

by Jamey Browning

In 2024 FOSM performed and provided analysis to SRD to document the accuracy of their trails database and identify trail sections with positional errors. This was done largely by overlaying and comparing hiking tracks gathered over the last 12 years with the Forest Service trail data. Forty-three significant errors were identified. Over many years, there were a significant number of reroutes and new trails which had never made it into the official database. Also, some of the data was pre-GPS and inaccurate. In one case a trail was almost a quarter mile off from its true location.

In 2025 the cost of mapping grade GPS receivers fell from thousands of dollars to $500. I bought one and FOSM bought two for SRD. These receivers are accurate to about 1.5 meters even in canopy. Using the new receivers which were approved by Cibola National Forest, Jen, Canyon, and I surveyed a significant portion of the trail system.

This year, the Cibola National Forest has been entering the new data into the USFS trails database. The updated database is key to making new hiking maps for the Sandias and Manzanitas. This process is about 90% complete.

Project to update AllTrails Trail Descriptions

FOSM has joined the AllTrails Associated Partners program and can directly edit trails and information for the Sandia Mountains. The trail descriptions in AllTrails are often not as informative as one would wish. So, there is an ongoing project to create detailed descriptions of trails and trailheads in the Sandias. Information includes the best season and times to hike the trail, whether it is sunny or shady, is it for beginning or more experienced hikers, trailhead amenities such as parking and restrooms, parking fees, allowed activities (hike, bike, horse, XC ski) and what sights may be encountered along the trail. If known, a little history about the trail is included. So far descriptions have been written for:

- 10K North Trail
- 10K South Trail
- Cienega Trail
- Crest Area Trailheads
- Ellis Trail
- Golden Eagle Trail
- King of the Mountain Trail
- La Luz Trail
- Survey Trail
- Tecolote Trail
- Tree Spring Trail
- Crest Trail
- Four Seasons Nature Trail
- Domingo Baca Trail
- Pino Trail

You can find all these trail descriptions in the AllTrails app.

Custom Hiking Maps for 26 SRD Information Kiosks

District Ranger Ken Born asked FOSM to move forward with a project to create custom hiking maps for SRD kiosks. Goal is to partition the Sandia Ranger District into discrete hiking areas. There may be multiple trailheads within a map area. Each kiosk in an area will have a map with a custom "You Are Here" marker. This is in the draft stage, but we anticipate the following 14 maps:

Sandia Mountains Maps

1. Placitas Area Hiking Map (Placitas trail system)
2. Northern Foothills Area Hiking map (Northern portion of Foothills Trail and Elena Gallegos area)
3. Pino Trail Map (Pino and Crest Trail between Pino and the Tram)
4. Southern Foothills Area Hiking Map (southern portion of Foothills Trail and Albuquerque Open Space Trails>
5. Southeastern Sandias Trail Map (south Crest, south Faulty, Upper Faulty)
6. Doc Long, Sulphur, & Cienega picnic site Trail Map (Picnic area trails and the Armijo improvement area trails)
7. Scenic Byway Trail Map (Tree Spring, lower Challenge, Oso Corredor, Tecolote, Balsam Glade)
8. Sandia Crest / 10K South Area Trail Map (10K S, Upper KOM/Golden Eagle, Crest to Tree Spring)
9. Sandia Crest / 10K North Area Trail Map (10K N, Survey, Ellis, Crest, Osha Loop)
10. Sandia Crest Area Trail Map (Between the Crest and the Tram)
11. Northwestern Sandias Trail System Map (N Crest, Osha Spring, Agua Sarca, Pensaco Banco)

Manzanitas Maps

1. Tunnel Canyon / Otero Canyon / Mars Court Area Trail Map
2. Oak Flat Area Trail Map
3. Cedro Peak Area Trail Map

Updated Maps for Cienega, Sulphur, and Doc Long

by Don Carnicom, Luis Cuadros

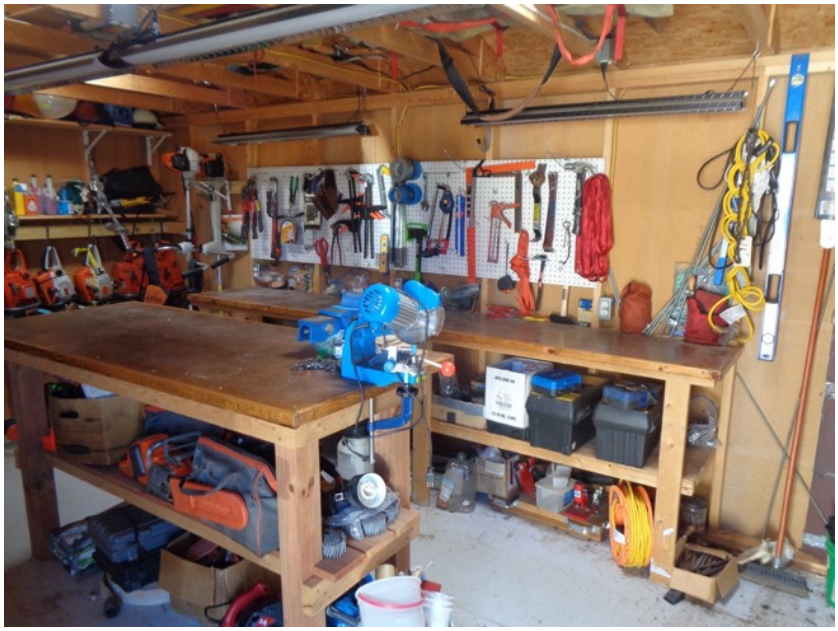
In order to fill the need temporarily for maps covering the new Cienega, Sulphur, Doc Long Trail Complex, a file was generated covering that area. Five 16" X 22" maps were prepared and installed throughout the three picnic areas. In addition, nine smaller maps, 8" X 11" were posted throughout the trail complex at critical trail intersections. All were updated as more trails were completed. With the completion of Wagon Trail, all maps are current.

FOSM Guard Station Updates

by Joelle Hertel, Sam Beard

In February, a battery charging station and storage shelves were installed in the Guard Station. The station has hangers for 8 battery-powered drills and three shelves for other equipment. Additional hooks were put in the pegboard on the south wall of the Guard Station, and numerous tools were hung on the hooks. The top surfaces of the two work benches are now clear and available for project use.





The New FOSM Tools Storage Unit

by Sam Beard, Joelle Hertel

Last December the base for the new FOSM storage container behind the FOSM Guard Station was built using road base (gravel and sand) poured into a wooden frame. Joelle compacted the base with her car.





The new container was delivered and installed in January:







In February, FOSM volunteers began construction of racks and hangers in the new 8-foot by 20-foot container south of the FOSM Guard Station.

Vertical 2x4s were installed along the container walls to support tool racks and hooks. Hooks for loppers and a rack for Pulaskis, pick mattocks, and sledgehammers were installed on the north wall, while shovel hangers were added to the south wall. Plans include expanding the tool rack and adding storage for McLeods and rock bars.







New Crosscut Saw Handles

by Jamey Browning



FOSM and NMVFO requested new handles for several crosscut saws. Some helper handles had broken or were missing plus one D Handle was broken. NMVFO also had handle hardware for two man crosscut saws which were missing the slotted bolts and asked if we could restore the handles.

Here is a photo of new helper handles, three complete and two under construction. These are made with common bolt hardware from Lowes. These were put into use quickly, so another half dozen was made for spares.



Crosscut Saw Helper Handles



D-Handle for NMVFO Crosscut Saw

22nd Sandia Snowshoe Classic 2026

by Mike Madden, Race Director



The 22nd Sandia Snowshoe Classic 2026 had been scheduled for January 24, 2026, but unfortunately had to be canceled.

The Committee, consisting of Mike Madden, Silke Bletzer, Jamey Browning, Kerry Jones, Jeff Huser, Lauri Dodge (Cibola SAR) and Owen Lyons (Cottonwood Classical HS) met once a month beginning September to prepare for it. All preparations were made. We had a full 175 runners signed up.

However, a week out, a large winter storm was forecasted. Kerry, a retired meteorologist, updated the Committee daily during that week. Our drop-dead time to make a go/no-go decision was 11am Thursday morning, 48 hours before the start of the race. There were two items totally out of our control: The first is the closing of the new gate on the Crest Road at mile marker 7, just past the lower ski area parking lot. The Bernalillo County Sheriff department determines whether it is safe to drive above the gate, if not, they order NMDOT to close it.

The second item is that the Crest Road is NMDOT's lowest priority for snow clearing. I-40, Hwy 333, Hwy 14, Hwy 337 all come first. As of Thursday morning, the storm was scheduled to hit the mountain around 5 PM Friday. Faced with the approaching storm and our two uncertainties, we decided to cancel. In the end, the storm arrived a few hours later than predicted, and the highway gate was closed at 11 AM Saturday morning, precisely at our scheduled race start time, so we made the right decision.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

FOSM Email Reporting Groups

by Bob Lowder

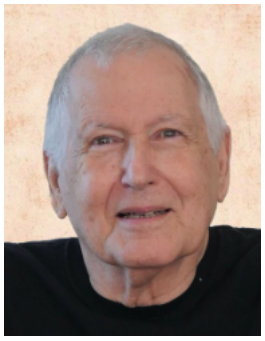
Communication to and between members is important for most organizations and ours is no exception. FOSM established an email notification in 2002 using the Yahoo Groups system. Due to the unreliability of the Yahoo groups system, FOSM changed the carrier to Southwest Cyber Port, an Albuquerque company in 2019.

SANDIA VOLUNTEERS/FOSM - This group of about 255 email addresses is made up from all FOSM members, authorized USFS/SRD volunteers and others who have expressed an interest in receiving the information it provides. This system publishes announcements of FOSM projects, monthly FOSM meetings, information from our partners at the USFS Sandia Ranger District, etc. Messages to this group require approval by a moderator.

CIBOLA TRAIL RANGERS - This group of about 225 email addresses provides a forum for everyone to report conditions on our Sandia trails. Many of our trail maintenance projects have resulted from messages submitted on this system. Messages posted do not require moderator approval.
Share information to ctr_members@mailman.swcp.com; for more information and how to join go to Cibola Trail Rangers on the FOSM website.

Friends We Have Lost

Paul Torno (January 6, 1941 - January 5, 2026)



Paul was one of our regular Wednesday volunteers and a chainsaw operator before he and his wife Sharon moved back to Grinnell, Iowa, where they had both attended college. He donated his small Husqvarna 440 chain saw to FOSM. Paul's obituary can be found at Smith Funeral Home, Grinnell, Iowa. It mentions his volunteer work in New Mexico.

Publication of the FY2026 Friends of the Sandia Mountains Annual Newsletter
Sam Beard, Silke Bletzer, Editors

A huge "Thank You" to the following people who contributed to the publication of the FY2026 Friends of the Sandia Mountains Annual Newsletter: Authors who contributed articles, photographers who took informative and interesting pictures, reviewers who helped correct the various versions, and FOSM volunteers who completed the many projects for us to report. This is our year-end historical review that is available to all members, volunteers, and visitors to our meetings.

Project Participants in FY2026

About 86 FOSM members frequently volunteered to work on the weekly projects, and about a dozen members typically work each week.

FOSM officers, Board Members, and the Sandia Ranger District Staff appreciate the support of all the FOSM members very much. The volunteers who worked on FOSM projects in FY2026 were:

Aaron Brooks, Amber Mowery, Andrew Chavez, Andrew Ellis, Bet Gendron, Betsy Galloway, Bill Perkins, Bob Lowder, Bruce Hansche, Byron Garner, Canyon Young, Christopher French, Chuck Logan, Cia Reil, Claudia Bergsohn, Cleve Sharp, Cliff Giles, Courtnee Bennett, Cruz Talamantes, Dallas Duckworth, Dan Benton, Dan Burwinkle, Dana Price, Dave Gabel, Dave Gable, David McCreery, Dennis Crowther, Dillman Baston, Don Carnicom, Don Fisher, Dorothy Hendrix, Dorthy Hendrix, Eric Messerschmidt, Eric Russell, Erin Gaddis, Fred Hagstrom, Isaiah Ramires, James Epps, Jamey Browning, Jay Wulf, Jean Payne, Jeff Young, Jennifer Medina-Gray, Jenny Blackmore, Jerry Carroll, Jim Houle, Joelle Hertel, John Braly, John Cooper, John McNett, John Quinley, Joshua Brunk, Karen Greif, Katie Ziegwald, Ken Nicholson, Ken Sexe, Ken Wilson, Kenny Capps, Kent Towler, Kerry Jones, Larry Larrichio, Laura Leon, Lorna Morrow, Lou Romero, Luis Cuadros, Lukas Sigmund, Luke Anaya, Mackenzie Gibbs, Manny Chavez, Mark Werkmeister, Michael Arndt, Mike Madden, Mike Oliver, Patrick Walgren, Paul Karas, Pauline Ho, Peter Sokolow, Phil Cromer, Ralph Wrons, Rav Nicholson, Rene Archer, Rich Fagioli, Rich Feddersen, Rich Federsen, Rick Buss, Rifka Stern, Robert Lowder, Roland Stumpf, Sally Lowder, Sam Beard, Sam Benton, Sandra Combs, Scott Dietrich, Silke Bletzer, Sim Cook, Steve Forrest, Steve Roholt, Steven Woshee, Sue Harrelson, Susan Gregory, Susan Harrelson, Ted Anaya, Tim Brown, Tim Kirkpatrick, Todd Holister, Tony Pachelli

Participating organizations and volunteer groups included New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, Placitas Area Trails Association, Sandia National Laboratories

ES&H Volunteer Activities Team, Mountain Christian Church Wood Ministry, Sandia Nordic Ski Club, New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club, Friends of 10K South, Talking Talons Youth Leadership/Youth Conservation Corps, and Menaul School.

FOSM Board FY2026

Officers

* President – Mike Madden
* Vice President – Kerry Jones
* Treasurer – Scott Dietrich
* Secretary – Silke Bletzer

Board Members

* Sam Beard
* Sim Cook
* Jamey Browning
* Byron Garner
* Jenny Blackmore
* Cliff Giles
* Susan Gregory
* Laura Leon

