

Skagit Trail Builders

Planning Meeting for March 8th, 2025, Work Party

Bull Pen Restaurant, Sedro-Woolley, WA

Feb 22, 2025 - Notes taken by Jenny Sandbo

18 in attendance:

Leadership: Jim Taylor, Jerry Granahan, Jenny Sandbo, Sativa Espinoza, Alex Ruiz-Talbot, Michael Hinchin, Bret Turner

Volunteers at Large: Harlie Freeman, Sandi Speedy, Jean Ward, Kinsey Schilling, Anna MacKinnon, Angel Ruiz-Talbot, Addie Fetty, Robert Slabodnik, Ellie Slabodnik, Zoe Slabodnik, Casey Figueroa

1. Review of Feb 22, 2025 work party

a. Did we achieve our work party objectives? Yes

- a. We did not work on the elevated trail culverts as planned because Jerry had safety concerns with power carriers going by with rock sand. After further discussion, we determined that it is safe as long as culvert workers move back when carriers are going by. We will work on these culverts at the next work party.
- b. We completed the rock work around the culvert 2 (north end of the upper meadow by the old barn). This was good practice to determine how much material will be needed for the culverts on the elevated trail.
 - i. 1 bag of concrete per culvert end (so, 2 bags per culvert) plus 4x8, small 1-man, ballast and rock sand.
- c. Gravel capping completed on bonus loop from the triangle crossing to the rock garden
- d. Gravel capping completed about halfway from culvert 1 (marked on map) to culvert 2
- e. Blackberries trimmed and dug on bonus loop
- f. Weeded around Maple tree seedlings, plus removed cages from trees that did not survive

b. How did things go in general?

- i. From Ellie: People seemed happy, no complaints. Wants to highlight the involvement of SWHS Earth Club students at this work party, plus the fact that Addy took her senior pictures in the wildflower meadow last fall.
- ii. From JT: Trained 2 new people on power carriers – they were awesome – both were Earth Club members

c. Improvements & ideas?

- i. Improve communication at the beginning of the work party. For example, have team leaders gather their people before taking off for the work sites.

2. What is our plan for Mar. 8, 2025?

a. Objectives

- i. Continue rock sand capping on Hill Creek Trail and Bonus Loop
- ii. Complete rock sand capping between Culvert 1 and 2 on Hill Creek Trail (indicated on work party plan map) continuing down to the elevated trail
- iii. Start the rock work around culverts on the elevated trail

- iv. Continue blackberry removal along the bonus loop
 - v. Start decommissioning the meadow borrow pit
- b. Teams
 - i. Same as Feb 22, 2025
- c. Materials list
 - i. 15 bags of cement
- d. Equipment needs
 - i. Dingo with the three-foot bucket
 - ii. The normal power carriers (3), plus (2) rentals
 - iii. The plate compactor
- 3. Mountaineers Go Hike Participants
 - a. They reached out to volunteer with us in May and June
 - b. We are limiting their volunteer numbers to 20 per work party, including 2 leaders
 - c. Split the group into 2 teams – 1 to hike, 1 to work, then switch after lunch
 - i. This is what we did last year, it worked well. Offering people from Seattle a tour of the trail after they've driven so far to volunteer.
 - 1. It is difficult to utilize that many people, depending on what we are doing. At this point, we don't know what we'll be working on.
 - ii. Have Liz & Pam lead the hikes
 - iii. Set a time frame of 2 hours, ex/ 10am-12pm, then 1-3pm, so we aren't waiting for them to return, like last year.
 - d. Budget for work party planning meeting dinner. Do we invite them to dinner and cover their cost?
 - i. What is our food budget?
 - 1. \$250-400 (includes tax + tip) is the range. \$20 per person. We average 8-15 per meeting.
 - a. To cover an additional 20 people would bring our total dinner cost up to \$800-900.
 - 2. We do not pay for alcohol
 - ii. Can we invite them to participate in dinner, but explain we don't have the budget to cover their meals?
 - 1. How do we differentiate between paying for our crew's meal vs the Mountaineers?
 - 2. Suggestion from Bret: Set a budget, then buy pizza.
 - 3. Suggestion from Michael: Organize a cook-out at the trailhead.
 - a. Jenny's response: Fun if the weather is good, but it is a lot to organize. I cannot take on anymore responsibilities. Someone else would need to spearhead.
 - 4. Needs more discussion