

## **Skagit Trail Builders**

### **Planning Meeting for June 14, 2025, Work Party**

Bull Pen Restaurant, Sedro-Woolley, WA

May 24, 2025 - Notes taken by JT, edited by Jenny

#### 12 in attendance:

Leadership: Jim "JT" Taylor, Michael Hinchey, Paul Klein, Jerry Granahan, Sativia Espinoza, Shylee Espinoza,

Volunteers at Large: Zoe Slabodnik, Ellie Slabodnik, Robert Slabodnik, Parker Boal, Logan Boal, John Seehorn

#### 1. Review of May 24, 2025 work party

##### a. Did we achieve our work party objectives? Yes

- Cleaned trash out of the historic Pump House
- Removed invasive blackberries around the Pump House and rock wall
- Repaired damage (due to vandalism) to the rock wall and steps at the Pump House Bridge
- Cleared vegetation encroaching on the west side of the Hill Creek Loop (about 1/2 mile)
- Built three bench sites (one on Hansen Creek, two overlooking the Beaver Pond)
- Applied final rock sand capping to the elevated trail right up to the Pump House Bridge
- Completed the Pump House trail connection to the service road

##### b. How did things go in general?

- i. Paul – Very happy. Rock sand capping went well. Sativia, Logan and Parker did a great job on the Pump House. Shylee's team knocked out the blackberry clearing very quickly. Felt the Mountaineer's work went slowly. It is very inefficient to have people doing this work by hand when we could just mow (or the Parks Dept should mow).
- ii. JT – Thought the day went great. Kip did an incredible job keeping the broken power carrier going all day. Youth Leaders worked hard.

##### c. Improvements & ideas?

- i. Still need to install a post and arch at Elk Trailhead – we will probably do this outside of the volunteer work party.
- ii. Need to have power carrier repaired

- iii. Robert and Jerry offered this idea for discouraging vandalism to the rock wall at Pump House Bridge : Use remaining 1-man rock and soil to create “raised beds” with fern and wildflower plantings on the lower tiers of the rock wall. This will cover up the flat surfaces that are creating a leverage point for people to pry rocks out of the wall
2. What is our plan for the last 2 work parties of this build year?
- Guest groups:
- Rainbow Girls (6-8 plus parents, ages 11-20) - June 14
  - Mountaineers Go Hike (20 participants) – June 28
- a. Objectives in order of priority:
- i. “Raised bed” plantings at Pump House Rock Wall
  - ii. Widen the trail corridor and soften the switchback turn at the pump house bridge so equipment can more easily make the turn
  - iii. Decommission equipment access trail at Pump House Bridge
  - iv. Install post & arch at Elk Trail Head
  - v. Determine what to do with the left-over materials
  - vi. Blackberry and grass control in the Big Meadow

JT, Jenny, Paul, and Jerry will do a walk through with Brian Adams and Joseph Shea to look at the work sites then decide teams, equipment and material needs for the May 24 work party.

Note: We are saving our first work party in September for pre-ribbon cutting ceremony prep, focusing on stewardship (vegetation control) and tying up loose ends. We want the trail and bridges to be in great shape for our commissioners and visitors attending the ceremony.

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## **Party Plan Update**

Plan for June 28 BBQ is in action: Jenny is planning and managing the party with support from Ashely & Jeremy Jensen, Bret Turner, Paul Klein, Anna MacKinnon and JT. STB will pay for food, drinks, ice, treasure hunt cards, and prizes. Jenny and Paul will be donating the use of coolers and a camp grill.

### Menu

Kirkland Beef Sausage  
A vegan hot dog option  
Brioche Buns  
Condiments

Chips (potato chips & doritos?)  
Watermelon, grapes and/or strawberries  
Soda (coke & sprite?)  
Water  
Ice  
Sheet Cake  
Plates, napkins, cups, utensils + BBQ utensils

Prizes: STB “vintage” T-Shirts and up to \$60 in edible prizes + white elephant prizes donated by Anna and Jenny

To-Dos:

June 2-6: **Jenny** will write requisition form and send to UG304

June 9-13: **Jenny** will order card sets for Anna's treasure hunt

Thurs, June 26 **Jenny/JT** will:

- pick up cooler from **Paul**
- retrieve camp grill and cooler from storage unit
- do Costco shopping
- meet with **Bret** at Church to store food, drinks, ice, coolers, plates, napkins.
- Drop cards and prizes with **Anna**

Sat, June 28:

- **Bret** will bring everything from the Church to the early team meeting at NSRA so he can drive through the locked gate with **JT** (note: Paul offered to meet with Bret at the Church to put it all in his truck, if needed)
- **JT** will bring stereo, grill, propane, stove, coffee set-up and the usual assortment of cups.
- **Anna** will bring games and prizes, do the set-up, and MC the entertainments
- **Jeremy and Ashley** will host the party! Set up food, cook hotdogs, etc.

When I send out the invite, I'll share the menu and that volunteers aren't expected to bring any food, but if they want to, bring something that doesn't need refrigeration or preparation.

Volunteers encouraged to bring camp chairs.