

Skagit Trail Builders

Planning Meeting for the Jan 24, 2026 Work Party

Bull Pen Restaurant, Sedro-Woolley, WA

Jan 10, 2026 - Notes taken by Jenny

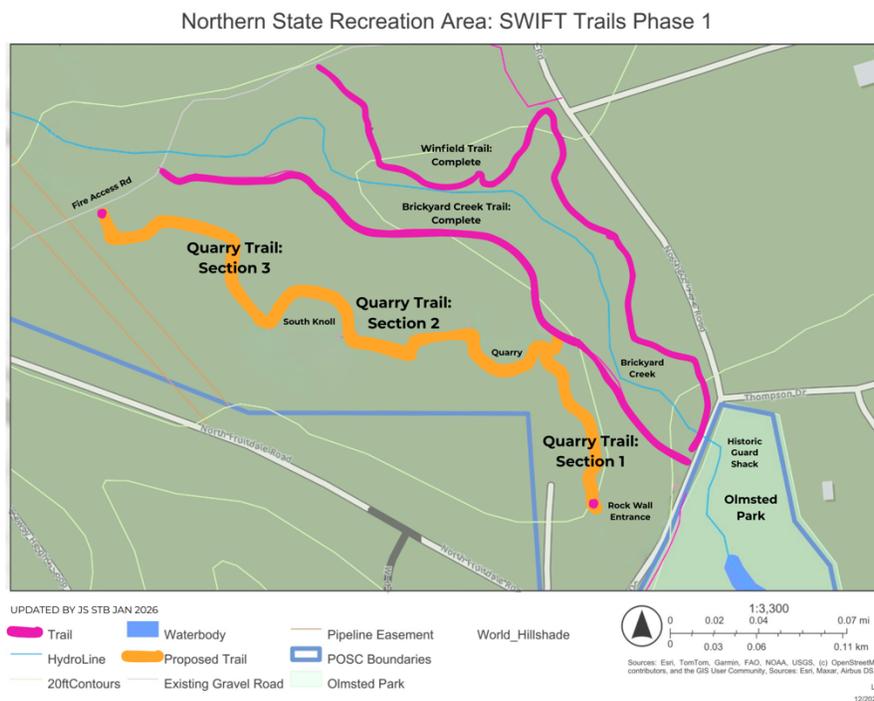
14 volunteers in attendance

Leadership: Jim “JT” Taylor, Paul Klein, Jerry Granahan, Jenny Sandbo, Michael Hinchey.
Volunteers at Large: Bret Turner, Leslie Mitchell, John Seehorn, Germaine Kornegey, Eli Sparks, Corinna Opsdahl, Anna MacKinnon, Ellie Slabodnik, Robert Slabodnik.

Review of advance work on Friday, Jan 9

Five people worked from 6:00 am or 9:00 am -2:30 pm to prepare the Quarry Trail project so volunteers could get straight to work on Saturday.

- Cleared organic material off the trail surface.
- Filled deep dips with rock and ballast so power carriers could move safely.
- Smoothed and compacted pit run capping on 100 yards of trail northwest and southeast of the South Knoll, leaving space for the contractor to work with their mini excavator without disturbing the finished tread.
- Identified areas where native rock could be sourced for the rock wall on section 1.
- Flagged areas where drainage needed to be created.



Review of the Saturday Jan 10, 2026 work party

Did we achieve our goals? Yes.

1. At the entrance to Quarry Trail Section 1 we removed invasive ivy and built a double-wide rock wall utilizing native rock to match the style of the existing rock walls on the property. We also graded the trail surface to create a more comfortable angle for walkers and bikes.
2. We graded, leveled, and out-sloped the trail tread on Section 3, including filling deep dips with 4x8 rock and ballast to create a safe tread for equipment to move and to reduce low spots where water would collect.
3. Modest drainages were created to move water away from the out-sloped trail.
4. About 2/3 of Section 3 has been completed with compacted pit run capping.
5. About 100 yds of Section 2 has also been completed.
6. The completed trail segments have been naturalized, with careful attention to covering exposed soils and drain features.
7. No soil was left exposed on the 'to-be-finished' segment of Section 3.
8. We decided not to decommission the access trail below South Knoll at this time because it allows us to move through the area with the power carriers, avoiding damage to the narrower section at the base of the knoll. In addition, the Port's contractor has a mini excavator parked here and it gives that machinery space to turn around and back-up.

Comments/Questions:

Leslie: Had fun! In general, STB's work parties are very well organized. Was on rock crew. Suggestion for improvement: In the 10 min intro, would like to hear the overall vision for the work party and each crew. For example: At the end of the day, we want a rock wall that is 12 feet long, 3 rocks wide and 2 rocks tall.

Bret felt the best time to introduce the vision for each work crew is when volunteers are at the site.

Corinna: Was also on rock crew. Directions were unclear and there seemed to be two different ideas about how to build the wall. But, overall had fun.

Jenny: Agree with both Leslie and Corinna. With the restoration team pulling ivy and the rock crew trying to get organized, it was too many people moving around in the same area. Observed that the crew leader starting work without providing enough direction or context for the volunteers to participate. Found it necessary remind the crew leader of the order of operations and provide more direction for volunteers.

Ellie: Had a lot of fun on the restoration crew. Kept busy until the end of the day when they needed to wait for the last load of ballast to be spread before they could cover the uncompacted soil.

Germaine: Had a really fun day. She laughed about how much she socialized versus working.

John liked the fire for warming up during lunch.

Paul: Thought the day went really well. Chloe and Amelia (Youth Leaders) did an amazing job on compacting, great teamwork. Once the three teams got into the groove with leveling tread, filling low areas with rock and ballast, and final capping, it seemed to go fast. Got more done today than expected. Also used more material than we expected. Ran out of pit run for capping.

Several volunteers asked for access to the photos. Jenny will create a Google Photo/Drive to share out.

Notes for Jan 24 Work Party Plan

- If the contractor's work is complete, we will cap the segment below the South Knoll.
- Finish pit run capping on Section 3.
 - Need to measure for materials: Pit Run, 4x8, 1 ¼ no fines (Ballast).
 - Need to decide if material should be stockpiled at Section 1 entrance.
- Rework rock retaining walls above Quarry on Section 2.
- Create trail tread between exposed bed rock on Section 2.
- Port has completed removal of invasive roots on Section 1 and will be spraying for invasive control before our next work party, so we could include tread work on Section 1 in our next work party.