

Skagit Trail Builders

Review of January 24, 2026 Work Party

Planning for the Feb 14, 2026 Work Party

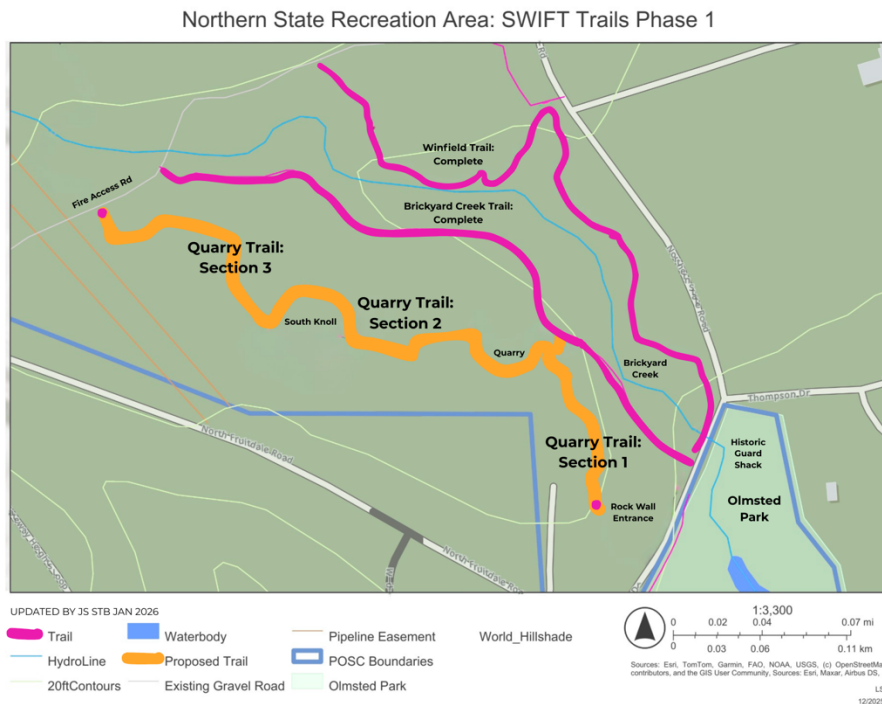
Bull Pen Restaurant, Sedro-Woolley, WA

Jan 24, 2026 - Notes taken by Jenny Sandbo, Communications STB

12 volunteers in attendance

Leadership: Jim “JT” Taylor, Paul Klein, Jerry Granahan, Jenny Sandbo, Michael Hinchey, Chloe Larsen, Amelia Johns.

Volunteers at Large: Bret Turner, Leslie Mitchell, John Seehorn, Corina Opsahl, Finely Johnson.



Background

On Thursday January 22, 2026 , JT met with Arlen Bogaards, Northwest Regional Manager Washington Trails Association (WTA), and Laura Schumacher, Environmental & Planning Manager Port of Skagit, on a walk-through of Quarry Trail to discuss WTA building the spur trail to the top of the South Knoll. It was determined that pit run and rock would be delivered to trail junction on section 3. Date of the delivery is unknown.

This delivery of material affects our trail work:

- The large number of trips with power carriers to deliver these materials on a finished trail would do a significant amount of damage.
- The unfinished segment of section 3 needs to be graded and filled with 4x8 and ballast so that loaded carriers can pass. Without this rock work, the trail will become muddy and dug-out, creating unsafe conditions for the machine operators and creating more work for our volunteer teams.

We also learned that the Port maintenance team had sprayed the invasive ivy on section 1 with herbicide on Thursday, Jan 22, two days before our work party. It is standard for this product to be absorbed into the plant roots and dissipated from the surface of the soil within 48 hours. However, with frozen temperatures, we knew this process would be slowed. To ensure the safety of our volunteers and give the product enough time to be effective, we decided to postpone our work on section one.

On Friday, January 23, the STB Leadership Team met for the regularly scheduled prep session and discussed how to support the material delivery for WTA and adjust our work party plan to accommodate this change.

We decided to focus on the rock work on section 3, completing the grade and rock/ballast fill, so that power carriers can pass safely. We also adjusted our volunteer work party plan for Saturday, January 24, shifting our focus from section 3, to section 2.

Review of Volunteer Work Party, Saturday, January 24

Despite frozen temperatures, we had a good turn-out of volunteers with 22 in attendance. We are also pleased with our work and what we accomplished:

- Graded and naturalized the slope below south knoll.
- Completed pit run capping of the trail below the south knoll.
- Dug out organic material and removed small roots on the segment of trail above the quarry where there is exposed bedrock. We also began filling the holes with native rock.
- Built 4 rock walls: one to support the tread below the south knoll, and three along the top of the quarry to support tread and discourage users from visiting the steep edge of the quarry.
- Transplanted ferns: along section 3 to naturalize the drainages and an area where the blackberries had been pushed back, below the south knoll, and between the rock work and edge of the quarry on section 2.
- Volunteers also began grading the tread between the quarry and the intersection with Brickyard Creek Trail on section 2.

Comments/Questions:

Youth Leaders Amelia and Chole expressed that they had fun and felt the day was very productive. Amelia will not be able to attend the Feb 14 work party. Both YL's have committed to doing an STB presentation with Varsity in Volunteerism (VIV) before spring break in April, most likely at Burlington-Edison High School where our projects have less awareness. Jenny will provide access to Canva so they can build a presentation.

JT shared that he was initially concerned about the ground being too frozen to work, but overall happy with the way the day proceeded and what was accomplished.

Paul shared that the way Jenny explained the change of plan to the volunteers was effective and he was happy with what was accomplished today. He was concerned about having volunteers work in close quarters, but everyone was conscientious of each other's safety. Paul shared that the rock walls looked "awesome" and that section 2 is ready for a consultation with the Port team and in shape for our next work party.

Paul also expressed concern that work on the South Knoll spur will damage our trail work.

Jerry asked if we knew what WTA's schedule is (the answer is no).

Jenny shared that volunteers could sign up with WTA through their website.

Leslie and Corinna built 2 rock walls on their own and had fun, noting that they work well together. JT invited them to become rock team leaders so we can transition Jerry to "consultation mode", specifically on building sumps and drainages. They agreed. Jenny said she would reach out to them directly before scheduling them as leaders. Corinna will not be available in February.

Notes for Feb 14 Work Party Plan

What we'd like to do:

1. Lay landscape cloth, ballast and do the final capping on section 1.
2. Fill and finish the exposed bedrock on section 2

The Port has delivered several hundred feet of landscape cloth and staples for use on section one. They may be spraying the ivy with herbicide one more time before our next work party. We will confirm with Zach (Port Maintenance Supervisor) and consult with Laura about the use of landscape cloth.

We also need to consult with Laura about how to finish the area of exposed bedrock. JT and Paul feel that rock sand is needed to “cement” the native rock used as fill between the exposed bedrock.

We need to confirm with Zach where the new materials staging area will be. There had been discussion of utilizing the paved road leading to the National Guard Station.

Initial thoughts on power carrier access to the exposed bedrock on section 2: use Brickyard Creek as the entrance point, staying to the side of the trail (on the area that will be planted) and entering Quarry Trail from the connector. This will reduce damage to section 1 and be safer for our drivers, dumping from an uphill position rather than downhill. This would also keep us from crossing the lawn or spending too much time on the road.

Key Dates

- We need to be done with the Quarry Trail by March 20 (last scheduled work party is Saturday, March 14).
- Native plants for restoration are being delivered March 15. Laura will let Jenny know if she needs help organizing a volunteer team for this effort.
- Our contract with the City of Sedro-Woolley was signed. Jenny will reach out to Nate Salseina with the City of Sedro-Woolley this upcoming week to create a plan for building the Thompson Pond Loop in March-April. Zach will coordinate with the City and National Guard for staging materials.
- We will return to work on Port property in May.