

Skagit Trail Builders

Review of Feb 14, 2026 Work Party

Planning for the Feb 28, 2026 Work Party

Bull Pen Restaurant, Sedro-Woolley, WA

Feb 14, 2026 - Notes taken by Jenny Sandbo, Communications STB

14 volunteers in attendance

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

Volunteers at Large: Leslie Mitchell, John Seehorn, Finely Johnson, Logan Boal, Logan York, Casey Figuero, Anna MacKinnon.



Background

On Feb 14 we continued our work on the Quarry Trail on Port of Skagit property to expand the Northern State Trail System.

The Port of Skagit is contracting with the Washington Trails Association to develop the spur trail to the top of South Knoll. Pit run and rock were recently delivered to the base of the knoll. WTA's start date is yet to be determined.

Because of the uncertainty of the timeline and extra work created by the materials delivery, the Port has decided that they will finish section 3, freeing us up to potentially begin work on Norlum Trail before summer break.

Today we completed more than anticipated and feel confident we will complete the project on February 28.

On March 14 we will move to a new project: Thompson Pond Trail Loop at Olmsted Park for the City of Sedro-Woolley.

Review of Volunteer Work Party, Saturday, Feb 14

23 volunteers total, 18 signed up in advance.

Did we achieve our objectives?

1. Laid landscape cloth, ballast on section 1? **YES**
2. Filled and finished the exposed bedrock on section 2? **YES, and it looks beautiful!**

In addition, we dug two drainages, built two grade reversals, and naturalized section 2. We also built up the trail connector to Brickyard Creek Trail for drainage.

Objectives for Feb 28:

1. Complete pit run capping on section 1.
2. Complete any additional restoration identified on sections 1 and 2.
3. Smooth out the power carrier tracks and touch up the rock sand at the culvert crossing on Brickyard Creek Trail.
4. Tidy up the materials staging area at the trail head.

Comments/Questions:

Michael: Walked 8.2 miles, 21,000 steps driving the power carrier today.

Chloe: Very effective organization. There was some standing around while a small crew finished the connector trail, but also recognized we had a greater turn-out of volunteers than expected.

Amelia: Productive day! Had fun. Also took note of the waiting that happened right before lunch but sees this as part of the process.

Finley: “Had a rad time!”

Logan B: Started out on snipping crew (clipping exposed ivy roots on section 1) and felt it went fast. He liked that we got to work right away. He enjoys working hard.

Logan Y: Thought the crew was really productive. This was his first work party and felt a little bit lost with so much going on. He would have been more comfortable with someone inviting him to join them.

Jerry: As a member of the leadership team, he didn’t expect us to accomplish as much as we did today. He was concerned about the wet rock sand being used between the exposed bedrock and didn’t think it would work to embed the pit run into the surface, but by the time we got back from lunch, the rock sand had started setting up nicely.

Casey: They had fun raking and helping with the rock sand.

JT: He was loading and organizing materials at the trail head and didn’t have visibility on progress. He asked how much was accomplished.

Paul: We completed landscape cloth and ballast on section 1, capped and restored section 2, completed 2 grade reversals and drains going down the hill to the connector trail. We accomplished more than he thought we would. Good crew, good weather. Fast moving. Happy to be ahead of schedule.

JT: We do not need to do a materials order for Feb 28. We have plenty of pit run to complete section 1. We need to check hydraulic fluids in all the power carriers.

Leslie: “Amazed” by the difference when she did her post work party walk through, especially at how the bed rock area turned out. Believes we should do a little more naturalization on section 2 at the next work party. Noted that she needs to stretch before and after.

John: “Two thumbs up”

Anna: She noted that everyone seemed very busy and focused.

Michael: We always have a good crew, but the last 2 work parties have been exceptional. Really great, experienced crew!

Key Dates

- Feb 28: Final work party on Quarry Trail

- March 14: First work party at Thompson Pond. Guest Group SW Earth Club.
- March 28: Thompson Pond. Guest Group Kids 'n K9s 4H Club.
- April 11: Thompson Pond
- April 25: Final work party on Thompson Pond
- May 9: First work party on Norlum Trail. Guest Groups Skagit Alpine Club and SW Earth Club.
- May 23: Norlum Trail.
- June 13: Norlum Trail.
- June 27: Norlum Trail. Final work party before summer break.