



DTC Trail Crew Dispatch



2026 Trail Season Is Here!



May & June 2026 Updates



Summer is here and the DTC Trail Crew is back in service of your Central Oregon Trails! This year we saw several of our past crew members depart for new adventures. We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Josie Bourne, Ryan Dooley, and Gus Prancus for their multiple seasons of service to the Deschutes National Forest and just being great people to work with and be around. Thank You!

With the departure of Josie Bourne, the trail crew lead position became available and there was no better fit for her replacement than our very own Ethan Brown. Over the past two (2) seasons Ethan has shown expertise in all things trail maintenance related and really thriving as our saw expert. Ethan's passion for trail work, organization, and building relationships made him the only person for the position.

Ethan and I then had three (3) positions to hire for the crew members and after opening the application process to the public we received over 75 applications! After reviewing applications, having interviews, and reference checks we settled on three (3) amazing candidates!

...and with that let's meet the 2026 crew!

Meet the Crew

Ethan Brown is returning for his third season with DTC and has accepted the responsibility of Crew Lead in 2026. Ethan has continued to impress and takes the crew lead position very seriously. His leadership and communication skills are really starting to shine and I personally am very excited to see him continue to develop. As mentioned previously, Ethan's technical trail building skills are impressive; however, his desire to provide a safe, welcoming working environment are extremely valuable to me and the crew. Welcome back Ethan!



Lexy Pickup is joining us this season for her first season with DTC. Lexy comes to the Deschutes Trails Coalition with a background in forestry work with the USFS in Leadville, CO and Tiller, OR. She also has led youth core groups in Steamboat Springs, CO. Lexy has been a great addition to the crew with her technical skills and humor really providing some spark. She is always willing to take on whatever is needed and we are really excited to see what else she can accomplish this season. Welcome Lexy!



Camille Morris is joining us for her first season with DTC. Camille comes to us after spending the past year with AmeriCorps. Camille brings a fun energy, eagerness to learn and get better, and is always willing to drive. Camille is an avid birder and is always finding new “Lifer” birds for the crew to see as well. Welcome Camille!



Hayden Linde is joining us this season for his first season with DTC. Hayden is a Bend, OR local that has spent six (6) seasons with the USFS Wildland Fire program. Hayden has been a welcome addition to the crew with his amazing sawyer skills and engine that just keeps running all day. Hayden really enjoys his time with his family and also runs his own tree service company out of Bend, OR. Welcome Hayden!



Welcome to our new additions in 2026!



Lexy, Camille, and Hayden on a large tree logging out the Charlton Trail

Trainings and Certifications

The 2026 season started in mid-May with an initial focus on getting certifications and training completed. Hayden being a firefighter for the past six (6) seasons had previously never had a need to get a crosscut certification and Camille had previously only had chainsaw certification so we got them signed up for a class through Central Oregon Trails Alliance (COTA) and Sawyers with Attitude to Spare (SWATS). They spent a weekend learning in the classroom as well as out in the field. Thank you to all that were involved in getting our crew the correct certifications so we could hit the ground running!



Opening the Trails: Our Early-Season Logouts



Our first two months were dedicated entirely to clearing the way. We've successfully opened approximately 75 miles of trail, removing over 600 logs in the process. This milestone is particularly impressive given that early-season IFPL restrictions meant trading chainsaws for hand tools. The team leaned into the challenge, tackling the work almost entirely with crosscut saws—a true testament to their skill and grit. The crew loves a good logout mission, and the effort they've poured into these trails is nothing short of exceptional.

Trails logged out during the first two months of the season included:

- Black Crater
- Tumalo 2 Trail
- Paulina Lakeshore Loop Trail
- Paulina Falls Trail
- Paulina Peak Trail
- Clovermeadow Trail
- Charlton Trail
- Lemish Lake Trail
- Metolius-Windigo Trail (Many Lakes Trailhead to Moore Creek)
- Lily Lake Trail
- Benchmark Butte Trail
- Bridge Creek & Swampy Lakes Trails (completing the full loop from Tumalo Falls to North Fork and down to Bridge Creek)
- Ray Atkeson / Davis Canyon Trail
- Metolious-Windigo Trail (Fawn Lake to Whitefish Horse Camp)
- Whitefish Creek Trail
- Crater Butte Trail
- Elk Lake





Working with our Partners!

This year, we as a crew have been trying to really step up our partner engagement with the hopes of doing more work parties together with our field going partner

groups. So far, we have already been able to work with SWATS, albeit not planned. We both showed up to the same trail head and then tackled the logout together.

We also have had a work party with Sisters Trails Alliance (STA) where we are establishing some meaningful reroutes to improve sustainability and/or improve flow of trails. Thanks to STA for sending your folks out to learn and help with the reroutes! We currently have two (2) more work parties set up on [July 15th](#) and [July 29th](#) that can be signed up for by clicking the link in the dates mentioned above.





Diamond Peak Wilderness Hitch

Over the past couple of years we have been working more and more in the Crescent Ranger district with a focus on rehabilitation of areas that have been affected by fire and when the opportunity to go clear green trails was presented by Ethan we all jumped at it! Ethan planned a very successful hitch that saw approximately twenty (20) miles of trail cleared in four (4) days on both the Whitefish and Crater Butte Trails. This opened up a very scenic hiking loop that has had logs on them for several years.

A special thanks goes out to **Patrick Ahern** from the Crescent Ranger District for their camaraderie, and partnership in helping clear some trails that haven't been cleared in some time.

Crew vibes were strong with a wonderful camping location, fun games played (Camille and Jason taught the crew Kubb), and excellent work being completed.







Odds & Ends

- The crew has a couple more hitches planned for this year taking us to Summit Lake for a reroute project, Horse Lake to help the Mckenzie Bridge Trail Crew in clearing trails similar to last year, and maybe a couple more if work flow allows.

- If you or your organization has any interest in joining our crew for a day or have a project in mind that you believe will be a good fit for us please reach out directly to Jason Whittaker at Jason@deschutestrailscoalition.org

Stay tuned for more updates—and see you on the trail!

By Jason Whittaker 07/09/2026

[Find out more about DTC on our website!](#)



Deschutes Trails Coalition
Bend, OR

Thank You

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND
VALUED PARTNERSHIP OF DTC



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