



DTC Trail Crew Dispatch

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# Summer in Full Swing

August 2024 Update



Crew photo on PCT in the Jefferson Wilderness

Throughout August, our Crew has been actively navigating every corner of the forest, making significant strides on the priority projects we set out to accomplish. From the Deschutes River Trail (DRT) to the Three Sisters Wilderness, the Jefferson Wilderness, Crescent District, and even to the summit of Mt. Bachelor, we've covered some incredible ground!

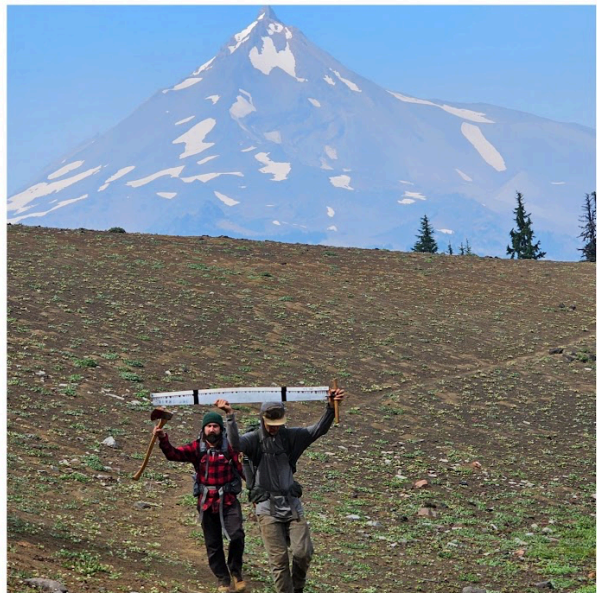
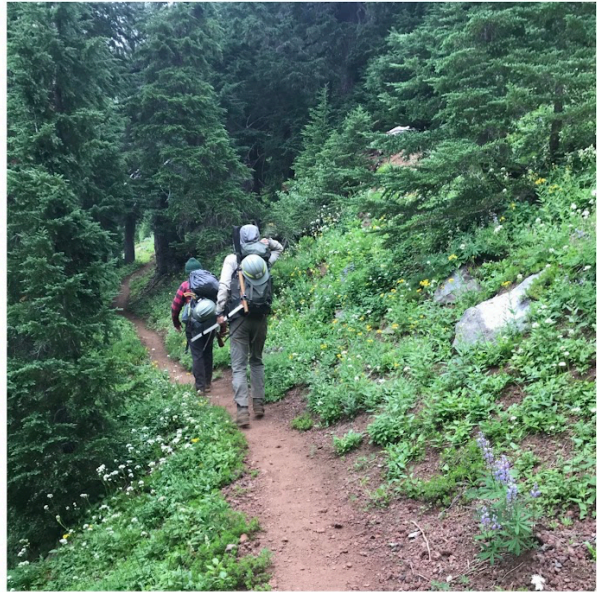
Our work this month has spanned a wide range, from deferred maintenance like log clearing, brushing, and drain management to collaborative projects with partner groups. The Crew has truly embraced the diverse tasks and enjoyed every moment spent in these breathtaking locations. We're excited to continue enhancing these beautiful spaces for all to enjoy in the future!

Catch up with all our accomplishments in this month's top stories below!

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THIS MONTH'S  
TOP STORIES

## Jefferson Wilderness Hitchin'



As noted in prior newsletters, the Crew has been putting in hard work all season widening the Cabot Lake Trail, dedicating time each week to brush out the trail. A huge shout-out to

Sawyers With Attitude to Spare (SWATS) for completing the log out to Carl Lake, which allowed us to focus on the brushing. We honestly cannot thank Stan Shepardson enough for packing us in and saving us from carrying roughly 200 pounds of food and equipment!

We spent five days camped out at Carl Lake, taking full advantage of this prime location to tackle a range of projects:

- Logged out Table Lake Trail
- Logged out Shirley Lake Trail
- Completed brushing and tread/drainage on Cabot Lake Trail (up to Carl Lake)
- Completed brushing and tread/drainage on Shirley Lake Trail
- Josie/Jason taught the crew how to play Euchre 😊

While brushing may have seemed less daunting than the log out, it proved to be quite the endeavor – even with less hiking as the brush at some points totally disguised the trail. That being said, there was a sweet reward: after the Cabot Lake intersection, we found ourselves surrounded by huckleberries. Although they weren't the easiest to brush out given their root/branch structures, they made for some delicious trail-side snacks.

In addition, we were able to prioritize tread improvement, including clearing out drainages on both the Cabot Lake and Shirley Lake Trails. All in all, it was a fantastic hitch experience and we were all very proud of what we were able to accomplish.



## Retaining Wall Construction on Deschutes River Trail

Josie Bourne, our talented DTC Crew Lead, did a fantastic job guiding the crew on a new project along the Deschutes River Trail near Meadow Camp. Where hikers once faced a tough choice between sticking to the main trail or taking a social trail closer to the river, the team stepped in to make the decision easier by creating a smoother trail tread and removing tripping hazards.



They also built an impressive retaining wall to ensure the tread stays at the right levels, using a variety of tools and techniques to properly support the trail. Josie took great pride in teaching the crew how to use a griphoist to move the larger rocks into place and was thrilled to get some rock work in! These enhancements are sure to boost the trail's sustainability, especially given the heavy foot traffic this section has historically experienced.





## Devil's Lake Fence Repair

Last year, our Crew teamed up with the USFS Wilderness Crew to install a fence at Devil's Lake, closing off the old South Sister Climbers Route that previously took hikers across the highway. Unfortunately, the fence (see photo below) didn't make it through the winter. After some consideration, we decided to rebuild it using 6-foot cross beams instead of the 10-foot beams used last year.





To create a sturdier and more reliable fence, we constructed additional A-Frames and modified the existing ones to allow the posts to rest on them for added security. We're excited to report that the fence is now fully operational again — stronger than ever!



Signage...part deux!



As most of you probably already know Dave Alward is responsible for creating a lot of the new beautiful signs we are seeing all over the forest. The Cedar Creek fire has caused a need for a lot of new signs to assist hikers as most of the signage in this greater area is no longer around. Not only is Dave an excellent sign maker he also joined the crew on installing a good amount of them this month. Here are some of the recent installations:

- **PCT - Lily Lake Junction** - This sign install required the use of a native post which proved harder to find than expected due to the massive burn scar. We were able to find a log that even had a burnt end to hopefully preserve it longer and reduce rot.
- **Charlton Lake** - Installed signage on both sides of the Charlton Road to show users where the trail heads both north and south.

- **Metolius Windigo** - Installed signage on both sides of the Charlton Road to show users where the trail heads both north and south.
- **PCT** - Installed signage on both sides of the Charlton Road to show users where the trail heads both north and south.

These updates enhance the trail experience by improving navigation and safety for all trail users.

## Odds & Ends



- Crew cleared drains up the South Sister Climbers Route starting at the new trail head up past Moraine Lake.
- IFPL restrictions have continued to shut down all chainsaw activity but as like last month the crew is still comfortable pivoting to crosscut even on front country trails. We have logged out the following trails in the month of August:
  - Flagline - Thanks to COTA for the assist!
  - Elk Lake
  - Teddy Lake
  - Winopee Lake - Up to Muskrat Lake.
- Crew went up with DTC members up to the top of Mt. Bachelor and got to experience the new West Ridge and Evergreen Trails. We all had an amazing time connecting with other various trail users and seeing a new side of the mountain together.
- Crew cleared drains up Tumalo Mountain



The crew is approaching its last full month of trail work and looking forward to the opportunities presenting themselves in September.

By Jason Whittaker 8/30/24

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



Deschutes Trails Coalition  
Bend, OR