



DTC Trail Crew Dispatch

Building, Collaborating, and Our First Hitch!

July 2024 Update



Crew getting water after long day crosscutting on Green Lakes Trail

In July, our Crew has been thriving and settling into the routine of daily trail work. Although we had to bid farewell to our intern Gus, his contributions to the Coalition and our Crew are still celebrated and remembered.

We've continued working on projects from earlier in the year and have also taken on new ones. This month brought many firsts for this year's crew. We explored nearly every region of the Deschutes National Forest, including assisting the USFS Crescent District with crosscut logout, completing our first multi-day hitch in the Three Sisters Wilderness, and collaborating with YCC Crews.

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

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES

Three Sisters Wilderness Hitchin'



Our Crew embarked on our inaugural four-day hitch, camping near the North Fork of Whychus Creek. Though the campsite was not ideal, we found comfort in the amazing views of the mountains and the fact that there were no snags above us. We even experienced a dramatic thunderstorm that blew in and out within two hours! Reaching and leaving the campsite each day was challenging, requiring us to climb over 50 logs to get back to the trail. Solitude indeed has its price.

During our time there, we cleared the Green Lakes Trail from the South Fork of Whychus Creek to the Park Meadow intersection. While we can't pinpoint the exact number of trees we cleared, we confidently say it was a lot! We encountered several grateful overnight backpackers who were pleased to see us. The trees we removed were some of the most complex we've encountered this year, with numerous piles and tricky binds.

Despite the challenges, it was a wonderful week in the wilderness.





Crib Walls at Newberry National Volcanic Monument



Our Crew has been hard at work replacing the eroding, non-functional crib walls around the Paulina Lake Loop Trail. These new structures ensure a safer and more enjoyable hiking and biking experience, with no more sloughing trails or exposed rebar.

So far this season, we've successfully replaced over five of these structures, making a significant improvement around the lake.

Wilderness Brushing... We've Been Here Before



The Crew continues to work in wilderness brushing at least once a week and have continued to focus our work on the Cabot Lake Trail heading from trail head down to Carl Lake. We have made it two (2) miles from the trailhead since the start of our brushing efforts and it does not seem to be getting any thinner moving forward. We were lucky enough to have some support from a Heart of Oregon Corps leader last week and next week we will have the power of the Sister's YCC Crew out there with us helping to push us further towards Carl Lake!

Signage!



Our Crew has been busy adding and replacing signage as time permits. Here are some of the recent installations:

- **Camp Sherman H-Loop Sign & Placards:** This was a special project for the crew, marking the final touches on the reroute we completed earlier this year.
- **Devil's Lake:** We replaced a laminated sign with a more official one, helping hikers stay safe by informing them about the new Tye Trail for access to the South Sister Climbers Route.
- **Newberry Crater Trail / Chief Paulina Horse Camp:** While Josie was logging out the NNVM with the Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA), they discovered some downed signs. A couple of weeks later, the new signs were installed!

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

Odds & Ends

- Trail Crew spent some additional time on the Green Lakes Trail working from the Trail Head up about two (2) miles clearing drainages and also repairing a step coming off the bridge to ensure users wouldn't injure themselves coming off the bridge.
- Trail Crew went up to the Metolius Windigo Trail near Swampy & North Fork and extended the run of the approach on a bridge that was installed a couple years ago. The Crew also brushed out, repaired cupping tread, and removed some logs from the trail while in the area.
- IFPL restrictions shut down all chainsaw activity but that isn't slowing down our logouts even if we have to crosscut. While out replacing signs at Devil's Lake we brought a crosscut with us and cleared the hiking trail of logs, repaired the tread at several sections of the trail, and brushed out the trail to allow for a more enjoyable hiking experience.
- The Crew also continued the restoration work at Rimrock on the Deschutes River Trail from last year while working with a couple YCC crews moving debris and building fencing.



And just like that, the sun has set on the month of July and we are moving into another exciting month of trail work in August!

By Jason Whittaker 7/31/24

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