



DTC Trail Crew Dispatch

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# The Season Has Begun!

May 2024 Update



This year we had a record number of applicants that was over 50 total interested persons. After a long and thorough interview process we officially hired a Crew Lead and three (3) crew members to fill out the team this year.

Introducing your 2024 DTC Trail Crew:

**Josie Bourne** - *Crew Lead*: Josie is excited to be with DTC for the 2024 summer season. Originally hailing from New Hampshire, she has worked on trails in places as far-flung as Vermont, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Argentina and on projects ranging from new trail installation to alpine rock work to canoe trail maintenance. In her free time she enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, reading, and ultimate frisbee. Her favorite trail snack is peach rings, and she is looking forward to seeing you all out on the trails! Josie's favorite hike is Substitute Point.

**Ryan Dooley** - *Crew Member*: Dooley is a returning crew member that was with the crew last year. Born in Philadelphia, lived in California for many years and caught the hiking bug. Started through hiking and last year started looking for a career in the trails world. Came to DTC with minimal trail maintenance experience but rapidly grew his skills and became an integral part of the crew. He really enjoys being able to give back to the local community and has found it to be a very rewarding experience to work with DTC. Dooley is most excited to do some additional longer hitches this year. His favorite hike in Central Oregon is South Sister.

**Ethan Brown** - *Crew Member*: Ethan Brown is new to the DTC but not to trail work. Working for the US Forest Service seasonally since graduating high school, he has found great passion and satisfaction in life doing trail work. Born in Colorado, moved to Central Oregon 2 years ago and has loved the outdoor community that makes Bend so unique. He is looking forward to the projects this upcoming season and working with this amazing crew. His favorite hike is Misery Ridge at Smith Rock.

**Sam Bonano** - *Crew Member*: Sam was born and raised in southern Indiana and has been playing in the dirt since he was able. He found his way to Colorado Springs to pursue soccer in college. Tapped into the outdoor extravaganza of Colorado culture. Once the pursuit began it was hard to stop. Spent several seasons raft-guiding in Colorado and West Virginia during the summers and falls. Hung-up the PFD for a summer to dig in the dirt at a downhill bike park in Colorado. During the winters he builds and maintains terrain parks which started in Colorado, made his way to Vermont and now pursuing his passions in Central Oregon. He enjoys smiling and being outside. Sam is looking forward to finding his favorite hike in Central Oregon.

**Jason Whittaker** - *Trails Coordinator*: Jason moved to Central Oregon in 2022 after living in the Portland Metro area for the prior decade. After the Eagle Creek fire in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area he started volunteering with Trail Keepers of Oregon to help reopen the Gorge trails. He spent five (5) years in the Gorge from 2018 - 2022 helping to clear and repair trails damaged by the Eagle Creek Fire. His time in the Gorge helped him identify his passions for community service and continued learning of leadership and technical skills. When Jason learned of the DTC Trail Crew and the potential opportunities to serve a new community he jumped at the opportunity. He started as the Trail Coordinator in 2023 and helped lead the DTC Trail Crew's first independent professional trail crew to a very successful season. He is very excited to be working with a passionate

and skilled crew this season and is looking forward to seeing all that we can accomplish on all of our beloved Central Oregon Trails. Jason lives in Bend with his wife Andrea and their dog Ben. When not working trails he can be found exploring all of Central Oregon via hiking, snowshoeing, and paddleboarding to name a few. His favorite hike (currently) is Tumalo Mountain.

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### THIS MONTH'S TOP STORIES

The season officially started for the trail crew on 5/13/24. We immediately got to work getting qualifications up to date which included getting First Aid / CPR, Crosscut, and Chainsaw Certifications. The crew then got to work on our beloved Central Oregon Trails which are highlighted below:



## Scott Pass - Crosscut Certifications & Drainages

The saw certifications saw us getting on to the Scott Pass Trail to clear the very limited blow down from the winter while getting all Crosscut Certifications updated. While we were up there we also took advantage of the time to clear some drains and brush out the trail where overcrowding of saplings was taking place. This opportunity gave the crew a

good chance to bond while taking the long drive up and also helped us learn to communicate with each other by discussing what needed to be done while being certified. Additionally, we were able to split into different groups throughout the day to better get to know each other and how we communicate.



## Suttle Lake Reroutes

The Crew with the help of DNF Trail Program got to work on the Suttle Lake reroutes completing three (3) separate sections of reroutes to help make the trail more sustainable. These reroutes saw the trail move from the waters edge up hill slightly which will help with erosion concerns and also provides a new view of the lake. Included in the work was a lot of tread work / removal of saplings and downed trees while punching in new trail. The Crew then also decommissioned the old trail by filling in with debris and installing assurance markers to indicate where the trail was after the reroute. Additionally, the crew repaired a retaining wall that has been battered by waves over the years to reinforce the tread where the trail was not rerouted. Trail crew was able to achieve over several hundred feet of new trail that should be more sustainable moving forward.



## Camp Sherman H-Loop Reroute

Trail Crew got to work on making a connector trail between the Camp Sherman trail and the Lower Black Butte trail. This process included laying out flagging by our Crew Lead Josie which then she and the Crew created new tread to connect the two trails. The reroute incorporated an old trail/road that was utilized at points that made sense but also takes the hiker through some big beautiful Ponderosa trees. Josie was quick to ensure that the new tread avoided a large snag while creating a slowly meandering trail for maximum enjoyment. Additionally, the crew did an excellent job of decommissioning parts of the old

trail/road to make it clear to where the trail was intended to go. Lastly, the crew moved some signposts and installed some carsonite to ensure that the trails were appropriately marked.

## Odds & Ends

- The Trail Crew was able to attend the virtual DTC Steering Committee Meeting to gain a better perspective of all the great work our organization does for Central Oregon.
- In addition to the work mentioned above the trail crew also:
  - Staged debris at Meadow Camp for a future [High Desert Climbing Alliance](#) work party.
  - Worked on correcting the outslope and drainages at Tumalo Falls.
  - Jason helped plan the TKO Chainsaw Training Class (to be held 6/4 - 6/7) which Sam will be attending.
  - Jason helped plan the National Trails Day Events (to be held 6/1) which couldn't have been done without the help from Group Leaders that graciously offered their assistance.

By Jason Whittaker 05/30/24

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



Deschutes Trails Coalition  
Bend, OR