



DTC Trail Crew Dispatch



2025 Season is Underway!

May & June 2025 Update



The 2025 season kicked off in mid-May, and we're thrilled to welcome back familiar faces to the Deschutes Trail Crew! Returning this year are **Crew Lead Josie Bourne**, **Crew Members**

Ethan Brown, and **Ryan Dooley**—with Josie and Ethan entering their second seasons and Dooley marking his **third full season** with us. We're also excited to officially welcome **Gus Prankcus**, who interned with us last year and is now fully certified in chainsaw and crosscut use. He hit the ground running (and sawing) in his first week and has been a very welcomed full time crew member!

With a returning team full of experience and chemistry, we've hit the trail hard—literally and figuratively—tackling early-season priorities and sharpening our skills as we care for public lands together.

Early Work & Skill Building

We began the season assisting the **U.S. Forest Service** with hazard tree felling throughout the forest—an essential job that also gave us great opportunities to hone our felling techniques. With the saws warm and ready, we moved right into **brushing**, clearing overgrown sections where manzanita and ceanothus have taken over in fire-impacted areas.



If you've ever worked in the Deschutes, you know brushing is no small task—but the crew handled it with skill and, yes, a little laughter too. 😊

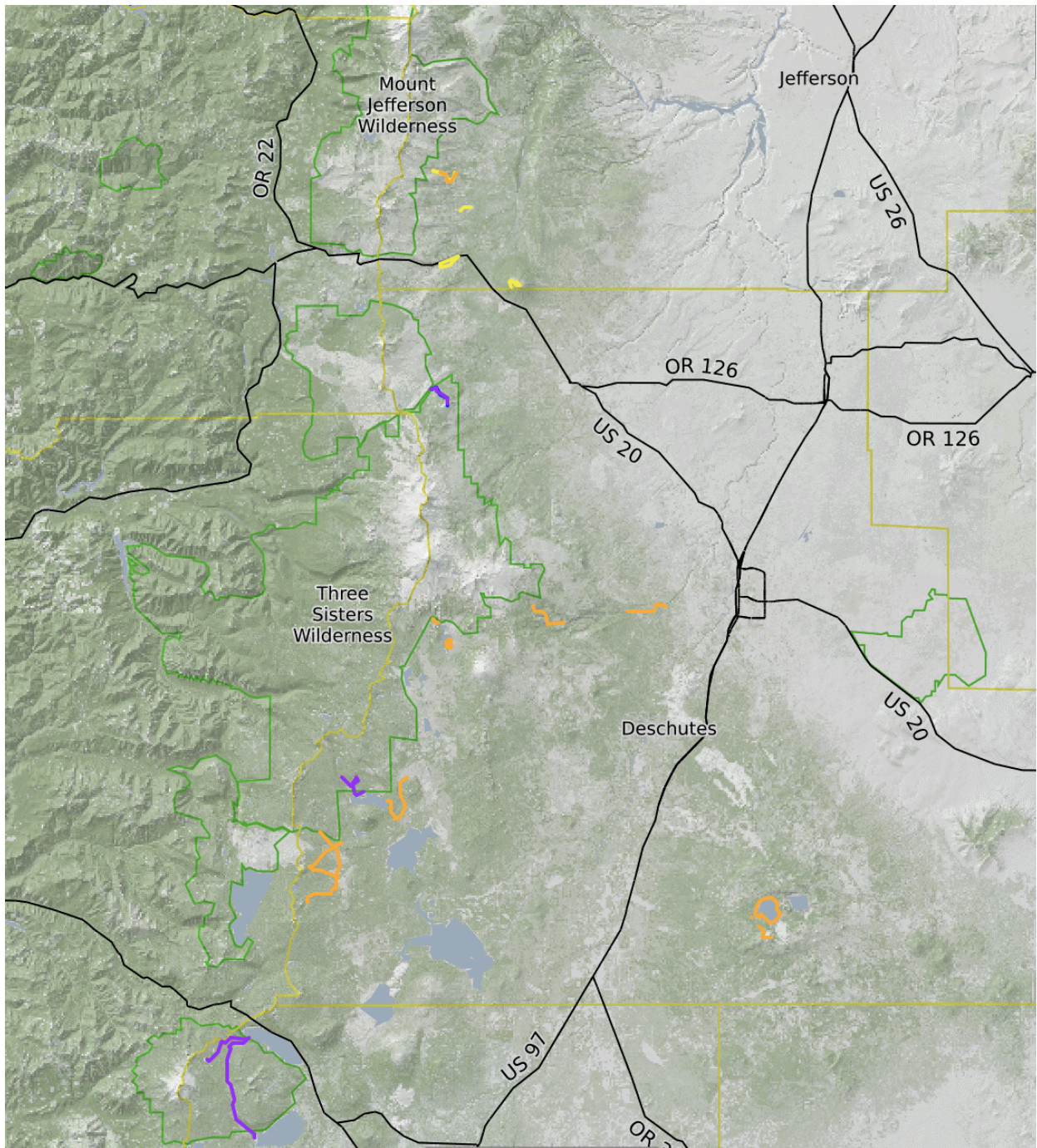
We focused our early-season brushing efforts on the **Met-Win Trail in Bear Valley** and the **Head of Jack Creek Trail** in Camp Sherman.



A Season of Exploration

It's only been a month and a half, and we've already covered major ground! From the **Mount Jefferson Wilderness in the north** to **Diamond Peak Wilderness in the south**, we've traversed a wide swath of the forest—logging out trails, brushing back overgrowth, and building community along the way. The image below shows a quick look at everywhere we've already been!

Purple - Crosscut Logout; **Orange** - Chainsaw Logout; **Yellow** - Brushing/Tread and Drainage



For more information regarding what the Crew has been up to this year so far check out the top stories from May and June in 2025!

☀️ This Month's Top Stories





🪓 Logging Out - Early Season Tradition

The Crew got to work on logging out some of the more popular trails so that everyone can use them without having to hurdle over or around down logs that the winter brought down.

It is fair to say that the crew are big fans of logging out as it allows us to see a lot of the forest via hiking and also use and improve our technical skills. Detailed below are the trails we have logged out in through June 2025. We were fortunate to focus on chainsaw logout early this year as the IFPL Level jumped up quickly this year and now have started working more of the wilderness trails with crosscuts.

- Met-Win Trail from Bear Valley to Sheep Spring Campground
- Tumalo 2 Trail
- Paulina Lakeshore Loop Trail

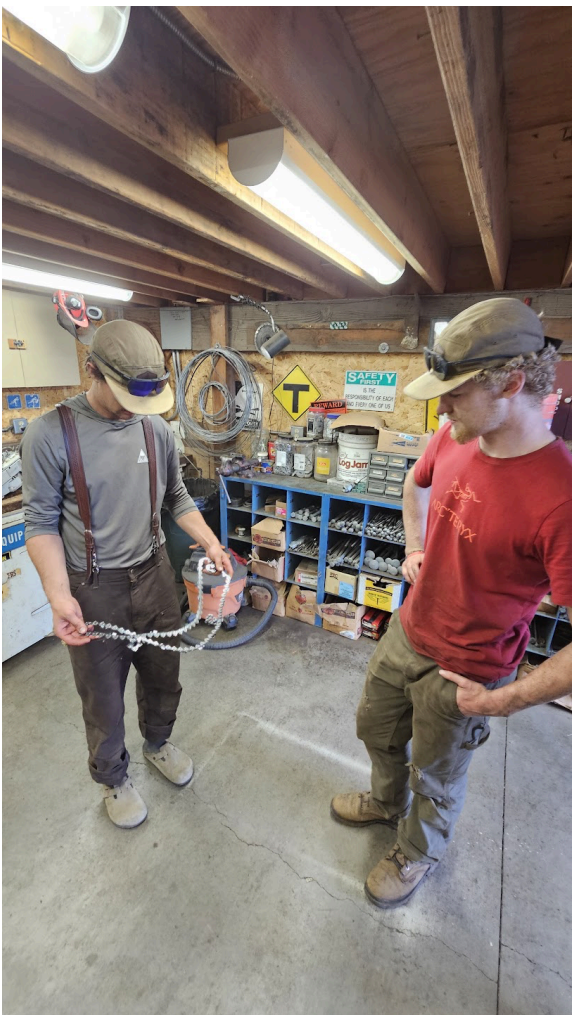
- Paulina Falls Trail
- Clovermeadow Trail
- Charlton Trail (Charlton Road to Lemish Lake)
- Lemish Lake Trail
- Met-Win Trail (Many Lakes Trail Head to 3 miles south of Charlton Road)
- Lily Lake Trail
- Winopee Lake Trail (up to Muskrat Lake)
- Winopee Tie Trail
- Benchmark Butte Trail
- Bridge Creek & Swampy Lakes Trail (ensuring the loop from Tumalo Falls with North Fork down to Bridge Creek is fully logged out)
- Ray Atkeson / Davis Canyon Trail
- Devils Lake Trail
- Yoran Lake
- Whitefish Creek Trail



Brushing

Much like logging out, brushing is always a large component of our work in the early season. We have been doing a great job of incorporating cleaning drainages and brushing while doing the logouts mentioned above where applicable. We have been brushing with chainsaws where it is applicable as well as with the good old fashioned loppers and handsaws when in the wilderness. Some of the trails we've had dedicated brushing work are as follows:

- Head of Jack Creek Trail
- Black Butte Upper Trail
- Suttle Lake Trail
- Green Ridge Trail





What's Next?






Thanks to grant funding secured for the 2025–2026 seasons, DTC will be diving into some exciting **project-based work** that reflects our long-term commitment to sustainability:

- **12 trail reroutes** in the Sisters Ranger District to improve long-term sustainability and protect sensitive terrain. This work is funded by **Oregon Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grant** in the amount of \$66k.
- A **redesign of the Dillon Falls Sand Ladder**, replacing it with stairs and rerouting the trail off the fall line to reduce erosion into the Deschutes River. This work is funded by a **\$67k grant** from the collaborative program conducted by **Visit Central Oregon** and **Travel Oregon** as part of the **Central Oregon Destination Management Studio** using tourism revenue to make positive impact in our region.



Odds & Ends – Teamwork in Action

It's been a busy couple of months with some incredible collaborations and highlights!

-  **Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO)** hosted a saw training at Old Allingham Guard Station—our own **Gus Prankcus** got certified!
-  **Ethan Brown** teamed up with **COTA** to clear trails by bike in the **Newberry National Volcanic Monument**.
-  **DTC** organized a **stewardship day** with **Travel Oregon**, clearing brush on Green Ridge Trail alongside dedicated volunteers.
-  **DTC and STA** were featured on **Central Oregon Daily**, showcasing trail reroute work at Suttle Lake and the power of partnership.
-  Bug season is no joke this year—but with a good bug net, anything is possible. Just check the photos!

Wrapping Up

From brush to boots, chainsaws to crosscuts, this season is off to a strong, collaborative start. The commitment, camaraderie, and care this team brings to stewarding our public lands is what makes this work so rewarding.

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

By Jason Whittaker 7/1/25

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



Deschutes Trails Coalition
Bend, OR