



**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

**Steve Dobbs, President**

It has been a dry winter giving us an opportunity to do some trail work. Pinetop/Lakeside had their plan approved by the Forest Service ("FS") to make two shortcut trails from the Mountain Meadows recreation area to the 'Hitching Post' trail. We finished what we could in November and installed one of the two rollover gates. Other than some polishing, they are ready to go.

In November, we planned to re-route the 'Collarbone Drop' section of Los Burros to the bottom of the hill. This re-route would be 0.25 miles long and be mechanically constructed. We have reached out to a contractor and are ready to go whenever we get the green light from the FS.

The Los Caballos trail is on the west side of Show Low. This trail is 16.5 miles long with a terrible reputation and certainly underutilized. We hired Big Loop Trails to look at designing a new system with several loops and a second trailhead. The new trail is 21.7 miles long avoiding the steep climbs and other obstacles. This is a very large project and will take some major fund-raising and grant writing.

The Lakeside sub-district of EATC met on March 19th. I introduced the above changes to the committee. The committee will vote on this at the May 14th meeting to send these on to the FS.

**TRAIL CREW**

**Jerry Good, Trail Crew Coordinator**

The trail crew relies on the eyes and ears of all members hiking the trails. If you see something that needs to be addressed, please let our trail crew know. Use the trail markers to describe the location and description of the problem. For example: LB6-8 erosion problem; LB18-20 vegetation problem; LB32-33 tree down, closer to 32. Photos are also very helpful. With all of us helping, we can maintain trails more efficiently. Please contact President Steve Dobbs ([tracks.steven@gmail.com](mailto:tracks.steven@gmail.com)), Trail Steward Coordinator, Ron Miller ([tracks\\_ts@yahoo.com](mailto:tracks_ts@yahoo.com)), or Trail Crew Boss, Jerry Good ([jgood6@cox.net](mailto:jgood6@cox.net)).



**We will start working Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**

- 7:45 am meet at Safeway parking lot in Show Low.
- Depart at 8:00 am to the work location.

We had an excellent crew last year and hopefully all can return this season. We are hoping for a great 2025; it will be a busy one. We appreciate EVERYONE's help and assistance! 🙌

**TRAIL STEWARDS**

**Ron Miller, Trail Steward Coordinator**

We are currently recruiting Trail Stewards on some of the 30 trails that TRACKS helps to maintain. Please email me at "[tracks\\_ts@yahoo.com](mailto:tracks_ts@yahoo.com)" if you are interested in a great volunteer position! We are especially looking for folks who are very familiar with specific trails or live in the trail vicinity.

Trail Stewards hike their respective trails several times a year to inspect trail conditions and clean up any trash or downed limbs, small logs or improve drainage ditches. They also make sure that

junctions are well signed, or rock cairns are placed to help ensure that people don't get lost while enjoying the trail. As they are walking their trails, they take notice if Trail Diamonds need to be replaced or added. If additional work is needed that a Steward cannot handle, we reach out to Jerry Good and the Trail Crew to schedule a time for the trail crew to work on a particular trail. By staying on top of trail issues we can keep trails safe and available for the hiking public.

**TRAILHEAD ADOPTERS** **Joan Patrick, Trailhead Adopter Coordinator**

We are currently recruiting Trailhead Adopters! Trailhead adopters stock the map boxes, pick up around the trailhead, and report any trailhead kiosk damage to the coordinator. We need volunteers for Juniper Ridge, Lewis Canyon Campground, and Los Burros. It is convenient if the volunteer lives in the vicinity of their respective trail. Please contact Joan Patrick, 928-242-7220, [joanpatrick933@gmail.com](mailto:joanpatrick933@gmail.com) to volunteer or learn more.

**HIKING**

With our mild winter, the hiking groups have been active. Here are a few photos of their treks.



Wenima Wildlife Area

*Hiking with great people - throughout the year (left). Petroglyphs (right)*



*Bald Eagle at Show Low Lake*

**Up The Hill Gang (Wednesdays)**

With the mild Winter weather, Up the Hill Gang (UTH) continue their Wednesday hikes. The May schedule includes:

- May 7<sup>th</sup>      Springs Trail      Kay Alderton

  - 3.5 miles / Easy
  - 7:45 am Meet at China Express
  - 8:00 am Hike departs
  - Ride share \$2
  
- May 14<sup>th</sup>      Country Club & Pat Mullin Scenic Vista      Kay Alderton

  - 4.5 miles / Moderate
  - 7:45 am meet at China Express @ 7:45 am
  - 8:00 am Hike departs
  - Ride share \$2



- May 21<sup>st</sup> Juniper Ridge Trail Ron Miller
  - 6.0- or 3.0-mile loop / Moderate
  - 7:45 am meet at Arby's in Show Low.
  - 8:00 am departure
  - Ride share \$5
- May 28<sup>th</sup> Buena Vista Kat Westberg
  - 5.0 miles / Moderate
  - 7:45 am Meet at the trailhead (take 60 to FR 300, turn left)
  - 8:00 am Hike departs

Please meet the hike leader at the meet up; not all hikes begin at trailheads. Then all participants drive to the hike start location. If you wish to rideshare, the suggested rideshare donation is listed. For April UTH hikes, contact Kay at 928-367-7003.

### **Low Impact Tuesday Trekkers**

It looks like it will be awhile before Heather's new knee will be hiking. If you are interested in leading a hike or heading up the Tuesday Trekkers, please let me know. It would be great to start mid-May and no later than early June. Please contact me at [steinerhm@aol.com](mailto:steinerhm@aol.com).

### **CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**

Annette Fox, Cross-Country Skiing Coordinator

When it snowed, the cross-country skiers did not pass up the opportunity! Here are a few photos from the trek on Mar 9<sup>th</sup>.



*Skiing at Poll Knoll on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.*



**BIKING**

**Kelly Milligan, Biking Coordinator**

The **first scheduled ride of 2025** will be **Thursday, May 1st** at the Thursday starting location (see below).

All rides begin at 9:00 am sharp! If you're late you will be left behind. Most repeat riders are familiar with the locations and all else. For anyone new to the group please know that helmets are required and bring plenty of fluids. Rides can range from 15 to 25 miles; regrouping often so that no one is left behind.



Ride start locations remain as follows:

**Tuesdays:** Fire Escape/East Lane (in Pinetop at the intersection of East Ln. and Country Club).

**Thursdays:** Intersection of Forest Roads 185 and 283.

**Saturdays:** Intersection of Forest Roads 183 (Sky Hi Rd) and 7.

If anyone has questions feel free to direct them my way at [milligankelly@yahoo.com](mailto:milligankelly@yahoo.com).

**WELCOME & THANK YOU!**

Welcome to Denise Powers who will take over as Membership Coordinator effective May 2025. Thanks to Suzanne Milligan for her contributions and time as well as assisting Denise in getting up to speed on this volunteer role.

Welcome to our new newsletter editor, Dodie Gildea. Many thanks to Betty Shay for her time and energy in managing our newsletter and helping to set Dodie up for success!

We are trying out some updates to the newsletter format. Please let us know of any constructive feedback you may have by emailing [tracks.dodie@gmail.com](mailto:tracks.dodie@gmail.com).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER**

The Nature Center is in search of volunteers to lead some of the Saturday hikes. Individuals who have knowledge of "birding", "wildflowers/plants", or really anything "nature related". The hikes are every Saturday; so, the volunteer commitment is one Saturday per month from May through Sept. Interested individuals should reach out directly to the White Mountain Nature Center. Their hours are Wed-Sat, Noon - 4:30 pm or use the online volunteer form at <https://wmnature.org/be-a-volunteer>.



**USFS, TRACKS, and Back Country Horsemen Campout & Joint Collaboration Mreen Helm**

May 17 – 21<sup>st</sup>, the US Forest Service, TRACKS, and Back Country Horsemen of the White Mountains (BCHWM), are teaming up for a joint campout and trail work at Lewis Canyon



Campground near Pinedale, AZ. BCHWM is hosting the event, and the USFS is providing the campground free of charge. TRACKS and BCHWM members are invited to camp or come out for day activities. Trail work will focus on the General Crook Connector, Juniper Ridge, and (possibly) Lookout Trails. Fun activities are being planned for each day.



Make your reservations early! TRACKS and BCHWM members can reserve a camping space by emailing Mreen Helm at [bchwmaz@gmail.com](mailto:bchwmaz@gmail.com) with the number of people, size of the camper or tent, number of horses, and type of confinement (panels or highline). There's plenty of shade and vault toilets, but no water. Leave No Trace Principles will be practiced and proper manure disposal.

Complete schedule and details will be announced in the TRACKS May Newsletter and in the public Facebook group, "Back Country Horsemen of the White Mountains (BCHWM)".

- Sat., May 17, noon: Campers can start checking in, 4:30 Social Hour, bring an appetizer to share.
- Sun, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:30: Briefing for Monday's trail work, followed by a potluck at 5:30 with Cowboy Campfire entertainment by Dave White.
- Mon, May 19, 8:30: TRACKS and BCHWM trail crews with lunch provided.
- Tues, May 20: Activities are still being planned, possibly campground cleanup.
- Wed, May 21, 9:00: 15-minute Trail Etiquette Brief followed by a fun day of hiking, biking, and riding. BYO Lunch. (This will be the Wednesday, Up the Hill Gang hike for May 21<sup>st</sup>.)

This is going to be a very fun and productive collaboration, so make your reservations early. Pray for gentle rains leading up to the campout, and sunny days while we're enjoying and caring for our beautiful Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and trails.

### FIRE RESTRICTIONS – STAGE 1 EFFECTIVE 02/28/25

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions continue to be enforced since Friday, February 28, 2025, at 8:00 am. For current updates, please visit [timbermesafire.org](http://timbermesafire.org) or <https://311info.net>.

### TRACKS YARD SALE

This year we will not have the annual yard sale. The TRACKS Board has decided to focus on the priorities at hand rather than spread ourselves too thin. If you have old gear you were waiting to donate to a TRACKS Yard Sale, please donate to another worthy cause of your choice.

### WHITE MOUNTAIN HAPPENINGS – SAVE THE DATE

Mar 29th      White Mountain Wildfire Preparedness Expo, 11 am - 2 pm  
Blue Ridge High School Admin Room, Lakeside.

Apr 12th      AZ Dept of Forestry – Preparing for the 2025 Fire Season in the White Mountains  
6-7:30 pm  
White Mountain Nature Center



May 17-21 Campout & Joint Collaboration – Lewis Canyon Campground (near Pinedale)  
USFS/Tracks/Back Country Horsemen of the White Mountains

Jun 7th National Trails Day Celebration  
Woodland Lake Park & White Mountain Nature Center

Below are a few useful resources for events and information in the White Mountains.

- White Mountain Nature Center** [wmnature.org](http://wmnature.org)
- Apache Sitgreaves National Forest** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/asnf/recreation>
- Arizona Game & Fish** <https://www.azgfd.com>
- Leave No Trace** [Lnt.org](http://Lnt.org)
- Springerville Ranger Distr. Trail Guide**  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5227797.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5227797.pdf)
- Timber Mesa Fire** <https://www.timbermesafire.org/>
- White Mountain Audubon Society** <https://whitemountainaudubon.org>

For additional hiking trails (not maintained by TRACKS) please see the **Take a Hike** book available for purchase at the White Mountain Nature Center.

TRACKS CALENDAR			
GROUP	DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew	April 7th	Monday mornings April - October	To volunteer, subscribe and check the box for Trail Crew <a href="https://trackswitemountains.org/about-contact/volunteer/">https://trackswitemountains.org/about-contact/volunteer/</a>
Biking	May 1st	9:00 am Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays	To receive information visit <a href="http://www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe</a> , check the box for “Biking” or email <a href="mailto:milligankelly@yahoo.com">milligankelly@yahoo.com</a>
Hiking: Up the Hill Gang (UTH)	May 7 Springs Trail May 14 Country Club/ Pat Mullin Lookout May 21 Juniper Ridge May 28 Buena Vista	3.5 miles / Easy 4.5 miles / Moderate  3.0- or 6.0-miles / Moderate 5.0 miles / Moderate	To receive information visit <a href="http://www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe">www.trackswitemountains.org/subscribe</a> , check the box for “Hiking” or call Kay Alderton at 928-367-7003.
Hiking: Low Impact Tuesday Trekkers	Hikes begin in June!	Hikes of various distances and difficulty.	For maps, visit the TRACKS website: <a href="http://trackswitemountains.org">trackswitemountains.org</a>
TRACKS BOARD MEETING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 10<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• May 8<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	1:00 pm Thursday prior to the Saturday General Meeting	Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall 325 W White Mountain Blvd, Lakeside
TRACKS GENERAL MEETING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 12<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• May 10<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	8:00 am second Saturday of the month  Visitors welcome!	Sal and Teresa’s, 455 Woodland Rd Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ