

Arizona Trail Veterans Volunteer Work Weekend
Passage 34 – San Francisco Peaks
Coconino National Forest – Flagstaff Ranger District
May 21-23, 2021



High winds and cold temperatures combined with elevation to make the weekend a little more challenging than hoped for, but despite those challenges, and some resulting attrition, the group managed to finish more than 20 drainage structures, primarily rolling grade dips, and address several braiding issues.

On Friday morning Michael Chappell and Mark Flint met with Forrest Saville from the Coconino National Forest to hike the work area and formulate a work plan for the Arizona National Scenic Trail and the connector trail from the Bismarck Lake Trailhead.

On Saturday the crew worked primarily building rolling grade dips and a few drainage dips, and one crew member hiked north to cut sections out of several downed trees. Cupping in some places made it necessary to move a lot of dirt to get water off and dispersed, and the excavated dirt was used to make ramps.

For a couple of hours on Saturday and Sunday the crew worked on the Bismarck Lake Trail. In addition to rolling grade dips, the crew converted braided trail back to singletrack, rehabilitating the closed sections where necessary. In one place, where an overhanging limb contributed to braiding, the crew cut back the limb.

Time didn't allow completion for all of the work on the connector trail, so we triaged the work, addressing the areas most likely to cause the most erosion. Additional work will be needed to address drainage and braiding issues on that trail.

We look forward to scheduling another work event in the area to complete the connector trail maintenance and working on drainage issues south of the Arizona Trail junction.





Downed trees at the north end of the work area, possibly recent casualties of high winds, have been cleared.



Longer trenches needed to ensure water channeled off the trail stays off.



Crew members compact the ramp as they finish a rolling grade dip just north of the intersection with the Bismarck Lake Trail.



Several small rolling grade dips like this should minimize the effect of water on the cupping process.