

## WELCOME TO 2026!



Thank you to all of our hardworking volunteers and in particular, our trail crew. When considering all of the trails I've hiked in our nation, I use the White Mountain Trail System as a measuring stick.

By the time you read this, we should have our new 11" x 17" trail maps focused on our non-motorized trails. I know we have been waiting a long time for these.

- Steve Dobbs, President

Thank you for making TRACKS so wonderful!! 2025 has been a marvelous year, and I look forward to another year of hiking, trail-building and camaraderie in 2026.

- Lynn Krigbaum, Vice President



## THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Steven Dobbs, President

**Los Caballos Parking:** Parking at the Los Caballos Trailhead has been a muddy mess for a long, long time. The parking lot is bowl-shaped with a few depressions that held water. By chance I met the public works director from Show Low (Shane Hemesath) in September. He mentioned the condition of the parking lot. After I relayed this to the Lakeside District Ranger (Charlie Denton), he advised he liked the idea of the parking lot improvement. So, I wrote up a proposal. Fast forward to the first of December, the City of Show Low worked on the drainage and added rock to the lot.



It looks SO much better and makes the first impression from our visitors to this trail that much more favorable. We are very appreciative of the support received on this project!

**TRAIL CREW & STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Cathy Purvis, Contributor

***Trail Crew 2025 Accomplishments***

Hats off to the TRACKS Trail Crew! Each and every one of you should be very proud with all that was accomplished in 2025. Throughout most of the season, we averaged 20 crew members each Monday. Trail work started in April and with the weather cooperating, we continued into December. Each summer we focus on trails used by the Tour of the White Mountains and the work was not in vain. We received many wonderful comments from the Tour Organizers and the Bikers themselves. In addition to the Monday work, smaller crews went to work mid-week on various sections of the Blue Ridge Trail, Country Club, Ghost of Coyotes and others. We even attempted Saturday work sessions, trying to recruit new members.



Earlier in the year, a Strategic Planning Committee was formed with 12 dedicated members (many of whom are long-term trail crew members) to develop a long term “living” trail plan, consistent practices, training guide and improved coordination with the US Forest Service. One of the first outcomes was a combined training session with the Back Country Horsemen of the White Mountain and USFS in May. Another big achievement was the development of a Training Maintenance Guide, with which we will kick off the 2026 season! The committee will continue its role as TRACKS maintains 200+ miles of trails, with more to come!

I would like to give a big shout out to:

- our Trail Boss, Jerry Good, and Trail Coordinators, Denny Humphrey and Garth Orkney, for their leadership, hard work and dedication
- Jim Snitzer for pulling our TRACKS Trailer each week
- Destiny Madaje for posting videos of our trail crew on our Facebook and Instagram pages
  - <https://www.facebook.com/TracksWhiteMountainsTrails>
  - <https://www.instagram.com/trackswitemountainstrails/#>

And of course, to each member of the Trail Crew, a big THANK YOU! Looking forward to seeing everyone back in April 2026!

For those who are interested in joining us, please update your profile by sending an email to [contact@trackswitemountains.org](mailto:contact@trackswitemountains.org).



**TRAIL STEWARDS****Ron Miller, Coordinator****Happy 2026 to all our TRACKS Trail Stewards!**

We are so glad for the work you are doing to improve the trails for everyone to enjoy. Let's help make 2026 even better by checking all our respective trails again to make sure that trail conditions are good and clean-up any trash or downed limbs. Since erosion often occurs over the winter, try to improve or create new drainage ditches. A little prevention goes a long way! So that hikers don't become disoriented or lost, please also make sure that junctions are well-signed and that trail marker diamonds are easily visible (in both directions). By staying on top of trail issues we can keep trails safe and available for the hiking public.

Most of our Trail Steward positions are currently filled, but we are always looking for more enthusiastic folks when there are openings. Please let me know if you are interested in helping improve one of our trails by being a volunteer. Just send an email to Ron Miller at [tracks\\_ts@yahoo.com](mailto:tracks_ts@yahoo.com) (don't forget the "underscore" between "tracks" and "ts" – or the email won't go through!)

**VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORTING****Cathy Purvis, Coordinator**

Please send your 2025 volunteer hours to Cathy Purvis at [cpurvis25@gmail.com](mailto:cpurvis25@gmail.com) or call her (847-812-5558) **by January 10, 2026**. We track volunteer hours for TRACKS and other non-profits in the White Mountains and Rim regions. Please include travel time and hours volunteered at the Tour of the White Mountains (but **EXCLUDE** Monday Trail Crew as it's counted separately). No

breakdown is necessary. Our volunteer hours are consolidated into our TRACKS annual report that is shared with our local government, forest service and community partners.

***Thank you for all you do!***

**CROSS COUNTRY SKIING****Annette Fox, Coordinator**

If and when we get SNOW (fingers crossed!), several TRACKS members like to go cross-country skiing. If you would like to join us, please send your contact information (name, email, phone) via email to Annette Fox at [arfox2324@gmail.com](mailto:arfox2324@gmail.com).



**MOUNTAIN BIKING****Kelly Milligan, Coordinator**

We are staying warm (and home) for the winter! Rides will begin again in April / May 2026. If anyone has questions feel free to direct them my way at [milligankelly@yahoo.com](mailto:milligankelly@yahoo.com).

**HIKE: TUESDAY TREKKERS****Heather Steiner, Coordinator**

Hoping you all are enjoying the 2026 beautiful White Mountains including TRACKS activities!

Tuesday Trekkers hikes usually begin in mid-May and continue on through June, July and/or August! Hikes begin at 8 am Tuesday mornings at various beautiful and interesting places. Those who are familiar and comfortable with their favorite trails enjoy being the week's leader(s). We can always use more leaders! That being said you are always welcome to introduce yourself and take a hike with the Tuesday Trekkers. No doubt you will want to join for more!



For more information email Heather Steiner at [steinerhm@aol.com](mailto:steinerhm@aol.com) or Ed Gorny at [eigorny@gmail.com](mailto:eigorny@gmail.com).

**HIKE: UP THE HILL GANG (Wednesdays)****Kay Alderton, Coordinator**

UTH Gang continues informal hikes throughout the winter, subject to weather. The scheduled hikes will begin again in May 2026. See you then!

Any questions, please call Kay Alderton at 928-367-7003.

**MONTHLY CALENDAR**

<b>TRAIL CREW</b>	8:00 am Monday <b>**Beginning April 2026**</b>	Hard hat & tools provided.	*Please wear good boots, gloves, sunscreen and bring ample water.
<b>MOUNTAIN BIKE</b>	8:30 am Tues / Thurs / Sat <b>**Beginning Apr/May 2026**</b>	Rides range from 15 - 25 miles.	*HELMETS REQUIRED* *Bring plenty of fluids
<b>HIKE</b>	Tues: Tuesday Trekkers** Wed: Up the Hill Gang** <b>**Beginning May 2026**</b>	Tues: 8:00 am – 3 miles or less Wed: 3-6 mile hikes	*Please wear appropriate footwear and bring sunscreen and ample water. <b>*Dogs must be on a leash.</b>
<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	Jan 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 pm Thursday	Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Town Hall 325 W White Mountain Blvd Lakeside
<b>GENERAL MEETING</b>	Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am Saturday *2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month*	Sal and Teresa's, 455 Woodland Rd Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ