

Hermiston Scouts Do It Again!

Another summer and another Eagle Project has happened. Troop 654 was instrumental in placing more T-Rails on the Trail under the leadership of Andrew Goller. Andrew was involved in last year's project and loved it so much that he also wanted to place more rails for his project. The work took place on July 29th and 30th, 2021. Last summer, we faced a lot of heat. This summer had its own issues- a blown tire, a closed forest and lots of rocks!

With the extreme heat this summer, the USFS decided to shut roads down, including the one we needed to travel on to get to private property. A couple of phone calls and a lot of patience led to permission to enter the forest as long as the 3 page documentation was present. The next issue came when Mike Nelson- a gentleman who volunteered to help us pick up and transport the t-rails- had a major blowout with his right front tire. He and his friend Janet was stranded in Arlington so a quick trip down with Jenny's little pickup to get three of the 7 rails. (Did I mention the tailgate was broken?!) The rest of the day was spent dropping off the rails at their respective locations so everything would be ready for the next day. The next morning, we headed out. The first job was to relocate a marker that had been misplaced last year. It was a fairly easy job once we got the rail out of the ground. It had to be drug up the road approximately 400 yards and then placed next to the trail-much better than the former site. This site is above La Grande on the Horst property.



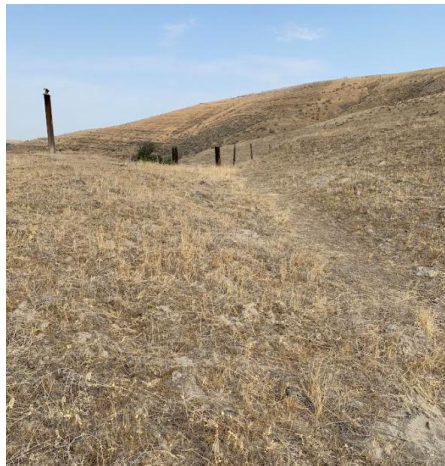
Then it was back on the road to do the 2 off of Summit Road/Mt Emily Rd. The next hole was ridiculously hard to dig-we all took turns and chipped away, finally resorting to a chisel and hammer to get through some of the rock. After 90 minutes we called it good and used 2 bags of concrete instead of one! Thank you to Mr. Bruce Young for allowing us to place the marker. On a side note, our 3 markers that were placed are historic in their own right. They were all stamped with the year 1914



After a well-deserved lunch in the shade, we put in our last one of the day. This one was far easier, and we were done in about 30 minutes. A quick hike on part of the trail to show a nice set of parallel swales was next and then it was off to Emigrant Springs for a welcomed shower. Thank you to Mr. Furst for this location.



Day 2 brought us to Corral Springs, outside of Echo, where we had to carry the rail up a small hill to get to the location because the scout in charge forgot a tire pump for the hand truck-NOT so prepared! However, the digging was the easiest yet. No rocks, just good dirt that took minutes before it was done. A great way to end! As it wasn't even noon, I convinced them to hike to the top of the property to get a good look at some great ruts. I used it as an educational opportunity, talking about how they needed to know about the trail because knowledge was necessary in order to protect their history and heritage. They all were appreciative and asked good questions. Once down, we stopped off at the Koontz grave that is found just before Echo. I told them about how this also was an Eagle project.



At last, we met back at the church so the boys could be picked up by their parents. A good time was had by all, and we got more rails in the ground. A big shout out to Gail Carbiener who did a lot of groundwork, the landowners who allowed us on their properties to place markers (Horsts, Bruce Young, Mr. Furst, and the Coke Ramos family), and especially Andrew, who persevered through some tough moments to lead the boys.



Scouts left to right: Seth Reeve, Jase Richards, Eagle lead Andrew Goller, Jenny Miller, and Eric Pullen

All pictures by Jenny Miller, except the group photo by Rachel Goller