



Final Report to The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

January, 2024

Boulder Creek Wilderness Trail Work and Monitoring

The Boulder Creek Wilderness Trail Work and Monitoring project, led by Source One Serenity, has made significant progress in restoring the Boulder Creek Trail #1552 in the Umpqua National Forest. We are very grateful for the support of OCRF that made it possible for us to bring in several partners, including youth groups, and make this trail passable again after being inaccessible for a decade. This work in the Umpqua National Forest became important because the most popular long-distance trail, the 79-mile North Umpqua Trail (NUT), has sustained major damage—over 43% of it caused by the massive wildfires in 2020 and 2021.

The trail work in the Boulder Creek Wilderness has been a mission-oriented and purpose-driven project for veterans and community members. It has also provided an opportunity for veterans to connect with the community, break isolation, and engage in a meaningful project on public lands. The trail work on public lands addresses some of the major challenges faced by the veteran population, such as PTSD, depression, and suicide, which are often attributed to a lack of purpose. One volunteer, a post-9/11 veteran, bravely shared, "...raising my son and being a part of this project [Boulder Creek Trail] are the only two things that have kept me from taking my life over the past 1 1/2 years. I've contemplated it numerous times but couldn't ever admit it, until now." Additionally, on August 15, 2022, the trail work saved the lives of two hikers who were on a decommissioned trail but in proximity to the portion of the trail cleared by Source One Serenity, enabling packhorses to reach the hikers. The Oregon State Police were ecstatic over the state of the cleared trail and how easily they were able to bring in their pack horses and bring the hikers back to safety.

Another highlight of the project was the collaboration between our dedicated team and a youth group, the Wilderness Corps Crew hosted by Siskiyou Mountain Club. In July 2023, we worked together to clear several significant brush fields, making the trail finally passable. These areas had been heavily impacted by forest fires, with slick-leaf ceanothus growing into a dense forest, reaching heights of 10-15 feet. We are proud to say that the trail has now been restored to meet a 100% standard, ensuring safe and accessible passage for all.



Additionally, we had the opportunity to work with the USFS trail crew on two hitches in 2022 and 2023, which helped strengthen our relationships and further our mutual goal.

We also had the pleasure of working with our monitoring consultant, who provided thorough results from her monitoring efforts. Her work served the purpose of educating our community and increasing our understanding of vegetation and its impact on trail work restoration. Her observations on Monarch butterflies inspired our volunteers and community to learn more about wildlife and its importance in the ecosystem.

Overall, the Boulder Creek Wilderness Trail Work and Monitoring project has made substantial strides in restoring the trail and creating a safe and accessible wilderness experience for all. The project has fostered connections, served as a purposeful endeavor, saved lives, and brought stewardship closer to our community. We are immensely grateful for the support of OCRF and all our partners in making this project a success.



Monitoring reports can be found under these links:

[Monitoring Report 1 July 2023](#)

[Monitoring Report 2 December 2023](#)