

**Friends of the Sandia Mountains
ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM**

Sandia Ranger District
Cibola National Forest

Friends of the Sandia Mountains, Inc. (FOSM), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was organized by a group of concerned citizens for the purpose of supporting the United States Forest Service (USFS) in its mission to preserve and protect our natural and cultural resources in the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest. We believe we can all become “friends for the forest.” FOSM, working in partnership with the Sandia Ranger District, helps to administer the Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) Program.

FOSM is seeking to identify individuals and groups who would like to participate in the Adopt-A-Trail Program. This program provides interested and concerned citizen groups and individuals the opportunity to make a personal investment in the maintenance of our natural and cultural resources for the benefit of the present and future generations. We believe that involvement in the AAT Program also provides an educational experience, i.e., a more in depth understanding of the ecology of the forest system and the different user needs the forest serves to meet. Individuals and groups participating in the AAT Program can become spokespersons to others in the community, educating others about forest needs and opportunities for them to become involved.

This information packet has been created to explain the Adopt-A-Trail Program and solicit your participation. For more information you may contact:

Dan Benton at (505) 797-1941
adoptatrail@friendsofthesandias.org

Or write

FOSM
Attn: Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator
P.O. Box 1832
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059

ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM

Sandia Ranger District
Cibola National Forest

The Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) program on the Sandia Ranger District is one of many similar programs throughout the state and nation. This program allows an interested individual, informal group, or formal organization to volunteer its members' time to help maintain our National Forest. The applicant picks a trail that they have interests in, and after approval they become responsible for the general maintenance, repair and improvements for that trail (or section of trail). This program is strictly voluntary and the group sets its own dates for workdays throughout the year. The Forest Service provides all the tools and hard hats necessary to complete routine maintenance. Some groups get donations from their clubs or businesses for materials such as wood and cement. We do ask that a trail receive three maintenance outings per year, however most AAT groups do more than the minimum. One of the benefits of joining the formal AAT program is that your group is covered by Federal Worker's Compensation during the time they are working on the trail.

What are the steps to adopt a trail?

1. Contact The Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) AAT Coordinator at 797-1941 or the Sandia Ranger Station at 281-3304 and arrange a meeting with the trails personnel. They have a list of trails that remain to be adopted and can explain the AAT program in detail.
2. Discuss the options with your group and choose a trail. The District will provide a Trail Training DVD and Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook to explain proper trail maintenance. In general, unless your group has USFS certified sawyers, you will report trees that cannot be cut with a bow or pruning saw rather than cutting it yourself.
3. Complete two forms -- the Agreement for Sponsored Voluntary Services, items 1, 2, and 3; plus the Sandia Ranger District Adopt-A-Trail Information form -- and submit both to the District Ranger for approval.
4. Set a meeting date with the trails personnel. Your first meeting will be a safety session with one of the trail crew, where they will show you how to safely use the tools and teach you some basic trail maintenance rules. The trails personnel will also walk your trail and help you develop a list of work priorities that your trail needs.
5. Your group will then be on your own to schedule workdays that meet your schedule. If you need tools you can call FOSM or the District a few days in advance so we can get together the tools you need. If your trailhead parking area requires fees, we can also provide you with free one-day passes.

6. Schedules permitting, District personnel are always willing to come join you on your workdays and bring their experience. Please call ahead of time if you wish a trails person to join you so we can place you on our schedule.

How do I pick a trail my group would like to adopt?

1. Choosing a trail is one of the most important decisions that your group will have to make. The Sandia Ranger District has over 265 miles of trails and plenty of diversity, so there's a trail out there that's just right for you.
2. Consider your Group's interests. A bicycle group would probably not be interested in working on a wilderness trail, as bikes are not allowed in wilderness. Nor would a cross-country ski group be interested in working on a low elevation trail with little snowfall.
3. Consider the physical abilities of your group. A group with young children or elderly would probably not pick a trail that is difficult to reach and has lots of difficult trail maintenance.
4. What time is your group available for work on your trail? Does your group have time in the summer? Winter? Year round? The elevation of a trail determines when a trail can be worked. Winter would limit any high elevation work, whereas summer in the low country could be unbearably hot.
5. How many workers can you expect on any given day? Choosing a long difficult trail for a small group would take the fun out of your volunteer time, whereas a large group would get bored on a short and easy trail.

We've adopted a trail! We are on our own! What next?

1. Use the Adopt-A-Trail Operations Checklist (*) to plan your outings.
2. At the beginning of each outing, document your safety briefing and the names of participants on the Adopt-A-Trail Pre-Work Checklist (*).
3. After each outing, document your work on the AAT Trail Report (*)
4. Send the AAT Trail Report and AAT Pre-Work Safety Checklist to the FOSM AAT Coordinator for inclusion in an annual report to the USFS.
5. Your group may change to a different adopted trail at any time. Members change, interest picks up, your trail building skills increase, or you feel a shorter trail would fit your group better. Flexibility is integral to the AAT Program

(*) Documents available on the FOSM website, www.friendsofthesandias.org. From the home page select "Projects" from the top line, at the next page select Adopt-A-Trail, and then follow the links in the last paragraph to the documents you need.

**Sandia Ranger District – Cibola National Forest
Adopt-A-Trail Information**

ADOPTED TRAIL

DATE:

ADOPTING ORGANIZATION

Name:

Meeting Address:

Meeting Dates/Times:

President/Chair:

CONTACT PERSON

Name:

Telephone Number:

E-mail Address:

Postal Address

Preferred Time for Contact:

ADOPT-A-TRAIL INFORMATION (Optional)

Most Recent Survey/Maintenance Dates:

Scheduled Trail Activities:

Comments:

Send completed form to adoptatrail@friendsofthesandias.org or by regular mail to:

Friends of the Sandia Mountains
Attn: AAT Coordinator
P.O. Box 1832
Tijeras NM 87059

AAT Trail Report
(Continue on reverse if necessary)

Date Received: _____

Name: _____ Outing Date: _____

Organization Name: _____

Trail/Trail Number: _____

Trail Condition: Poor: _____ Fair: _____ Excellent: _____

Hazards: _____

Level of Need: Immediate: _____ Soon: _____ When Possible: _____

Blow Downs: Need Removal: _____ Removed: _____

Water Bars: (# built or replaced): Need Repair _____ Repaired: _____

Check Dams: Need Repair: _____ Repaired: _____

Fire Rings: Removed: _____

Litter: (Amount Removed): _____

Signs: (Adequate/Needed – Where): _____

Vegetation: Trimming Needed: _____

Trimming Done: _____

Wilderness Trespass: _____

Switchback Cutting: _____

No. of Workers: _____ No. of Hours: _____ No. of Miles Worked: _____

Trail improvement Recommendations: _____

Wildlife Sightings: _____

Emergency Assistance Instructions: Call 911 Sandia Ranger District (281-3304)

Complete this form and the AAT Pre-Work Safety Checklist and e-mail both forms to adoptatrail@friendsofthesandias.org or send by regular mail to

Friends of the Sandia Mountains
Attn: Adopt-A-Trail
P.O. Box 1832
Tijeras, NM 87059

AAT Pre-Work Safety Checklist (*)

Group Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Name: _____

Trail Name _____

Please Check the items discussed at your tailgate safety meeting.

Proper Clothing

Always wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and sturdy boots: _____

Wear gloves when handling sharp tools or sharp objects: _____

Always wear hardhats (USFS will furnish): _____

Tool Use

Check tools for broken handles, chipped edges, and loose heads before use: _____

Never swing your tool above your head. Use short strokes, snapping your wrists: _____

Carry your tool at your side, sharp edge down, not on your shoulder: _____

Only certified persons may use chainsaws/crosscuts on Forest Service projects: _____

Personal Safety Issues

Carry and drink plenty of water, anytime of year: _____

Wear sunscreen and a hat: _____

Take frequent breaks. Most folks are not used to continuous heavy labor: _____

Use proper lifting techniques when lifting heavy objects. Don't lift if too heavy: _____

Work in groups, get help from others when needed: _____

Communicate with others as you work, inform others if you are passing them: _____

Keep proper spacing, 10 feet is a good rule of thumb: _____

Safety Suggestions From Your Group

Names of Persons Attending Safety Meeting:

Use Back of Sheet if Additional Space is Needed
Send to AAT Coordinator with AAT Trail Report

*** Review the current Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) for Field Work for additional details and topics for discussion.**

Adopt-A-Trail Operations Checklist

The following list will assist you in preparing for your Trail project.

Planning Stage

Determine maintenance to be performed during this project.
Ask two weeks in advance for Forest Service participation (optional).
Inform members of date and time of project.
Prepare a tentative list of tools needed to complete project. Notify the Forest Service or AAT Coordinator as soon as possible if you want USFS tools.
Make AAT Pre-Work Safety Checklist and AAT Trail Report forms.
Obtain volunteer parking passes if your trailhead is a fee site.

Day of Project

At the Meeting Site

Insure all volunteers have adequate water and hats and sunscreen.
Have safety discussion and complete AAT Pre-Work Safety checklist
Have all volunteers sign the Pre-Work Safety checklist.
Carry enough tools for project.
Make sure group has at least one first aid kit.
Take cell phones for use in an emergency.
Make sure all volunteers have transportation to job site and encourage car pooling.

At the Job Site

Review project with all volunteers before starting.
Observe weather patterns, plan work schedule accordingly, leave work site if lightning approaches.
Match volunteers to proper tools (e.g., no small children with axes).
Insure volunteers are wearing long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and boots.
Hike to job site, watching your spacing.
Take periodic rest breaks.
When project is finished or time is up, review the work you accomplished.
Insure all people and tools are accounted for.
Drive home safely. Remember, you will be tired.

Follow Up

Gather suggestions from your group on how to improve your future workdays.
Make note of what you can work on at you next outing.
Take advantage of the training offered throughout the year by the Forest Service, such as chain saw and crosscut saw certification.

Forward the completed Pre-Work Safety Checklist and the Trail Report to the AAT Coordinator at the addresses shown as soon as possible.

AAT Trail Maintenance Things to look for

- Trees down across trail (*)
- Leaning trees likely to fall across the trail (*)
- * Trail tread erosion
 - Outer edge of tread sloughing off on steep downhill slope
 - Water running down the trail, not off
- Water bars
 - Clean
 - Replace
 - Add new
- Barrier Walls
 - Intact?
- Steps
 - Repair
- Vegetation
 - Trim brush to ~3ft wide by ~6ft high
- Signs
 - Solid in ground
 - Legend defaced
 - Horizontal board securely bolted
- Trash Pick-Up

(*) Report larger trees requiring follow-up work by persons certified in chainsaw or crosscut saw use to the USFS Trails Foreman or the FOSM AAT Coordinator

Adopt-A-Trail Volunteer Groups of the Sandia Ranger District
(Note that some groups have adopted more than one trail)
(as of 2/16/2010)

Trails	Organization
10K South	Rav & Ken Nicholson
Bart's and Canoncito	Karen Leach & Andrea Welford
Bill Spring	Outdoor Adventures for Singles
Cedro Area motorized trails	Envy 4X4
Cedro Creek Nature Trail	Talking Talons Youth Leadership
Cienega	East Mountain High School
Cienega Horse Bypass	East Mountain Trail Riders
Cienega Nature	Friends of the Sandia Mountains
Cross-country Ski Trails (Challenge, Survey, Rocky Point, Gravel Pit, Buried Cable, Switchback)	New Mexico Ski Club
Domingo Baca	Active Single Boomers Meetup Group
Embudito	Albuquerque Outdoor Meetup Group
Embudo	Sandia Civitans
Embudo Horse Bypass	Sandia Civitans
Faulty (Bill Spring to Cienega Trail)	Faulty Mountain Bikers
Foothills #365 (S. of Simms Park Rd.)	High Desert Residential Homeowners Assn
Hawkwatch	Hawkwatch, Inc./Partners with Intel
La Luz	Albuquerque Road Runners Club
North Crest (Crest to del Agua)	Happy Hoofers
Osha Loop	Middle Rio Grande Backcountry Horsemen
Oso Corredor	SW Forest Service Amigos
Pino	NM Volunteers for the Outdoors

Piedra Lisa South	Friends of Piedra Lisa South
Sandia Cave Trail & Cave	Sandia Grotto of the National Speleological Society
South Crest (Crest to Tram)	Happy Hoofers
South Crest (Upper Faulty to Bart's)	NM Mountain Club
Sulphur	San Antonito Elementary School
Tecolote	Friends of the Sandia Mountains
Three Gun Spring	NM Outlaws Multisport Club
Trails South of Sandia Ranger Station	Backcountry Horsemen of NM
Tree Spring	Messiah Lutheran Church
Tunnel Canyon	Trail Partners
Wolf Spring	Patrick O'Leary Memorial