

Dear Friends,

On September 24, the partnership held the first of what will be monthly work parties at the Powerdam section of the canyon. The 24th was also National Public Lands Day, so we combined the events. We had over 29 volunteers perform 77.5 hours of work. Thanks so much to Trail Mix for co-sponsoring this event.

We worked with the entire senior class of the Intermountain Christian School. They came down from Salt Lake for the sole purpose of working with us. There were 14 total, 12 students and 2 adults. They worked hard and it showed. Four of the students removed hundreds of pieces of broken glass from around the pump house. It made a noticeable difference. The others worked on rock outlining trails so we can keep hikers on those and off natural areas, which appear to me to be nice and healthy, and improving. In fact, the entire front area of the canyon looks beautiful. I think it helps set a tone of respect for the canyon.

Our sincere thanks go out to Miles Gurtler of the BLM and Jeff Fink of Trail Mix for making steps going down from the parking lot toward the trail to the Tea Cup. Sandy Freethey and I counted 13 go-downs off the parking lot last year, so having 3 obvious ones will help stop the erosion caused by too many go-downs. We naturalized the ones we're trying to close off, but more needs to be done there.

Big thanks to local volunteers Dave and Kay McLean, Karl and Patty Larson, Tom and Ruth Dillon, Mary O'Brien, Lenore (Pizza Girl) Beeson, and three men whose names I don't recall, two of whom came from the Utah Conservation Corps. Lots of rock work was done and many a weed was pulled by these folks. Extra large thanks go out to Paradox Pizza. They donated a lot of pizzas so that everybody could enjoy a great lunch. It was one of the highlights of the day. Susan and Fred, you rock!

We also weeded and rock outlined some parking areas just off the road before the parking area. The sheriff has posted "No Parking" signs on the creek side of the road, so we thought some carefully placed pullovers on the other side may help alleviate future parking problems.

Some in the partnership have told me they would like to gather community input for the future well-being of the canyon. They especially want to deal with the impacts increased visitation has brought. If you would like to work on a committee charged with working on this aspect of the canyon's health, please let me know. For that purpose and others, we will be holding a meeting this Friday, October 14, from 5 to 6 p.m. in the small conference room of the library. Please come and help chart the course for the partnership and the canyon.

The next work party, Saturday, October 22, (start time, 9:00 a.m.), will focus on making sure the one main trail through the canyon is in good shape and obvious to users. User created trails will be naturalized. I plan to walk the trail prior to the 22nd with Miles from the BLM. If anybody wants to come with us, let me know.

Sincerely,

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