

Dear Friends,

On **Saturday, October 22**, we had our second of three scheduled work parties in the canyon. Luckily for me, **Tamsin McCormick** called me the night before and offered to send two of her interns, **Ryan** and **Josh** to help out. **Gerrish Willis** made the fourth and with that small team we roughed up and naturalized the off-trail path from the parking area to the powerdam structure, naturalized a user created trail just before the structure, and further down, near the confluence, got rid of a wide panel of graffiti, (thankfully it was mostly charcoal, and just a little bit of marker), did some trimming and clearing of the trail, and tried to make a confusing section of the trail clearer to folks. I took photos of the graffiti work, a few of which I attach here. **THANKS SO MUCH** to the volunteers who came out. We had a great time. Small teams of 4 would be good to use for future projects, but it would be nice to have more than one team...

On behalf of Trail Mix, for the BLM, on **Monday, October, 24**, we worked with a group of 12 high school students, with 2 of their teachers (from North Hollywood), along with a guide from Mancos, as we removed choking chicken wire and properly caged 11 cottonwood trees. Some of the trees were in clumps of three. It was hard work but the kids did an amazing job. I brought Pat, as a Solutions' volunteer. He has a lot of experience with this kind of work and was an incredible help. Mary O'Brien from Grand Canyon Trust (and beaver expert), gave a great explanation about beaver habitat and why we were doing what we were doing and what beaver do for the planet. Ann Marie Aubrey of the BLM explained about riparian areas and thanked the group for their work. We were in the canyon about 5 hours and it was very satisfying to get a good start on helping those trees survive and thrive.

The next work party, **Saturday, November 12, starting at 10:00 a.m.**, will focus on brush removal and other seasonal projects.

I'd love to go in before hand with an expert on invasives and get an idea of what we can do with those. If you have knowledge in this area, and have a couple of hours to do a tour before the next work party, please let me know. **Please note: Because of Thanksgiving we are doing this month's work party earlier in the month, and because it is cooler in the morning we are starting later than the other two work days.**

Please contact me with any suggestions or comments. I hope to see you in the canyon on the 12th.

Sincerely,

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