

OUTDOORS AND MORE



BUTTE FALLS RANGER DISTRICT NEWS

By Janice Schultz

Work sharing to help young people learn work ethics, and to help them understand what it takes to get the job done, is something the Forest Service has participated in for quite some time. Recently, I was honored to be part of an Eagle Scout project that improved one of the stops on the Discovery Loop Tour. Troop 7, an Eagle Scout troop from Medford, tackled the job of trail improvement, bucking logs and clearing brush, and repairing fence at the Old Logging Arch, which is the 4th point-of-interest stop on the loop tour that winds through the Butte Falls District.

Brian Foley was the lead scout on this project for Troop 7, and I was the Forest Service contact. Once the volunteer paper work was accomplished, I was surprised at how little else I had to do. Brian did all of the planning. He went out to the site and walked through the job. While there, he inventoried the tools and materials needed, which the Forest Service then supplied. He picked the date and mustered his crew from the scouts available from his troop. Safety issues such as personal protective equipment, bee sting kits, and lessons on how to carry tools were all taken care of by Brian.

The Logging Arch has lain in the woods forgotten since the Fourbit Creek Timber Sale of the mid-1920s, until rediscovered by the Forest Service in the 1980s. A short trail brings you to the site. There was a special twist to this project however, because a pretty good size oak tree fell on the arch a couple of years ago, and "smoosched" it in the middle. Brian and his crew bucked and cleared away the oak from the arch, and then used some of it for barriers in other places. In addition, they improved the interpretive sign.

A special thank-you goes out to Brian and his crew from The Butte Falls Ranger District and the Town of Butte Falls, for the improvements made to this special place. A big supporting thank-you goes to Brian's parents, Bill and Jean, and also to Alan Buchta, who did his fair share of the physical labor, and seemed to be enjoying himself too.

Happy Thanksgiving
from everyone at the
Butte Falls Ranger District

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LOGGING ARCH FROM THE 1920's FOURBIT CREEK TIMBER SALE



JAKE AND LOGGING ARCH FROM 2000 BLM PROJECT

photo taken by Alan Buchta