

Subject: Reconstruction of Golden Canyon Trail successfully completed Sept. 22-24 in Carson-Iceberg Wilderness

I am pleased to report that Dolly Chapman, Tyler Hill, PCTA's Dave Harrison, Eldorado Wilderness Volunteer Eddie Barry, Mike Arkell and Sonja from the BCH-Carson Valley Chapter and I completed the connection of the last 1/2 mile of Golden Canyon Trail to the PCT. Earlier this summer, Dolly's H-T trail crew, with our Wilderness seasonal Jeff Miller, maintained the Golden Canyon Trail from Carson Falls upstream to within 1/2 mile of the PCT junction. In addition, Dave Harrison identified about a 1/2 mile of tread work need on the PCT in the Wolf Creek headwaters on the Carson RD that will be a PCT volunteer crew project next summer. The work the crew did was outstanding and having the tools horse packed in by Mike & Sonja made it possible to complete the PCT/Golden Canyon Trail maintenance project. The Golden Canyon Trail had been virtually unused for over 2 decades due to lack of maintenance and PCT users being unable to even find it. Now there is a very clear tread built by the crew and a new trail intersection sign that marks the PCT intersection with the Paradise Valley and Golden Canyon Trails. The crew also built a solid rock ring (5' diameter) around the new Golden Canyon trail intersection sign as well as the existing sign at the Murray Canyon Connector Trail 1-1/4 miles to the north along the PCT. The solid rock collar will prevent cattle (there were cattle and/or cattle grazing impacts in virtually every creek drainage and along sections of the PCT between Highland Lakes and Golden Canyon Creek), pack strings, and bears from easily walking next to the posts and damaging them. Eddie Barry took still pictures that he has graciously offered to share. He also took GPS coordinates and pictures of the downed trees along the PCT between Golden Canyon Trail and Highland Lakes junctions. In addition, we would now like to publicize that this trail has been "reopened" after almost 2 decades of diminishing maintenance. If you know of users and/or user groups (including equestrian) that you would like us to notify about this "new" trail opportunity just let me know who to contact. And thanks again to the volunteers who volunteered their time to complete this project for the benefit of Wilderness and PCT recreationists.

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