

PATH work weekend report – October 15, 2021 - Betsy will report all hours for this team.

Ron Hudnell, David Atkinson, Morris Yule, Pete Whiteis
VA623->towards Jenkins Shelter (Blowdown cutting)

Everyone arrived at VA623 trailhead at 9:00 on Friday, Oct 15

Covid-19 vaccination and symptoms check

Tailgate safety briefing/JHA review

Texted Steve Yonts as emergency contact that we were leaving trailhead

David brought 2 of the two-man crosscut saws and the one-man crosscut from the Bland shed. Hiked down to the very large blowdown that had no easy, safety walk around – approx. 3.7 miles from VA623 trailhead

On site, David gave some additional safety instructions on using a two-man crosscut saw, and considered several options for cutting the tree based on supporting areas and possible movement of the tree during/after cutting.

Decision made and cutting began using wedges as cutting progressed. Lower cut first and then upper cut. No issues with the cutting. Rolled cut section off the trail and then hiked back up to trailhead taking care of one more smaller crosscut need, and two Silky saw opportunities.

Met two NOBO flip-flop hikers near the VA623 trailhead and they apologized for their hiker companion's use of the trailhead shavings barrel as a trashcan. They had done trail work with the GMC and were very impressed with the use of shavings barrels at the trailheads and the use of hikers to carry in the small bags of shavings. Many thanks again to **Karl Kunkel** for this suggestion and to **Herb MacDonald** for the Jenkins privy retrofit design!

Arrived back at VA623 trailhead about 4:00, cleaned the shavings barrel, texted Steve Yonts that we were leaving the mountain.

David, Pete and I went to the Bland tool shed to meet Betsy and help with inventory and cleaning. She had done most of the work by the time we arrived.

Dropped off some more of the PATH tri-fold brochures at the Bland Post Office on the way to Sugar Grove that night. Only 260 brochures left.



Before



After



Almost 24" diameter



The second smaller crosscut job