

## Habitat Report for January 2023, By John Hillmer

We continued to have 8-12 volunteers, 3 times a week, and several volunteers on the weekends (some of us worked 4-5 days a week). We volunteered close to 650 hours in January, burned about 75 piles of brush, and can report for the first time that we provided 13 large bins of firewood to park visitors (the equivalent of over 50 bundles of wood if they had been purchased at a retail store. Money raised from firewood donations totaled \$34.

### Accomplishments:

Before the snow came, with the help of Jay's old boat trailer we were able to get the second firewood rack up to the campsite! Signs asking nicely for donations for the wood were posted at both wood racks, but they didn't appear to be effective. A week ago, we updated the signs to be a bit more to the point, with a title: "Firewood Available for Donations" and that message appears to be working better. As wood is removed, we restock it.

Restocking wood at the Campsite



The Log Cabin where we keep the split wood is full; we're now stacking the wood on the south and west sides of the building. Wood that is not ideal for "donations" is piled separately and that's what we use for "free" events, such as the candlelight hike or over at the Winter Recreation Storage Building



Last month I indicated that we would be clearing Buckthorn near Evergreen between the Ice Age Trail and the trail/ski trail going up to Summer Stage. We made some progress there, but with the early January thaw, the ground there got too wet to work it.

So, we moved to the Buckthorn mess just to the North of the Winter Recreation Storage Building, and the rock wall running along the driveway, and the rock wall running north from the WRSB to the maintenance driveway.



This panoramic photo is standing by the big WRSB garage door looking to the left (the ski meadow, and right is the driveway down to the WRSB. Prior to this work (that is still in progress) you would have just seen a wall of buckthorn in front of you at the rock walls.

The Oak trees at and around the butterfly garden were also pruned again one afternoon!