



Nature At Home

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



Trail Erosion

View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

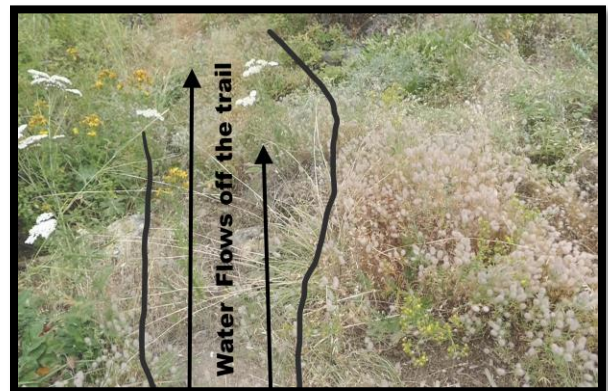
Here's a junction at one of the many trails in the Dishman Hills. The photo of the trail shows a lot of rock showing on the side. That is from erosion patterns from rainfall and snow melt which run down the hillside and erode out the finer material carrying it down the hill.

On the trails that have been established, a bit of maintenance is done to help keep the water where we want it to be; which is basically not eroding the hillsides.

Here is a unique erosion spot at the bottom of a swale. You can see where the water has been running down and eroding the trail.

Here's a diversion where the water runs off the trail and down into the woods and is absorbed into the soil. That is the ideal situation.

When we build trails, we try and put diversion devices in the trail to divert the water off the trail. This helps to keep it from running all the way down. Getting the water off the trail prevents the erosion from happening.



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When walking on the trails you might see erosion gullies and wonder where all the water comes from? It can't just be from rain falling on the trail. If you look around you will see many rock outcrops with a thin layer of soil on top of the rocks. What happens in many cases is the water will infiltrate into the soil, then hit one of the rock layers, before going down the slope of the rock. All the water that comes off the surface of the rocks then surfaces on the trails which tend to be at the bottom of gullies. The water keeps running down hill and causes erosion.



It isn't just the water that falls directly on the trail, it's stuff that goes into the ground around the trails too. Here's a good example of a smooth rock with a thin layer of soil on top. Water will soak into the ground, migrate down on top of the rock, and come out onto the trail. It feeds the flow that's on the trail which causes erosion.



One of the reasons it's important not to create your own trails (or shortcuts) in the Dishman Hills, is that when you create a new trail, you pack down the soil and that makes it less permeable. When you get rain or snowmelt, instead of soaking into the ground like it would in the natural environment, it starts to run off and creates these erosion patterns.

Please stay on the established trails and help prevent erosion in the Dishman Hills. Thank you

If you have any questions, email us at Education@DishmanHills.org

