

Summary of the 2003 Season:

The GBT 2003 summer field season is finally over. Ladies and gentlemen, we are in business!!! The Great Baikal Trail no longer exists solely in the virtual reality of papers and our imaginations. The GBT has found its direction and is being implemented in the real world.

With the help of our friends and partners we were able to do a lot of work in preparation for the summer season, realize our dreams, and even do more than was originally planned. Here is a brief summary of the accomplishments of the GBT's first field season:

During the 2003 season work was carried out on 6 sections of the GBT. 136 volunteers participated, including 87 volunteers from Russia and 49 foreign volunteers from 12 countries (USA, Great Britain, Belgium, Ireland, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Slovakia, Tunis, Denmark, and Holland). Altogether the volunteers worked 9522 person-hours. As a result, 70 kilometers of trail were built and reconstructed.

Twelve experts in environmental trail construction from the US governmental and public organizations took part in preparing for the summer season.

The GBT construction work was actively supported by the following local governmental and public organizations: Zabaikalski National Park; State Nature Biosphere Reserve "Baikalski"; Pribaikalski National Park; The School of Ecological Tourism (Severobaikalsk); OO Baikal Business Incubator; Ecological Center "Podlemorye" (Ust'-Barguzin); Irkutsk Regional Public National-Cultural Organization "Center for Buryat Culture"; Goloustenski Center for Ecology, Culture and Information "Estuary," and; Public Ecological Organization "Together with Baikal."