



Enchanted Circle Trails Plan



Enchanted Circle Trails Plan

The Trust for Public Land
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Preface

Acknowledgments

Hundreds of people contributed their time and passion to the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan. Nearly 190 people attended our community meetings, over 20 provided their expertise to our mapping and GIS team, and 30 got out in the field and helped us “groundtruth” proposed trails. Many hundreds more gave us their input through interviews and focus groups, community surveys, and outreach events. In addition to these community participants, this plan was made possible by generous support from the LOR Foundation; the Town of Taos; Taos County; the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program; Taos Land Trust; the Enchanted Circle Trails Association; and The Trust for Public Land. Headwaters Economics also provided valuable survey data on community perspectives and needs.



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TAOS LAND TRUST



Heubeck conservation easement

Message from Taos Land Trust

Even in spectacular places like northern New Mexico, many kids spend nearly all their time inside. The average American child spends just four to seven minutes a day playing outdoors and up to seven hours a day staring at a screen. Research shows that trading outdoor time for screen time is bad for our minds and our bodies, and it's particularly damaging to kids. Diabetes, attention deficit disorder, heart disease, depression, myopia, allergies, and asthma have all skyrocketed as we spend less and less time being active in nature.

Together we can reverse this trend. We can make it easier and more fun for kids and families to spend time outdoors. We can build trails and pathways that connect communities with nature and with each other. We can create safe routes to schools and to parks, so that local children and families can benefit from being active without access to a car. We can build close-to-home trails for people of all ages and abilities and make sure that all our local communities, especially our most vulnerable community members, have equitable access to trails and green space.

Through this Trails Plan communities in the Enchanted Circle are coming together to loudly and clearly express their desire for better access to trails and safe in-town opportunities for walking and biking. Seeing the passion and commitment of the participants in this planning effort has been inspiring. I have more hope than ever that we can come together and make Taos and the Enchanted Circle a place where our families thrive because everyone has access to the transformative power of connecting to the outdoors.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

– Kristina Ortez de Jones, Executive Director, Taos Land Trust

Message from Enchanted Circle Trails Association

Northern New Mexico has extraordinary natural assets, and the Enchanted Circle Trails Association is committed to using the Trails Plan as a guide to create alternative transportation infrastructure, enhanced signage and branding of trails, and easier access to recreational amenities. As a nonprofit organization, the Enchanted Circle Trails Association links multiple jurisdictions and user groups to a trail system.

– Carl Colonius, Enchanted Circle Trails Association

Message from The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land is awed by the level of community interest and engagement in this trail- planning effort. Trails are a powerful tool for increasing quality of life and community health, and they are a critical element of The Trust for Public Land’s mission to “ensure healthy, livable communities for generations to come.” Trails can connect us to iconic landscapes and to community centers – from mountaintops to Main Street. If designed and sited carefully, trails can also help improve social equity. There’s a tremendous opportunity in the Enchanted Circle right now to bring together diverse groups to ensure equitable access to safe in-town routes for biking and walking and spectacular backcountry routes to some of the most beautiful and iconic landscapes in the world. We are thrilled that this Trails Plan can be part of making this vision a reality.

– Greg Hiner, Southwest Director of Land Protection, The Trust for Public Land

1. Introduction

THERE IS VERY STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT for expanding trails in the Enchanted Circle. Hundreds and hundreds of local community members provided input for this plan over the past two years – and expressed widespread consensus on the need for more close-to-home access to trails. The Enchanted Circle Trails Plan represents an inventory of current trails and a shared vision for the future. It provides a blueprint for a comprehensive, cohesive, and connected trail system that can improve quality of life and community health throughout the Enchanted Circle.

A few key things to know about this plan:

1. **THIS PLAN ADDRESSES A WIDE RANGE OF TRAIL TYPES.** It includes planning for off-road, natural surface hiking and biking trails; on-road or separated bike lanes; and multiuse paved pathways. All user types are included (walk/hike, road bike, mountain bike, ski, horseback, off-road vehicle, etc.).
2. **THE TRAILS INCLUDED IN THIS PLAN SERVE A WIDE RANGE OF PURPOSES.** Trails that can increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists are a particularly high priority. Trails identified as high priority link neighborhoods, schools, and businesses; connect locals and visitors to the iconic landscapes of the region; and provide close-to-home access to the outdoors.
3. **THIS TRAILS PLAN IS CONCEPTUAL.** This means it outlines a vision, preliminary priorities, and strategies for implementation, but leaves additional assessment and site-specific planning to the many local

jurisdictions, agencies, and community groups in the study area.

4. **THIS TRAILS PLAN IS A LIVING DOCUMENT THAT WILL EVOLVE OVER TIME AND CAN BE ADAPTED FOR LOCAL PRIORITIES.** Along with this report, local partners can use a web tool (<http://web.tplgis.org/taostrails>) to analyze proposed trails and further refine their priorities. This plan will evolve over time as community priorities and trail opportunities change.
5. **THE PARTNERS IN THIS TRAILS PLAN RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.** Any trail access through private lands must be well planned and well maintained – and developed through engagement with and respect for landowners. Many of the trails proposed in this plan represent general trail corridors and not specific trail alignments. Specific alignments will always be negotiated with appropriate landowners – including public agencies – and will go through all necessary approval processes.

About the Enchanted Circle

The Enchanted Circle gets its name from the Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway. The byway loops through the spectacular mountains, valleys, mesas, and forests of northern New Mexico and circles Wheeler Peak, the highest peak in the state at over 13,000 feet. This Trails Plan includes the entire area within the Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway and extends east to Eagle Nest and the Colin Neblett Wildlife Management Area; west to include the Rio Grande Corridor from the Taos Valley

Overlook; north to the northern boundary of the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument; and south to include Carson National Forest trails north of State Highway 518. [See Figure 1 for a map of the study area.](#) ➔

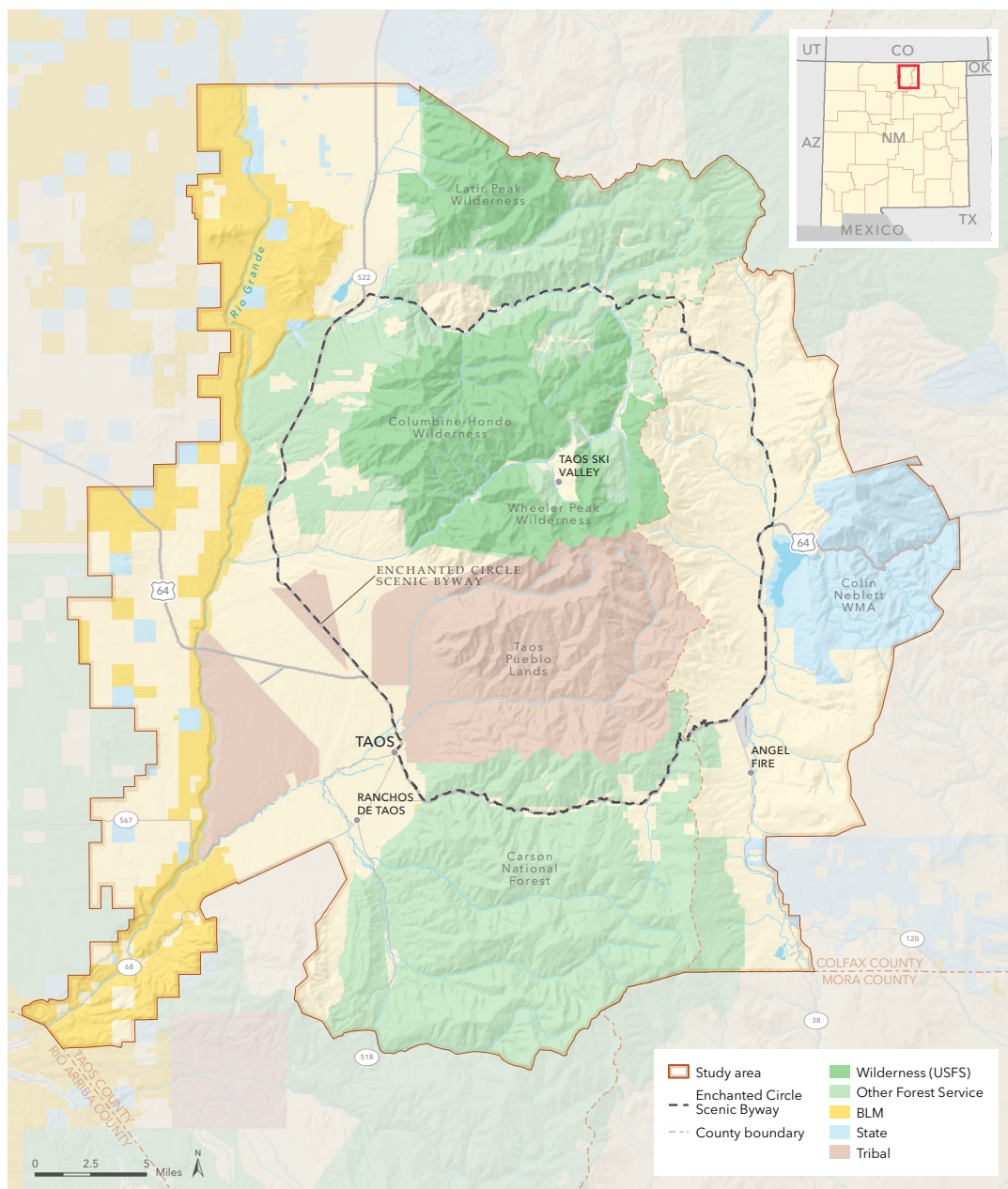
The study area for the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan covers 1,310 square miles. It includes portions of four counties (Taos County, Colfax County, Mora County, and Rio Arriba County) and over 362,000 acres of federal public lands managed by the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The plan area includes the towns of Taos, Arroyo Hondo, Arroyo Seco, Questa, Red River, Eagle Nest, Village of Taos Ski Valley, and Angel Fire. In addition to the federal lands managed by the Forest Service and the BLM, the study area has over 9,800 acres of land owned by the State Land Office, over 36,000 acres managed by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and over 280,600 acres of private land. Taos Pueblo lands within the Enchanted Circle are not included in this Trails Plan.

The towns and wild landscapes of the Enchanted Circle are culturally and ecologically rich and diverse. In addition to Wheeler Peak and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, there is Eagle Nest Lake, the Rio Grande Gorge, Taos Mesa, and rich farmlands that have been irrigated for hundreds of years using traditional acequia systems. Nearly 50 miles of the Rio Grande pass through the study area. Access to public lands and outdoor recreation in the Enchanted Circle area are

a major draw for both tourists and residents. Statewide recreation contributes \$3.8 billion annually to New Mexico's economy and supports 47,000 jobs throughout the state. Taos Ski Valley alone contributes between \$13 million and \$14 million annually.

Through this planning process, partners mapped 987 miles of existing trails and 1,590 miles of existing roads throughout the study area. The plan proposes to eventually add nearly 400 miles of new trails. [These existing and proposed trails are shown in Figure 2.](#) ➔

There are stark contrasts within the Enchanted Circle. There are longtime Hispano/Hispanic and Native American communities with rich local cultures and histories – and there are high rates of poverty, diabetes, and obesity. Many local communities have very limited access to close-to-home trails and outdoor recreation. There is also an influx of wealthy second-home owners attracted by the climate, renowned local arts scene, open space, and an increasing number of world-class opportunities for hiking, biking, river rafting, horseback riding, mountain climbing, hunting and fishing, and skiing. Community outreach results show big differences in how different populations use local trails and major disparities in access to close-to-home trails between high- and low-income areas.

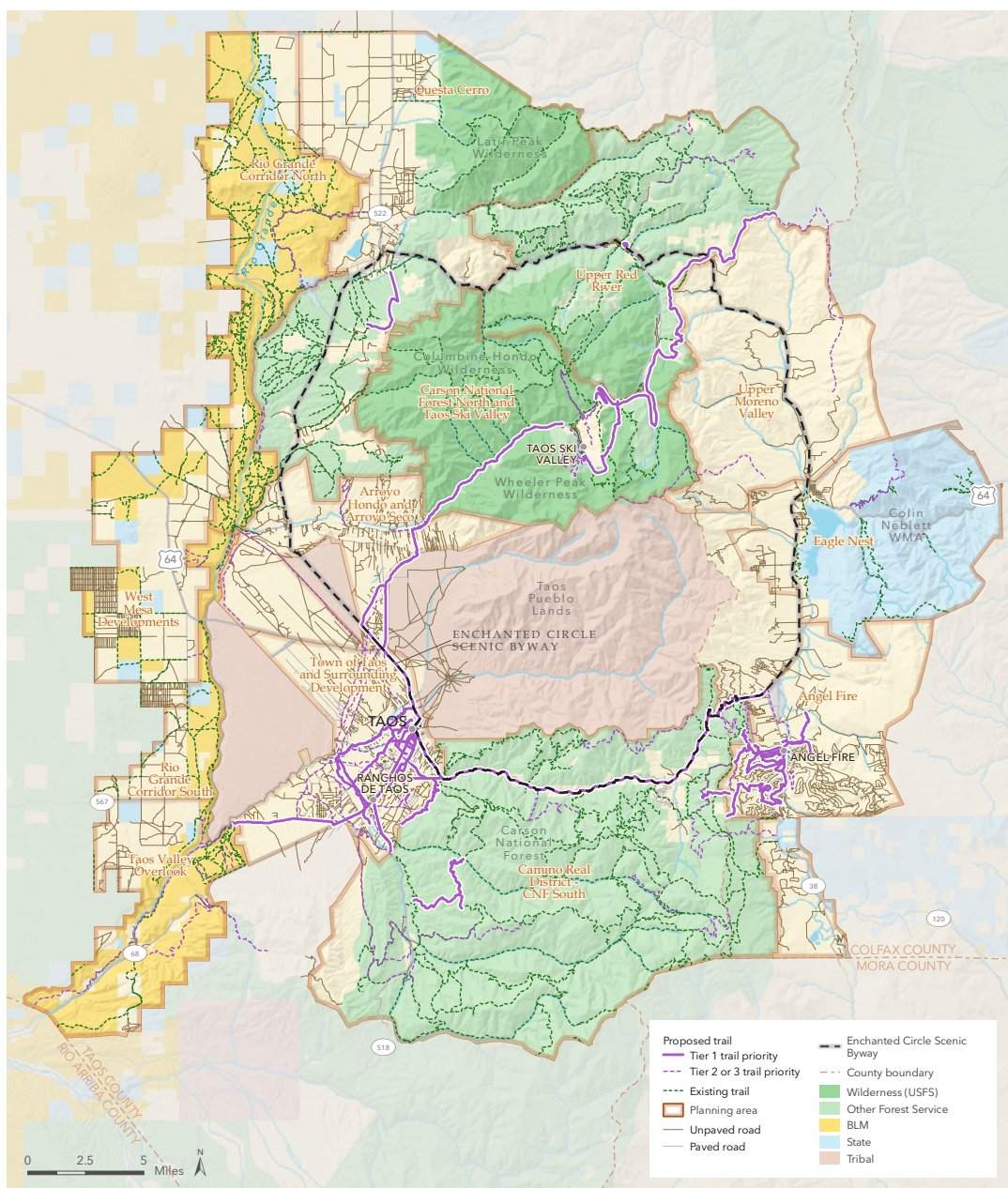


Study area

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN



➡ **FIGURE 1** Special thanks to the following data providers: Town of Taos, Taos Land Trust, and Enchanted Circle Trails Association. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.



Proposed and existing trails

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN



➡ **FIGURE 2** Special thanks to the following data providers: Town of Taos, Taos Land Trust, and Enchanted Circle Trails Association. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

About This Plan

This region has a long history of thinking about and planning trails. The Town of Taos adopted a Trail Plan in 2002 and a Bicycle Master Plan in 2009. Angel Fire has worked extensively with community members to plan local trails. A local trails group surveyed the community about interest in trails in 2014. The BLM has the Taos Resource Area/Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River Corridor Plan and the Rio Grande National Monument Plan – both of which include trails – as does the Carson National Forest Management Plan. There has also been (and continues to be) statewide planning for a Rio Grande Trail. Elements from all of these previous planning efforts have been incorporated into the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan.

This plan is uniquely ambitious. It covers a very large area and is intended to facilitate cooperation among many user groups, organizations, jurisdictions, and land managers. Many hundreds of community members provided input for the Trails Plan through surveys, community meetings, interviews, focus groups, and outreach events. This plan combines this community input with state-of-the-art geographic information system (GIS) mapping and modeling. It identifies the highest-priority areas for connecting and expanding both in-town and backcountry trail systems and for making road improvements to increase safe opportunities for walking and biking. As noted above, the Trails Plan is conceptual. This means that it outlines a vision, preliminary priorities, and strategies

for implementation but leaves additional assessment and site-specific planning to the many local jurisdictions, agencies, and community groups in the study area. Along with this report, local partners can use a web tool (<http://web.tplgis.org/taostrails/>) to analyze proposed trails and further refine their priorities.

The Trust for Public Land's Planning and GIS team helped the community evaluate 155 trail segments proposed by community members in order to come up with a tiered list of trail priorities. The project team developed community-based metrics for evaluating trails, including equity and access, feasibility, current use, and potential community health benefits. The proposed trails were analyzed and prioritized based on both quantitative and qualitative characteristics and divided into three tiers – with Tier 1 being the highest-priority trails. Community stakeholders evaluated many versions of trail maps as the plan evolved over the past two years – finally leading to the conceptual map presented in this report.

This plan represents a long-term vision for the study area. There are 23 overall Tier 1 priority trails covering 135 miles. The Enchanted Circle road-biking priorities include 17 road segments covering 164 miles. There are also priority trails for each of the 13 trail planning areas. Within planning areas, local communities can develop new priorities over time with an emphasis on equitable access, diverse trail types, or other factors as appropriate.

This Trails Plan was developed to (1) determine community priorities for new trails; (2) inventory existing trails in the Enchanted Circle area; (3) identify missing links within the existing trail system; (4) focus attention on the benefits of trails and build additional public support for trails; and (5) develop strategies for implementing the community's priorities.

This plan is not a means to acquire land through eminent domain, but it should help developers and planners identify priority trail opportunities that would benefit the community most. This plan should be considered a living document, and it should evolve as new funding sources and community priorities change over time.

JEFF MUGLESTON



Continental Divide Trail La Manga



Gold Hill Trail, Taos Ski Valley

Community-Based Vision, Principles, and Goals

The following vision, principles, and goals for the Trails Plan were developed by the core team and community meeting participants.

Vision

We envision a vital and thriving Enchanted Circle region where an accessible system of in-town and backcountry trails connects all residents and visitors to our unique landscapes, cultures, and recreational opportunities.

Guiding Principles and Goals

1. CLOSE-TO-HOME TRAILS ARE CENTRAL

TO IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE in the Enchanted Circle region. Trails increase health and wellness and connect community members to the outdoors and to each other.

GOAL: Identify new priority trails for a variety of user groups and skill levels, including seniors, youth, and those with disabilities.

2. TRAILS FOR WALKING, CYCLING, AND OTHER FORMS OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION BRING COMMUNITIES

TOGETHER by connecting neighborhoods, businesses, parks, and schools. These connective trails should be considered and integrated into our overall transportation system.

GOAL: Identify active transportation routes, including in-town and backcountry trails that connect communities to each other and that provide access to unique local cultural, historical, natural, and recreational features.

3. TRAIL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE DONE IN COLLABORATION

with public agencies and private landowners and should be driven by community priorities. Trail planning should be an inclusive process; everyone should have opportunities to provide input and get involved.

GOAL: Engage diverse community involvement in creating a vision for an interconnected trail system for the Enchanted Circle.

GOAL: Develop a community-based

trail plan that guides future trail development efforts and that facilitates cooperation among land managers, property owners, and diverse stakeholder groups.

GOAL: Engage community leaders and funders who can provide support, guidance, and resources for the development and long-term maintenance of public trails and pathways.

4. NEW TRAILS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO RESPECT TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL USE, important cultural and historical places, sensitive habitats and wildlife, and other conservation priorities.

GOAL: Implement the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan in coordination with the Taos County Community Conservation Plan and develop a web tool that helps to identify routes that limit impacts on sensitive habitats and other important areas.

5. A COORDINATED, WELL-MAINTAINED, AND WELL-MARKETED TRAIL SYSTEM

can provide economic benefits to local communities by attracting local users, tourists, and new businesses.

GOAL: Use the Trails Plan to promote awareness of local trails and their economic benefits.

6. STEWARDSHIP OF THE TRAILS SYSTEM SHOULD BE THE SHARED RESPONSIBILITY of users, local communities, and land managers.

GOAL: Use the trail-planning process to build connections among local residents, user groups, and public agencies. Develop a shared vision that all these groups are committed to implementing.

Benefits of Trails

Trails have enormous and wide-ranging benefits¹, including:

1. Close-to-home access to trails increases physical activity – particularly for communities with limited access to safe opportunities for outdoor exercise or recreation.
2. Trails increase opportunities for both recreation and active transportation.
3. Exercising outdoors on trails reduces stress and improves attention.
4. Exercising outdoors on trails enhances overall mental well-being.
5. Thoughtfully designed trails provide opportunities for physical activity for a wide range of people, including children, seniors, and those with disabilities.
6. Trails improve quality of life by providing gathering places and increasing social connections.
7. Trails benefit local economies by drawing visitors and new businesses and increasing property values.
8. Trails connect important community hubs (schools, parks, businesses, hospitals, churches, libraries, and community centers) and revitalize towns.
9. Trails showcase culturally and ecologically significant areas – and can be

designed to guide users away from vulnerable areas.

10. Trails increase sense of place and shared community identity.

“Trails are essential to healthy communities. Youth participating in Field Institute of Taos programs are out on trails every day. Access to nature is something everyone deserves and needs. Trails serve to build the bridge that connects people to each other and to the local environment, freeing us to explore the world and form unique perspectives of what is beautiful and valuable in our community and the world. Trail access helps inspire stewards of the environment who view nature as sanctuary as well as an opportunity for growth, recreation, and education.”

–SUSIE FIORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
FIELD INSTITUTE OF TAOS

CLOSE-TO-HOME ACCESS TO TRAILS INCREASES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AND EXERCISING OUTDOORS REDUCES STRESS, IMPROVES ATTENTION, AND ENHANCES OVERALL MENTAL WELL-BEING. Trails can play a big role in improving community

¹ For more information on the benefits of trails, see the Headwaters Economics Trail Benefits Library (<https://headwaterseconomics.org/economic-development/trails-pathways/trails-research/>). Citations for the benefits described here are listed in Appendix 2: References and Plan Reviews.

health by providing convenient opportunities for physical activity – including safer recreation and commute routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and underserved communities.

Increasing physical activity is one of the most powerful things people do to improve health and prevent chronic diseases. It can help prevent stroke, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, falls and hip fractures, depression, and certain types of cancer. Studies have shown that the benefits of trails are most significant in rural places with limited park resources and among people, including low-income families, who are at the most risk of low physical fitness. Studies have also shown savings in health care costs in several communities and states as a result of residents being active on trails.

TRAILS CAN DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING SPACE FOR SOCIAL CONNECTIONS. Trails can provide residents a safe place for recreation as well as an opportunity for alternative transportation to and from school, work, church, or other gathering places. Research shows that accessible close-to-home green space encourages better ties among neighbors. Thoughtfully sited and designed trails can provide space for users of all ages and abilities to recreate and engage with other community members. Research shows that spending time outdoors on trails provides social benefits by providing opportunities to see neighbors, meet friends, and develop community connections and pride.

TRAILS CAN BENEFIT LOCAL ECONOMIES BY DRAWING VISITORS AND NEW BUSINESSES; CONNECTING COMMUNITY HUBS AND REVITALIZING TOWNS; AND INCREASING PROPERTY VALUES. Drawing visitors can benefit local restaurants, grocery stores, entertainment and art venues, campgrounds, hotels, tour-guiding services, and gear stores. Destination trails can be an especially big draw for tourists. Gallup, New Mexico’s High Desert Trail System now attracts 32,000 users a year from outside the community, generating millions of dollars per year for local businesses. Studies have shown that nearby trails can also substantially increase property values.

TRAILS CAN GIVE PEOPLE A SENSE OF PLACE AND SHARED COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND PRIDE. Trails can help celebrate local heritage and preserve the unique features that make a community special. Trails play a role in responsibly guiding visitors away from sensitive habitat areas and vulnerable cultural sites. Trails are an excellent way for residents to express the local character and culture of their area and can provide tremendous sense of place – especially trail corridors with particular historical or cultural significance, such as trails throughout the Petroglyph National Monument or the Healing Waters Trail in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, a three-mile loop trail that connects the historic Hot Springs District, the Rio Grande and adjacent wetlands, and Veterans Memorial Park.

2. Community input

MANY HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS PROVIDED INPUT FOR THE TRAILS PLAN through surveys, community meetings, interviews, focus groups, and outreach events. Over 730 people learned about the Trails Plan at outreach events, and over 300 participated in poster activities. Nearly 1,050 people responded to community surveys. Almost 190

people attended community meetings, over 20 provided their expertise to our mapping and GIS team, 21 participated in interviews and 80 in focus groups, and 30 got out in the field and helped us “groundtruth” proposed trails. Many hundreds more gave us their input through community surveys and outreach events.



JOHNNY AND PAM MACARTHUR

Quemazon Canyon

Trails Plan at a Glance

PATRICE GALLAGHER

Number of people who got out in the field to help "groundtruth" proposed trails

30

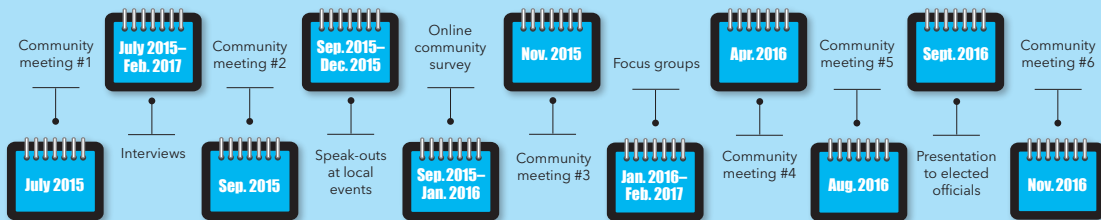


Approximate number of people who participated in the speak-out poster activities

300



Engagement Timeline



Number of community members who attended at least one out of the six community meetings

190



Number of people who participated in community surveys

1,050



Key Findings

Some of the key findings from community outreach are summarized below. Most of these are discussed in greater detail in the survey results; however, the final two findings come from a combination of survey, interview, and community meeting input.

- There is very strong support for expanding the trail system in the Enchanted Circle. Between 73 and 86 percent of those surveyed support expanding the trail system and only 5 to 7 percent do not support expansion.
- Trails are an essential part of daily life for many residents. Two out of three residents used trails in the last year, and more than half of residents' weekly physical activity occurs on trails.
- Improving safety is the highest priority for investing in trails. There is strong support for more off-road/separated paths for cyclists and pedestrians.
- The study area needs more close-to-home access to trails. Just over a quarter of survey participants indicated that they are within a 10-minute (or less) walk to trails or public lands. Access issues are especially acute for low-income and Hispanic residents.
- Close-to-home trails and organized programming such as walking programs endorsed by health care providers as well as trail-based programs for kids may be especially beneficial for Hispanic respondents.
- The priorities and the needs of longtime residents and newcomers or visitors are often different. Longtime community members want increased access to the outdoors, but there is also significant concern about the impacts of increasing recreational use—particularly by tourists.
- Local governments, resource agencies, recreation and community groups, and active and engaged residents need to work together closely on trail priorities. Local governments and local nonprofits have very limited resources. Reliable funding and local capacity-building will be critical for implementing the Trails Plan.

Speak-Outs

Nearly 300 people participated in interactive tabling activities in September through November of 2015. The poster activities captured community priorities for both conservation and trails. A total of 736 people participated in speak-outs and other outreach events at Taos Farmers Market (September and October 2015); San Geronimo Day (September 2015); and at Cid's Market, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Taos Ancianos Lunch, Elevation Coffee, and Super Save Market (November 2015). People who were unable to participate in poster activities were given postcards with information about the online community survey.

Community Meetings

There were six community meetings for the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan. Three of these were joint meetings that also incorporated stakeholder engagement for the Taos County Community Conservation Plan. Nearly 190 community members, representing a wide range of organizations and interests, attended at least one of the meetings for the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan. The kickoff meeting for the plan was held at the KTAOS Solar Center in July 2015. Subsequent meetings were held at Valverde Commons (September 2015), the Talpa Community Center (November 2015), the Juan I. Gonzales Agricultural Center (April 2016), the Town of Taos Council Chambers (August 2016), and the Mabel Dodge Luhan House (November 2016). Participants in the

community meetings helped map existing and proposed trails; identified goals and guiding principles; discussed trail evaluation metrics; and discussed potential obstacles to trail development and helped develop the implementation plan included in Section 4. See online Appendix G for the full summaries from each of the six community meetings.

Focus Groups

The Village of Angel Fire Pedestrian Trails Committee and the Moreno Valley Trekkers examined new trail priorities in and around the village boundaries. The group saw new opportunities for nearby motorized recreation on New Mexico state trust land and additional Carson National Forest trail systems utilizing abandoned logging road networks. Taos Land Trust also conducted focus groups addressing trails and trail use with members of a local health council, local youth, and parents at a local childcare center.

Community Surveys

Taos Land Trust partnered with The Trust for Public Land and Headwaters Economics on two community surveys to collect public input on trails in the Enchanted Circle. Because the two surveys covered many of the same topics and key themes were very similar, the results of the surveys are discussed together below. Full survey reports are available in online Appendix D (Trust for Public Land survey) and online Appendix E (Headwaters Economics Survey).

METHODS AND PARTICIPATION

Outreach for the survey led by The Trust for Public Land included posting survey information on the Town of Taos and Taos Land Trust websites and social media channels, and in a weeklong wallpaper ad in the online version of the Taos News. Taos Land Trust and others in the core team also reached out to the Questa Economic Development Fund, Taos Entrepreneurial Network, Taos Chamber of Commerce, University of New Mexico faculty, Taos Charter School, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Taos Health Council, Alianza Agri-Cultura, and community leaders in Angel Fire. Postcards advertising the community survey were distributed at the speak-out events mentioned above, and survey information was posted on community bulletin boards in Questa. Paper surveys (and postage-paid return envelopes) were distributed at Ancianos and at Super Save Market. The survey URL was also included in utility bills for the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. The survey led by Headwaters Economics was mailed to a random sample of 3,000 residents. The 3,000 residents included homeowners and renters, voters, and residents who are not registered to vote. The Headwaters poll also had an online open-link version, which was shared via the Taos Land Trust's social media channels.

SUPPORT FOR EXPANDING THE TRAIL SYSTEM

There is very strong support for expanding the Enchanted Circle's trail system. Between 73 percent (Headwaters) and 86 percent (Trust for Public Land) of survey participants support expanding the trail and pathway system in

the Enchanted Circle. Only 5 to 7 percent of respondents do not support expanding the trail system. Support for expanding the trail system was slightly lower, but still very high, among Hispano/Hispanic respondents.

"Riding my bicycle in the Enchanted Circle is sacred to me. It strengthens my body, clears my mind, and renews my spirit. I am forever thankful to have such an amazing place to ride, alone or in groups, and feel completely free."

—MATTHEW FOSTER

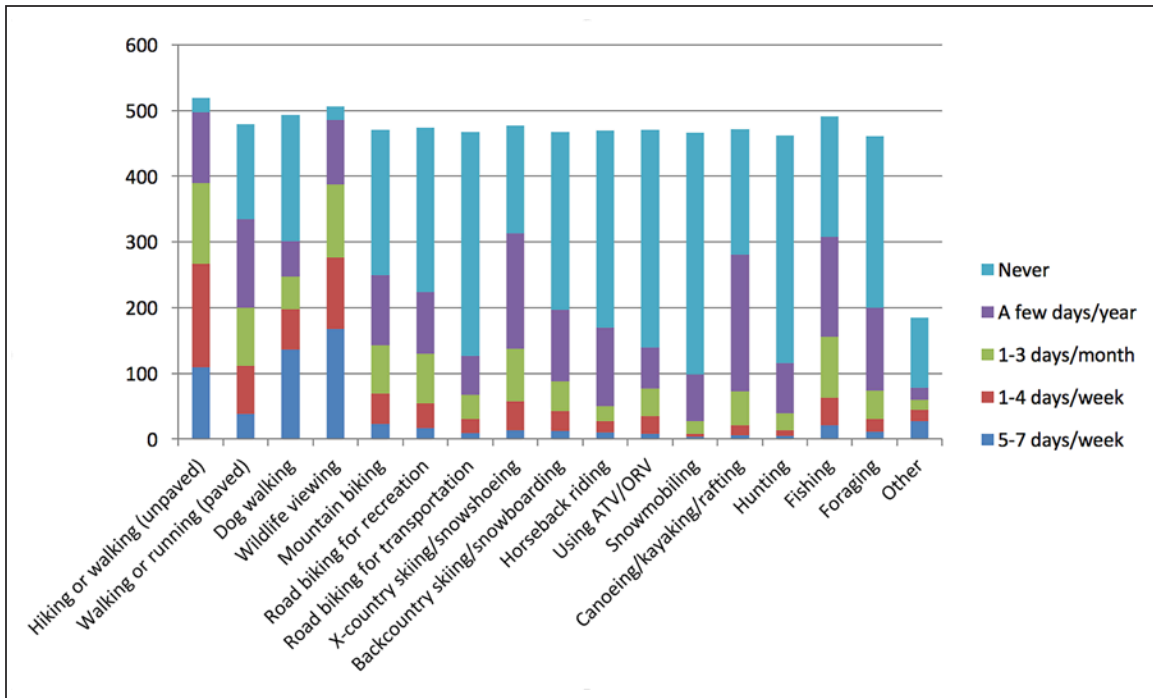
CURRENT TRAIL USE

Many local residents use trails daily or almost daily; two-thirds of respondents used trails in the last year. According to the Headwaters survey, 67 percent of respondents have used local trails in the last year. In the Trust for Public Land survey, the most common trail activities were wildlife viewing, dog walking, and hiking/walking/running on dirt paths. In the Headwaters survey, respondents indicated that they walk or hike on unpaved trails over nine days per month on average during the summer. The activities that respondents participated in least were snowmobiling, hunting, road biking for transportation, off-road vehicle use, and horseback riding.

According to the Headwaters survey, Hispanic respondents and low-income respondents are less likely to use trails, but those Hispanic and low-income respondents who do use trails

TABLE 1. COMMUNITY SURVEYS ON TRAILS IN THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE

	Trust for Public Land Survey	Headwaters Economics Survey
Focus	Trails and Conservation—joint survey with the Taos County Conservation Plan	Trails Only—focus on community health impacts on local economy
Survey Type	Online (and hard copy)	Mail-back and online
Timing	September 2015 to January 2016	January 2016
Responses	655	364
Gender	55% male	65% female
Ethnicity	14% Hispano/Hispanic	55% Hispano/Latino/Spanish origin
Disability	8% have a family member with a disability	8% have a household member with a disability
Age	41% age 61 and up; 10% age 35 and below	29% under age 45; 20% age 65 or older
Income	40% have household incomes above \$75,000; 18% under \$25,000/year	55% have household incomes below \$50,000; 18% earn \$100,000 and above
Residency	47% have lived in the region for more than 10 years	46% have lived in the Enchanted Circle for more than 20 years
Weighting	Key results were weighted by ethnicity to ensure appropriate Hispano/Hispanic representation	Data weighted by age and ethnicity



➔ FIGURE 3 TRAIL USE (TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND SURVEY)

use them just as often as non-Hispanic and high-income respondents. Forty-five percent of Hispanic respondents have used trails in the previous year compared to 87 percent of non-Hispanics. There is also a significant difference in use between highest- and lowest-income respondents, with 81 percent of the highest-income respondents using trails in the previous year compared to 49 percent of the lowest-income respondents.

Hispanic respondents are significantly more likely also to use trails as family outing

time (17 percent of trail time for Hispanic respondents versus 6 percent of trail time for non-Hispanics). Hispanic respondents also generally get less of their overall physical activity on trails or pathways (47 percent versus 63 percent for non-Hispanic respondents). There is no difference across income or location of residence in the share of physical activity that occurs on trails or pathways. Cross-country skiing is less common, and horseback riding, hunting, foraging, and ATV use are more common among Hispanic/Hispano residents than Anglo residents.

CURRENT TRAIL ACCESS

Many residents do not have easy access to local trails from their homes. Headwaters survey participants were asked to estimate how much time it would take them to walk to a path, trail, or park from their home. Just over a quarter indicated that they are within a 10-minute (or less) walk to trails or public lands. Twenty percent said it would take 11 to 20 minutes, 17 percent 21 to 30 minutes, and 22 percent more than 30 minutes. Only a third (32 percent) of respondents agreed with the statement “I am able to easily walk to one or more trails, paths, or parks from my home.”

In contrast, 51 percent disagreed with this statement. Participants noted that loose dogs (53 percent) and heavy traffic (47 percent) were potential barriers to trail access in their neighborhoods. Only 10 percent said that bike lanes are close to their home.

Hispanic respondents were significantly less likely to live within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail (20 percent of Hispanics versus 39 percent of non-Hispanics) and are less likely to agree with the statement “I am able to easily walk to one or more trails, paths, or parks from my home” (24 percent of Hispanic

CASE STUDY 1

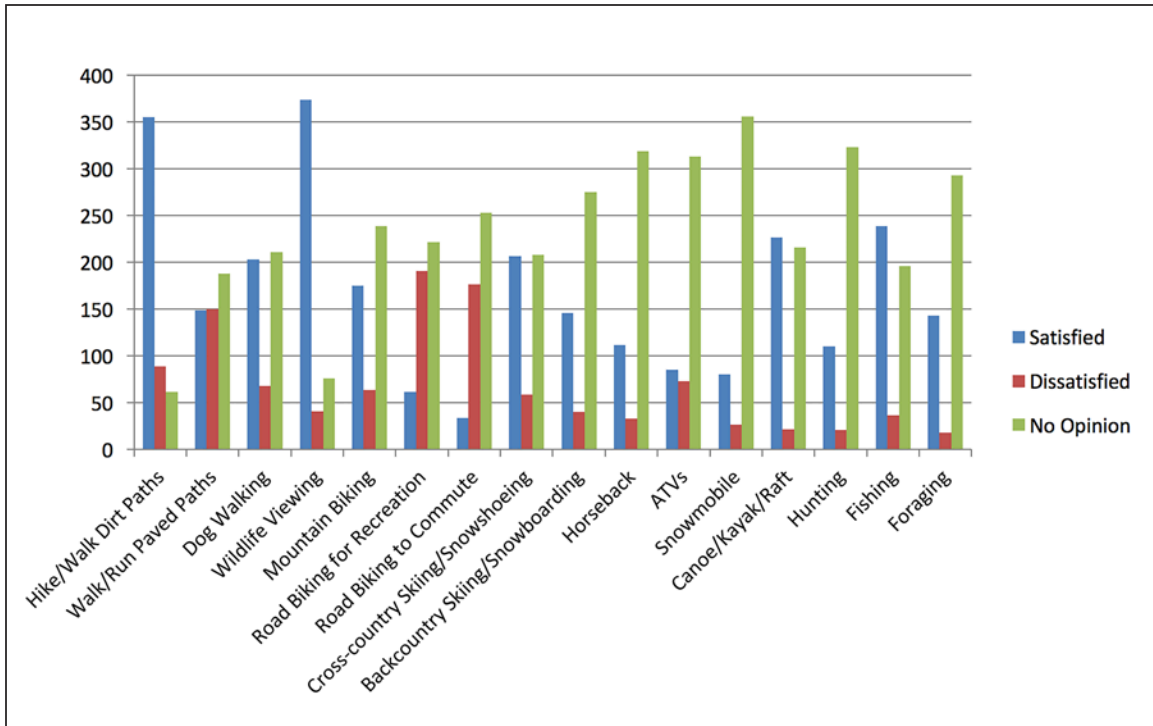
Prescriptions for Better Health at Taos Parks and Trails

In spring of 2017, Taos Land Trust, in partnership with El Centro Clinic, Headwaters Economics, the National Park Service, and The Trust for Public Land, began discussing the feasibility of implementing a ParkRx program for Taos residents. Taos Land Trust hosted a kickoff meeting by convening local stakeholders to discuss the connection between resident health and parks/trails in Taos. Prescriptions for health is a national strategy that has been implemented in communities around the United States to improve public health, known as ParkRx. ParkRx programs are a coordinated effort among health care providers; parks, trails, and land agencies; and community organizations like land trusts and social services.

There is a significant need to promote greater physical activity among Taos residents. According to the Holy Cross Hospital's most recent

Community Health Needs Assessment, rates of morbid obesity, chronic diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are much higher than the national average, while the rates of people with regular vigorous exercise and healthy eating habits are lower than average. Furthermore, a survey of medical providers at El Centro Clinic found that the majority of providers think one of the primary barriers to discussing healthy lifestyles is inadequate information about healthy lifestyle programs in the community.

By identifying Taos-specific health assessments and seeing what ParkRx has done for other communities, it is apparent that nature, parks, and public lands can be used in tandem with guidance from health care providers to help improve both individual and community health. ParkRx can also play a role in providing additional programming that doctors can refer to for healthy living. Taos Land Trust is working to convene professionals in the health, education, recreation, and parks sectors to prescribe better health using parks and trails.



➔ **FIGURE 4 TRAIL SATISFACTION BY TRAIL TYPE OR USE (TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND SURVEY)**

respondents versus 40 percent of non-Hispanic respondents). Hispanic respondents also are significantly less likely to have wide road shoulders, sidewalks, or bike lanes within a 15-minute walk of their home (31 percent of Hispanic respondents versus 56 percent of non-Hispanic respondents). Low-income respondents also are less likely to live within a 15-minute walk of places with wide shoulders, sidewalks, or bike lanes (19 percent of lowest-income respondents versus 54 percent of highest-income respondents).

CURRENT TRAIL SATISFACTION

Residents are generally satisfied with access to unpaved walking and hiking paths and very dissatisfied with safe opportunities for road biking. Both surveys showed the highest levels of satisfaction with current opportunities for hiking and walking on unpaved paths. The Trust for Public Land survey also showed high satisfaction with opportunities for wildlife viewing, and the Headwaters survey showed high satisfaction with hunting and fishing access. Both surveys showed lowest satisfaction with road-biking opportunities; on the

CASE STUDY 2

Rio Fernando Trail

The Taos Land Trust completed the purchase of the 20-acre Rio Fernando Park at the end of 2015. Now that the land has been purchased, the Land Trust has taken proactive measures to survey the trees in the urban forest, monitor the health of the river, and plan for the future use of the property by the public.

The Taos Land Trust has been engaged in discussions with the town of Taos, local nonprofits, and the Taos community about how to put this new property - which consists of more than 13 acres of irrigated agricultural lands and approximately 7 riparian acres on both sides of the Rio Fernando in Taos - to the best public use. The Land Trust envisions community agriculture and public trails connecting to Fred Baca Park, which is owned and managed by the town of Taos and which is adjacent to the Land Trust property.

The Taos Land Trust has been working with health care professionals and others on a "Prescription Trails" program for Taos County, which will benefit local residents who suffer from diabetes, high blood pressure, and other ailments; the trail leading from Fred Baca to the Rio Fernando Park will more than double the size of the existing park and give locals and visitors alike another opportunity to recreate close to their homes or hotels in the town of Taos.

This type of community-focused activity is new for the Taos Land Trust, which has historically focused on creating conservation easements on private lands rather than responding to community needs. With the help of the Taos County Community Conservation Plan and the Enchanted Circle Conceptual Trails Plan, the Taos Land Trust will be able to help make Taos a healthier, happier, and more prosperous place.

Headwaters survey road biking received an average score of 1.9 on a scale of 1 to 5 – with 5 indicating the highest level of satisfaction. The other activities with the lowest scores were transportation to work or school (2.0) and opportunities for wheelchair/mobility-assisted device (2.3). Respondents who are generally satisfied with the trail system mentioned access to beautiful scenery, adequate maintenance, cleanliness, and variety as positive qualities of the trails network. Those who feel dissatisfied overall identified poor conditions/maintenance, lack of signage, lack of bike lanes/shoulders, dangerous conditions for road

biking, excessive motorized use, and a need for more trails.

Trails, and the access they provide to outdoor recreation and public lands, are an important part of why many residents choose to live in the Enchanted Circle. According to the Headwaters survey, the following are highly important to respondents' decisions to live in the Enchanted Circle:

- Outdoor recreation (4.4 average rating; 89 percent provided a 4 or 5 rating)
- Access to rivers and streams (4.2 average; 81 percent)

- Access to public lands (4.2 average; 75 percent)
- Area trails and paths (4.0 average; 67 percent)

INCREASING TRAIL USE

Safe separation of bikes and pedestrians from traffic would increase trail use the most. The Headwaters survey asked respondents to identify infrastructure improvements that would encourage them to use the trail system more in the future. Over half of respondents cited safe separation of bikes and pedestrians from traffic such as sidewalks, wide shoulders, and bike lanes (51 percent). This was by far the top infrastructure improvement that would encourage more usage. Roughly a third

of respondents selected improved trailheads (33 percent) and trails closer to their home (32 percent). Respondents were also asked to identify programs that would most encourage them to use trails more frequently. Most commonly mentioned was more free time (40 percent of respondents), followed by organized activities such as walking clubs/guided hikes/events (29 percent) and minimizing conflicts between different types of users (23 percent).

Close-to-home trails and organized programming such as health care provider-prescribed walking programs and trail-based programs for kids may be especially beneficial for Hispanic respondents – who currently use

CASE STUDY 3

Old Blinking Light to Arroyo Seco Trail

"A trail along NM 150 connecting the Old Blinking Light to Arroyo Seco will be a tremendous asset to the community. Arroyo Seco is the gateway to the mountains, and a destination unto itself, with great restaurants and shops. Right now, the only safe way to visit is by vehicle. There is no shoulder along NM 150 to speak of, so walking or riding next to speeding traffic is very hazardous. We did extensive community outreach and survey work, and determined a stand-alone hard-surfaced trail was what community members wanted. Now, the Enchanted Circle Trails Association is working with Taos Pueblo for an easement, and are planning a trail that benefits the Tribal population, local

communities as well folks that are visiting."—Carl Colonius, Enchanted Circle Trails Association

NM 150 is a state road that connects the communities of Arroyo Seco, Valdez, El Salto, and Des Montes to the Town of Taos. Above these communities is there are year-round recreational opportunities with world-class skiing at Taos Ski Valley, hiking to the highest peak in New Mexico, Wheeler Peak, and mountain biking at Northside at Taos Ski Valley. The route is an important connector of local community members to major recreational and cultural destinations and will also be a prime non-motorized recreation trail for visitors. Taos Pueblo Peak and the historic Taos Pueblo is east of the 4.5 mile route, providing breathtaking views all year long.



Old Blinking Light Trail

trails less. Hispanic respondents (45 percent) are significantly more likely to prioritize having trails closer to where they live than are non-Hispanic respondents (25 percent). Hispanic respondents (36 percent) are significantly more likely to prioritize hospital- or health care provider-sponsored wellness programs such as a prescribed walking program than are non-Hispanic respondents (14 percent). There is also greater support among Hispanic respondents (29 percent) for trail-based programs for kids than among non-Hispanic respondents (11 percent), although this difference is not statistically significant. These results indicated that programming related to trails could be especially beneficial to Hispanic community members. Programming could include organized hikes, walking clubs, wellness programs run by health care practitioners such as

prescribed walking, and trail-based programs for kids. Investing in trails development suitable for a prescription trails program, or for family outings, may be effective in encouraging use among Hispanic residents.

TRAIL INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Improving safety is the highest priority for trail investments. According to the Trust for Public Land survey, the highest priority (by a large margin) for trail investments is creating new pathways that would improve safety. The second priority is long, connected road cycling paths. The survey also asked participants to identify specific areas where bike and pedestrian improvements are needed. Survey results indicate that the top three priorities for roads that need new bike lanes or multiuse paths are (1) Town of Taos to Ranchos de Taos; (2) Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light

intersection; and (3) KTAOS to Arroyo Seco. Participants also expressed a strong desire for walking and hiking paths along (1) Paseo del Pueblo; (2) Ranchitos Road; and (3) U.S. Highway 64 from Taos to Angel Fire.

Youth Engagement

In November 2015 and December 2016, local Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) Program students conducted 14 interviews with each other and with other local young people ages 14 to 18. Eight UBMS students also participated in field verification of proposed trails in July 2016.

The University of New Mexico Taos UBMS Program works with low-income high school students and is designed to strengthen the

math and science skills of participating students to encourage them to pursue college degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math) subjects. The program supports up to 60 eligible low-income students (9th- and 10th-grade) who are potential first-generation college students. The UBMS students were provided training in interview techniques and then asked each other, other peers, and their family members questions about a variety of topics, including time spent outdoors with their families. Most interviewees said that they enjoy spending time outdoors with their families and pets, and many feel especially connected to Kit Carson and Fred Baca parks – particularly the nature trail at Fred Baca.

INTERVIEW SPOTLIGHT

"The first time my sister took me hiking at Williams Lake with the dog, it was difficult, but it was honestly one of the best feelings in the world."

—EXCERPT FROM THE UPWARD BOUND
INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED IN FALL OF 2016

"One special memory is from the time I went hiking near Red River. I liked being there because it's a beautiful place, and nature is relaxing."

—EXCERPT FROM THE UPWARD BOUND
INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED IN FALL OF 2016

3. Planning for trails

NINA ANTHONY



Entrance to Rio Fernando Park

THIS TRAILS PLAN PRIORITIZES 155 TRAIL SEGMENTS covering 394 miles for the overall planning area. In addition, there are designated priorities for specific trail planning areas. Individual communities could also add ranking criteria and reevaluate suggested priority trail segments. Local partners can use the web tool for the Trails Plan (<http://web.tplgis.org/taostrails/>) to analyze proposed trails and further refine their priorities.

Respect for private property rights is central to this plan. Any trail access through private lands must be well planned and well maintained – and developed through engagement

with and respect for landowners. Many of the trails proposed in this plan represent general trail corridors and not specific trail alignments. Specific alignments will always be negotiated with appropriate landowners – including public agencies – and will go through all necessary approval processes.

Trail Planning Areas

Trail planning areas are portions of the overall Trails Plan study area where related trails are grouped together for the purposes of planning, development, and marketing. The current trail planning areas are listed below. These areas were designated early in

the trail-planning process, and several contain a very limited number of proposed trails.

Planning areas are shown in Figure 5. Maps of each planning area are included in online Appendix A. After each planning area map in this appendix is a table showing the trails included in that area and the metrics that were used to evaluate the trails.

- **ANGEL FIRE.** Anchored by the village of Angel Fire and the Angel Fire resort and lift access trails, this area also has access to the Carson National Forest Camino Real District trails, including a trailhead for the South Boundary trail.
- **ARROYO HONDO.** The Rio Hondo connects Wheeler Peak and Taos Ski Valley to the Rio Grande. Many opportunities for fishing are along this stretch, and hiking and mountain-biking trails are abundant. There are

also many opportunities for horseback riding, hunting, and ATVs in this area.

- **CARSON NATIONAL FOREST NORTH AND TAOS SKI VALLEY.** This area has popular high alpine trails, including Italianos Trail, Gavilan Trail, Long's Canyon, Bull of the Woods Meadow, and one of the most popular trails in the region, the hike to Williams Lake and then Wheeler Peak – the highest point in New Mexico. Northside at Taos Ski Valley provides fee-based access to mountain biking on private land.
- **CARSON NATIONAL FOREST SOUTH CAMINO REAL.** Carson National Forest South includes high peaks and rolling meadows with mile after mile of mixed-use trails, including the epic South Boundary Trail, the lesser accessed North Boundary Trail, and the Woodpile Trail.

CASE STUDY 4

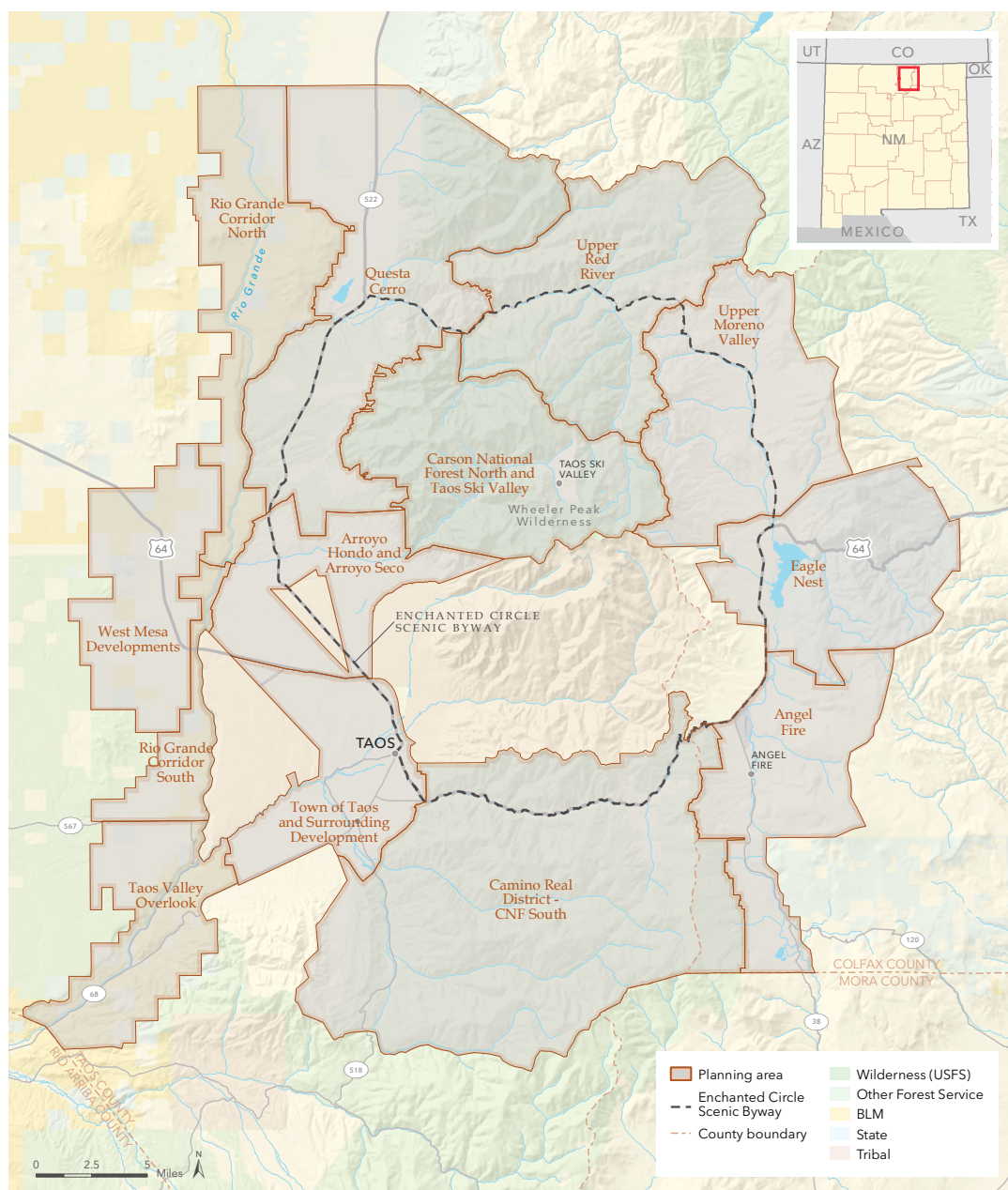
Hogan's Heroes

For residents and guests that aren't adrenaline junkies, the Village of Angel Fire, through the efforts of volunteer groups like the Moreno Valley Trekkers, has been developing and improving the Angel Fire Greenbelt System that can be used for mountain biking, cross-country skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, and horseback riding.

Fortunately, Angel Fire Bike Park employees see the benefits of expanding the local trails network so everyone who lives in or visits Angel Fire can have a great trail experience. Hogan's Heroes has emerged as the "can do" group of mountain

bicyclists and hikers who are partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to improve trail connections, increase usability, reduce user conflicts, and create new trail information such as way-finding signage.

During the summer of 2016, Hogan's Heroes contributed 120 hours of volunteer service to improve the greenbelt trails. These local mountain bikers are excited to achieve immediate returns on their investments by improving trails. These local trail volunteers envision the Angel Fire trails system connecting into the national forest trails system – an important component of the Enchanted Circle Trails Network.



Planning areas

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN



➡ **FIGURE 5** Special thanks to the following data providers: Town of Taos, Taos Land Trust, and Enchanted Circle Trails Association. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

- **EAGLE NEST.** This area is in the east side of the Moreno Valley, with access to the Colin Neblett Wilderness and Eagle Nest Lake State Park.
- **QUESTA/CERRO.** The village of Questa links the Latir Peak Wilderness to the Wild and Scenic River Corridor of the Rio Grande. This area has high-altitude hikes, commercial horseback riding, and excellent fishing.
- **RIO GRANDE CORRIDOR NORTH.** This area is a BLM recreation destination with access to natural springs, seasonal boating, and remote fishing.
- **RIO GRANDE CORRIDOR SOUTH.** The Rio Grande is crossed by three bridges in this system – Taos Junction Bridge, the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, and John Dunn Bridge. Trails connect all three crossings to create beautiful river views with access to hot springs and excellent fishing, kayaking, hiking, biking, and rafting.
- **TAOS VALLEY OVERLOOK.** This area includes the southwestern tip of the Enchanted Circle. The BLM’s Taos Valley Overlook trails are flowy single-track mixed-use trails with two developed trailheads that network the mesa top to the Rio Grande below, linking to the Orilla Verde Recreation Area.
- **TOWN OF TAOS AND SURROUNDING AREA.** The Town of Taos is the population center of the region. This area has the only existing bike lanes on the west side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.
- **UPPER MORENO VALLEY.** Long stretches of open meadows leading to high timber dominate this system, and the Enchanted Circle roadway bisects the system.
- **UPPER RED RIVER.** Wild and remote, with Bobcat Pass a high point on the Enchanted Circle road, this system has access to Wheeler Peak Wilderness through the Lost Lake Loop, the historic Big Ditch, and the high alpine lakes of the Red River’s headwaters. There are also designated ATV areas north of Red River.
- **WEST MESA.** With gravel roads and outstanding views in the western wild, this area also has hidden canyons, petroglyphs, excellent wildlife viewing, and extensive opportunities for solitude.

Field Verification

During the spring and summer of 2016, 30 volunteers helped field-verify, or “groundtruth,” over 100 of 155 trail segments proposed by the community. Proposed trails were divided into segments designated by the GIS team from The Trust for Public Land in consultation with local experts. Each segment was given a code based on its trail planning area. Volunteers were trained to conduct field verification at the April 2016 community meeting, and subsequent trainings were provided by Taos Land Trust at its offices and at a community field verification event on July 23, 2016. Field verification volunteers had access to an online resource hub with field verification maps, forms, and instructions.

The purpose of groundtruthing was to identify “hot spots” (either positive or negative) along each proposed trail segment corridor. Volunteers were asked to score the trails for viability, user experience, and community

CASE STUDY 5

Bobcat Trail

Bobcat Trail has been a great addition to the Angel Fire trails system. The local community was able to build this trail with the help of a grant from the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department. The trail connected several existing trails together. There were a number of people and groups who came together to make Bobcat Trail happen. The Pedestrian Trails Committee suggested the building of this trail to run from town to Olympic Park, where a pond, playground,

pavilion, and tennis courts are located. Along the way, the trail connects to both Deer and Elk trails. The Village coordinated with New Mexico Department of Transportation and Angel Fire Resort for easements to construct the trail. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps came out and built Bobcat Trail—with the help of many local kids who came out and volunteered their time. Local young people were especially excited about creating a trail that would leave a lasting legacy in the community. This youth-built trail is now one of the best-used trails in the Angel Fire area.

health impacts. They were also asked to identify special opportunities and notable impediments for each trail. User experience scores were especially important in assessing trails because it is not possible to determine the sights, sounds, and general feeling of being on a particular trail from available GIS data. On a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest score, 30 segments received an overall score of 5; 33 received a 4; 47 received a 3; 13 received a 2; and 5 received a 1. These field verification scores factored into the evaluation criteria discussed below but did not directly determine whether a trail ended up in Tier 1, 2, or 3.

Trail Evaluation Criteria

Priority trails were identified through analysis of accessibility; proximity to parks, schools, and hospitals; user experience; feasibility; community health benefits; public preference; and current use. Trail evaluation took into account available GIS and census data; input from community engagement; and detailed information from field verification of proposed trails local volunteers. Metrics representing all these factors were developed by The Trust for Public Land's GIS and Planning Team with input from the core team, the Technical Advisory Team, and community meeting participants. Among the criteria described below, community meeting participants felt

that accessibility was most important followed by user experience, proximity, and feasibility.

- **ACCESSIBILITY/CLOSE-TO-HOME.** Segments that are closest to where people live – particularly low-income residents, children, and seniors – are rated highest.
- **PROXIMITY.** Segments closest to important community destinations such as parks, schools, and hospitals are rated highest.
- **USER EXPERIENCE.** Based on field verification scores.
- **FEASIBILITY.** More feasible segments have fewer stream crossings; cross fewer private properties; cross less sensitive habitat; and have lower than average slope. This score is also based on field verification assessment of feasibility.
- **COMMUNITY HEALTH BENEFITS.** Based on local health expert input and field verification scores.
- **PUBLIC PREFERENCE.** Based on input from the Trust for Public Land-led community survey and community meeting participants.
- **CURRENT USE.** Strava data were used to determine current pedestrian and biking use. Strava data show crowd-sourced usage statistics collected primarily by cyclists, hikers, and runners using the Strava smart phone app. The Strava data provided valuable insight on frequency of use for existing and proposed trails.
- **SAFETY.** Safety data was analyzed using the Average Annual Daily Traffic estimates for the Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway road biking priorities.

Prioritized Trails

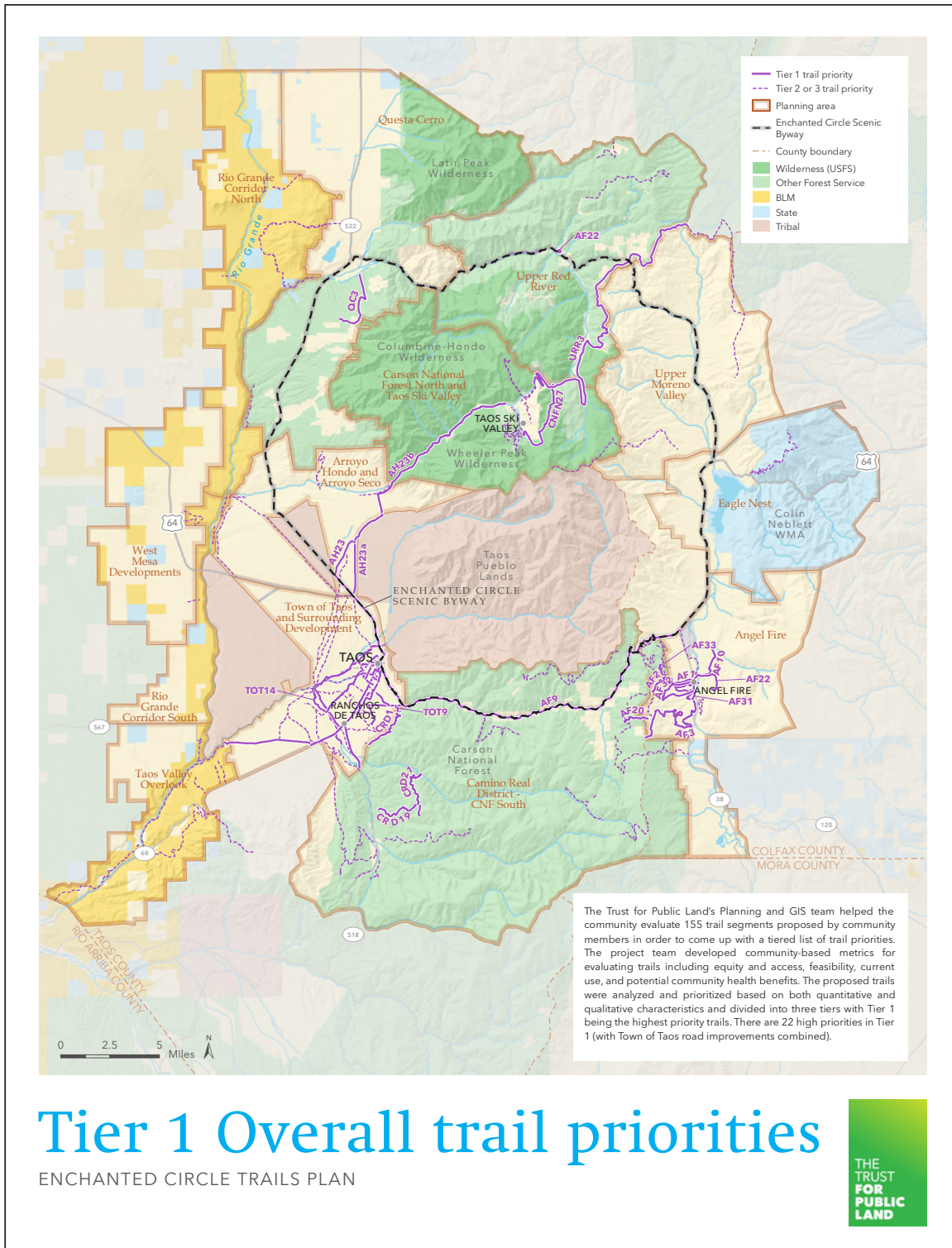
As noted elsewhere in this report, some of the trail segments prioritized here are very general trail corridors. The preliminary list of priority trails is the result of analysis using the trail evaluation criteria described above. Additional planning will be required for specific alignments, and local areas may have different priorities than those listed here for the overall planning area. The web tool for the Trails Plan can be used to assess these local priorities.

For the purposes of prioritization across the overall planning area, five segments between the Town of Taos and Taos Ski Valley have been combined. Areas that need road improvements for increased walking and cycling safety within the Town of Taos have also been combined in the overall list of priorities in Table 2. There are 23 high priorities in Tier 1 (with Town of Taos road improvements combined); 32 medium priorities in Tier 2 (54 segments); and 43 lower priorities in Tier 3 (47 trail segments). Priority road improvements for the Town of Taos are shown in Table 3.

Tier 1 trail priorities are shown in Figure 6 📍. Town of Taos road improvements are shown in Figure 7 📍.

TABLE 2. TIER 1: OVERALL PRIORITIES

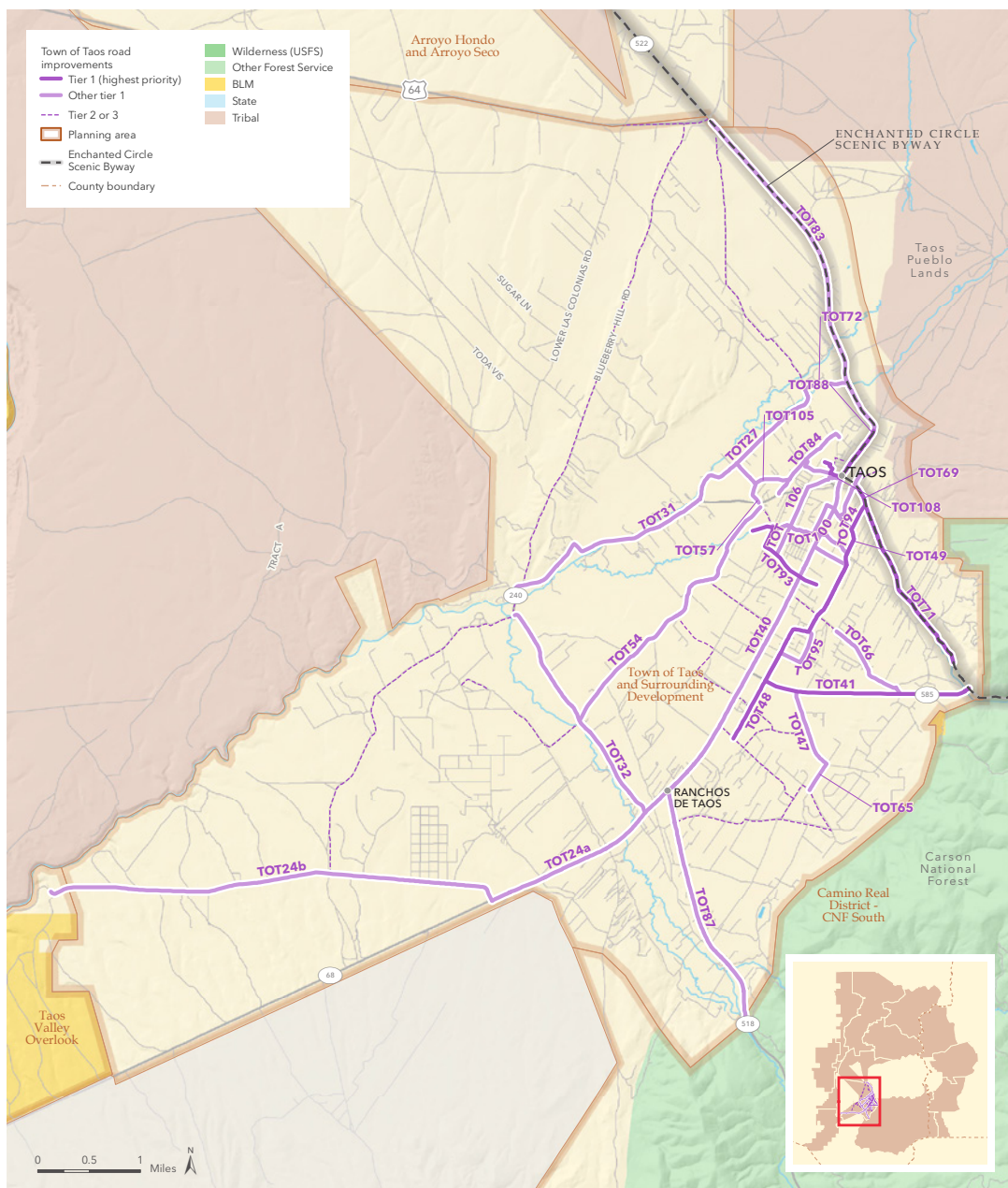
1. Town of Taos Road Improvements (see Table 3)	13. Community Center Trail (AF22)
2. Bike Lane to Taos Ski Valley (AH23b)	14. Single Track Connector, Elliot Barker (AF33)
3. KTAOS to Arroyo Seco (AH23a)	15. Enchanted Circle Road Bike Trail–Taos to Angel Fire (AF9)
4. Talpa Traverse (CRD1)	16. Proposed Access to USFS Land #1 (AF1)
5. Angel Fire San Juan Loop (AF32)	17. Angel Fire Road Loop (AF3)
6. Middle Fork Lake to the Bavarian (CNFN27)	18. Barbara Dry Flagge Mountain Trail (URR6)
7. Angel Fire Road Improvement #1 (AF10)	19. Alternate Hiking and Mountain-Biking Route from Questa (QC3)
8. NM150 Connector (AH23)	20. Forest Road 441 Bear Wallow Connector (CRD21)
9. The Big Ditch–Upper Red River (URR3)	21. Elliot Barker Access from Brazos Road (AF20)
10. Proposed Access to USFS Land #2 (AF2)	22. Los Cordovas Rio Grande del Rancho Arroyo (TOT14)
11. Angel Fire Olympic Park to Frontier Park (AF31)	23. Talpa Traverse Connector (TOT9)
12. Forest Road 441, Bear Wallow Loop (CRD19)	



➤ **FIGURE 6** Special thanks to the following data providers: Town of Taos, Taos Land Trust, and Enchanted Circle Trails Association. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

TABLE 3. TIER 1: TOWN OF TAOS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND CONNECTIVITY

Highest Ranked	Third Highest Ranked (Continued)
High School to Kit Carson (TOT94)	Bike Lane: State Highway 240 (TOT31)
Bike Lane: U.S. Highway 64 (TOT71)	Bike Lane: Carabajal Road (TOT57)
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light (TOT88)	Bike Lane: Albright Road (TOT68)
Bike Lane: State Highway 585 (TOT41)	Bike Route: Salazar Road (TOT 106)
High School to Baca (TOT93)	Bike Route: Los Pandos Road (TOT49)
Don Fernando to Library (TOT103)	Don Fernando to Saavedra (TOT104)
Bike Lane: Gusdorf Road (TOT48)	Bike Route: U.S. Highway 64 (TOT69)
Second Highest Ranked	Fourth Highest Ranked
Town of Taos to Ranchos de Taos (TOT40)	Kit Carson to Baca Connector– Alternative 1 (TOT100)
Bike Route: Valverde Street (TOT84)	Bike Lane: State Highway 240 (TOT32)
Bike Lane: Ranchitos Road (TOT 107)	Upper Ranchitos Road (TOT72)
Bike Lane: State Highway 518 (TOT87)	Bike Lane: La Lomita Road (TOT105)
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light (TOT83)	Bike Lane: Cam del Medio (TOT54)
	High School to Youth and Family Center (TOT95)
Third Highest Ranked	Rio Fernando Pedestrian and Bike Path (TOT8)
Bike Lane: Weimer Road (TOT47)	Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook (TOT24b)
Bike Route: Cruz Alta Road (TOT66)	Bike Lane: Maestes Road (TOT65)
Bike Lane: Upper Ranchitos Road (TOT27)	Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook (TOT24a)
Ranchito Rd through the Plaza (TOT108)	



Tier 1 Priorities: Town of Taos road improvements

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN



➡ **FIGURE 7** Special thanks to the following data providers: Town of Taos, Taos Land Trust, and Enchanted Circle Trails Association. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

A KEY FINDING FROM THE COMMUNITY

OUTREACH AND SURVEYS was that improving safety is the highest priority for investing in trails. There is strong support for more off-road/separated paths for cyclists and pedestrians. Of the 155 trail segments proposed by community members, 59 trail segments (38%) were proposed as Town of Taos road improvements. Further, the Town of Taos road improvements (59 segments) comprise 82% of the trails segments proposed for the Town of Taos Planning Area. Based on the community-based metrics developed for evaluating trails including equity and access, feasibility, current use, and potential community health benefits, seven trail segments ranked the highest for improving safety and connectivity, including: High School to Kit Carson (TOT94); Bike Lane: US Hwy 64 (TOT71); Town of Taos

to Old Blinking Light (TOT88); Bike Lane: State Hwy 585 (TOT41); High School to Baca (TOT93); Don Fernando to Library (TOT103); and Bike Lane: Gusdorf Rd (TOT48).

The priority trails shown in Figures 6 and 7 are preliminary priorities based on assessment using the metrics described on page 36. Each planning area was also evaluated separately. [An example of a planning area assessment for the Town of Taos is shown in Figure 7 and Table 4](#) . All of the planning area maps and tables are in online Appendix A.

Trails priorities will continue to evolve over time and will be revised and refined by agencies, local governments, user groups, and other organizations that are committed to expanding and improving trails.

ODONNELL



Exploring nature

TABLE 4

Town of Taos planning area assessment

PROPOSED TRAILS

Trail Name	Overview			Uses				
	Segment ID	Length (Miles)	Overall Ranking	Walk/Hike	Road Bike	Mountain Bike	Horse	Nordic
Bike Lane: Albright Rd	TOT68	0.36	48	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: Cam del Medio	TOT54	2.85	44	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Bike Lane: Carabajal Rd	TOT57	0.48	48	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: Gusdorf Rd	TOT48	2.11	56	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: La Lomita Rd	TOT105	0.34	45	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: Maestes Rd	TOT65	0.30	43	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Bike Lane: Ranchitos Rd	TOT 107	0.21	54	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook	TOT24b	6.46	43	No	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook	TOT24a	6.46	43	No	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT31	2.13	48	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT32	2.34	45	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: State Hwy 518	TOT87	2.38	53	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: State Hwy 585	TOT41	2.02	58	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Bike Lane: Upper Ranchitos Rd	TOT27	1.62	50	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: US Hwy 64	TOT71	1.77	62	No	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Lane: Weimer Rd	TOT47	0.78	51	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Bike Route: Cruz Alta Rd	TOT66	0.91	51	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Route: Los Pandos Rd	TOT49	0.63	47	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Route: Salazar Rd	TOT 106	0.73	48	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Route: US Hwy 64	TOT69	0.22	47	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bike Route: Valverde St	TOT84	0.87	55	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Don Fernando to Library	TOT103	0.29	57	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Don Fernando to Saavedra	TOT104	0.34	47	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
High School to Baca	TOT93	0.88	58	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
High School to Kit Carson	TOT94	1.34	62	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
High School to Youth and Family Center	TOT95	1.41	44	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Kit Carson to Baca Connector - Alternative 1	TOT100	1.47	46	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Los Cordovas Rio Grande del Rancho Arroyo	TOT14	3.73	43	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
NM150 connector	AH23	3.50	51	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Ranchito Rd through the Plaza	TOT108	0.11	50	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Rio Fernando Pedestrian and Bike Path	TOT8	0.84	43	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Talpa Traverse connector	TOT9	0.32	43	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light	TOT88	0.54	61	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light	TOT83	3.50	52	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Town of Taos to Ranchos de Taos	TOT40	3.52	55	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Upper Ranchitos Rd	TOT72	0.43	45	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

OHV or Snowmobile	Statistics and Field Verification									Accessibility Score				
	# of Private Parcels Crossed	Schools in Proximity	# of Stream Crossings	Slope (mean%)	Public Preference Ranking	Health Score	Viability Score	User Experience Score	Overall User Score	Kids within 1/2 mile	Seniors within 1/2 mile	Total Population within 1/2 mile	Median Household Income	Overall Accessibility Score
No	1	3	4	1	6	2	3	2	3	578	418	1847	\$35,796	7
No	5	0	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	749	430	2535	\$34,332	8
No	5	0	4	2	4	3	5	3	4	354	264	1235	\$26,405	8
No	1	4	2	2	6	3	3	3	3	578	418	1847	\$35,796	8
No	9	4	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	354	264	1235	\$26,405	8
No	1	0	3	7	4	3	4	3	4	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2
No	1	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	354	264	1235	\$26,405	8
No	35	1	1	5	4	3	4	3	4	932	612	3338	\$38,567	4
No	35	1	1	5	4	3	4	3	4	932	612	3338	\$38,567	4
No	2	0	2	7	3	3	2	3	3	932	612	3338	\$38,567	2
No	4	1	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	749	430	2535	\$34,332	8
No	1	2	3	6	4	3	5	3	3	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2
No	0	3	2	6	5	4	5	5	5	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2
No	3	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	354	264	1235	\$26,405	8
No	2	4	4	9	5	3	3	3	3	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2
No	1	0	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2
No	1	2	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	578	418	1847	\$35,796	8
No	1	7	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	176	205	778	\$17,312	7
No	5	6	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	749	430	2535	\$34,332	6
No	1	5	4	3	1	0		0		82	128	458	\$47,349	6
No	12	6	4	3	4	4	2	4	3	127	233	643	\$35,579	7
No	2	6	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	127	233	643	\$35,579	7
No	8	6	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	127	233	643	\$35,579	7
No	12	2	4	2	7	3	5	3	5	749	430	2535	\$34,332	6
No	7	8	3	2	7	3	4	3	5	578	418	1847	\$35,796	8
No	13	4	3	2	4	3	4	3	5	578	418	1847	\$35,796	8
No	25	7	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2
No	109	2	1	4	4	4	4	5	4	483	380	1866	\$41,938	3
No	27	1	2	3	5	4	5	5		932	612	3338	\$38,567	4
No	2	6	4	6	3	3	3	3	3	127	233	643	\$35,579	6
No	27	3	2	2	4	3	3	3	3	176	205	778	\$17,312	7
No	4	0	4	18	4	4	5	4	4	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2
No	1	6	4	2	4	3	4	3	5	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2
No	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	3	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2
No	1	11	2	2	2	0	4	1	2	749	430	2535	\$34,332	8
No	1	1	4	2	4	3	5	3	4	274	151	883	\$42,188	4

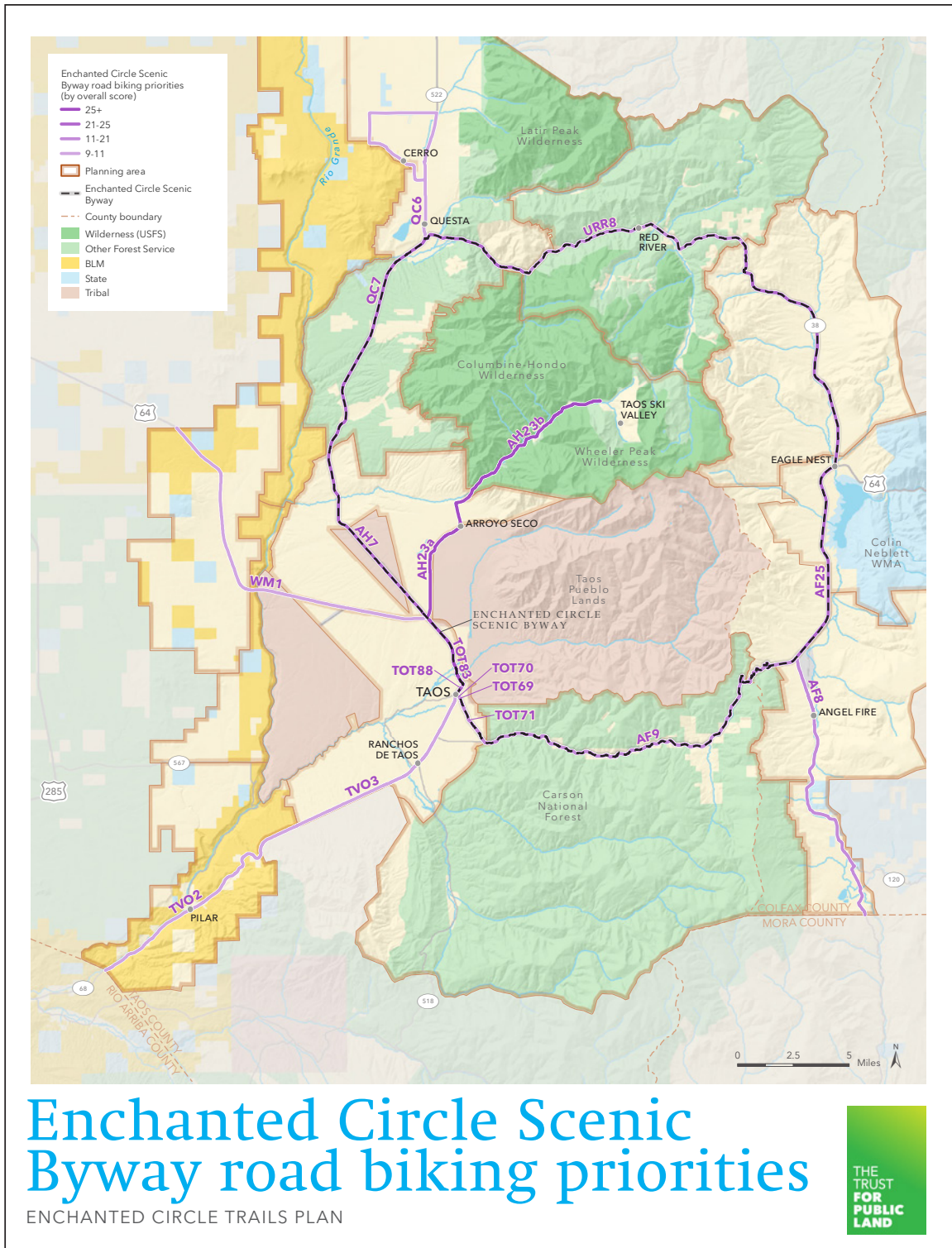
TABLE 4 (CONT.)

Town of Taos Planning Area Assessment

PROPOSED TRAILS

Trail Name	Overview			Feasibility Score			
	Segment ID	Length (Miles)	Overall Ranking	Slope (mean)	Private Parcel Crossings	Stream Crossings	Overall Feasibility Score
Bike Lane: Albright Rd	TOT68	0.36	48	1	1	4	16
Bike Lane: Cam del Medio	TOT54	2.85	44	2	5	1	11
Bike Lane: Carabajal Rd	TOT57	0.48	48	2	5	4	18
Bike Lane: Gusdorf Rd	TOT48	2.11	56	2	1	2	11
Bike Lane: La Lomita Rd	TOT105	0.34	45	2	9	4	18
Bike Lane: Maestes Rd	TOT65	0.30	43	7	1	3	13
Bike Lane: Ranchitos Rd	TOT 107	0.21	54	4	1	4	16
Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook	TOT24b	6.46	43	5	35	1	11
Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook	TOT24a	6.46	43	5	35	1	11
Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT31	2.13	48	7	2	2	7
Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT32	2.34	45	3	4	4	13
Bike Lane: State Hwy 518	TOT87	2.38	53	6	1	3	10
Bike Lane: State Hwy 585	TOT41	2.02	58	6	0	2	9
Bike Lane: Upper Ranchitos Rd	TOT27	1.62	50	2	3	2	13
Bike Lane: US Hwy 64	TOT71	1.77	62	9	2	4	11
Bike Lane: Weimer Rd	TOT47	0.78	51	4	1	4	15
Bike Route: Cruz Alta Rd	TOT66	0.91	51	3	1	4	16
Bike Route: Los Pandos Rd	TOT49	0.63	47	2	1	3	14
Bike Route: Salazar Rd	TOT 106	0.73	48	2	5	2	14
Bike Route: US Hwy 64	TOT69	0.22	47	3	1	4	14
Bike Route: Valverde St	TOT84	0.87	55	3	12	4	16
Don Fernando to Library	TOT103	0.29	57	3	2	4	16
Don Fernando to Saaverdra	TOT104	0.34	47	2	8	4	18
High School to Baca	TOT93	0.88	58	2	12	4	18
High School to Kit Carson	TOT94	1.34	62	2	7	3	16
High School to Youth and Family Center	TOT95	1.41	44	2	13	3	16
Kit Carson to Baca Connector - Alternative 1	TOT100	1.47	46	2	25	2	15
Los Cordovas Rio Grande del Rancho Arroyo	TOT14	3.73	43	4	109	1	11
NM150 connector	AH23	3.50	51	3	27	2	15
Ranchito Rd through the Plaza	TOT108	0.11	50	6	2	4	16
Rio Fernando Pedestrian and Bike Path	TOT8	0.84	43	2	27	2	16
Talpa Traverse connector	TOT9	0.32	43	18	4	4	15
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light	TOT88	0.54	61	2	1	4	16
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light	TOT83	3.50	52	2	2	2	12
Town of Taos to Ranchos de Taos	TOT40	3.52	55	2	1	2	12
Upper Ranchitos Rd	TOT72	0.43	45	2	1	4	17

Current Usage Score *Strava Usage on scale of 0 (lowest) to 10 (heaviest)			Public Preference and Proximity						Overall Trail Rankings
Median Strava Score	Mean Strava Score	Overall Current Usage Rank	# Museums within 1/2 mile	# Schools within 1/2 mile	# Parks within 1/2 mile	# Libraries within 1/2 mile	# Hospitals within 1/2 mile	Overall Proximity Rank	# of Top 5 Trail Votes
1	1.01	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	3
2	4.94	4	0	0	3	0	0	3	0
2	4.39	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
1	3.82	3	0	4	1	0	0	5	3
1	1.81	2	4	4	3	0	0	11	0
2	4.58	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
2	4.95	4	8	5	3	1	0	17	0
2	4.34	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
2	4.34	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
10	6.16	4	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
2	4.60	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
10	6.14	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	1
10	6.23	4	0	3	0	0	0	3	1
5	5.03	4	1	1	1	0	0	3	0
10	6.28	4	6	4	2	0	0	12	2
10	6.08	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
2	3.78	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
1	3.00	3	7	7	3	0	0	17	0
2	2.62	2	7	6	4	1	0	18	0
10	6.07	4	8	5	3	1	0	17	0
1	2.67	2	8	6	4	1	0	19	1
5	5.80	4	8	6	3	1	0	18	0
1	2.18	2	8	6	3	1	0	18	0
1	2.99	3	0	2	1	0	0	3	2
1	1.00	1	8	8	3	1	0	20	2
1	1.00	1	0	4	1	0	0	5	0
1	3.53	3	8	7	4	1	0	20	0
1	2.94	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
2	4.18	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	4
2	4.32	3	8	6	3	1	0	18	0
0	0.00	1	3	3	1	0	0	7	1
2	4.32	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	6.06	4	8	6	3	1	0	18	0
10	7.16	4	2	2	2	1	0	7	0
10	6.20	4	8	11	5	1	0	25	0
2	3.87	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	0



➡ **FIGURE 8** Special thanks to the following data providers: Town of Taos, Taos Land Trust, and Enchanted Circle Trails Association. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE SCENIC BYWAY offers dramatic views through the valleys, mesas, and mountains of Northern New Mexico. The Byway connects Taos, as the largest town, with resort communities of Arroyo Seco, Questa, Red River, Eagle Nest, and Angel Fire. Detours to Taos Ski Valley, Cerro, Pilar, and the Gorge Bridge make the Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway an attractive recreational opportunity for road biking enthusiasts. Improvements to the highways would further encourage locals and tourists alike to explore the area and its communities.

Figure 8 highlights the scenic byway and connected, long road cycling segments 📍. Road segment priority was determined through the expertise of the Technical Advisory Team and through analysis of current usage, proximity to parks and schools, accessibility, feasibility, user experience, and safety.



Horseback riding Lost Lake Trail

4. Implementation

THIS SECTION PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW of the challenges for expanding the trail system, information about potential funding sources, and a preliminary implementation plan developed based on input from participants in community meetings. As noted previously, this Trails Plan will evolve and adapt as local communities and their needs change.

Challenges

At meetings in September 2015 and November 2016, stakeholders worked together to identify and prioritize major challenges for implementing the Trails Plan. These challenges are described below.

- **PUBLIC LAND.** Many of the proposed trails are located on either Bureau of Land Management or U.S. Forest Service managed land. Trail segments on public lands must be incorporated into agency management plans before design and construction could begin. Since public land management agencies have limited resources to establish or maintain trails, it will be critical for Enchanted Circle trails advocates to understand and work with the federal trail-planning process.
- **INADEQUATE CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE.** There is a lack of infrastructure, particularly signage, trailheads, and parking, for many existing trails in the Enchanted Circle. This lack of existing infrastructure could make developing new trails more challenging.
- **BROAD PLAN GOALS.** Although the large study area for the Trails Plan was designed by community members, the large geographic area and diversity of trail types (including in-town and backcountry) could be an obstacle for implementation. The separate prioritization for each trail planning area, described in Section 3, is intended to address some of these concerns.
- **LIMITED CAPACITY.** Local governments, agencies, and community organizations have limited funding, staff time, and general support to dedicate to advocating for and implementing the Trails Plan. Strong coordination is needed among community and recreation groups and all local agencies and jurisdictions.
- **PRIVATE LAND.** Securing ownership or access rights for trail rights-of-way can be very challenging. Private landowners may have concerns about trespassing and potential legal liability related to trail users. Some trails may require acquisition of rights-of-way from many different property owners.
- **COST.** There is very limited local funding for trails in the Enchanted Circle, and the cost of new trails can be very high. The costs involved in trail development include access rights/trail easement acquisition, trail building, trail amenities, and short- and long-term maintenance. Trail-building costs include design and engineering; grading, contouring, and surfacing (gravel, asphalt, concrete where appropriate); and building bridges and other structural elements. Additional amenities may include benches, bathrooms, trailheads,

parking lots, and drinking fountains. There is an enormous range in trail costs from around \$1,000 to over \$1 million per mile. For example, some backcountry trails can be constructed by volunteers using hand tools, while urban multiuse paths may require right-of-way acquisition, floodplain mitigation, bridges, paving, and complicated engineering.

Funding for Trails

Funding is a key challenge for developing new trails. Assembling funding for trails typically takes the support of the business community, elected officials, government agencies, and community leaders.

A wide variety of potential funding sources for trails in the Enchanted Circle include local and state funding, federal funding, and private funding. Federal, state, and private grants can help communities with trail planning, development, and land acquisition. These grants can also help to encourage local investments. Having an adopted community-based trails plan is important for communities seeking grant funds. An adopted plan demonstrates the community is sufficiently organized and has a vision of its future trails system. Successful grant applications also need to show interjurisdictional cooperation between organizations at all levels of government and the private sector.



Wheeler Peak Trail sign



Del Norte Mountain Bike Alliance

A long-term, dedicated source of local revenue is one of most powerful ways to fund trails. Local public financing options for New Mexico include general obligation bonds, property tax, and gross receipts/sales tax. See online Appendix C (Conservation Finance) for more details.

LOCAL AND STATE FUNDING

- **LOCAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS.** Bonds are the most utilized tool for parks, trails, and conservation purposes by local governments in New Mexico, accounting for 12 of 19 measures on the ballot since 1996. Bonds provide several advantages over pay-as-you-go funding; however, bonds generally cannot be used for stewardship.
- **LOCAL PROPERTY TAX.** Jurisdictions can levy a property tax to pay for parks, trails, and open space. Bernalillo County has dedicated a property tax to parks and open space. New Mexico statutes limit the maximum allowable mill levy for county general purposes to \$11.85 per \$1,000 of taxable value, and for municipal general purposes the limit is \$7.65 per \$1,000 of taxable value.
- **LOCAL GROSS RECEIPTS/SALES TAX (GRT).** New Mexico's municipalities and counties are authorized to impose local option gross receipts taxes for select purposes. Jurisdictions can amend their capital outlay gross receipts tax ordinance to dedicate a portion to trails, parks, and open space.
- **LOCAL LODGING TAX.** Proceeds from a municipal or county lodging tax may be used only for tourist-related events,

facilities, and attractions. Proceeds from this tax can be used to invest in parks and trails that would be used by visitors.

- **LOCAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS.** Local jurisdictions can create special districts to raise funds. Public Improvement Districts (PIDs) are authorized to finance various infrastructure and improvements, including trails. Tax Increment Development Districts (TIDDs) may use tax increment financing to pay for trails and recreation facilities. Infrastructure Development Zones (IDZs) may provide a variety of services, including trails and areas for pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle use.
- **DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES.** An impact fee is an assessment on development used to pay for a share of the impacts to public facilities. In some cases, a development impact fee could be used for a park, trail, or open space that could benefit the public.
- **STATE TOURISM DEPARTMENT.** The New Mexico Tourism Department offers three grant programs to municipalities, tribal governments, or nonprofit organizations to assist with projects, including trails projects, that will draw tourists.

FEDERAL FUNDING

- **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS.** This federal program ensures that children have a safe route to walk and bike to school. Federal funding is available through the federal Transportation Alternatives Program. School districts, schools, cities, counties, and state and tribal entities are eligible.
- **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.** The National Park Service has the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to help support community-led conservation projects and outdoor recreation projects. This program provides technical support rather than direct funding.
- **RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM.** These funds, administered by the New Mexico Department of Transportation, require a 50 percent local match. They can cover development and restoration of existing recreational trails and construction of new trails.
- **TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.** This Federal Highway Administration program aims to provide access to basic community services to enhance quality of life on tribal lands. This program replaces the Indian Reservation Roads Program.
- **FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.** This Federal Highway Administration program improves multi-modal access within federal lands and has helped with the creation of heritage trails for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- **HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.** This Federal Highway Administration program aims to reduce highway fatalities and serious injuries, and will provide funds for bike and pedestrian infrastructure on any public road, bike path, or trail, if bicycle safety was included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).
- **CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT.** This program funds transportation projects to improve air quality

and reduce traffic congestion in areas that do not meet air quality standards, and can be used for bicycling and pedestrian projects.

- **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES.** This program funds on-road and off-road projects defined as transportation alternatives, including bicycling facilities, trail projects, safe routes to school projects, and other planning efforts for getting people to use alternative transportation routes.
- **LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.** The LWCF state assistance program provides matching grants to help states and local communities to protect parks and recreation resources and has included the funding of hiking and biking trails.
- **AMERICORPS/CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.** This program funds staffing for trail building and maintenance. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is the local corps.

PRIVATE FUNDING

- **PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS.** This funding is usually secured through competitive grant application processes. A wide variety of private foundations fund trail projects.
- **BUSINESS SUPPORT.** Local businesses, which often benefit from the tourism and economic activity generated by trails, may provide funding, donations of goods, and other forms of in-kind support for trail projects.
- **GRANTS FROM RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS.** Many biking organizations, such as the League of American Bicyclists, the American Hiking Society, the PeopleForBikes Community Program, and the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), offer grants or micro-grants to support trail development and maintenance.
- **USER FEES.** The fee-for-use funding model involves generating funds by charging for direct use of trails, open spaces, and other recreational assets.
- **VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FUND.** It may be possible to set up a fund at the county or local level to which people could make voluntary contributions to support trail, open space, and connectivity efforts.



Playing by the water

Implementation Plan

The preliminary implementation steps for the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan were developed during community meetings and refined by the core team for the creation of this plan: The Trust for Public Land, Taos Land Trust, Enchanted Circle Trails Association (ECTA), Town of Taos, Taos County, and the National Park Service. Implementation of the plan will

be led by a working group convened by ECTA that will include Taos Land Trust, Town of Taos, Taos County, and other local partners including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and local trail user groups. In the “Who” column, the group that is bolded and shown first is the lead implementer for that plan element.

TABLE 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN		
What/How	Who	When
A. IDENTIFY THE HIGHEST-PRIORITY POTENTIAL TRAILS		
A.1. Prioritize proposed trails based on community input and trail metrics - Identify Tier 1 priority trails, including a separate list for long road biking routes - Create separate proposed priority lists for each trail planning area	The Trust for Public Land	2017, ongoing
A.2. Develop a publicly accessible web tool to share data and analysis from the Trails Plan Provide webinar-based training to trail advocates and stakeholders so that they can use the web tool for identifying tailored priority trails and data and reports for potential funders	The Trust for Public Land	May 2017
A.3. Review maps and priority lists with user representation and community leaders from each trail planning area	ECTA Taos Land Trust Town of Taos	Spring/ Summer 2017

TABLE 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN

What/How	Who	When
A. IDENTIFY THE HIGHEST-PRIORITY POTENTIAL TRAILS		
A.4. Focus on in-town projects that will improve bike and pedestrian safety	Taos Land Trust ECTA	Ongoing
A.5. Identify early projects to generate momentum (including routes for a variety of users to improve in-town safety and backcountry connectivity)	ECTA	Spring/ Summer 2017
A.6. Continue to refine community priorities and build support for key local projects	ECTA Mayors' Council Town managers	Ongoing
B. IDENTIFY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAILS PLAN		
B.1. Position the newly formed Enchanted Circle Trails Association as key advocate for trails in the Enchanted Circle overall - ECTA to continue to develop advocates for each trail planning area - ECTA to continue coordinating with local governments and federal land management	ECTA	
B.2. Taos Land Trust and Town of Taos will be key advocates for in-town trail projects that improve bike and pedestrian safety, connect local parks to each other, and connect the town to backcountry trails - Taos Land Trust to cultivate local advocates for in-town trail and pathway projects - Taos Land Trust to work with Town of Taos and local user groups on in-town and nearby trails projects where equity and close-to-home access are the primary goals	Taos Land Trust Town of Taos	
B.3. ECTA-led working group to convene meetings and coordinate and track progress Hold quarterly working group meetings	ECTA Working Group	Spring 2017, ongoing

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

TABLE 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN

What/How	Who	When
B. IDENTIFY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAILS PLAN		
B.4. Coordinate with local groups, jurisdictions, and public agencies that are critical to implementing the Trails Plan Convene regular calls or meetings that include the Trails Plan core team and the following: U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Taos County, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Taos Community Foundation, Del Norte Mountain Bike Alliance (DNMA), Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Taos Saddle Club, Moreno Valley Trekkers, and any other interested groups	ECTA	2017, ongoing
B.5. Work with Taos County Chamber of Commerce and the Enchanted Circle Marketing Co-op, local businesses, organizations, and individuals on "adopt-a-trail" programs to support trail development and maintenance	ECTA	2017, ongoing
B.6. Evaluate Trails Plan implementation annually	ECTA Working Group The Trust for Public Land	2018, annually
C. DEVELOP A STRATEGIC AND INCLUSIVE OUTREACH PLAN TO INCREASE PUBLIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE TRAILS PLAN		
C.1. Develop a comprehensive communications and outreach plan - Create clear, consistent messaging for the Trails Plan - Outline outreach strategies for recreational advocates, local communities, tourists, Chamber of Commerce, businesses, and landowners - Plan for diverse outreach venues (website and web-based outreach, Facebook page, email list)	ECTA Working Group Taos Land Trust The Trust for Public Land	2017

TABLE 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN

What/How	Who	When
C. DEVELOP A STRATEGIC AND INCLUSIVE OUTREACH PLAN TO INCREASE PUBLIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE TRAILS PLAN		
C.2. Hold Trails Plan launch event after report and web tool are finalized • Develop short press release with compelling map/s and key points • Focus on opportunities for positive earned media attention	ECTA Working Group Taos Land Trust	2017
C.3. Secure marketing firm to develop branding and tagline for the trails plan • Integrate Trails Plan branding into outreach materials • Integrate Trails Plan branding into signage	ECTA Core team	2017, ongoing
C.4. Obtain funding to develop better maps of existing trails and trail access points	ECTA	2017, ongoing
C.5. Hold community events focused on identifying key areas where increased pedestrian and bike safety is needed most urgently	Taos Land Trust ECTA Targeted user	2017, ongoing
C.6. Hold hiking and mountain-biking workshops and events targeted at making outdoor recreation more accessible for Hispano/Hispanic and Pueblo youth	ECTA Taos Land Trust Rivers and Birds Field Institute of Taos DNMA	2017, ongoing
C.7. Assign a small group of community members to be “lobbyists” working with town councils and county commissioners	ECTA Taos Land Trust	2017, ongoing
C.8. Meet with neighborhood associations and coordinate petitions in support of trails as appropriate	ECTA Taos Land Trust	2017, ongoing

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

TABLE 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN

What/How	Who	When
C. DEVELOP A STRATEGIC AND INCLUSIVE OUTREACH PLAN TO INCREASE PUBLIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE TRAILS PLAN		
C.9. Cultivate active volunteer base • Ask those who participated in planning process to send support letters to Town Council and County Commission • Hold regular fun events for volunteers—including events focused on trail maintenance on National Trails Day, National Public Lands Day, Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day, Bike to Work Day, Critical Mass events • Host party at the end of trail-building season • Host launch parties after improvements to in-town pedestrian and bike routes	ECTA Taos Land Trust Core team Field Institute of Taos Rivers and Birds DNMA	2017, ongoing
D. LAUNCH PARKRX PROGRAM IN TOWN OF TAOS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH BY PRESCRIBING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ON IN-TOWN TRAILS		
D.1. Work with local health care providers and park/trail managers to create provider-prescribed ParkRx program (see online Appendix F)	Taos Land Trust NPS El Centro Clinic NM Dept of Health Taos County Health Council The Trust for Public Land Headwaters ECTA UNM Health Sciences Indian Health Services	2017, ongoing
E. FORMALIZE SUPPORT OF TRAILS PLAN BY LOCAL JURISDICTIONS		
E.1. Facilitate adoption of the Trails Plan by Taos County and Colfax County	ECTA Taos Land Trust County planning staff	2017
E.2. Facilitate adoption of the Trails Plan by the Town of Taos, Angel Fire, Red River, Questa, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management	ECTA Taos Land Trust Town and agency staff Mayors' Council	2017

TABLE 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN

What/How	Who	When
E. FORMALIZE SUPPORT OF TRAILS PLAN BY LOCAL JURISDICTIONS		
E.3. Develop and facilitate the adoption of a memorandum of understanding in support of multi-jurisdictional cooperation in implementation of the Trails Plan Jurisdictions to include Taos County, the Town of Taos, Village of Taos Ski Valley, Angel Fire, Eagle Nest, Red River, Questa, Taos Pueblo, Carson National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management	ECTA	2017
E.4. Work to incorporate priority trails into agency plans Assist with additional required community outreach or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment as appropriate	ECTA	2017, ongoing
E.5. Ensure that sure future highway and road projects in the region are consistent with these community plans Monitor proposed roadway improvement plans	ECTA NM DOT Local jurisdictions	Ongoing
F. DEVELOP RESOURCES FOR AND ASSIST LOCAL GROUPS THAT WANT TO DEVELOP TRAILS		
F.1. Compile an electronic trail resource database for the Enchanted Circle Trails Association	ECTA NPS	2017, ongoing
F.2. Provide annual webinars on the Trails Plan web tool and its application	The Trust for Public Land	2017, annually
F.3. Support trail champions in creating clear implementation plans for individual trails (see Development Framework, Appendix 3)	ECTA	2017, ongoing

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TABLE 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN

What/How	Who	When
F. DEVELOP RESOURCES FOR AND ASSIST LOCAL GROUPS THAT WANT TO DEVELOP TRAILS		
F.4. Work to develop, adopt, and implement regional best-practice standards for sustainable trails development to ensure easy and safe access to trails	ECTA Taos Land Trust NPS NM DOT Del Norte Mountain Bike Alliance and other user groups	2017, ongoing
G. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT THE TRAILS PLAN		
G.1. Establish a committee to oversee continued research on funding options and coordination of funding requests • Work with a grant writer familiar with local development grants and funding sources	ECTA	2017, ongoing
G.2. Coordinate with local jurisdictions and public agencies to apply for grant funding • Identify appropriate grant funding sources from federal and state sources	ECTA	2017, ongoing
G.3. Develop a strategy for obtaining local public funding for trails development through bond financing or a recreational taxing district • Hold conservation and trails finance workshop • Coordinate with local groups who are already working to get local funds for recreation facilities	ECTA Taos Land Trust The Trust for Public Land Town of Taos Taos County	2017, ongoing
G.4. Work to develop and implement a region-wide strategy to fund ongoing trail maintenance • Establish fund at Taos Community Foundation to support trail maintenance	ECTA Working Group	2017, ongoing

5. Conclusion: Looking ahead

SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS ON TRAILS HAS ENORMOUS PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND SOCIAL BENEFITS. Expanding the trail system in the Enchanted Circle faces some serious challenges, including complicated jurisdictional coordination, limited local capacity and funding, acute concerns about safety, and inequitable access to close-to-home trails. These challenges make this Trails Plan all the more important. The Enchanted Circle needs more access to trails and the benefits they provide. This is particularly true for the area's most vulnerable communities who currently have the most limited access to trails.

This Trails Plan points the way. Using this report and the associated web-based tool, local governments and trail advocates can begin planning and funding the key trails that are the highest priorities for local communities. Trails tie communities together – both literally and figuratively. Expanded access to safe in-town bike and pedestrian routes and expanded opportunities to experience the peace and adventure of backcountry trails will connect local communities to each other and to the unique and spectacular beauty of the Enchanted Circle – improving quality of life and community health for many years to come.



Kids playing outside

Appendix 1: Participants

TABLE 6. TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM

Name	Organization
Amy Simms	Carson National Forest–Recreation
Attila Bality	National Park Service
Ben Thomas	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Brad Higdon	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Carl Colonius	Enchanted Circle Trails Association
Doug Pickett	Taos Cyclery
Eddie Dry	Red River
Ernie Attencio	The Nature Conservancy
Hogan Koesis	Angel Fire
Jeff Muggleston	Carson National Forest
John Baily	BLM National Monument
John Miller	Town of Taos Planning
Karlis Viceps	
Kip Price	
Mark Sundan	BLM
Matt Foster	independent local planner
Nathan Sanchez	Taos County Planning
Richard Holmes	Carson National Forest–Questa
Shannon Romeling	Amigos Bravos
Shari Heier	Gearing Up Bicycles
Tammi Torres	BLM–Recreation
Tim Corner	Taos County Planning
Tim Rogers	Santa Fe Conservation Trust

TABLE 7. INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization
April Winters	Taos Pueblo
Bev Valencia	Taos Pueblo
Cat Legere	Taos Sports Alliance
Curtis Sandoval	Taos Pueblo War Chief
Darien Fernandez	Taos Town Council
Gabe Romero	Taos County Commission
Jackie Martinez	Taos Pueblo
Jeremy Lujan	Taos Pueblo War Chief Secretary
Jody Coffman	Taos Pueblo
John Bailey	Bureau of Land Management
Lillian Torrez	Taos School District
Linda Yardley	Taos Pueblo
Mark Flores	Taos School board member; Taos County Parks and Recreation
Mark Gallegos	Mayor of Questa, Taos County Commissioner
Miguel Santistevan	agricultural consultant
Nick Streit	Taos Fly Shop
Patrick Kopepassah	Taos Pueblo Fire Program Manager
Raul Hurtado	U.S. Forest Service
Richard Archuleta	Taos Pueblo Lt. War Chief
Toby Martinez	Taos County Extension Officer
Tony Valdez	Taos County Extension Office

TABLE 8. FIELD VERIFICATION VOLUNTEERS

Name	Organization
Andrew Leonard	UNM Taos UBMS
Ben Thomas	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Bill Mason	
Brandon Trujillo	
Brian Smith	
Carolyn Smith	
Charles Clayton	
Cheryl Mason	
Cheryl Hedden	
Chyna Dixon	
Darien Fernandez	Town Councilor, Town of Taos
Diane Arreola	
Eduardo Arreola	
Esperanza Gonzales	
Janice Sandeen	
Jenny Miranda	Upward Bound/Taos Land Trust
Joel Serra	
John Miller	Town of Taos Planning
Jonathan Garcia	
Karlis Viceps	
Kristina Orteiz	Taos Land Trust
Lara Miller	The Trust for Public Land
Mark Sundin	
Matthew Foster	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Nina Anthony	Taos Land Trust
Peggy Nelson	Agricultural Resolution Team
Susie Soderquist	Des Montes
Tami Torres	Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM
Winston Montgomery	
Zachary Benton	

TABLE 9. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adriana Blake	Enchanted Circle Trail Association	Caitlin Legere	
Adrienne Anderson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Carl Colonius	Enchanted Circle Trails Association
Alena Gilchrist		Carl Rosenberg	
Alex Cserhat		Carolyn Smith	Angel Fire Trails
Alice Galanka		Charles Doughtry	Renewable Taos, Inc.
Amy Morris	The Trust for Public Land	Charles Earhart	Angel Fire
Amy Simms	U.S. Forest Service	Charlie O'Leary	Santa Fe Conservation Trust
Andy Leonard	Upward Bound	Cheryl Hedden	
Angela Bates		Chris Ellis	
Annette McClure		Chris Furr	Carson National Forest
Attila Baloty	National Park Service	Chris Malashi	
Barbara Dry	snowshoe and hiking guide, Red River	Chrissy Pepino	The Trust for Public Land
Barry Weinstock	BLM	Christopher Smith	Taos Land Trust
Becky Rob	Edward Jones Finance	Cindy Brown	Taos Hiking Guide
Ben Soderquist		CJ Maluski	
Ben Thomas	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	Claire Latowsky	
Beth Robinson		Craig Saum	Carson National Forest
Beth Searcey		Dan Barrone	Taos Mayor
Bill Adkinson	Trout Unlimited	Darien Fernandez	Town Councilor, Town of Taos
Bill Knief	University of New Mexico-Taos	Darren Bond	Gearing Up Bike Shop
Bill Petterson	Peterson Ventures	David Frazer	Frazer Family Farms
Brad Higdon	BLM - Taos	David Lewis	ART
Brian Smith	Angel Fire Trails	David Mount	cyclist

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TABLE 9. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
David West		Jamie Fox	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Davie Dittmar	Food Not Bombs	Jason Corzine	The Trust for Public Land
Derek Gordon		Jean Stevens	Environmental Film Festival
Drew Maxwell	AAFPO Angel Fire	Jeff Muggleston	Carson National Forest
Duane DeRaad	Hot Yoga Taos	Jennifer Hauser	Carson National Forest
Eddie Dry	Red River	Jenny Miranda	
Edward Vigil	Planning Director, Taos County	Jessica Harrower	
Eileen Weidner	BLM	Jim May	
Elisabeth Brownell	Brownell Chalet	Joe Riter	
Eric Garner	Carson National Forest	Joe Wells	
Ernie Attencio	The Nature Conservancy	Joe Zupan	
Fred Gifford	The Trust for Public Land	Joel Serra	Aqualia
Fritz Hahn	Taos Town Council	John Hall	hay farmer
Gary James	Not Forgotten Outreach	John MacArthur	Taos Saddle Club
Gary Jones		John Miller	Town of Taos Planning
Gillian Joyce	Rio Chiquito	John Ubelaker	SMU
Greg Hiner	The Trust for Public Land	Johnny MacArthur	Back Country Horsemen
Hal Margolis		Jonah Salloway	Vibram USA
Hank Friedman	Taos Sports Alliance	Joseph Chupek	cyclist
Hannah Miller	Taos Land Trust	Judy Liles	Sunset Park
Hogan Kersis	Angel Fire	Karina Armijo	Town Marketing Director
Jack Lewis	U.S. Forest Service	Karlis Viceps	
Jake Caldwell	LOR Foundation	Ken Murrell	

TABLE 9. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Kerrie Pattison	Taos Ski Valley, Northside and Park and Rec Commission	Madison Davisinger	Crossfit Taos
Kevin Lehto	U.S. Forest Service, recreation assistant	Mark Fratrack	Village of Taos Ski Valley
Kip Price		Mark Henderson	Old Spanish Trail Association
Kristin Ulibarri	Valverde Commons	Mark Kemper	
Kristina Ortiz de Jones	Taos Land Trust	Mark Sundin	
Lafe Harrower	Lucas Construction	Mark White	Taos County Community Distillery
Lamonte Guillory	LOR Foundation	Marla Vowell	Red River
Lara Miller	The Trust for Public Land	Martha Morgan	Taos Saddle Club
Larissa Schaetz		Mary Ann Elder	former Forest Service staff
Leilani Dean		Matthew Foster	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Linda Calhoun	Mayor of Red River	Matthew Roeder	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Linda Fair		Matthew Van Buren	Taos Land Trust
Linda Hodapp		Meg Peterson	Pattison Land Trust/ Northside Trails
Linda Yardley	Taos Land Trust (board), Taos Pueblo	Megan Hosterman	Taos Land Trust
Lindsay Mapes	Zia Rides, Turquoise Tours	Megan Lawson	Headwaters Economics
Lore Pease	El Centro Family Health	Melissa Naylor	mountain biker
Loren Bell		Michael Calhoun	Aspen Maps
Louis Fineberg	Town of Taos Planning	Michael Martinez	Rough Riders 200
Lynn Aldrich	Taos Land Trust (board member)	Michael Ritterhouse	

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TABLE 9. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Molly McMullin	Appleseed	Romany Wood	
Nancy Montoya		Rose Bauhs	
Nathan Sanchez	Chief Planner, Taos County	Rosezena Rothafel	
Nick Still	10,000 Wags	Rudy Perea	Taos County
Nina Anthony	Taos Land Trust	Sandi Hill	
Pam MacArthur	Taos Saddle Club	Sanjay Poovadan	Taos Land Trust
Parvati Young		Sarah Schrock	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Patrick Vigil	Ojo Caliente	Shannon Parks	The Trust for Public Land
Patrick West	Angel Fire	Shannon Romeling	Amigos Bravos
Paul Bryan Jones	Taos Tree Board	Shari Heier	Gearing Up
Paul Schilke	U.S. Forest Service	Sheara Cohen	The Trust for Public Land
Paula Tsoodle	Taos Pueblo Fitness	Sonny Robinson	
Peggy Nelson	Agricultural Resolution Team	Stephanie Schilling	
Pete French	Taos Sports Alliance	Stephen Mabrey	
Peter Lamont		Stephens Hall	
Peter Rich	Carson National Forest	Steve Miranda	
Polly Raye	RFNA	Stuart Wilde	Wild Earth Adventures
Priscilla Rokohl		Susan Margolis	
Rachel Singer	Crossfit Taos	Susie Fiore	Field Institute of Taos
Randolph Pierce		Susie Soderquist	Des Montes
Rich Montoya		Tami Torres	Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM
Rick Bellis	Taos Town Manager	Taylor Etchemendy	
Robyn McCulloch	The Confluence	Ted Calhoun	Red River
Roger Pattison		Teresa Pisaño	Taos Land Trust (board member)

TABLE 9. COMMUNITY MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Tim Corner	Taos County Planning Department	Trey Finnell	cyclist
Tim Rivera		Vince Rozzi	
Tim Rogers	Santa Fe Conservation Trust	Will Clem	
Toby Martinez	ART	Will McMullan	
Tom Romero	NRG NHA	William Brown	Renewable Taos, Inc.

SURVEY SPOTLIGHT

"Please, please, please create more biking, hiking, walking trails! It is very difficult to raise kids here and go for family walks... We live in this incredibly beautiful area and have done so little to truly honor it and integrate with it. It's the future!"

—SURVEY PARTICIPANT

"This is not just tourists (whose money Taos relies on for its existence), but for the Taos County residents who have been here for generations. WE deserve something well-planned, well-built, and SAFE, so that we may also enjoy our communities. "

—SURVEY PARTICIPANT

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Appendix 3: Enchanted Circle Trail Development Framework

- 1. DETERMINE WHETHER THE ROUTE IS ALREADY ASSESSED IN THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAILS PLAN**
- 2. IDENTIFY A NEW PROPOSED ROUTE**
 - a. Provide a clearly marked proposed route (GPS or detailed map)
 - b. Have at least two additional trail user allies to copresent
 - c. Walk the proposed route with ECTA staff
 - d. Use field verification form to assess route attributes
- 3. ASSESS POTENTIAL TRAIL IMPACTS**
 - a. Align with Taos County Community Conservation Plan
 - b. Determine environmental impacts
 - c. Determine cultural impacts
 - d. Assess whether the proposed trail or segment is sustainable
- 4. DEFINE THE PURPOSE AND THE NEED FOR THE NEW TRAIL SEGMENT**
 - a. Trail type?
 - b. What does the trail connect to?
 - c. Who are the proposed users?
 - d. What is the skill level?
 - e. Estimated costs
 - f. Estimated benefits to community
- 5. DEVELOP THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**
 - a. Project partners
 - b. Design and building requirements
 - c. Funding sources
- 6. DEVELOP THE MAINTENANCE AND STEWARDSHIP PLAN**



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BACK, O'DONNELL

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