



Enchanted Circle Trails Association

Developing, maintaining, and promoting trails in northern New Mexico
 info@enchantedcircletrails.org

ECTA Quarterly Report Apr-Jun 2023

Summary

Enchanted Circle Trails Association (ECTA) develops, maintains, and promotes a trail system throughout the Enchanted Circle. The following is a summary of actions last quarter and includes all jurisdictions (*i.e. BLM and US Forest Service and local units of government.*)

Trail Development / Roadway Improvements / Connectivity	
Project	Status
NM150 Multi-Use Pathway from US64 to Arroyo Seco	ECTA continues to work with Taos Pueblo on the planning of the NM150 Multi-Use Path under the Trails+ Grant received by Taos Pueblo this year. We are finalizing the requests for proposals and will be selecting contractors for the survey and engineering of the trail during the 3rd quarter. ECTA has presented the plan to area neighborhood associations and community groups for feedback.
Questa to Red River Trail (Q2RRT)	The Request for Proposals for selecting a contractor to conduct the National Environmental Policy Act process survey is awaiting approval from Carson National Forest. Meanwhile, ECTA has continued to refine the trail alignment to minimize impacts to riparian areas and accommodate future development of recreation activities in Red River Canyon. Land ownership transfers and easements are underway to provide trail connectivity through parcels belonging to Chevron Mining.
Talpa Ridge System	<p>The USFS Talpa Ridge Working Group concluded after 8 meetings, including 3 community feedback meetings where the public could provide suggestions for managing access and impacts in the area. The public also provided feedback through working group representatives, an online survey, mail, and email. The Forest Service will review the working group suggestions and public comments to determine how to best balance the many different needs for public access, recreational opportunity, environmental sustainability, and cultural preservation.</p> <p>Although ECTA was not directly involved in the Working Group process nor the upcoming decision, we look forward to working with the Forest Service to help implement their decision.</p>
Rio Grande Trail – Bridge to Bridge Segment	Progress on this section of the Rio Grande trail has been put on indefinite hold as the BLM finalizes the Rio Grande del Norte Monument management plan.
Horsethief Mesa Trails	The Carson National Forest has approved a Special Use Permit for the BLM to develop the new trail parking and access point near the county transfer station. Once the BLM signs this agreement, ECTA looks forward to working with the



Enchanted Circle Trails Association

Developing, maintaining, and promoting trails in northern New Mexico
 info@enchantedcircletrails.org

	<p>county and the BLM to address the dangerous parking situation along the highway by moving the transfer station fence and providing pullouts.</p> <p>Progress on new trail development in the area has been put on indefinite hold as the BLM finalizes the Rio Grande del Norte Monument management plan.</p>
Taos Valley Overlook	No action was taken this quarter.
Outward Link Trail	Court records indicate that the landowner has filed a counter-suit claiming the town's easement is invalid. It is unclear how long this process will take to be litigated.
Bull of the Woods to Big Ditch	No action was taken this quarter. ECTA will continue to support the Forest Service on this project.
Miranda Canyon	No action was taken this quarter. ECTA will continue to support the Forest Service on this project in preparation for a NEPA evaluation in 2024.

Trail Maintenance

Trail Master Training

15 volunteers participated in the 4th Annual Trail Master Training hosted by ECTA and the Carson National Forest with classroom space provided by Angel Fire Resort. Over two days, trail stewards learned about sustainable trail design and maintenance before traveling to Palo Flechado Pass to put those skills into practice through trail building and cross-cut saw instruction.

Volunteers represented the Moreno Valley Trekkers, PPC Solar, Taos Ski Patrol, New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, Taos Women's Outdoor Adventures, Red Willow Hospice, Taos Mountain Bike Association, and motorized trail users.

Trail Stewardship

ECTA was joined by 19 volunteers who put in 140 hours at two simultaneous National Trails Day events on June 3rd. We cleared trees on 4 miles of the San Cristobal trail, and 20 miles of the South Boundary Trail. In addition, ECTA volunteers helped support logout operations on the East Fork trail, which is now finally clear after 2-years of work following the winter blowdown.

Adopt-a-Trail

We continue to grow the Adopt-a-Trail program through which local businesses and organizations adopt trails to help with general maintenance and upkeep. The season has



Enchanted Circle Trails Association

Developing, maintaining, and promoting trails in northern New Mexico
info@enchantedcircletrails.org

started strong with several day and multi-day events hosted by partner organizations including Moreno Valley Trekkers, Taos Mountain Bike Association, and New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors who have helped maintain trails on the Carson National Forest. Several more events are scheduled for the next quarter. ECTA has also brought on board an Adopt-a-Trail coordinator to help grow this program and ensure its success.

Trail Promotion and Outreach

User Group Brochures

After updates from land management agencies and partner organizations, we have sent brochures to the printer and will distribute them to area businesses and organizations throughout July. These brochures highlight trail destinations for locals and visitors just learning about the region's trail offerings.

Regional Trail Map Kiosks

Panels were finally delivered from the printer last month and will be installed by Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in mid-August at Taos County, Town of Red River, the Village of Questa, the Village of Taos Ski Valley, and the Carson National Forest Questa Ranger District.

Regional Trails Website

ECTA has continued working with a developer and community volunteers on creating a regional trails website. This map-based site will provide comprehensive information about area trails, as well as source current trail conditions from popular apps.

Trail Outreach and Communication

ECTA has continued to expand our presence on social media and trail apps to ensure that quality information about our regional trail assets are being disseminated in a timely and appropriate manner. In addition, ECTA has brought on board a Communications and Outreach Coordinator to help facilitate the promotion of area trails.