



Enchanted Circle Trails Association

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

ECTA Quarterly Report Apr-Jun 2024

Summary

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

Trail Maintenance

Adopt-a-Trail:

ECTA hosted **8 Adopt-a-Trail events** with our community partners during this quarter, clearing, maintaining or constructing **23 miles of trail** with the help of **65 volunteers** who contributed **360 hours** of service to our community trails.

Trail Stewardship Events:

ECTA hosted a trail cleanup and re-route day on the El Nogal nature trail for National Trails Day. **12 volunteers** contributed 60 hours to closing user-created trails, installing new signs, and developing a new re-route to pull trail users out of the riparian flood zone of the Rio Fernando.

Trail Master Training:

This year's two-day Trail Master Training had a record turnout despite falling on Memorial Day weekend. **20 participants** joined ECTA and the USFS at Red River to learn about trail maintenance best practices and put those skills to use. Together we worked on rehabilitating the **Red River Nature Trail** which had suffered from recent flooding. The crew also worked on the **Goose Creek Trail**, clearing deadfall, and improving drainage along the first 3 miles of trail.

Rocky Mountain Youth Corp Training:

ECTA conducted a 3-day trail maintenance class for crew leaders of the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, as well as Wilderness Rangers from Taos Pueblo. The crew worked on drainage on the Rift Valley trails, as well as cleared vegetation and improved drainage along the Comales Trail.

Trail Outreach

Trail Outreach and Communication:

Our trail outreach and communication efforts provide timely information about trails and trail issues and provide pathways for folks to get involved with the trail community. Current outlets include social media (Facebook, Instagram), our website, and print media. During the last quarter, we increased Facebook followers by **2%**, Instagram followers by **7%**, and email subscribers by **11%**. Additionally, we saw a **54%** increase in website visits.

Trailforks:

ECTA continues working with TrailForks, a comprehensive multi-sport mapping app, to help ensure that area trails are **properly mapped and designated for accepted use**. We have been updating trail information, location, and allowed user groups. Trailforks is free for all, but a pro subscription will further support ECTA's work: <https://www.trailforks.com/pro/?aid=150>



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Community and Strategic Planning

ECTA remains actively engaged in various community planning and outreach activities to ensure that trails and the healthy outcomes they provide our region are considered.

Cultural & Outdoor Asset Mapping Study for Equitable and Sustainable Development:

ECTA's Director, Loren Bell has been selected to join the advisory committee for this exciting new endeavor. The project's primary focus is to preserve cultural treasures and promote sustainable development that directly benefits the community, striving for a balanced approach and a more diversified local economy. Through safeguarding heritage and implementing equitable strategies, the project aims to improve the lives of residents, ensuring a positive and lasting impact on Taos County.

Trail Development / Roadway Improvements / Connectivity	
Project	Status
NM150 Multi-Use Pathway from US64 to Arroyo Seco (Taos Pueblo/NMDOT)	ECTA and Taos Pueblo hosted an engineering kickoff meeting to establish priorities and guidance. ECTA and the engineers also consulted with NMDOT on pedestrian safety. Surveying will begin in Q3.
Questa to Red River Trail (Questa/Red River/USFS)	Crews completed surveys for two important bird species that may be affected by a trail: Northern Goshawk and Mexican Spotted Owl. ECTA refined the alignment of the trail in consultation with Chevron which owns parcels through which the trail may pass. ECTA and the Village of Questa have applied for a grant for additional funding for the survey and engineering phase.
Largo/Lama Canyon Trails (Questa/USFS)	ECTA processed community comments about potential trail alignments and began cataloging existing trails and roads that could be incorporated into the system. ECTA began consultation with Taos Pueblo on their traditional uses of the area, and how to ensure trail development does not interfere.
Talpa Ridge System (USFS)	No action was taken this quarter.
Rio Grande Trail - Bridge to Bridge Segment (BLM)	No action was taken this quarter.
Horsethief Mesa Trails (BLM)	ECTA helped the Taos Mountain Bike Association apply for a grant to fund Phase 1 of the new trailhead development near the solid waste transfer station.
Taos Valley Overlook (BLM)	No action was taken this quarter.
Outward Link Trail (Town of Taos)	The lawsuit filed by the Town of Taos to regain access to the Town's easement continues to work its way through the legal system.



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Bull of the Woods to Big Ditch (USFS)	No action was taken this quarter.
Miranda Canyon (USFS)	ECTA and the Carson National Forest began scouting potential trail alignments within Miranda Canyon that align with the outcomes of the Miranda Canyon advisory committee's goals and agendas.
Palo Flechado Trail (USFS)	ECTA hosted several trail work events, chiseling away at the Palo Flechado trail construction . ECTA is working with the USFS on bridge design and construction.
Devisadero Trail (USFS)	ECTA hosted a trail cleanup day with Red Willow Hospice. ECTA is looking for qualified contractors to help reconstruct the retaining wall at the Devisadero trailhead.
North Boundary Trail (USFS)	ECTA began clearing the trail corridor for the re-route which will help mitigate erosion issues along the "escalator" section of the trail.