



Enchanted Circle Trails Association

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

ECTA Quarterly Report Oct-Dec 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:

Taking advantage of the warm weather this quarter, ECTA hosted **6 Adopt-a-Trail events** with our community partners, clearing, maintaining or constructing **19 miles of trail** with the help of **22 volunteers** who contributed **148 hours** of service to our community's public trails.

Trail Stewardship Events:

ECTA facilitated an additional **2 events** for **112 hours** of volunteer trail work on community trails, including working with **Vista Grande High School** to provide area youth with experience in trail construction, and maintenance.

Trail Skills

ECTA contractor, Courtney Arel, attended an in-depth cross-cut saw sharpening course. The two-person crosscut is a staple of wilderness trails maintenance, and good vintage saws can provide decades of use with proper maintenance — or be a misery whip with poor sharpening.

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. During this last quarter we increased our campaign of trail information, and trail use benefits, broadening our messaging. Followers across all social media (Facebook, Instagram, Mailchimp) **increased by 2%** subsequently.

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>

Community Planning and other Outreach

ECTA remains actively engaged in various community planning and outreach activities to ensure that trail priorities are considered and implemented as feasible throughout the region and beyond.



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Village of Taos Ski Valley Trail and Greenspace Plan

ECTA assisted VTSV with developing a grant proposal and application to hopefully secure funding for this community engagement process. A comprehensive trail plan is necessary to effectively pursue funding for and development of trails and green spaces in the Village of Taos Ski Valley (VTSV) and surrounding areas.

Village of Angel Fire Trail Planning

ECTA is excited to re-engage with the Village of Angel Fire (VAF) as they revamp their trail planning and priorities. ECTA met with the VAF Trails Committee to explore opportunities for engagement to help ensure that the Village goals are met while supporting the broader regional trail plan implementation. ECTA will continue to solidify that engagement in the coming quarter.

Town of Taos Safe Streets and Roads for All

ECTA conferred with the Town of Taos on their safety audit grant application (which was successful), and is eager to provide public support and input during this process. While this may feel like "yet another" planning process, the SS4A program requires a safety audit to unlock project implementation funding.

Community Weekend at Taos Ski Valley

ECTA had a blast tabling at Taos Ski Valley's biannual Community Weekend. It was a great opportunity to meet community members, educate them on the exciting trails projects that are happening in the Enchanted Circle, and to hear their input about what they'd like to see for the future of trails. And as an added bonus, ECTA got to hang out with Smokey the Bear and our pals over at the Forest Service.

ECTA's Youth Conservation Corps Crew

ECTA submitted a grant application to fund our very own and first-ever Youth Conservation Corps Crew. With the support of Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, ECTA will act as the project manager for the YCC Crew: identifying trail maintenance priorities with the Carson National Forest and then leading out the crew on those projects.

Trail Development / Roadway Improvements / Connectivity	
Project	Status
NM150 Multi-Use Pathway from US64 to Arroyo Seco (Taos Pueblo/NMDOT)	Abeyta engineering has completed the 50% design plans, and ECTA will begin to share these with community meetings to gather feedback. These plans will also inform estimates for construction, and ECTA has begun to pursue possible funding sources.
Questa to Red River Trail (Questa/Red River/USFS)	The NEPA contractor continues to move the environmental process forward with the USFS. Public scoping meetings will begin this quarter. ECTA continued to work with the USFS and Chevron Mining on potential easements/access for the trail through Chevron property. ECTA assisted the Questa Economic Development Fund in applying for a grant for additional planning funds to cover changes in survey requirements.



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Largo/Lama Canyon Trails (Questa/USFS)	ECTA digitized existing routes and potential new trails scouted this summer. The multi-use trail system will include routes close to the village, as well as longer routes into the National Forest.
Talpa Ridge System (USFS)	ECTA joined the USFS and partners on a field scout of potential trail alignments that will begin to address user management while incorporating community feedback.
Rio Grande Trail - Bridge to Bridge Segment (BLM)	No action was taken this quarter.
Horsethief Mesa Trails (BLM)	Phase 1 of the Horsethief Trailhead construction, was completed providing parking for 8+ vehicles near the County transfer station. ECTA assisted the BLM with managing the project and securing supplies funded by a NM Trails+ Grant. ECTA hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the accomplishment by the USFS, BLM, Taos County, TMBA, and other stakeholders. ECTA will pursue options for funding of Phase 2 & 3 with the BLM next quarter.
Taos Valley Overlook (BLM)	No action was taken this quarter.
Outward Link Trail (Town of Taos)	No action was taken this quarter.
Bull of the Woods to Big Ditch (USFS)	ECTA has encouraged the USFS to submit the definitive Wilderness boundary survey to include amendments made in 2014. It is ECTA's understanding that the Wilderness does not include the Elizabethtown Ditch which would make an ideal corridor for this trail.
Miranda Canyon (USFS)	ECTA and the Carson National Forest continued 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)	No action was taken this quarter.
El Nogal Trail (USFS)	ECTA had planned a bridge reconstruction day, however that event was canceled due to the only significant snow yet of the season.