



Enchanted Circle Trails Association

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

ECTA Quarterly Report Jan-Mar 2025

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.*)

Note: due to disruptions within the Federal Government, several projects ECTA has been working on with the US Forest Service were put on hold. We are optimistic that we will be able to continue a productive partnership during the next quarter.

Trail Maintenance

Adopt-a-Trail:

While winter weather prevented field work, ECTA began reaching out to potential Adopt-a-Trail partners for 2025, and has secured commitment from five additional groups/businesses willing to help maintain our area trails. This brings our total engagement to **21 partners**.

Trail Stewardship Events:

No trail stewardship events were held this quarter.

Trail Skills:

ECTA began planning for our annual **Trail Master Training**, a 2-day field course in trail maintenance basics to be held in **Peñasco on May 17-18**. The free course is open to the general public, with Adopt-a-Trail partners encouraged to attend.

We are also hosting a **1st Aid and CPR course** for volunteers and the public, as well as **Cross-Cut Saw certification course** to increase capacity with and passion for these historic saws, vital for keeping wilderness trails clear.

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 quarter, followers on Facebook increased by **2%**, Instagram by **4%** and newsletter subscribers by **4%**.

Trailforks:



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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.

Arroyo Seco Community Center Trail:

ECTA assisted the Arroyo Seco Community Center in their (successful!) application for a grant to construct a **fitness and native plant trail** around the Community Center property. This improved surface trail will increase the recreation and exercise opportunities in Arroyo Seco.

Town of Taos Crosswalk Improvements:

In coordination with the Town of Taos, ECTA applied for a grant to improve **signs at crosswalks** within the town center, and fund the installation of **bicycle racks**.

Outdoor Recreation Day at the State Capitol:

ECTA's interactive display educated the public and local lawmakers about what makes trails sustainable, while distributing trail maps for the Enchanted Circle Region. This event coordinated by the State Outdoor Recreation Division showed lawmakers how important outdoor access is to our communities.

Taos County Balloon Field Trail:

ECTA is excited to support Taos County's development of a **trail along the Rio Fernando river** connecting the county admin building to Los Pandos road, with future plans for continuation along Los Pandos road.

Taos County Comprehensive Plan:

Supporting Taos County's efforts to update their comprehensive plan, ECTA provided suggestions to **strengthen the County's commitment to alternative transportation** opportunities, including trails and bike paths. ECTA continues to search for opportunities to support the county in their desire to implement existing trail and green space plans.

Rio Grande Trail - Santa Fe to Taos:



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Several groups (including ECTA) have begun meeting to brainstorm feasible alignments for the Rio Grande Trail between Santa Fe and Taos.

Trail Development / Roadway Improvements / Connectivity	
Project	Status
NM150 Multi-Use Pathway from US64 to Arroyo Seco (Taos Pueblo/NMDOT)	ECTA met with stakeholders and potential partners in the development of the NM150 trail while simultaneously has been searching for funding sources for project construction.
Questa to Red River Trail (Questa/Red River/USFS)	The first public scoping meeting kicked off the Environmental Assessment process for this project. Response was overwhelmingly positive. The Questa Economic Development Fund was awarded funding to help support this trail project.
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.
Foothills Trail Connections and Sustainability (USFS)	No action was taken this quarter.
Rio Grande Trail – Bridge to Bridge Segment (BLM)	ECTA has begun exploring possible alternative alignments to avoid archaeological concerns.
Horsethief Mesa Trails (BLM)	Following on the success of Phase I of the parking area, ECTA worked with Taos Mountain Bike Association to secure grant funding for phase II of the project. With the Friends of the National Monument group, ECTA volunteers cleared several thousand pounds of dumped waste along the phase II corridor.
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)	No action was taken this quarter.
Miranda Canyon (USFS)	No action was taken this quarter.



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Palo Flechado Trail (USFS)	No action was taken this quarter.
El Nogal Trail (USFS)	No action was taken this quarter.