



# Enchanted Circle Trails Association

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

## ECTA Quarterly Report Apr-Jun 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: Disruptions within the federal government funding and staffing continued to interrupt some of ECTA's projects; however, we were still able to hit the field season running thanks to non-federal funding sources.*

### Trail Maintenance

#### Youth Conservation Corps Crew:

- In partnership with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, ECTA is hosting our first-ever Youth Conservation Corps crew. This program hires **local youth** to work full-time on trail construction and maintenance, providing employment as well as job and life-skills training. The crew worked 5 days a week throughout the month of June on Carson National Forest trails and will continue through the month of July.

So far they have:

- Maintained 5.5 miles of trail to standard, including local favorites like the El Nogal Nature Trail, Columbine Canyon Trail, and Deer Creek Trail
- Constructed 1,800 feet of the Palo Flechado reroute
- Naturalized 100 feet of the old South Boundary alignment and 100 feet of social trails around the El Nogal trailhead
- Moved existing signage to better align with the new South Boundary reroute and painted the western bridge at the El Nogal Recreation Area

#### Adopt-a-Trail:

- Our Adopt-a-Trail program continues strong, and we hosted **18 events** during this quarter, clearing **60 miles** of trail with the help of **448 hours** of volunteer work. For a full list of our current Adopt-a-Trail partners, see [enchantedcircletrails.org/adopt](https://enchantedcircletrails.org/adopt).

#### Trail Stewardship Events:

- ECTA joined the Moreno Valley Trekkers in Angel Fire for a day of trail celebration held on **National Trails Day**. Sometimes it's good to put down the tools and just enjoy being out on our public lands.



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## Trail Skills:

- **1st Aid and CPR (May 10):** ECTA hosted this training at the Carson National Forest for those who want more knowledge about how to respond to emergencies in the field.
- **Trail Master Training (May 17-18):** Our annual 2-day field course was a success with 18 volunteers participating in the free course, including several Adopt-a-Trail partners and other community members who are passionate about giving back. The participants learned basic trail maintenance theory and practice and worked on several miles of trail off NM518 near Sipapu.
- **Cross-Cut Saw Course (May 31-June 1):** ECTA's first Cross-Cut Saw Certification course was attended by 12 participants who learned the skill and art of two-person saws. Not only are these tools fun to work with, but they are also the best option for clearing trails in Wilderness where chainsaws are prohibited.

## 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, we increased followers on Facebook by **3.4%**, Instagram by **3.3%**, and newsletter subscribers by **16.6%**. Overall website visitation increased by **3.38%**.

### 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 added 1 additional trail to the map and cleaned up several routes for others.

### Community Weekend:

- ECTA tabled at Taos Ski Valley's 3rd Annual Community Weekend. Throughout the day we chatted with folks about the many projects and programs that ECTA is spearheading in the Enchanted Circle Region. We also had the opportunity to meet other organizations and non-profits that are also doing equally as important work.

### Not For Sale Rally:

- ECTA tabled at the Not For Sale Rally hosted by Friends of Rio Grande del Norte. The threat to our public lands is at an all-time high, and ECTA is doing everything possible to advocate to keep our public lands in public hands.

## Trail Development / Roadway Improvements / Connectivity



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Project	Status
<b>NM150 Multi-Use Pathway from US64 to Arroyo Seco (Taos Pueblo/NMDOT)</b>	ECTA met with Taos Pueblo Warchief's Office about the design progress and next steps. We are waiting on a response to questions about right-of-way usage to complete the engineering plans.
<b>Questa to Red River Trail (Questa/Red River/USFS)</b>	Field crews resumed collection of archaeological, biological, and topological data as part of the NEPA process required by the Forest Service for new trail development. Additional public meetings will be held in Q3.
<b>Largo/Lama Canyon Trails (Questa/USFS)</b>	ECTA continued fieldwork, scouting potential routes to provide a multi-use trail system for the Village of Questa within the Carson National Forest.
<b>Foothills Trail Connections and Sustainability (USFS)</b>	No action was taken this quarter.
<b>Rio Grande Trail – Bridge to Bridge Segment (BLM)</b>	ECTA continues to explore viable routes for this segment of the Rio Grande Trail.
<b>Horsethief Mesa Trails (BLM)</b>	No action was taken this quarter.
<b>Taos Valley Overlook (BLM)</b>	No action was taken this quarter.
<b>Outward Link Trail (Town of Taos)</b>	The Town of Taos defended its easement through private property during a trial in April. Legal counsel has submitted closing arguments, and we expect a decision soon.
<b>Bull of the Woods to Big Ditch (USFS)</b>	No action was taken this quarter.
<b>Miranda Canyon (USFS)</b>	ECTA and the USFS began re-evaluating routes for recreational trails in the region and will be conducting field surveys of potential alignments during Q3.
<b>Palo Flechado Trail (USFS)</b>	ECTA's YCC crew, as well as the Taos Land Trust YCC crew, continued working on the new trail construction of Palo Flechado and are close to connecting with Bull Springs Meadow.
<b>El Nogal Trail (USFS)</b>	ECTA and USFS realigned the bridge at El Nogal to feed into the new re-route that avoids the riparian area and spring flooding. ECTA's YCC



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	crew rehabilitated the old trail and re-positioned signs to direct users to the new trail.
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