



Enchanted Circle Trails Association

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

ECTA Quarterly Report Jul-Sep 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.*)

Trail Maintenance

Youth Conservation Corps Crew:

- In partnership with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, ECTA finished hosting our first-ever Youth Conservation Corps crew. This program hired **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 July on Carson National Forest trails, completing the following, among others:

- Routine trail maintenance on the North Boundary, Capulin Ice Caves, Gavilan, and Wheeler Peak trails
- Improving dispersed camping sites along Cabresto Canyon Road
- Repainting bathrooms and cleaning fire pits at the developed campgrounds along Highway 150
- Finishing trail construction on the Carson National Forest's newest trail: Palo Flechado.

Throughout their season, ECTA's YCC Crew **improved 19 miles of trail and constructed almost 0.5 mile of new trail.**

Adopt-a-Trail:

- Our Adopt-a-Trail program continues strong, and we hosted **34 events** during this quarter, working on **56 miles** of trail with the help of **759 hours** of volunteer work. Those events included:
 - Hosting ECTA's first-ever overnight, backcountry project
 - Clearing deadfall on the Lobo Peak trail from Flag Mountain to the junction with the Italianos Canyon trail

For a full list of our current Adopt-a-Trail partners, see enchantedcircletrails.org/adopt.

Trail Skills:

- ECTA contractor, Courtney Arel, attended a three day crosscut training where she instructed and evaluated crosscut sawyers from different organizations around the region.

Trail Stewardship and Support Events:



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- ECTA hosted an annual **Public Lands Day** volunteer event, during which we put the finishing touches on the Palo Flechado Trail, the first new trail to be completed on the Carson National Forest in recent history.
- ECTA volunteers supported two trail events: the **Up and Over** races and **Bull of the Woods Trail Races**, both held at Taos Ski Valley. Not only do these events increase the excitement for area trails and bring new visitors to our community, but race organizers donate a portion of their proceeds to support ECTA's mission. This year, **66 volunteers donated 467 hours** in support of these events.

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 **2%**, Instagram by **4.6%**, and newsletter subscribers by **2.5%**. Overall website visitation increased by **19%**.

23rd Annual Rio Grande Trail Commission Meeting:

ECTA director, Loren Bell, attended the Rio Grande Trail Commission's site tour at Horsethief Mesa and educated attendees on the role that ECTA is playing in developing a safe, sustainable alignment over the mesa and down into the gorge.

TrailFunds:

ECTA has begun exploring the [Trailfunds.org](https://trailfunds.org) ecosystem to help increase support for regional trails. The startup app is based in Colorado, but with our help is looking to expand into New Mexico to help connect trail users with the organizations that support them.

Trail Map Poster:

At the request of a trail enthusiast, ECTA began developing a trail map poster that will be distributed into local stores and outlets throughout the region this spring.

Taos Ski Valley Inc.'s Collaboration Celebration:

ECTA attended TSVI's Collaboration Celebration: a dinner and awards ceremony to congratulate the grant recipients for TSVI's Uplift Youth Fund.

Trail Development / Roadway Improvements / Connectivity

Project	Status
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NM150 Multi-Use Pathway from US64 to Arroyo Seco (Taos Pueblo/NMDOT)	Designs for this project are on hold as we continue to wait for clarification from Taos Pueblo regarding acceptable use of highway right of way.
Questa to Red River Trail (Questa/Red River/USFS)	All field work has been completed for the Environmental Assessment, and we have completed the public comment period for the draft EA. Engineering teams surveyed all proposed bridge and parking locations, and are working on draft design plans.
Largo/Lama Canyon Trails (Questa/USFS)	ECTA continued fieldwork, scouting potential routes to provide a multi-use trail system for the Village of Questa within the Carson National Forest.
Foothills Trail Connections and Sustainability (USFS)	No action was taken this quarter.
Rio Grande Trail – Bridge to Bridge Segment (BLM)	ECTA co-hosted a field trip for the Rio Grande Trail Commission to explore next steps for this trail. We continue to look for solutions for re-routing one segment of proposed trail to avoid sensitive areas.
Horsethief Mesa Trails (BLM)	• Work began on Phase II of the Horsethief trailhead construction. ECTA secured funding for this work in coordination with the Taos Mountain Bike Association, and the BLM. • The Rio Grande Trail commission officially recognized a portion of the Horsethief Loop as part of the Rio Grande Trail alignment.
Taos Valley Overlook (BLM)	ECTA hosted a trail-work day with the Field Institute of Taos and the Taos Mountain Bike Association to address a blowout caused by recent rain events.
Outward Link Trail (Town of Taos)	The Town of Taos continues to wait for judgement on this case.
Bull of the Woods to Big Ditch (USFS)	No action was taken this quarter.
Miranda Canyon (USFS)	ECTA conducted field surveys of potential alignments, working to get Phase I ready for approval by the Carson National Forest in early 2026.
Palo Flechado Trail (USFS)	ECTA's YCC crew along with other volunteers finally completed the Palo Flechado trail connecting the pass to Bull Springs Meadow. We will hold a ribbon cutting for the Forest's newest trail next spring!



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Village of Taos Ski Valley Trail and Greenspace Plan	ECTA is contracted with the Village of Taos Ski Valley to develop a trail and greenspace plan for the village. We have begun initial site explorations, and will be holding a series of community and stakeholder meetings during the next two quarters.
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