



Enchanted Circle Trails Association

Developing, maintaining and promoting trails in northern New Mexico
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Request for Information and Budgetary Cost Estimate Questa to Red River Trail Project: Trail Design and Construction

Issued by: Enchanted Circle Trails Association

RFI release date: Friday, Sep 4, 2026

Responses due: October 16, 2026 5:00 p.m. MT

Submit responses to: jmanhoff@enchantedcircletrails.org

Project location: Questa to Red River Trail corridor, between La Bobita Campground and the Town of Red River, Red River, New Mexico

Anticipated project start: Pending funding and future procurement

1. Purpose of this Request

The Enchanted Circle Trails Association, in coordination with project partners, is seeking budgetary cost estimates and preliminary recommendations from qualified trail design and construction firms for the Questa to Red River Trail.

This RFI is intended to inform probable costs, design and construction options, contractor availability, mobilization, project phasing, and future procurement. Respondents may recommend the most practical and cost-effective approach to final trail layout, construction, access, staging, and project delivery.

This RFI is for planning and budgeting purposes only. It is not a formal solicitation or request for binding bids and does not obligate ECTA, the Carson National Forest, or any project partner to proceed with the work. Responses should include budgetary estimates, preliminary recommendations, and an appropriate planning-level contingency or cost range.

ECTA is issuing a separate RFI for bridge design, fabrication, and installation. Firms capable of providing both trail and bridge services may respond to both RFIs but should distinguish their qualifications, assumptions, and planning-level costs for each discipline.

2. Project Background

The Questa to Red River Trail is an approved multi-use trail corridor connecting Eagle Rock Lake near Questa with the western edge of the Town of Red River along the New Mexico State Road 38 corridor in northern New Mexico.

The project will provide an off-highway recreation and transportation connection between the two communities while improving access to Carson National Forest lands and connecting existing recreation areas, campgrounds, trailheads, and public lands.

The Carson National Forest completed an Environmental Assessment and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on April 9, 2026, approving construction of the trail.

3. RFI Overview

This RFI focuses on approximately 11.9 miles of proposed trail extending from Eagle Rock Lake near Questa to the western edge of the Town of Red River. The corridor includes approximately 10.6 miles of engineered soft-surface trail and 1.3 miles of primitive trail, along with trailheads, parking areas, bridge approaches, drainage features, signage, and related improvements. The project is being evaluated to help the project team understand current market pricing, design-build options, construction logistics, appropriate phasing, and probable costs.

Maps of the approved 60m wide corridor are available to help respondents understand the proposed alignment trail types, site conditions, access constraints, construction complexity, and preliminary scope of work.

3.1. General Specifications

This RFI relates to the future alignment refinement and construction of approximately 11.9 miles of new multi-use trail. Eventual RFPs may include smaller segments depending on funding availability.

The anticipated scope includes trail design and construction and associated work necessary to provide a complete and functional trail, including but not limited to:

- Refining and field fitting the alignment within the approved 60-meter-wide corridor;
- Clearing the construction corridor;
- Constructing approximately 10.6 miles of improved soft-surface trail;
- Constructing approximately 1.3 miles of primitive trail near the Red River end of the corridor;
- Installing necessary drainage, erosion-control, and slope-stabilization features;
- Constructing retaining walls and other trail structures where required;
- Constructing bridge approaches and trail connections;
- Restoring disturbed areas; and
- Completing other associated work necessary to provide a functional trail.

Current planning anticipates a construction corridor approximately 10 to 12 feet wide and a finished natural-surface tread approximately 6 to 8 feet wide where conditions allow.

The trail is intended to accommodate walking, hiking, bicycling, Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, horseback riding, fishing access, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, and other non-motorized recreation.

Trail design and construction must comply with the conditions established in the Final Environmental Assessment and associated decision documents. Alignment refinement should account for terrain, drainage, construction access, resource protection, and other site conditions.

3.2. Trail Conditions and Access

The corridor includes a range of construction conditions. Some portions are accessible from NM 38, campgrounds, trailheads, or other established access points. Other portions cross steep, rocky, riparian, or otherwise constrained terrain and may require smaller equipment or limited-disturbance construction methods.

Where practical, temporary access should follow the proposed trail corridor so that disturbed areas can be incorporated into the finished trail.

3.3. Anticipated Work Schedule

Funding has not yet been secured. This RFI will help establish probable costs, refine the scope, and inform one or more future RFPs.

Funding may become available in early 2027, with construction completed by December 2027. Respondents should identify anticipated lead times and availability so the project can proceed efficiently if funding is secured.

Construction will likely be divided into phases or work packages based on available funding, contractor capacity, access, seasonal limitations, and project readiness.

4. Additional Project Considerations

4.1. Forest Service Standards and Accessibility

Trail design and construction must comply with applicable Carson National Forest requirements, project design criteria, permits, and agency approvals.

The trail should meet applicable Forest Service accessibility requirements, including the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines and Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines, based on site conditions and applicable exceptions.

Respondents should identify any design criteria or additional information needed to refine trail specifications and cost estimates.

4.2. Environmental Protection and Site Restoration

The proposed trail passes through riparian areas, drainages, forested slopes, and other environmentally sensitive settings. Construction will need to protect waterways, vegetation, cultural resources, and surrounding natural resources.

Work may include temporary erosion and sediment controls, protection of existing vegetation, restoration of staging and access areas, and other measures required by the Carson National Forest or applicable permits.

4.3. Coordination with Bridge and Other Project Work

Trail construction may need to be coordinated with bridge fabrication and installation, parking-area improvements, access work, agency requirements, permitting conditions, and other project partners.

5. Requested Response Components

Please consolidate responses into 1 PDF of no more than 8 pages. The project team is seeking concise, useful information that will help refine the project scope, budget, phasing, and future RFP.

Please include the following information in your response.

5.1. Company Information

Provide the company name, primary contact, phone number, email, website, and office location.

5.2. Relevant Experience

Please briefly describe your experience with multi-use trails, natural-surface or aggregate trails, public agency or conservation projects, and work in New Mexico or the western United States.

If available, provide examples of comparable projects completed within the past five years, particularly those involving mountainous or riparian terrain, constrained access, public lands, phased construction, design-build delivery, or coordination with land management agencies.

Include project locations, approximate trail lengths, and project values where practical.

5.3. Technical Approach

Please provide a brief overview of your anticipated technical approach, including methods and equipment used to field fit the alignment, clear the corridor, construct and surface the trail, install drainage and erosion-control features, stabilize slopes, and restore disturbed areas.

5.4. Budgetary Cost Estimate

Please provide a non-binding, planning-level cost estimate for trail design and construction. Where practical, distinguish among improved trail, primitive trail, and technically complex or constrained segments.

- Estimates may be organized into the following general categories:
- Design refinement, field fitting, and preconstruction services;
- Corridor clearing and site preparation;
- Excavation, benching, drainage and erosion control;

- Mobilization and demobilization; and
- Recommended contingency.

Please provide costs by linear foot to help inform potential project phasing based on funding availability. Where practical, identify cost differences associated with:

- Moderate terrain with conventional equipment access;
- Steep, rocky, or technically complex terrain;
- Riparian or otherwise constrained areas;
- Improved soft-surface trail; and
- Primitive trail.

Please identify major assumptions, exclusions, anticipated cost escalation, and the expected accuracy range of the estimate. A detailed cost breakdown is welcome but not required.

5.5. Schedule and Availability

Please provide anticipated lead times for design refinement, mobilization, and construction.

Please identify earliest likely availability for this type of work, general capacity during 2027, preferred construction season, and any anticipated staffing, equipment, material, or subcontractor constraints.

6. Submission Instructions

Please submit responses by email to:

jmanhoff@enchantedcircletrails.org

Responses are requested by Friday, October 16, 2026 5:00 p.m. MT. Please submit responses as a PDF attachment. Please consolidate responses into 1 PDF of no more than 8 pages.

Questions about this RFI may be submitted to info@enchantedcircletrails.org by the close of this RFI. Responses to questions may be shared with other potential respondents if the project team determines the information is useful to all parties.

ECTA will not reimburse respondents for costs associated with preparing a response, attending a meeting, participating in a site visit, or providing follow-up information.

7. Use of Responses

Responses to this RFI will be used for planning and budgeting purposes only. Information received may help the project team refine the trail scope, update cost assumptions, determine feasible phasing, identify funding needs, and prepare one or more future Requests for Proposals.

Submission of a response does not create any obligation for ECTA or any project partner to issue a contract, award work, or proceed with the project. Respondents will not be compensated for preparing responses to this RFI.

8. Attachments

The following materials are provided with this RFI:

- Attachment A: Approved trail corridor KML & GPX
- Attachment B: Project vicinity map
- Attachment C: Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact.