Enchanted Circle Trails Association
Developing, maintaining, and promoting trails in northern New Mexico
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ECTA Quarterly Report
July-September 2026

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

During Q3, we had 126 individuals join us for 22 Adopt-a-Trail events, during which they contributed 797 hours of volunteer trail maintenance on 44 miles of trail.

Highlights include:

- Installed a roll-over cattle-guard on a popular trail at Amole Canyon showing that ranching allotments and recreation can exist in harmony.
- Installed five much-needed wayfinding signs at confusing intersections along the Elliott Barker trail.
- Improved the trail tread along the Bull of the Woods Equestrian Bypass Route by removing large amounts of loose rock and improving drainage to mitigate further erosion.

Trail Stewardship

ECTA hosted two projects celebrating National Public Lands Day:

- In partnership with Taos Ski Valley, Inc., we improved drainage and naturalized unsustainable and confusing user-created trails along the Williams Lake trail
- In partnership with Wild Earth Llama Adventures, we llamapacked four miles up the Columbine Canyon trail where we spent three days in the backcountry cutting out deadfall from the upper portions of the trail

Youth Conservation Corps

ECTA's Youth Conservation Corps continued working through the month of July on trail maintenance projects throughout the region. Through partnership with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, the ECTA crew maintained 9.7 miles of trail.

The crew completed deferred maintenance on the Mondragon Loop, El Nogal Nature trail, South Boundary trail, Yerba Canyon trail, Manzanita Canyon trail, the Big and Little Arsenic trails, and the Red River Nature trail.

American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacation Crew
ECTA hosted a crew of volunteers from around the country for a week of trail work at Lost Lake. The crew improved trail tread by removing large loose rock and widening the trail, cleared a scree slide and reestablished the trail, constructed five rock retaining walls to mitigate erosion, and cleared encroaching vegetation along two miles of the trail. And as a bonus, the crew summited Wheeler Peak!

Trail Crew Grant

Recognizing that many regional trail projects require more sustained effort than volunteer work sessions can provide, ECTA applied for a grant to support a professional trail crew next season. The goal is to hire experienced trail workers at competitive wages for multi-day work sessions focused on larger projects.

Devisadero Retaining Wall

Gecko Landscaping completed the retaining wall at the Devisadero trailhead. The new wall and staircase, built with locally sourced natural cut stone, provide a more durable and safer, while also more attractive, approach to one of the region's most beloved trails.

Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument Stewardship

In partnership with the Friends of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, ECTA has begun exploring opportunities to coordinate trail stewardship events and expand its Adopt-a-Trail program to include BLM-managed trails within and around the monument.

Trail Events

Taos Ski Valley's Up & Over 10K Trail Run

ECTA recruited 29 volunteers and facilitated 147 hours of volunteer work to ensure that the annual Up & Over 10K Trail Run ran smoothly and safely.

Taos Ski Valley, Inc.'s 10th Annual Bull of the Woods Trail Race
ECTA recruited 57 volunteers and facilitated 398 hours of volunteer work to ensure that this monumental and epic trail race was a success for the organizers and participants.

Trail Promotion

Unified Trail Signage

With financial support from the Village of Taos Ski Valley, ECTA continues to work with Gizmo Productions to develop a unified trail signage system that helps users find and navigate area trails. The system will include roadside directional signs, trailhead kiosks, and wayfinding signs. The goal is to establish a consistent visual identity across the region while allowing each municipality the flexibility to express its own character.

Communications and Outreach

ECTA's communications efforts provide timely information about trails and trail-related issues while creating opportunities for people to get involved in the trail community. During the quarter, Facebook followers increased by **2.3%**, Instagram followers by **3.2%**, and newsletter subscribers by **1.9%**. Website homepage views increased by **29.6%**.

Trail Apps

ECTA continues to invest in Trailforks as a unified platform for trail information and issue reporting. We are also exploring ways to establish a shared source of trail information and reporting that can help coordinate maintenance efforts among the various agencies and organizations responsible for regional trails.

Trail Accessibility Information Audit

ECTA continued working with the Village of Angel Fire to explore options for a regional trail accessibility information audit. We released a Request for Proposals and identified several firms across the country with the expertise and capacity to conduct a region-wide survey. ECTA will continue working with Angel Fire and other partners to identify the funding needed to standardize accessibility information for regional trails.

Lodgers Tax Grant Application - Trail Signage

Promoting regional trails without providing adequate information at trailheads makes for a less-than-ideal visitor experience. ECTA applied for a Taos County Lodgers' Tax grant to refresh trailhead and wayfinding signs on some of the region's more popular trails, improving the consistency, safety, and quality of the visitor experience

Trail Planning and Outreach

Trail Salsa

The monthly gathering of regional trail minds continues to take shape. Envisioned as a collaborative that keeps land managers, government agencies, municipalities, and user groups connected and working together, Trail Salsa is already showing promise. Members supported one another on Trails+ grant applications and began identifying opportunities for future collaboration. ECTA looks forward to building on this foundation and realizing the potential of this group.

Angel Fire Forest Trail Connectivity Plan

ECTA continues to work with the Village of Angel Fire to identify opportunities for connecting existing Village trails with neighboring public lands, including identifying new routes, and exploring options for formalizing existing informal routes in and around the Elliot Barker trail area.

Village of Taos Ski Valley Trail Plan

ECTA continued refining the community-developed master trail plan for the Village of Taos Ski Valley, incorporating community feedback and input from the Parks and Recreation Committee. The plan is expected to be finalized this quarter for consideration and anticipated adoption by the Village Council.

Town of Taos Gravel Pit Grant

ECTA provided support for the Town of Taos' Trails+ grant application to develop new recreational amenities at the municipal gravel pit. The proposal outlines an initial phase of improvements, including a formalized parking area, pump track, skate park, and dog park. Future phases are envisioned to include a walking path and natural-surface singletrack trails.

Trail Development / Roadway Improvements / Connectivity	
Project	**Status**
NM150 Multi-Use Pathway from US64 to Arroyo Seco (Taos Pueblo/NMDOT)	Following consultation with Taos Pueblo and NMDOT, Abeyta Engineering is finalizing the engineering plans for this project. Once complete, ECTA can begin pursuing funding for construction.
Questa to Red River Trail (Questa/Red River/USFS)	ECTA issued Requests for Information to engage potential contractors for bridge construction and installation, as well as firms capable of designing and building the trail tread. Senator Heinrich has submitted a funding request for the project as part of the federal budget process. ECTA is working to ensure the project is "shovel-ready" if funding comes through.
Largo/Lama Canyon Trails (Questa/USFS)	Based on community and land-manager feedback, ECTA is updating the final plan for submission to the Forest Service where it can hopefully find a place in the queue for further consideration
Foothills Trail Connections and Sustainability (USFS)	No action was taken this quarter.
Rio Grande Trail: Bridge to Bridge Segment (BLM)	ECTA continues to reach out to neighboring landowners to find potential connections for this section of the Rio Grande Trail.
Horsethief Mesa Trails (BLM)	ECTA selected an archaeology contractor to survey proposed trail alignments and help ensure that trail development avoids impacts to cultural resources. Field surveys are scheduled to begin this fall.

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.

US64 Redevelopment Plans

NMDOT is redesigning US64 between the intersection with NM150 (the Old Blinking Light) and Tres Piedras. As a stakeholder, ECTA has encouraged the project engineers to consider a separated multi-use path along all or part of the corridor, along with wider shoulders to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. We are encouraged to see NMDOT considering a separated path between the Old Blinking Light and the High Bridge.