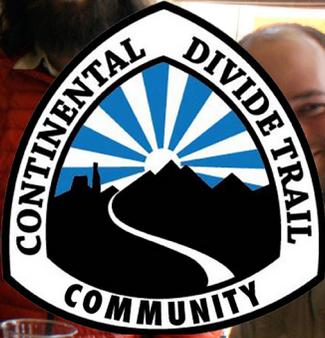


January 2018

GATEWAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



News, stories, and inspiration from the towns that protect and promote the CDT!

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Learn what's happening and what you can do.



Dear Gateway Communities,

Welcome to 2018! It has been an exciting few months at my little desk in Silver City, NM, and I'm pleased to inform you of our accomplishments heading into the new year.

We are thrilled to announce the release of our Business Toolkit. This guide offers strategies, suggestions, and talking points for businesses who wish to promote the CDT and attract trail users. I developed it by visiting and surveying local business owners in towns along the trail. I spoke to people who love the CDT not just for the money it brings to their economy, but for the beautiful and valuable resource that it is. You can read more and find a link to download the Toolkit on Page 3 of this newsletter.

We are also pleased to welcome Lemhi County, Idaho to the Gateway Community program. Lemhi County is rich in American

history and wilderness, and we are excited to partner with their trail advocates and business community.

As we gear up for Trail Days 2018, I look forward to hearing your ideas and feedback. Gateway Communities are an integral part of the CDT experience and Trail Days is the time to celebrate that.

As of March 2018, you will be getting a new Gateway Community Coordinator for the third year of CDTC's Americorps grant. It has been an amazing year, and I have been impressed by the passion and dedication from so many of you. I hope you carry on your commitment to the CDT and that our paths cross again.

Happy trails,
Jenny Gaeng

Gateway Community Coordinator



The graphic features a blue sky background with a sunburst pattern. At the top left is the Continental Divide Trail Coalition logo, which includes a mountain and a trail. Below it is the text "CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION". In the center, the words "TRAIL DAYS" are written in large, bold, black letters. Below that, the dates "APRIL 27-29, 2018" are displayed in a similar bold font. At the bottom left, a white oval contains the text "in beautiful SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO". To the right of the oval is a map of the Continental Divide Trail route through Montana (MT), Idaho (ID), Wyoming (WY), Colorado (CO), and New Mexico (NM), with a red star marking Silver City, NM. The background of the graphic shows a scenic view of a town with mountains in the distance.

TRAIL DAYS IS BACK!

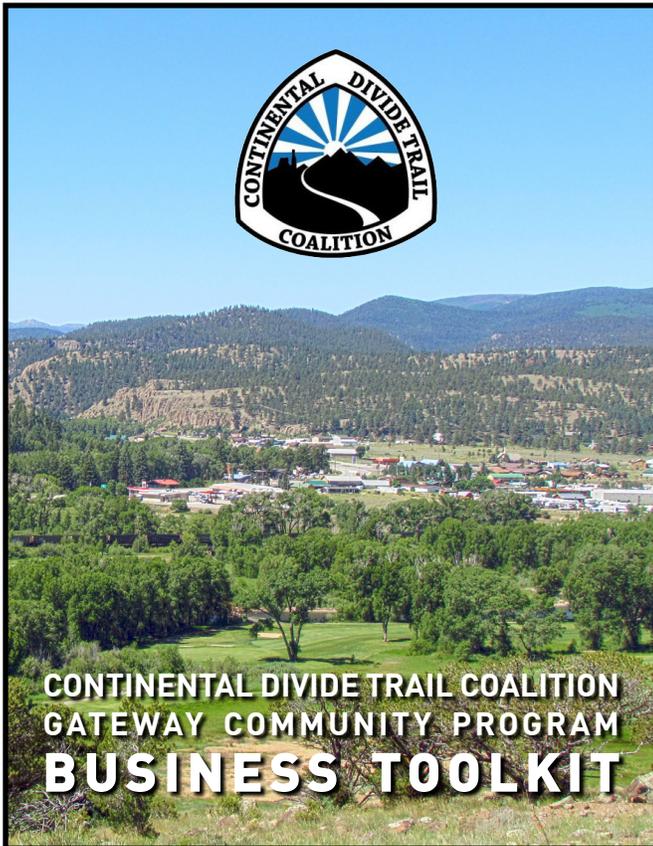
**JOIN US APRIL 27-29, 2018,
IN SILVER CITY, NM.**

WE ARE SEEKING:

- **Speakers** - We are looking for presentations and seminars related to the CDT, hiking, or the history and culture of the areas along the Trail. If you have a suggestion but do not wish to present yourself, let us know!
- **Booth vendors** - Anyone can apply to be a booth vendor. Having a booth is a great way to meet this year's hikers, network with other community leaders, and learn about hiker culture. Vendors will table during the Gear Expo on Saturday, April 28. Last year, we had some of our Gateway Communities represented, and we hope to see even more in 2018! (Booth fees will be waived for Gateway Community representatives.)
- **Volunteers** - Come help set up tents, deliver raffle prizes, and more!

Contact gateway@continentaldividetrail.org to apply or sign up.

2 - WWW.CONTINENTALDIVIDETRAIL.ORG



CDTC OFFERS A BUSINESS TOOLKIT

In fall 2017, CDTC conducted an economic impact survey in towns along the Trail. We asked owners of hotels, restaurants, gear shops, and more about the importance of public lands and the CDT. **78% of people surveyed reported “significant” or “some” increase in business from trail users since 2014.**

With their input and suggestions, we designed this Business Toolkit. With it, businesses can draw traffic from CDT users as well as promote the Trail in their own communities.

The downloadable version includes:

- Welcome letter
- Strategies for incorporating the CDT into your business
- CDT Fact Sheet and Talking Points
- CDTC Contact Sheet

The print version also includes:

- 100 CDT stickers
- 1 CDTC window decal
- 100 CDT brochures
- 2018 CDT calendar

To request a print version, email gateway@continentaldividetrail.org.



DOWNLOAD

UPCOMING EVENTS

January-April 2018

JANUARY

CDT Greenways Meeting

January 11, 2017

3:00 pm

WNMU Student Memorial Building

3rd Floor Seminar Room

Silver City, NM

Chama Chile Ski Classic

January 13-15, 2018

Chama, NM

www.skichama.com

MARCH

CDT Rockies Ruck

March 17, 2018

American Mountaineering

Museum

Golden, CO

APRIL

4th Annual CDT Trail Days

April 27-29, 2018

Silver City, NM



At the kickoff in Lincoln, MT

GATEWAY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



LEMHI COUNTY
A big welcome to Idaho's first Gateway Community!



SILVER CITY
Youth artists from the Aldo Leopold Charter School are designing and constructing a mural that will feature an artistic interpretation of the CDT. This wall at the Visitors' Center is their canvas.



WHY OUR COMMUNITIES SUPPORT PUBLIC LANDS

It's all over the news - National Monuments are under attack. But what exactly is a National Monument, and what can we do to protect them?

Since Teddy Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act in 1906, U.S. Presidents have had the power to designate scenic and historical lands as National Monuments. These lands are protected and gifted to the public to recreate in and enjoy. There are currently 129 National Monuments in the United States, including El Malpais near Grants, NM through which passes the CDT.

There has been a lot of discussion about National Monuments in the past month. Since April, the Department of the Interior has been reviewing and examining the merits of 27 National Monuments. On December 4th, the President signed a proclamation to reduce the boundaries of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. This action will affect the protections for more than 2 million acres of federal lands, and was done despite the overwhelming public support for these Monuments. National Monuments, like other specially designated public lands such as the CDT, protect the important cultural, historical and natural heritage we hold dear for future generations. The action undermines the idea of permanence of these designations and sets a horrible precedent about these special areas that we should be protecting.



On the CDT near Grants, NM



THE LETTER

In order to demonstrate the economic importance of National Monuments, CDTC assisted in organizing a letter from 182 local businesses and counting. These signatories came from communities all over Colorado, from outfitters to restaurants and more. The letter urged our elected officials to speak out against the review of National Monuments, stating that Colorado's monuments are definitively good for the economy. If you are a business owner in Colorado, and wish to sign the letter, follow the link below:

To: the Colorado Congressional Delegation and Governor Hickenlooper

CC: Secretary Ryan Zinke, Department of the Interior

Re: National Monuments review by Trump Administration



LEARN MORE



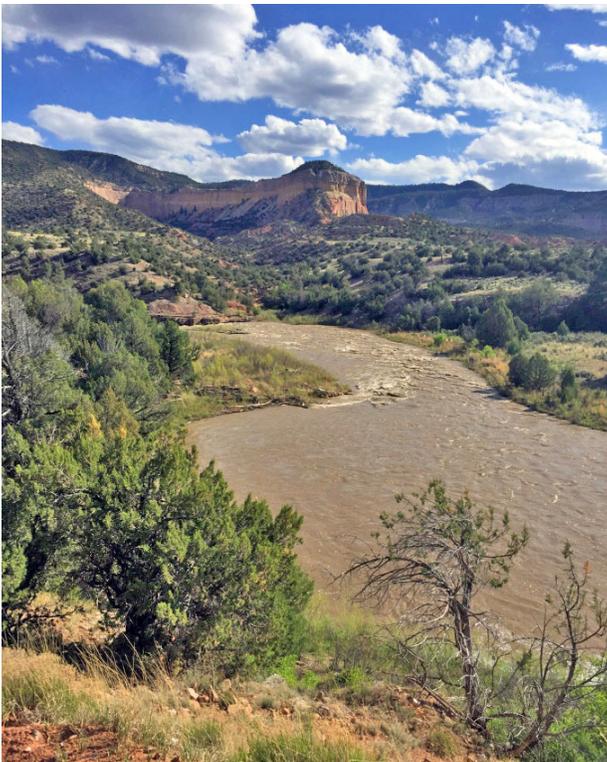
READ & SIGN

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