

# GATEWAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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

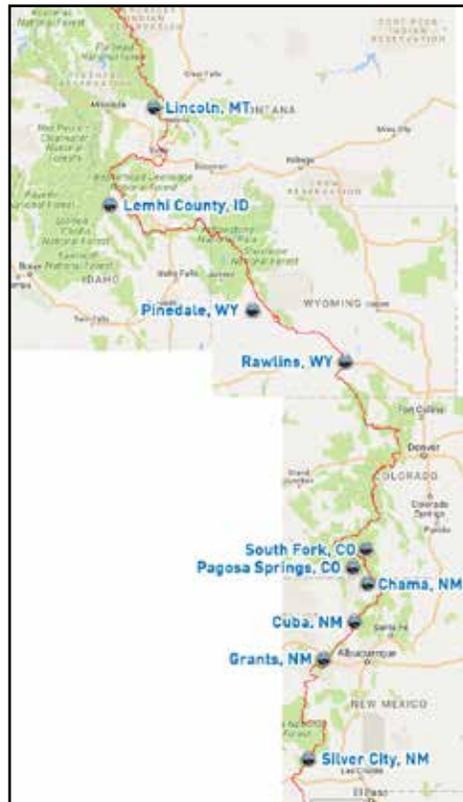
## What is a Gateway Community?

While hundreds of hikers attempt to walk the CDT every year, there are those who can trace their roots along the Continental Divide to a time before the trail was proposed to Congress, or a glimmer in anyone's mind.

Gateway Communities are towns that recognize the unique economic and cultural value that the CDT brings. They make services accessible to hikers, educate local residents, and advocate for continued access to public lands. Committees comprise volunteers, business owners, public officials, and land management partners.

Our trail community is still in its infancy, but we are committed to building strong, lasting relationships that will preserve the CDT for generations to come.

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# SCENES FROM THE 3RD ANNUAL TRAIL DAYS FESTIVAL

*April 28-30, 2017 in Silver City, NM*

Trail Days kicks off the spring hiking season, but it also celebrates the communities that sustain and enrich the trail. For the third year, our flagship Gateway Community of Silver City, NM hosted hundreds of visitors from around the world.

Thanks to title sponsor Vasque Footwear, as well as retailers Gossamer Gear, Granite Gear, Toaks Outdoors, Osprey Backpacks, Deuter, Backpackers Pantry, Darn Tough Socks, L.L. Bean, Atlas Guides, and many more.



Sunday morning's community hike on Gomez Peak brought locals and thru-hikers together for an educational stroll and a very scenic Q&A.

The local Forest Service teamed up with Backcountry Horsemen - Gila Chapter for cross-cutting and branding (outdoor arts & crafts!) at Saturday's Base Camp expo.



Two days of presentations and seminars covered everything from backcountry safety and navigation, to the public lands transfer and the challenges faced by women and minorities in the outdoor community.

# GATEWAY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: *Education, preservation, and celebration!*

## SILVER CITY, NM TRAIL ADOPTER TRAINING, May 20



CDTC's Trail Adopter Program encourages locals to "adopt" sections of the CDT, where they can then get down and dirty with some basic trail maintenance. Although three of our Silver City-area trail adopters are retiring, we recruited six new adopters to take their place! Hikers in the Gila National Forest can thank these volunteers for unobstructed tread on the CDT.

[continentaldividetrail.org/trail-adopters/](http://continentaldividetrail.org/trail-adopters/)

## CHAMA, NM HIKER AVALANCHE TRAINING, May 31

Thanks to volunteer Mary Steuver, Chama's Brew House hosted a free training by the Wolf Creek Ski Patrol. A group of twenty thru-hikers and area residents enjoyed local beer and pizza while they learned to identify spring avalanche conditions. Most were preparing to venture into the snow-laden San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado, the most notorious challenge for northbound CDT hikers.



## SOUTH FORK, CO COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Trail angel Clara Mills-Romines (left) demonstrates a typical CDT hiker's camp at the Saturday Farmers' Market. The more that locals understand the lifestyle, the better they can cater to hikers' needs and stimulate South Fork's tourist economy. This visiting thru-hiker rode by on one of the bikes provided courtesy of the town.



## GRANTS, NM 7 TRAILS OF GOLD FESTIVAL, June 3



This former mining community sits in the shadow of Mt. Taylor, one of four sacred peaks demarking the Navajo homeland. As the economy of New Mexico shifts, Grants is reinventing itself as an outdoor destination. At a lively street festival celebrating the local trail system, CDTC talked with an enthusiastic public about one of the world's most epic long-distance trails, which runs briefly down historic Route 66 - also known as the town's Main Street.

# UPCOMING GATEWAY COMMUNITY EVENTS

## WIND RIVER MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL July 21-23 Pinedale, WY

This three-day celebration of Pinedale and CDT will feature the ultimate trifecta of beer, gear, and live music!

[greatoutdoorshop.com/windriverfest/](http://greatoutdoorshop.com/windriverfest/)



**BONUS EVENT:** On the morning of August 21, Pinedale will be adjacent to the total solar eclipse! Head into the Wind River Range via the Green Lakes Trailhead to witness this once-in-a-lifetime celestial event from the CDT - or summit Gannett Peak to see it from Wyoming's highest point.



## "RIDE THE DIVIDE" BIKE RIDE July 11 Rawlins, WY



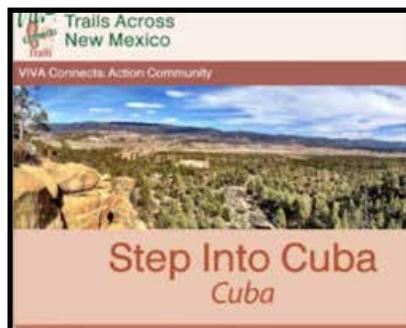
Most people associate the CDT with wilderness, but Rawlins is just one of the towns where the streets double as trail. Get a taste of the urban CDT, starting 6pm at the Armory building and ending with a food fest at Rawlins Springs Park.

## GATEWAY COMMUNITY KICKOFF @ ART IN THE PARK August 13 Lincoln, MT



Lincoln's 5th annual Art in the Park event celebrates the unique Sculpture in the Wild installation, an international collaboration encouraging "discussions about a new approach to environmental stewardship and the creation of a new economic future." A public barbeque and other exciting activities will celebrate Lincoln's recent designation as Montana's first CDT Gateway Community!

# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: STEP INTO CUBA



A public health initiative in our Gateway Community of Cuba, NM is encouraging citizens to get outdoors, whether it's a 0.8-mile hike from the village office to Saveway, or a 7-mile jaunt on the CDT.

The VIVA Connects app, developed with the University of New Mexico's Prevention Research Center, provides users with information about local trails and walking paths, including directions, difficulty, and the ability to track their adventures on social media.

To download for iPhone, visit the app store and search for "Trails Across New Mexico."

# CDT HIKER SLANG: *A handy guide for trail angels and town folk!*

**Hiker box (n.):** A box containing food, gear, town clothes, medical supplies, or anything else donated. Hikers are free to leave or take as much as they desire. The hiker box is not a trash can.

**Hiker-friendly (adj.):** A designation given to towns where locals and business owners are aware of hiker culture and offer helpful services, usually including inexpensive lodging and food.

**Hiker hunger (n.):** The unusually enormous appetite cultivated by hikers, often leading them to seek all-you-can-eat buffets or order multiple meals at a restaurant.

**Hiker trash (n.):** An affectionate name that hikers use to refer to themselves and one another. Derived from the way that they typically look and smell.

**Hitch (n., v.):** Short for **hitchhike**. A hiker's typical method of travel between the trail and town. Hikers stand on the side of the highway with their thumbs extended until a passing car offers them a ride.

**Pack explosion (n.):** The act of emptying one's backpack to sort, clean, and repack gear. Can take place any time, anywhere. See also: **Yard sale**.

**Resupply (v.):** The act of procuring food for the next stretch of trail. This can be done at a grocery store, gas station, or dollar store. In some cases, hikers will mail themselves **resupply boxes** ahead of time and pick them up at a local business or post office. Offering to hold boxes is a great way to draw hiker traffic!

**Thru-hiker (n.):** A person attempting to hike the entirety of a long-distance trail in one calendar year.

**Trail angel (n.):** A person who knowingly bestows trail magic (see below).

**Trail magic (n.):** Any form of aid or special treats given to hikers by non-hikers. Can include rides around town, food and shelter, water caches, and more (*note: before leaving anything along the trail, including water, contact your local ranger station for guidelines*).

**Trail name (n.):** A nickname that hikers receive and use exclusively while hiking the CDT. It must be somehow earned and bestowed by another hiker, not chosen. Many veteran hikers

use trail names they received on previous trails.

**Triple crown (n.):** The hard-earned award given to hikers who have completed the Appalachian Trail (AT), Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), and Continental Divide Trail (CDT).

**Zero day (n.):** A rest day in town, during which the hiker travels zero miles on the trail. Typical activities include showers, laundry, resupply, gear repair, and as much eating and drinking as are humanely possible. *Abbr.: Zero; See also: Double-zero (n.),* in which two zero days are taken consecutively in the same location.

## HOW TO SPOT A THRU-HIKER

