The Continental Divide Trail climbs and descends along the Rocky Mountains from Canada to Mexico, traversing 3,100 miles of America’s most dramatic and wild backcountry across the Continental Divide, the backbone of America. For more information visit www.continentaldividetrail.org

**THE FACTS:**

- **1966**: The Continental Divide Trail is Proposed to Congress.
- **1978**: Designated as a National Scenic Trail by the National Parks and Recreation Act, which amended National Trails System Act.
- **2006**: Continental Divide Trail Comprehensive Management Plan is amended.
- **3100** Miles in total
- **2150** Miles across 20 National Forests
- **381** Miles across 13 BLM Field Offices
- **279** Miles across 4 National Park Service Units
- **275** Miles across State and Private Land

**COMPLETING THE TRAIL**

- Approximately 95% of the trail is located within public ownership. Land acquisitions or easements are needed to protect the remaining 5% (172 miles) of the trail corridor.
- The trail is to be managed as non-motorized. Approximately 24% of the trail exists on routes open to motor vehicle use, and should be relocated in the coming years.
- **730** MILES on MOTORIZED Routes
- **2350** MILES on NON-MOTORIZED Trail

Once the trail is “complete”, the work is never done. Agency staff, partners and volunteers will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the trail is well-maintained, passable, and re-aligned as necessary in the years to come.

**HIKING THE CDT**

Since 1978, there have been 10-25 attempted thru hikes every year. In 2011, approximately 50 people attempted thru hikes. The number has steadily increased to this year’s documented 220 thru hikers. Success rates have been around 75% in the past. Current success rates are about 35-40%.

- **6 MONTHS**: The average time it takes to complete a CDT thru-hike.
- **17 MILES**: Average pace/day to finish in 6 months.
- **APRIL**: When most north bound hikers start from the Mexico border.
- **JUNE**: When most southbound hikers start from Glacier National Park.

**VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Volunteers, youth crews and other partners have been instrumental in helping to build and maintain the trail:

- **547,639** Volunteer Hours Donated Since 1995
- **$8.6M** Value of Donated Labor
Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Accomplishments

When the Continental Divide Trail Coalition was formed four years ago, we did so knowing that such a nationally significant resource could not go unprotected and supported. Demand has consistently grown for our stewardship programs, showing the commitment of the American Public to the trail’s protection.

Today we are recognized as a national partner working on behalf of the CDT by our Federal Agency partners. We have made huge strides in uniting all the voices of those who love, care, steward, enjoy, and wish to see the CDT flourish.

In 2016 CDTC continued to grow and increased our staff to four full time and two part time employees as a direct result for the demand for our support to agencies, partners, and most importantly our users.

CDTC’s membership has grown from 1,000 members to 1,200 members and we completed our first strategic plan guiding our work and growth for the next three years. We committed to working with more corporate partners. These partnerships demonstrate the important connection between the outdoor recreation industry and the economic impact of people enjoying our public lands.

Continental Divide Trail Coalition

2016 Year Recap

Thanks to your support, 2016 was the Continental Divide Trail Coalition’s BEST YEAR EVER! With all of this work, we continue to build, save, create, and manage a world-class National Scenic Trail across the rooftop of America, grow a passionate, dedicated community, and encourage everyone to #BRAVETHECDT.

CDTC Growth and Distribution by Program

- 2016 Total $266,940
- 2015 Total $176,722
- 2014 Total $92,033
- 2013 Total $34,223

- 543 volunteers worked
- 11,841 hours valued at $278,973
- 23 new miles of trail built
- 100’s more maintained
- 14 events reaching 780 people
- 1200 members in 50 states
- 6 combat veterans supported as part of the Warrior Hike as they transitioned from military to civilian life.
Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Volunteer Growth

2016 proved to be yet another exciting year for CDTC both on the trail and in the office. Trail season kicked off in April with projects in the Gila National Forest outside of Silver City, NM. These projects are the result of the American Hiking Society’s Superior Trails Contest, where CDTC was awarded funding towards completion of the trail in the Silver City area.

Another highlight of the 2016 projects was trail reconstruction on the newly opened Knight Ridge segment near Grand Lake, CO. The trail was opened by volunteers, youth corps and USFS partners in 2016 after a multi-year closure due to over 700 downed trees. We also hosted our annual projects on the Carson National Forest and projects throughout Colorado and Wyoming.

Our Gateway Community program matured in 2016 with a full year of effort from our first Americorps Vista Volunteer based in Silver City dedicated to establishing Gateway Communities. To date there are nine CDT Gateway Communities with several others slated for 2017.

Partner Contributions

The Continental Divide Trail has an amazing team of partners and volunteers that help us develop and protect one of the largest conservation projects in the US. Our partners contribute many volunteer hours and raise additional private funding for trail projects along the CDT.

Together, the future of the CDT looks bright.
ABOUT THE CDT AND CDTC

In recognition of the unique scenic quality and cultural characteristics of the lands surrounding the Continental Divide, Congress designated the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) in 1978 and identified a 100-mile corridor straddling the divide for its placement. The vision for the CDT then and now, is to create a primitive and challenging backcountry trail on or near the Continental Divide to provide people with the opportunity to experience the natural beauty and unique qualities of the area.

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) is recognized by the USFS, BLM, and NPS as the 501(c)(3) national nonprofit partner in the stewardship, management, and protection of the 3,100-mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

In 2016 we welcomed Pinedale, Wyoming and Grants, New Mexico as the newest CDT Gateway Communities. We now recognize nine Gateway Communities, with several more expected to become designated in the next six months.

TRAIL ADOPTER PROGRAM

In 2015, CDTC fully launched the Trail Adopter Program and has signed up 18 volunteers/groups who have adopted 119 miles of the CDT and will be responsible for the annual maintenance of their segments.

These volunteer projects resulted in 9.3 miles of the CDT built and maintained. Volunteer built structures to prevent erosion, restored damaged trail, installed signs and fences and built stream crossings.

CDT CORRIDOR PROTECTION

Together with our federal agencies and community partners we are working to develop consistent management direction for the CDT trail wide including, identifying corridor protection opportunities, engagement in forest planning processes and working to protect the scenic, historic and cultural resources found along the CDT.

SOUTHERN TERMINUS SHUTTLE

In 2016, for the third year in a row, CDTC sponsored a shuttle service to get thru hikers to and from the CDT Southern Terminus. We delivered 287 hikers to the southern terminus in 2016 and expect close to 350 CDT thru hikers in 2017.

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

We have a vibrant community that is tech-savvy and active on social media channels. In 2016 we grew to over 12,000 Facebook Followers, over 2,400 twitter and 1,000 Instagram followers. CDTC relies heavily on its social media reach.

We launched a new website in 2016 and it is quickly becoming the hub for Trail information with over 500,000 annual hits and now averaging 1,300 daily hits.
ALAMOCITA CREEK, NEW MEXICO

After five years of ongoing collaboration with the BLM, we’ve successfully purchased the Alamocita Property with the 2016 Land and Water Conservation funds in financial partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. This purchase of 5,000 acres will help connect and complete 60 new miles of CDT between Pie Town and Grants New Mexico! We thank all of the partners and congressional support for making this project a reality.

STONY PASS MINING CLAIMS, COLORADO

These 65 acres of mining claims lie along the Continental Divide in the heart of the San Juan Mountains in Southern Colorado. This acquisition will protect over two miles of the CDT and the co-located Colorado Trail. This area is a primary access point of the CDT/CT in the area.
Thank You for Your Support

For more information or to join our efforts contact us at:
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