SILVER CITY, Nm. (Mar. 15, 2018) – Outdoor enthusiasts, community members, and long-distance hikers will descend upon Silver City April 27-29 for the 4th annual Trail Days, a three-day festival celebrating the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) and the outdoor culture of New Mexico and Silver City, a Gateway Community to the CDT.

“Trail Days brings people from all over the world to experience the beauty of Southern New Mexico,” said Silver City Mayor Ken Ladner. “The Continental Divide Trail is a wonderful asset to our state and our community, and this event is the perfect way to celebrate and learn more about the Trail.”

From seasoned hikers to those who have never set foot on the CDT, all are welcome at this free festival organized by the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC). Congress designated the CDT in 1978, so unique to this year’s Trail Days is a 40th birthday bash for the Trail. The party, which takes place on Friday, April 27 at the Seedboat Gallery, will feature local music, door prizes, beer and wine and of course, a giant birthday cake.

Other events include a pancake breakfast, a community hike and an outdoor gear expo featuring local and national brands such as Osprey packs and Vasque footwear. At the expo, the U.S. Forest Service and the Gila Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of America will once again team up to offer a perennial favorite activity where attendees can test out their crosscut saw and branding skills. On Saturday night, keynote speaker Cam Honan will discuss his hike of almost 15,000 miles across North America.

For those interested in learning more about hiking and other recreation on the CDT, Trail Days also features two full days of informative presentations, which will take place Friday and Saturday on the campus of Western New Mexico University. Presentation topics will range from desert hiking safety to diversity in the outdoors to planning multi-day biking trips along the CDT.

“As a Gateway Community to the CDT, Silver City is excited to host this fun and unique event once again,” said Grant County Assessor and local community leader Raul Turrieta. “From exploring Grant County’s beautiful trails to meeting thru-hikers preparing to set out on their incredible journeys, there is something for everyone at Trail Days.”

The full schedule of events can be found at continentaldividetrail.org/trail-days-2018/.

About the Continental Divide Trail
The CDT is one of the world’s premiere long-distance trails, stretching 3,100 miles from Mexico to Canada along the Continental Divide. Designated by Congress in 1978, the CDT is the highest, most challenging and most remote of the 11 National Scenic Trails. It provides recreational opportunities ranging from hiking to horseback riding to hunting for thousands of visitors each year. While 95% of the CDT is located on public land, approximately 150 miles are still in need of protection.

About the Continental Divide Trail Coalition
The CDTC was founded in 2012 by volunteers and recreationists hoping to provide a unified voice for the Trail. Working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Forest Service and other federal land management agencies, the CDTC is a
non-profit partner supporting stewardship of the CDT. The mission of the CDTC is to complete, promote and protect the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, a world-class national resource. For more information, please visit continentaldividetrail.org.

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