

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION CONGRESSIONAL REPORT



FEBRUARY 2019
www.continentaldividetrial.org

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) encounters some of the most dramatic and wild landscapes left on the planet as it traverses the spine of the Rocky Mountains from Canada to Mexico. Thousands of people visit the CDNST each year to hike, horseback ride, hunt, fish, mountain bike, ski, and enjoy the landscapes of the American West. Several hundred of them will attempt to thru-hike the CDNST, walking its entire length in one go, but only about one-third will succeed.



101 THE FACTS

- 5 MONTHS** The average time it takes to complete a CDT thru-hike.
- 23 MILES** Average pace/day to finish in 5 months.
- 730 MILES** In need of relocation need of relocation off of roads
- 172 MILES** in need of protection on public land

3100 Miles total

- 2150 Miles across 20 National Forests
- 381 Miles across 13 BLM Field Offices
- 279 Miles across 3 National Parks and 1 National Monument
- 275 Miles across State and Private Land



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



2009 Continental Divide Trail Comprehensive Management Plan is amended



2012 Continental Divide Coalition Formed



2014 CDTC signs MOU with USFS, establishing CDTC as a lead national private partner in the administration and management of the CDT

Lowest Point

4,200' along Waterton Lake in Glacier National Park, Montana

Highest Point

14,270' at Grays Peak in Colorado



211,288 Total volunteer hours donated since 2012

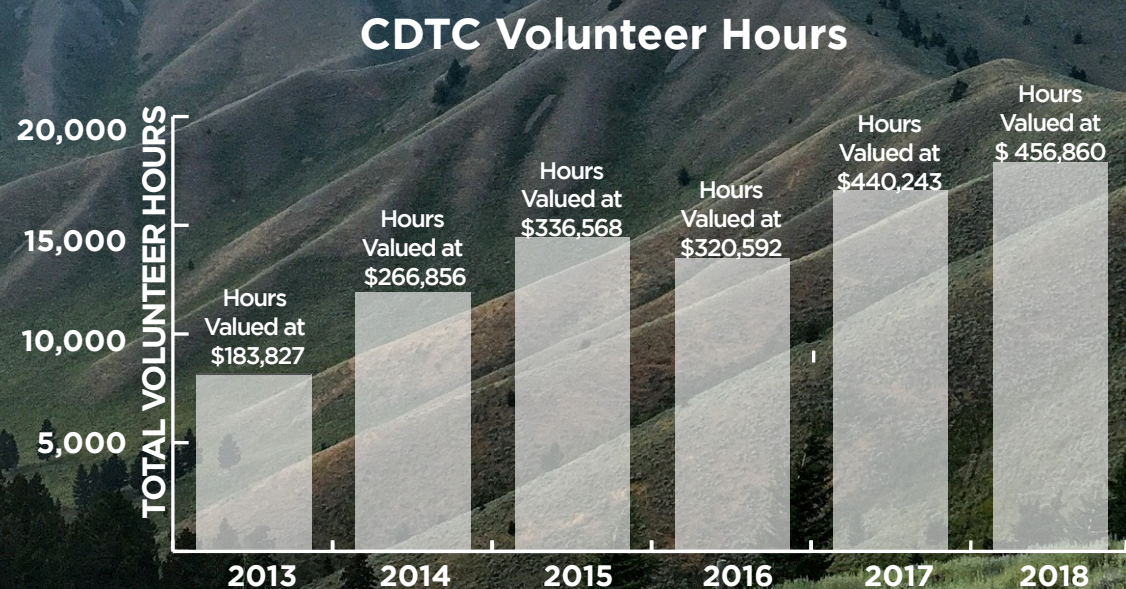
\$5.2 M Value of donated labor

\$1.45 M Private funds contributed since 2012

VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIP

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.

2018 Volunteer Growth



NEW MEXICO

Reconstructed 6 miles of the CDT in the Carson NF near Canjilon Lakes to reopen the CDT and 7 miles in the Gila National Forest. Hosted 2 Trail Adopter trainings.

COLORADO

Continued work on Knight Ridge to clear downed trees and 2 miles of reconstruction near Herman Gulch. Hosted 4 Trail Adopter trainings.

WYOMING

Worked near Shoshone Lake in Yellowstone National Park to continue trail reconstruction efforts.

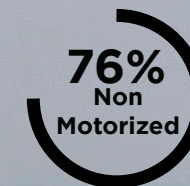
MONTANA AND IDAHO

Worked in the Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forests to reconstruct the CDT near the 2017 Alice Creek Fire and hosted 1 Trail Adopter trainings.

COMPLETING THE TRAIL



Approximately 96% 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.

Blaze the CDT

- Even though the CDT was designated by Congress as a National Scenic Trail in 1978, the Trail was often hard to follow and navigate. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the CDNST’s designation, the CDT Community, coordinated by CDTC, planned to “blaze” or sign the entire 3,100 miles of the CDNST consistently from Mexico to Canada. The effort began in 2017, when the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, youth conservation corps and CDTC’s volunteer trail adopters and partners signed over 2,000 miles of the trail. In the Spring of 2018, CDTC recruited 50 volunteers from all over the country to tackle the remaining sections, and by the end of the summer, volunteers had installed more than 1200 signs along hundreds of miles of trail to successfully complete the project! The entire effort was completed by November 10, 2018 in time to celebrate the CDNST’s 40th birthday.

FLORA AND FAUNA ALONG THE CDT

Protecting the CDT also protects its permanent residents including endangered species, species of concern, and the region’s native plants.

GRAY WOLF



BALD EAGLE



PIKA



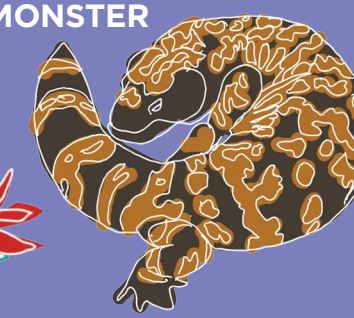
LUPINE



PAINTBRUSH



GILA MONSTER



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition has taken monumental steps towards the Trail's completion. Serving as the voice for unity in the protection of the Trail, CDTC is uniquely positioned to create and sustain the many public and private partnerships necessary for success.

Since 2012 we have:

- **Completed 42 miles of new trail**
- **Installed over 5,000 CDT markers**
- **Installed 6 trailheads**
- **Coordinated, trained and educated more than 6,000 volunteers**
- **Donated more than \$5.2 million in volunteer labor to the CDNST**
Raised over \$1.45 million in private funds to support the administration and management of the CDNST
- **Trained more than 200 people to adopt sections of the CDT, resulting in over 1,000 miles of the Trail currently adopted by volunteer maintainers**
- **Designated 15 gateway communities along the CDT**

Supporting Local Economies

In 2017, CDTC reached out to small business owners in communities along the CDNST to help us understand the importance of the Trail to their local economies. 88% of them reported that protecting, promoting and enhancing the Continental Divide Trail is important to the well-being of businesses, jobs and their community's economy, and 77% said that CDT users have had a positive impact on their business in particular.

When the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was allowed to expire in September 2018, these businesses came together to tell Congress how important LWCF is to them as business owners and as residents of the Rocky Mountain West. 80 business owners in Colorado and more than 75 business owners in New Mexico sent letters to their Congressional delegations urging them to permanently reauthorize and fully fund LWCF, stressing its importance in finally completing the CDNST as well as the importance of strong public lands protections to their communities and way of life.

For more information visit continentaldividetrail.org/save-lwcf

679
volunteers worked
17,060 hours
valued at
\$456.860

3,100
miles of the
CDT blazed

15
events celebrating 40 years of
the CDT and 50 years of the
entire National Trails System
reaching over 3,500 people

2,200
members across
50 states, Canada,
Germany, UK, Japan,
and South Korea

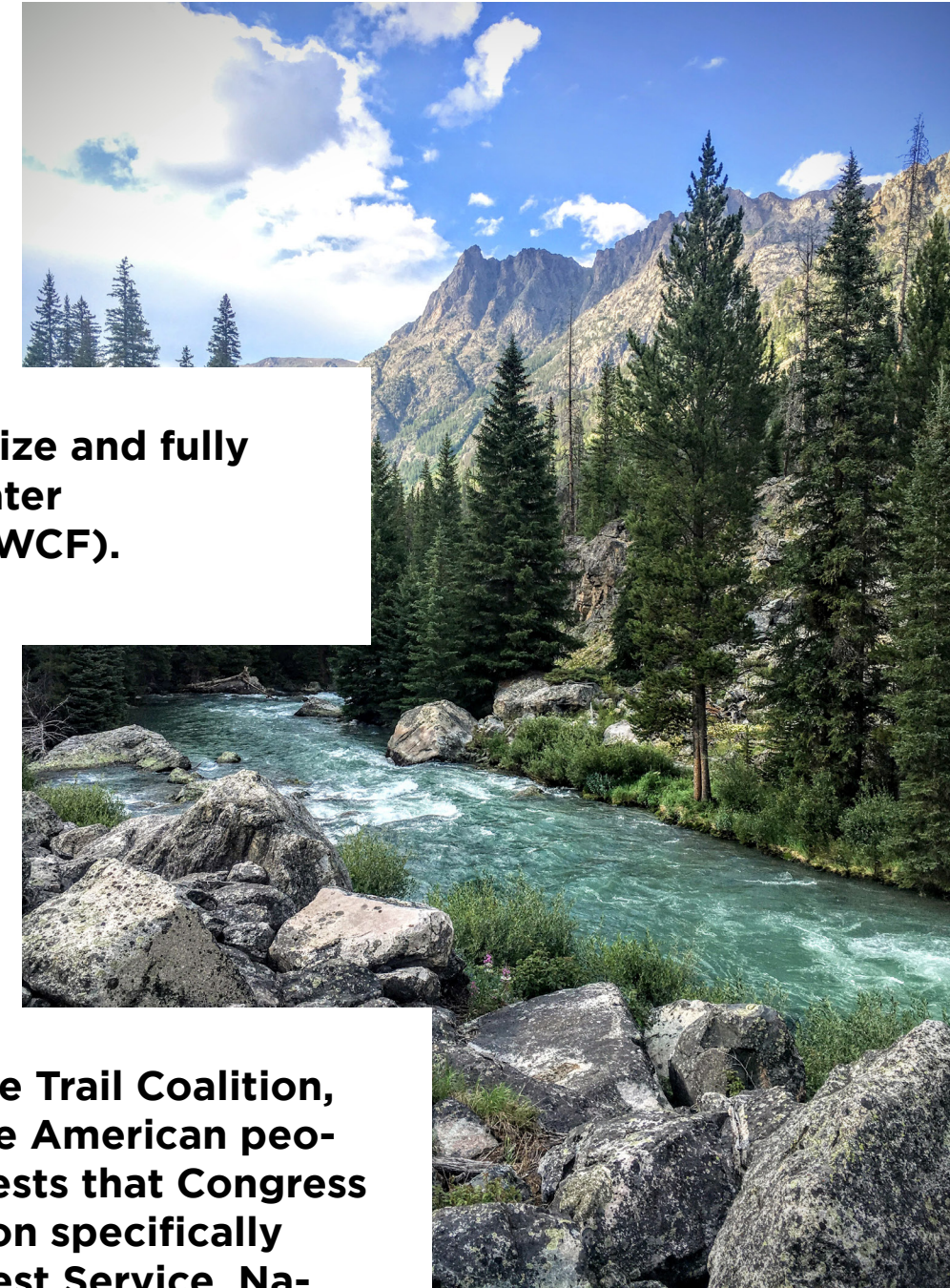
2019 REQUESTS

01

Permanently reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

02

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition, in partnership with the American people, respectfully requests that Congress appropriate \$1.8 million specifically added to the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets in fiscal year 2019 to continue our work toward the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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

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