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**

- **The Continental Divide Trail is Proposed to Congress**
- **1966**
- **1978**
- **2009**
- **2012**
- **2014**

- **Designated as a National Scenic Trail by the National Parks and Recreation Act, which amended National Trails System Act**
- **Continental Divide Trail Comprehensive Management Plan is amended**
- **Continental Divide Coalition Formed**
- **CDTC signs MOU with USFS, establishing CDTC as a lead national private partner in the administration and management of the CDT**

**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

**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

**1020 Miles in Idaho and Montana**

**820 Miles in New Mexico**

**750 Miles in Colorado**

**510 Miles in Wyoming**

**102,288 Volunteer hours donated since 2012**

**$5.2 M Value of donated labor from 2012 to 2014**

**$1.45 M Private funds contributed since 2012**

**Lowest Point**

- 4,200’ along Waterton Lake in Glacier National Park, Montana

**Highest Point**

- 14,270’ at Grays Peak in Colorado
The Continental Divide Trail (CDT) is a long-distance hiking trail in North America that follows the Continental Divide from Mexico to Canada. It is one of the most challenging and scenic trails in the United States. The CDT is managed by the Continental Divide Trail Conference (CDTC), a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers and partnerships to maintain and protect the trail.

### 2018 Volunteer Growth

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Volunteer Hours</th>
<th>Hours Value at $15/hr</th>
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<td>2018</td>
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### Completing the Trail

- **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.

### 2018 Volunteer Hours

- **CDTC Volunteer Hours**
  - **New Mexico**: 2018 Volunteer Growth, 2018 Volunteer Hours, 2018 Volunteer Growth.
  - **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.

### Flora and Fauna Along the CDT

- **Gray Wolf**
- **Bald Eagle**
- **Pika**
- **Lupine**
- **Paintbrush**
- **Gila Monster**

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

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.

- 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.

The Trail is to be managed as non-motorized. Approximately 76% of the Trail exists on routes open to motor vehicle use, and should be relocated in the coming years:

- 730 miles on motorized routes, 2,350 miles on non-motorized trail.
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

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.