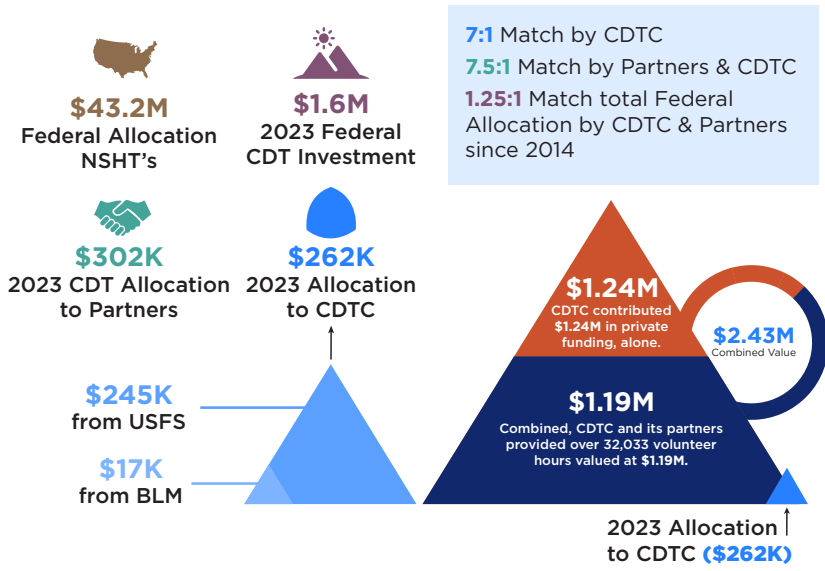


CDT COOPERATIVE STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT: U.S. FOREST SERVICE



Investment in Partners

In 2023, the U.S. Forest Service continued to invest in the Continental Divide Trail Coalition which included **\$245,000** to support trail planning, completion and youth corps projects in New Mexico and Colorado. The \$245,000 invested by the USFS helped CDTC leverage an additional **\$1,243,000** dollars and over **\$507,878** in volunteer labor. Across the entire CDT, CDTC and its partners received a total of **\$285,000** from the USFS and produced over **32,033** volunteer hours valued at **\$1,018,900**.



The CDT has thrived with **almost 45-years of stewardship** administered by the U.S. Forest Service and partners, including a decade of partnership with CDTC. Of lands managed by USFS, the CDT travels through 20 National Forests, 25 Wilderness areas, and 1 National Monument across Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Partnership Accomplishments in 2023

- The CDT Program submitted a request of **\$4.8 million** through the Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund, made possible by the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act.
- CDTC joined members of the community and other partners on the **Black Range Recovery Coalition** to identify opportunities to restore the CDT in the section of the Black Range devastated by wildfire in 2022.
- The U.S. Forest Service and CDTC partnered in **the inception of the Cultural Landscape Training Path tool** to gather data about the cultural resources along the CDT, including interactive content, research-based story maps, and principles for improving Indigenous participation in land management.
- CDT Program Administrator Ben Lara and CDTC staff visited Glacier National Park as well as the community of East Glacier on the Blackfeet Reservation to learn more about visitation on the CDT on **Park and Tribal lands**.
- With funding from the **National Forest Foundation**, CDTC participated alongside partners and the agency to develop a shared, statewide vision for meeting trail sustainability, resource protection, and outdoor recreation access goals at the most popular 14ers in Colorado.
- CDTC Staff **met with YCC** out of Lordsburg to talk about exploring the CDT, the value of the outdoors to their community, and how YCC can be a pathway to careers.
- In September, Latino Outdoors and CDTC partnered for a **campout at Mount Taylor**, funded by USFS!

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

In 2024 and the coming years, the U.S. Forest Service and CDTC have plans to continue to steward the trail collaboratively. Future projects and opportunities to improve the CDT Experience include:

Expanding capacity for stewardship along the CDT by exploring engagement with YCCs, conservation corps, youth corps, professional corps, local adopters, Tribes, trail organizations, and others.

Continued work to identify optimal CDT routes, particularly around Butte in Montana, Steamboat Springs in Colorado, and Grants in New Mexico.

Strengthening consistency in Forest Planning efforts that provide for a CDT experience that is optimal, protects the trail in perpetuity, and engages an informed public.

Invest in greater community connections, particularly with Gateway Communities and others along the trail, who will be on the frontlines of impacts to the stewardship of the CDT.

Collaborate with USFS and partners on a **Tribal Youth Corp Pilot on the CDT**.

Cooperative stewardship of the Camp Hale: Continental Divide National Monument that centers equitable access, inclusive storytelling and interpretation, and collaboration with surrounding communities.

Celebrating the Gila Centennial Celebration with Gateway Communities and partners in Southern New Mexico!

Stewardship Accomplishments



10

Field Projects with USFS



354

Adopters on the CDT with USFS



18

New Adopters in 2023!



448

Adopters with USFS



Northern New Mexico Tribes
to upgrade Kiosks across the
Carson National Forest

