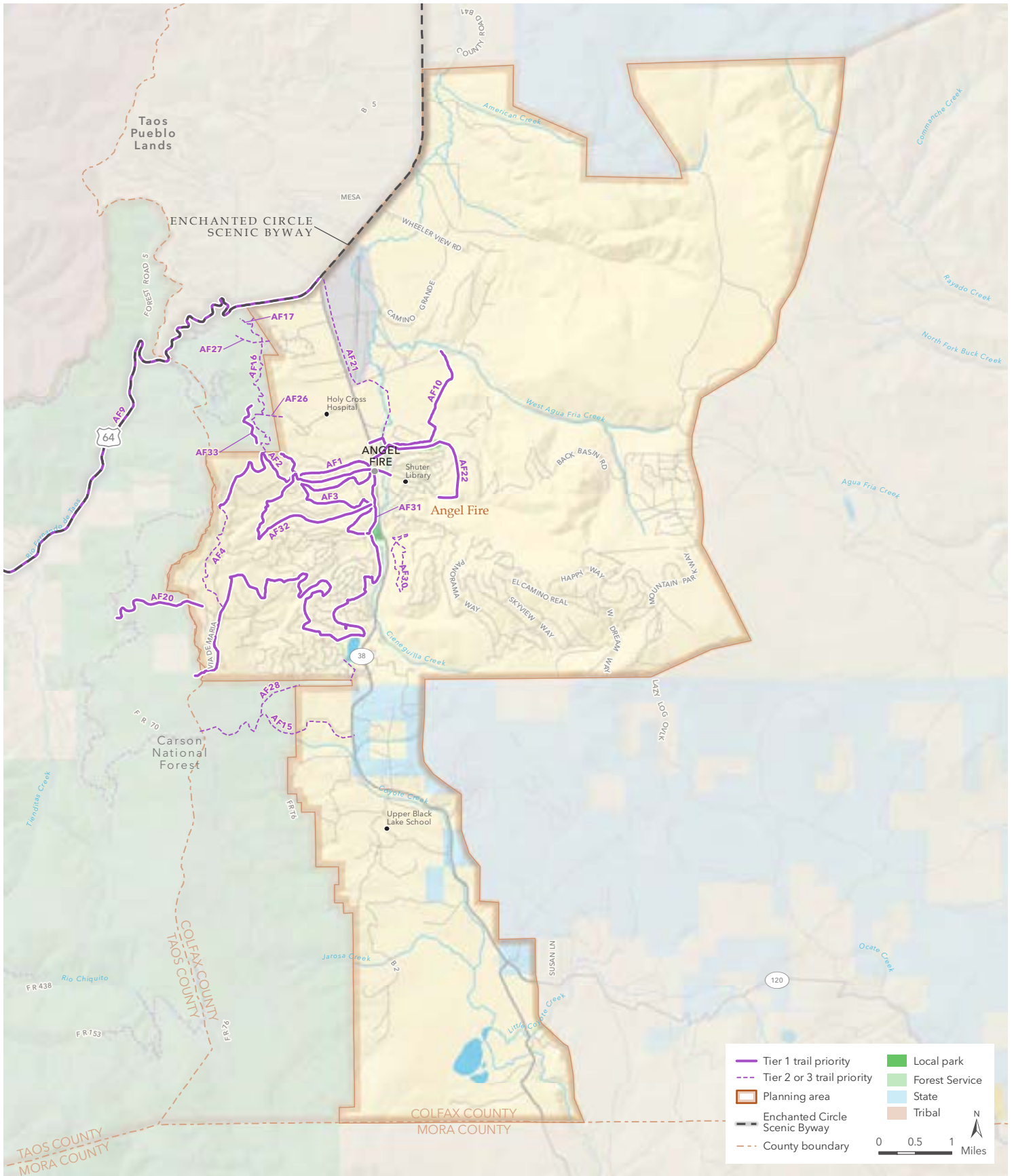


Enchanted Circle Trails Plan

Final Report:

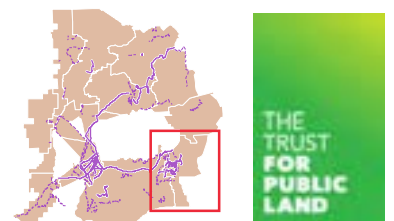
Online Only Appendices A-G

Appendix A: Trail Planning Area Maps and Priorities



ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

Angel Fire planning area



Angel Fire Planning Area

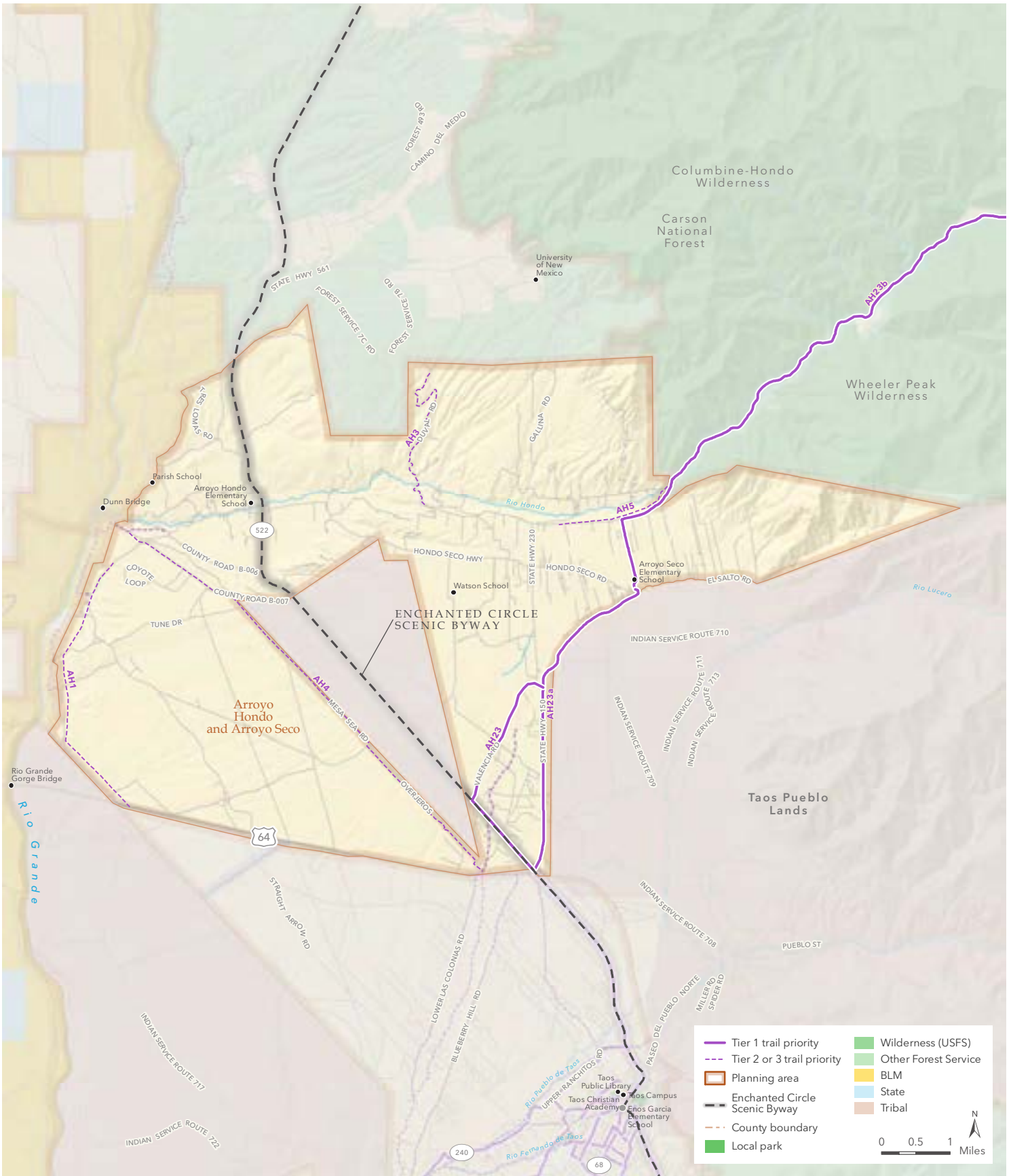
ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PROJECT - PROPOSED TRAILS

September 15, 2017



		Overview					Uses							Statistics and Field Verification									
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Length (Miles)	Overall Ranking	Primary Surface Ownership	Primary Use	Walk/Hike	Road Bike	Mountain Bike	Horse	Nordic	OHV or Snowmobile	# of Private Parcels Crossed	Schools in Proximity	# of Stream Crossings	Slope (mean%)	Public Preference Ranking	Special Opportunities	Impediments	Health Score	Viability Score	User Experience Score	Overall User Score
Tier 1	Angel Fire Olympic Park to Frontier Park	AF31	0.99	48	Angel Fire	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	7	0	3	9	4			3	5	3	4
	Angel Fire Road Improvements #1	AF10	2.33	51	Angel Fire	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	19	0	2	11	3			4	4	5	3
	Angel Fire Road Loop	AF3	11.75	46	Angel Fire	Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	60	0	2	14	5			4	4	4	4
	Angel Fire San Juan Loop	AF32	4.09	55	Angel Fire	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	19	0	3	18	4			4	4	4	4
	Community Center Tail	AF22	2.12	47	Angel Fire	Hiking	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	25	0	3	20	5			4	4	4	4
	Elliot Barker Access from Brazos Road	AF20	1.50	43	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	0	4	23	5			4	5	5	5
	Enchanted Circle Road Bike Trail - Taos to Angel Fire	AF9	19.22	47	NMDOT	Road Bike	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	45	0	1	25	5			2	2	4	3
	Proposed Access to USFS Land #1	AF1	AF2	46	Angel Fire	Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	6	0	3	12	4			4	5	4	4
	Proposed Access to USFS Land #2	AF2	2.06	48	Angel Fire	Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	24	0	4	25	4			4	4	5	5
	Single Track Connector near Elliot Barker	AF33	0.69	47	USFS	Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	0	3	36	4			4	4	4	5
Tier 2	Angel Fire Elliot Barker connection alternative	AF17	0.20	35	USFS	Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	0	4	23	3			3	3	3	3
	ATV Lady Slipper Trail	AF15	2.80	39	USFS	ATV	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	5	0	3	16	4			3	4	3	4
	Frontage Road Trail	AF21	2.67	40	Angel Fire	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	13	1	1	2	5			4	4	4	4
	Girl Scout Access	AF26	0.36	30	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	0	3	17	3			3	3	3	3
	Lady Slipper Access	AF28	1.13	37	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	11	0	4	19	4			4	5	4	4
	Mobile Home Access	AF27	0.51	32	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	0	4	14	3			3	3	3	3
	Single Track Ho Chi Min trail	AF16	2.72	31	USFS	Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	0	2	23	3			3	3	3	3
Tier 3	Angel Fire Rec Loop	AF30	2.09	23	Angel Fire	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	10	0	4	38	1			0		0	
	Brazos Dr Improvements	AF4	2.21	29	Angel Fire	Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	15	0	3	26	1			0		0	

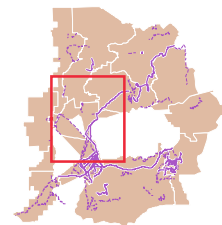
		Accessibility Score					Feasibility Score			Current Usage Score *Strava Usage on scale of 0 (lowest) to 10 (heaviest)			Public Preference and Proximity					Overall Trail Rankings			
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Kids within 1/2 mile	Seniors within 1/2 mile	Total Population within 1/2 mile	Median Household Income	Overall Accessibility Score	Slope (mean)	Private Parcel Crossings	Stream Crossings	Overall Feasibility Score	Median Strava Score	Mean Strava Score	Overall Current Usage Rank	# Museums within 1/2 mile	# Schools within 1/2 mile	# Parks within 1/2 mile	# Libraries within 1/2 mile	# Hospitals within 1/2 mile	Overall Proximity Rank	# of Top 5 Trail Votes
Tier 1	Angel Fire Olympic Park to Frontier Park	AF31	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	9	7	3	14	5	5.40	4	0	0	2	1	0	3	0
	Angel Fire Road Improvements #1	AF10	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	11	19	2	12	10	6.14	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
	Angel Fire Road Loop	AF3	255	359	1308	\$49,596	3	14	60	2	12	1	2.52	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	1
	Angel Fire San Juan Loop	AF32	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	18	19	3	13	10	6.35	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
	Community Center Tail	AF22	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	20	25	3	13	1	3.48	3	0	0	2	1	0	3	1
	Elliot Barker Access from Brazos Road	AF20	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	23	2	4	12	1	2.60	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Enchanted Circle Road Bike Trail - Taos to Angel Fire	AF9	1865	1747	7272	\$38,567	8	25	45	1	7	2	4.10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Proposed Access to USFS Land #1	AF1	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	12	6	3	13	2	4.81	4	0	0	1	1	0	2	0
	Proposed Access to USFS Land #2	AF2	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	25	24	4	14	5	5.74	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Single Track Connector near Elliot Barker	AF33	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	36	1	3	12	5	5.10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tier 2	Angel Fire Elliot Barker connection alternative	AF17	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	23	1	4	13	1	3.58	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ATV Lady Slipper Trail	AF15	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	16	5	3	11	2	3.29	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Frontage Road Trail	AF21	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	2	13	1	11	0	0.00	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	1
	Girl Scout Access	AF26	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	17	2	3	12	1	1.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lady Slipper Access	AF28	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	19	11	4	14	1	1.45	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mobile Home Access	AF27	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	14	1	4	12	1	1.72	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Single Track Ho Chi Min trail	AF16	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	23	2	2	8	1	1.56	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tier 3	Angel Fire Rec Loop	AF30	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	38	10	4	10	1	3.08	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
	Brazos Dr Improvements	AF4	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	26	15	3	9	5	5.94	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

Arroyo Hondo and Arroyo Seco planning area

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Arroyo Hondo and Arroyo Seco Planning Area

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PROJECT - PROPOSED TRAILS

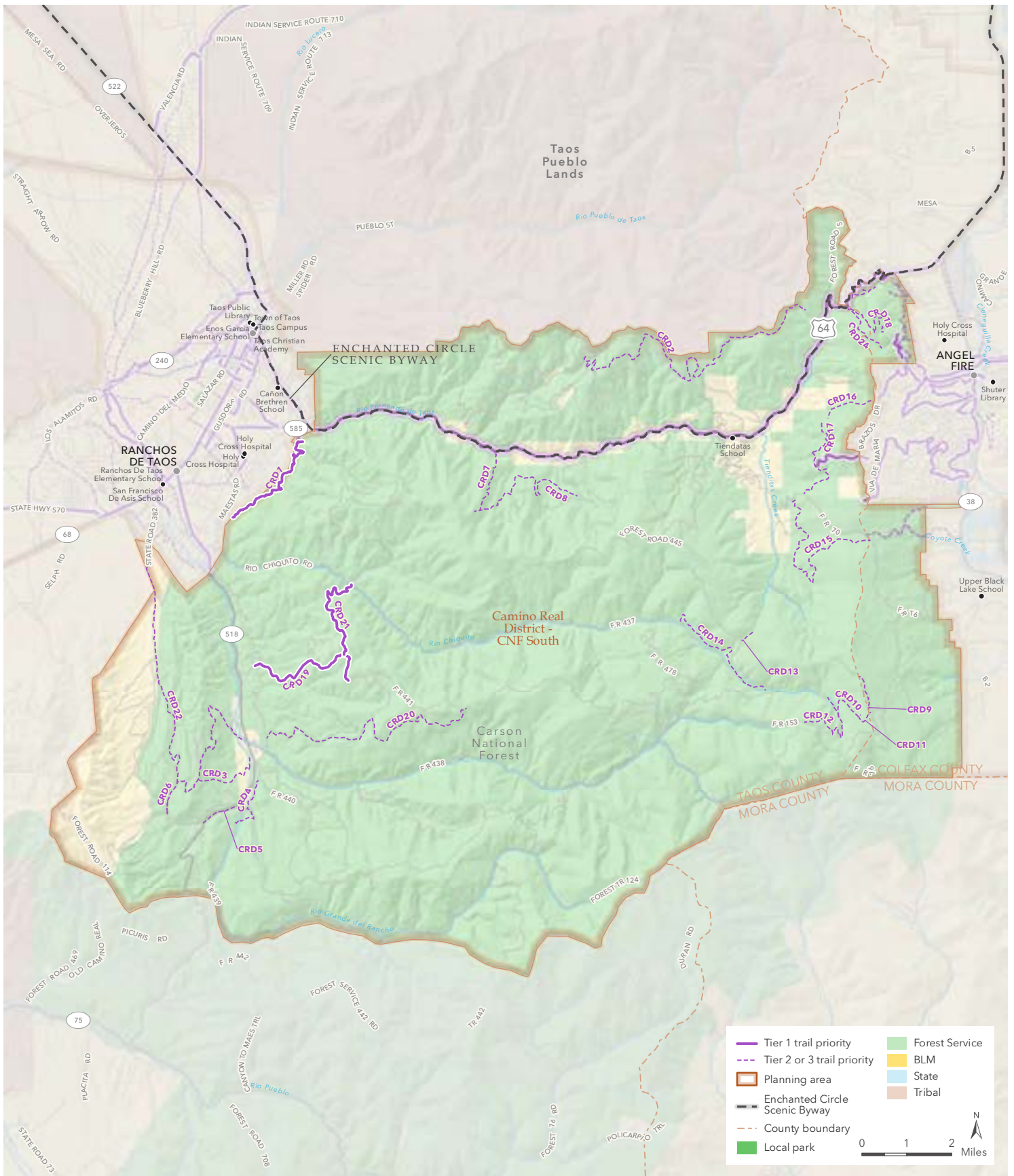
September 22, 2017



		Overview				Uses						
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Length (Miles)	Overall Ranking	Primary Surface Ownership	Primary Use	Walk/Hike	Road Bike	Mountain Bike	Horse	Nordic	OHV or Snowmobile
Tier 1	Bike Lane to Taos Ski Valley	AH23b	9.72	58	County of Taos	Road Bike	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
	KTaos to Arroyo Seco	AH23a	4.86	56		Road Bike	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Tier 2	Biking connector to John Dunn Bridge	AH4	7.34	40	Private	Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Duval Rd Improvements	AH3	3.03	37	Private	Road Biking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Tier 3	Valdez Acequia Hike	AH5	1.78	38	Private	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
	Access to BLM trail and John Dunn Bridge from US 64	AH1	4.18	24	Private	Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

		Statistics and Field Verification											Accessibility Score					
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	# of Private Parcels Crossed	Schools in Proximity	# of Stream Crossings	Slope (mean%)	Public Preference Ranking	Special Opportunities	Impediments	Health Score	Viability Score	User Experience Score	Overall User Score	Kids within 1/2 mile	Seniors within 1/2 mile	Total Population within 1/2 mile	Median Household Income	Overall Accessibility Score
Tier 1	Bike Lane to Taos Ski Valley	AH23b	19	0	1	39	4			4	5	5	5	262	302	1366	\$47,190	5
	KTaos to Arroyo Seco	AH23a	17	0	2	3	4			4	5	5	5	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2
Tier 2	Biking connector to John Dunn Bridge	AH4	68	1	1	4	4			4	5	5	5	932	612	3338	\$38,567	5
	Duval Rd Improvements	AH3	14	0	2	20	4			4	3	5	4	416	508	1917	\$40,845	3
Tier 3	Valdez Acequia Hike	AH5	32	0	3	28	4			4	5	5	5	262	302	1366	\$47,190	2
	Access to BLM trail and John Dunn Bridge from US 64	AH1	29	0	1	8	1	5	Yes	4	5	5		932	612	3338	\$38,567	4

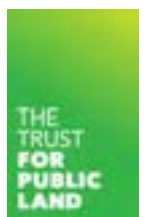
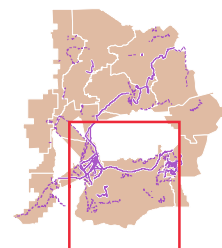
		Feasibility Score				Current Usage Score *Strava Usage on scale of 0 (lowest) to 10 (heaviest)			Public Preference and Proximity						Overall Trail Rankings	
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Slope (mean)	Private Parcel Crossings	Stream Crossings	Overall Feasibility Score	Median Strava Score	Mean Strava Score	Overall Current Usage Rank	# Museums within 1/2 mile	# Schools within 1/2 mile	# Parks within 1/2 mile	# Libraries within 1/2 mile	# Hospitals within 1/2 mile	Overall Proximity Rank	# of Top 5 Trail Votes
Tier 1	Bike Lane to Taos Ski Valley	AH23b	39	19	1	11	10	7.34	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	KTaos to Arroyo Seco	AH23a	3	17	2	14	10	7.62	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tier 2	Biking connector to John Dunn Bridge	AH4	4	68	1	11	1	1.00	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Duval Rd Improvements	AH3	20	14	2	10	1	1.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tier 3	Valdez Acequia Hike	AH5	28	32	3	14	1	2.47	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Access to BLM trail and John Dunn Bridge from US 64	AH1	8	29	1	11	1	1.41	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

Camino Real District - CNF South planning area

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Camino Real District - CNF South Planning Area

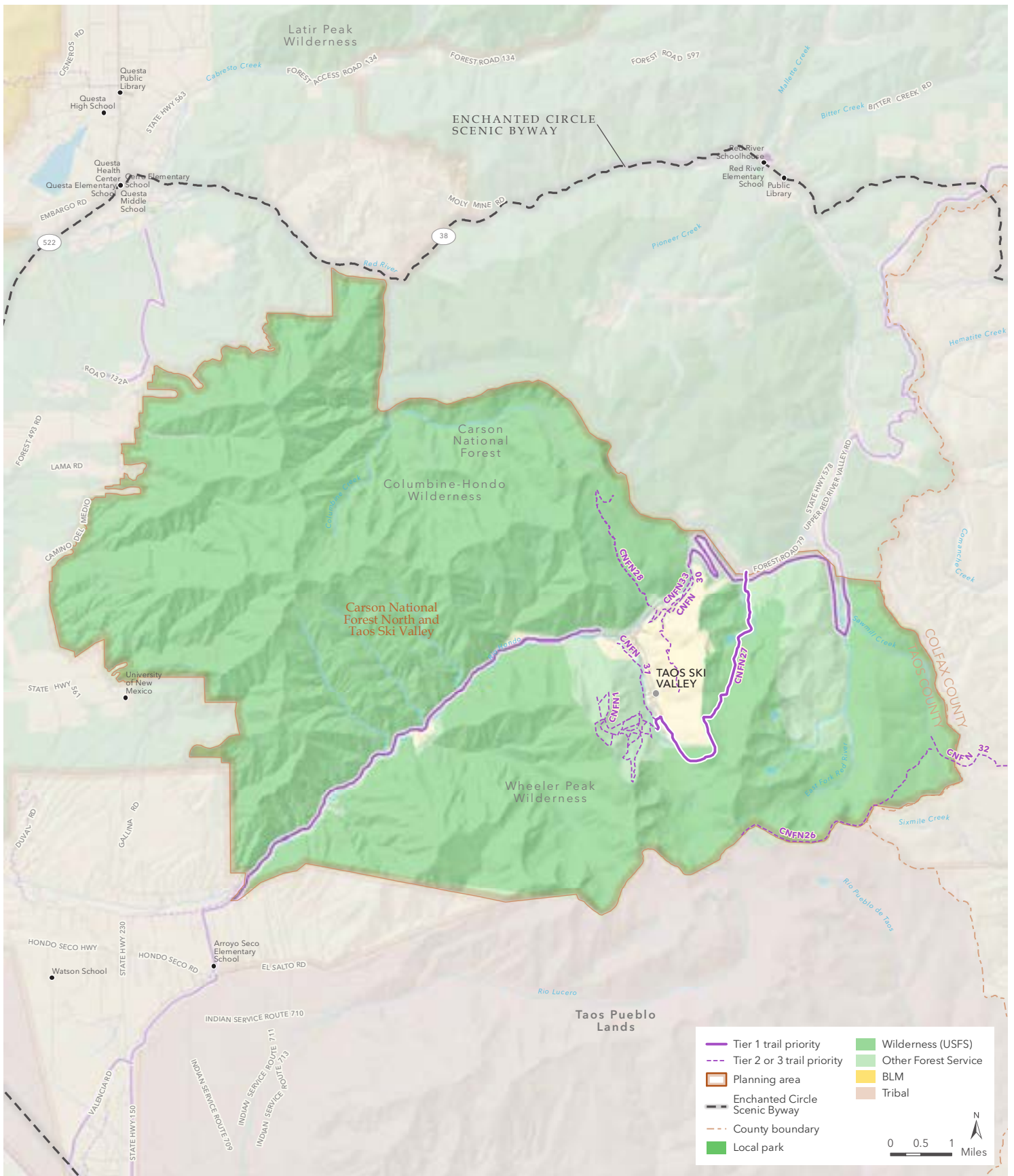
ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PROJECT - PROPOSED TRAILS

September 20, 2017



		Overview					Uses										Statistics and Field Verification									
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Length (Miles)	Overall Ranking	Primary Surface	Ownership	Primary Use	Walk/Hike	Road Bike	Mountain Bike	Horse	Nordic	OHV or Snowmobile	# of Private Parcels Crossed	Schools in Proximity	# of Stream Crossings	Slope (mean%)	Public Preference Ranking	Special Opportunities	Impediments	Health Score	Viability Score	User Experience Score	Overall User Score		
Tier 1	Forest Road 441 Bear Wallow Connector	CRD21	2.81	43	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	0	3	31	3			4	3	4	3		
	Forest Road 441, Bear Wallow Loop	CRD19	3.40	47	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	0	4	25	4			4	5	4	4		
	Talpa Traverse	CRD1	3.36	55	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	0	2	19	7			4	5	5	5		
Tier 2	Elliot Barker to US64	CRD24	1.34	33	USFS		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	0	4	20	2			0		0			
	Forest Road 441 Bear Wallow Loop	CRD20	6.51	41	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	0	4	25	4			4	4	4	4		
	McGaffey Loop	CRD5	0.88	30	USFS		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	1	0	4	28	1			0		0			
	Ojitos connector	CRD7	1.74	42	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	0	3	44	4			4	5	4	4		
	Vallecitos connector	CRD6	1.10	34	USFS		Equestrian	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	0	4	21	4			4	5	5	5		
	121 Alterative	CRD11	0.44	22	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2	0	4	13	1			0		0			
	Apache Pass Extension	CRD16	1.20	18	USFS		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	0	4	25	1			0		0			
	McGaffey Loop Trail	CRD4	1.52	18	USFS		ATV	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	1	0	3	16	1			0		0			
	McGaffey Ridge Loop	CRD3	1.81	18	USFS		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	3	0	3	19	1			0		0			
	Miranda Canyon access	CRD22	10.48	19	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	42	1	2	18	1			0		0			
Tier 3	North Boundary Trail Yellow Route	CRD2	9.14	18	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	0	3	29	1			0		0			
	Osha Meadow Loop	CRD15	4.97	22	USFS		ATV	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	0	4	26	1			0		0			
	Osha Pass Connector Loop	CRD17	2.66	19	USFS		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	0	3	35	1			0		0			
	Palo Flechado Pass Loop	CRD18	3.04	21	USFS		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2	0	4	28	1			0		0			
	Quintana Pass	CRD13	0.32	20	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	0	4	29	1			0		0			
	Rio Chiquito Extension	CRD10	1.44	17	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	0	3	27	1			0		0			
	Rock Garden Road	CRD9	0.83	24	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2	0	4	15	1			0		0			
	South Boundary, Mondrago, Ojitos 660 Loop	CRD8	3.62	21	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	0	3	38	2			0		0			
	Trail 121 Loop	CRD14	3.26	17	USFS		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	0	3	40	1			0		0			
	Upper Pot Creek connector	CRD12	1.92	17	USFS		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	0	4	31	1			0		0			

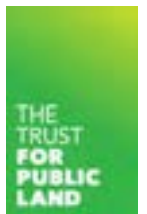
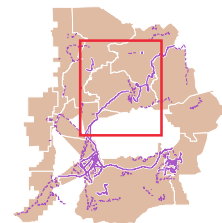
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Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Kids within 1/2 mile	Seniors within 1/2 mile	Total Population within 1/2 mile	Median Household Income	Overall Accessibility Score	Slope (mean)	Private Parcel Crossings	Stream Crossings	Overall Feasibility Score	Median Strava Score	Mean Strava Score	Overall Current Usage Rank	# Museums within 1/2 mile	# Schools within 1/2 mile	# Parks within 1/2 mile	# Libraries within 1/2 mile	# Hospitals within 1/2 mile	Overall Proximity Rank	# of Top 5 Trail Votes
Tier 1	Forest Road 441 Bear Wallow Connector	CRD21	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	31	1	3	9	5	5.63	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Forest Road 441, Bear Wallow Loop	CRD19	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	25	1	4	11	5	5.48	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Talpa Traverse	CRD1	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	19	1	2	9	2	4.78	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Tier 2	Elliot Barker to US64	CRD24	255	359	1308	\$49,596	2	20	2	4	9	5	5.85	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Forest Road 441 Bear Wallow Loop	CRD20	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	25	1	4	11	1	3.70	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	McGaffey Loop	CRD5	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	28	1	4	10	5	5.74	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ojitos connector	CRD7	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	44	1	3	11	2	4.36	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Vallecitos connector	CRD6	483	380	1866	\$41,938	2	21	1	4	12	0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	121 Alterative	CRD11	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	13	2	4	12	1	3.39	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Apache Pass Extension	CRD16	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	25	1	4	9	1	1.30	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	McGaffey Loop Trail	CRD4	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	16	1	3	8	1	1.28	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	McGaffey Ridge Loop	CRD3	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	19	3	3	9	1	1.21	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Miranda Canyon access	CRD22	772	709	2947	\$30,995	3	18	42	2	9	1	1.01	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Tier 3	North Boundary Trail Yellow Route	CRD2	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2	29	2	3	7	1	1.14	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Osha Meadow Loop	CRD15	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	26	2	4	8	1	4.09	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Osha Pass Connector Loop	CRD17	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	35	1	3	7	1	1.79	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Palo Flechado Pass Loop	CRD18	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	28	2	4	8	1	3.06	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Quintana Pass	CRD13	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	29	1	4	11	1	2.41	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rio Chiquito Extension	CRD10	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	27	1	3	8	1	1.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rock Garden Road	CRD9	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	15	2	4	10	2	3.67	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	South Boundary, Mondrago, Ojitos 660 Loop	CRD8	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	38	1	3	7	1	1.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Trail 121 Loop	CRD14	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	40	1	3	7	1	1.10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Upper Pot Creek connector	CRD12	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	31	1	4	9	1	1.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

Carson National Forest North and Taos Ski Valley planning area

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Carson National Forest North and Taos Ski Valley Planning Area

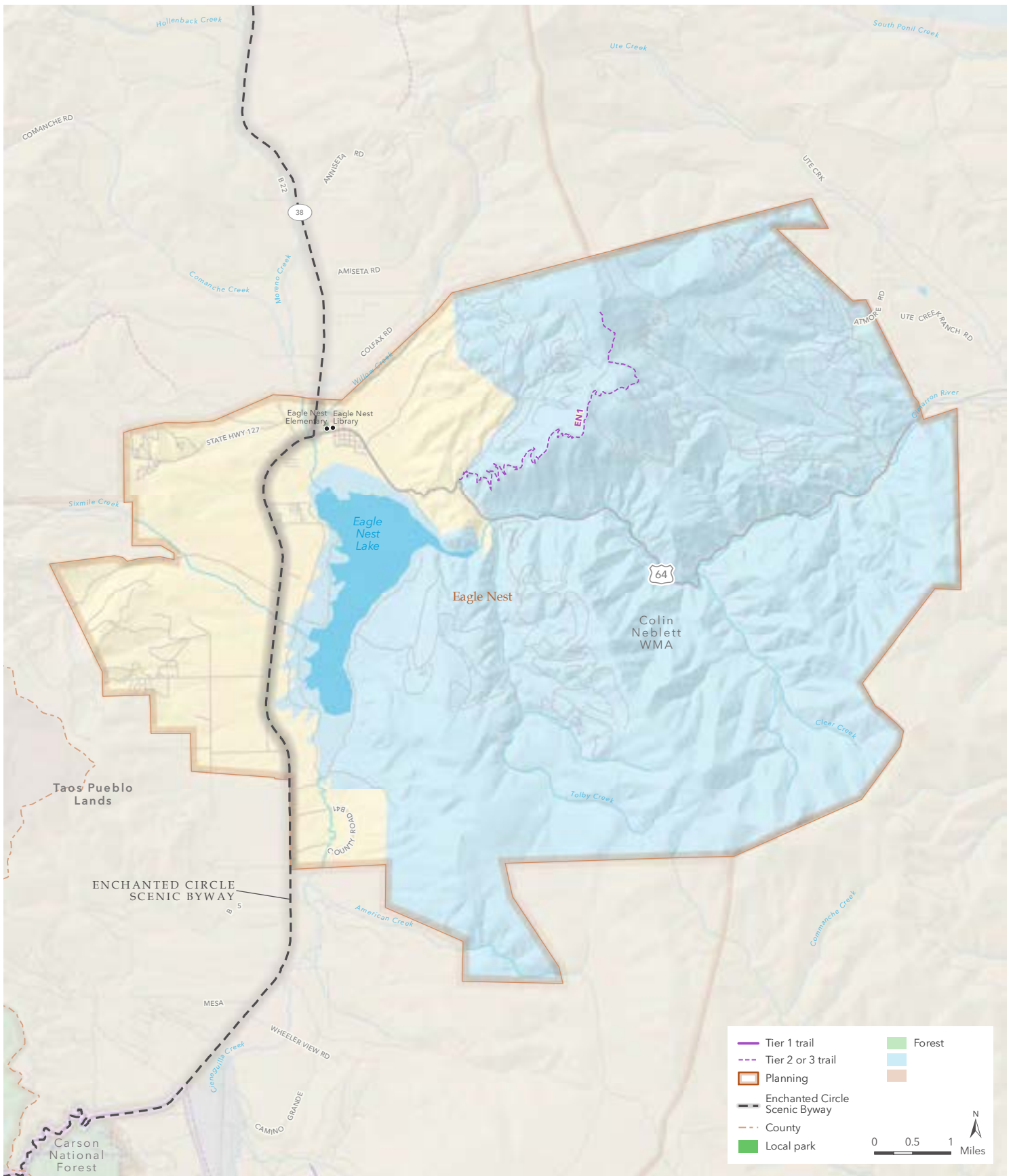
ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PROJECT - PROPOSED TRAILS

September 22, 2017



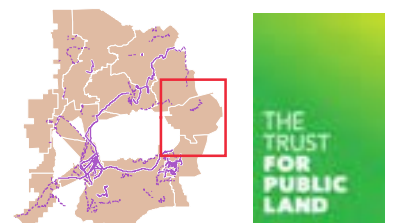
		Overview					Uses							Statistics and Field Verification									
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Length (Miles)	Overall Ranking	Primary Surface Ownership	Primary Use	Walk/Hike	Road Bike	Mountain Bike	Horse	Nordic	OHV or Snowmobile	# of Private Parcels Crossed	Schools in Proximity	# of Stream Crossings	Slope (mean%)	Public Preference Ranking	Special Opportunities	Impediments	Health Score	Viability Score	User Experience Score	Overall User Score
Tier 1	Middle Fork Lake to Bavarian	CNFN27	5.10	54	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	6	0	2	41	7	Yes		4	5	5	4
	Alternate Bull of Wood Access	CNFN33	1.42	36	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	0	4	46	4			4	3	5	5
Tier 2	Long Canyon Improvements	CNFN28	2.83	38	USFS	Equestrian	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	1	0	4	37	4			4	5	5	5
	Taos Cone Extension from Sawmill Park	CNFN26	4.10	30	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	4	0	4	42	3			4	2	5	3
	Taos Ski Valley BikePark	CNFN1	8.12	39	USFS	Mountain Biking	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	2	0	3	45	3			4	5	5	3
Tier 3	Hike Bike Pattison Land connector	CNFN 30	2.67	19	Private	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2	0	3	41	1			0		0	0
	Taos Peak Eagle Nest Connector	CNFN 32	4.67	18	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	4	0	2	27	1			0		0	0
	TSV Access trail	CNFN 31	1.55	26	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	8	0	3	34	1			0		0	0

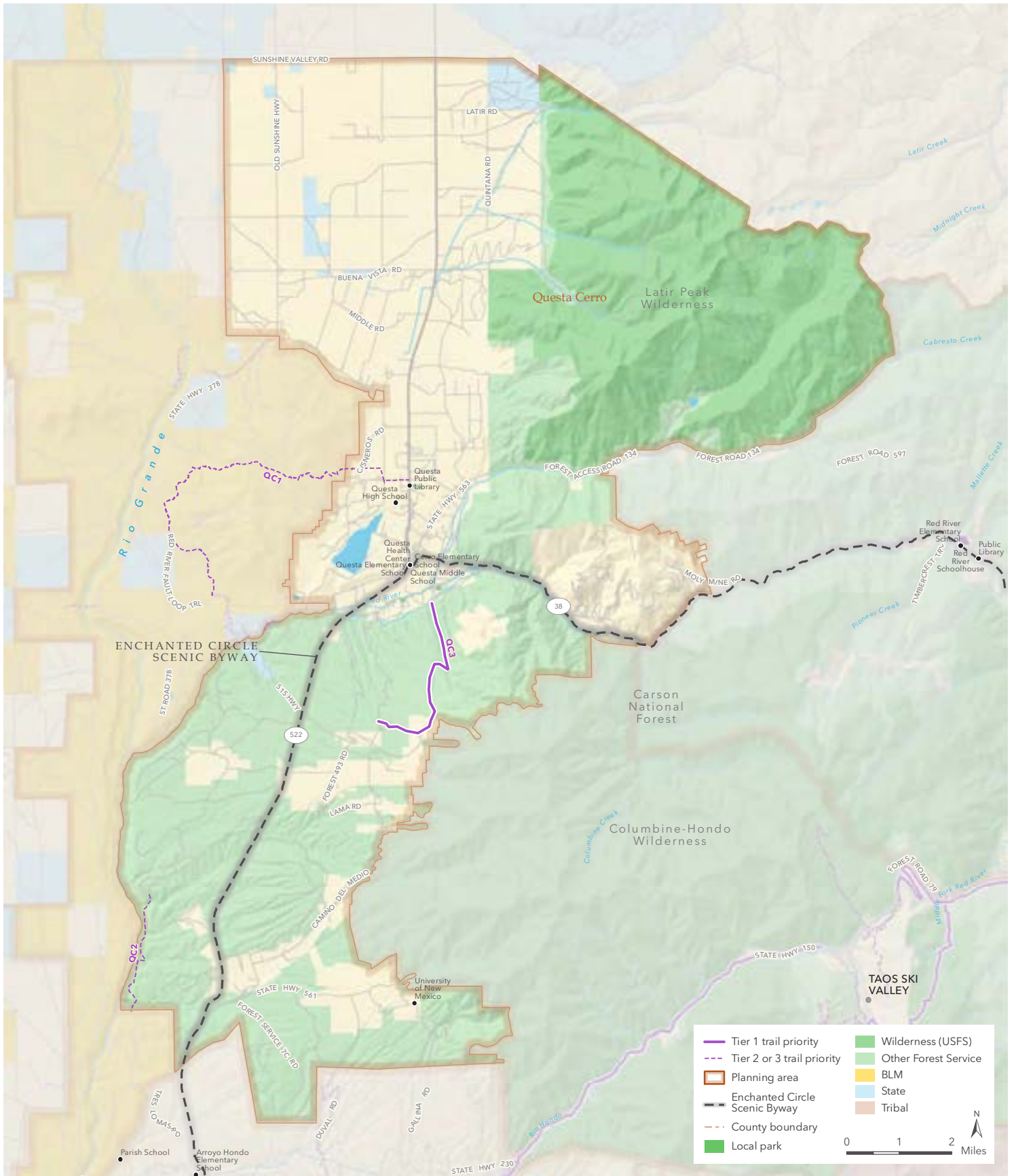
		Accessibility Score					Feasibility Score				Current Usage Score *Strava Usage on scale of 0 (lowest) to 10 (heaviest)				Public Preference and Proximity					Overall Trail Rankings	
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Kids within 1/2 mile	Seniors within 1/2 mile	Total Population within 1/2 mile	Median Household Income	Overall Accessibility Score	Slope (mean)	Private Parcel Crossings	Stream Crossings	Overall Feasibility Score	Median Strava Score	Mean Strava Score	Overall Current Usage Rank	# Museums within 1/2 mile	# Schools within 1/2 mile	# Parks within 1/2 mile	# Libraries within 1/2 mile	# Hospitals within 1/2 mile	Overall Proximity Rank	# of Top 5 Trail Votes
Tier 1	Middle Fork Lake to Bavarian	CNFN27	262	302	1366	\$47,190	3	41	6	2	11	1	3.56	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Alternate Bull of Wood Access	CNFN33	262	302	1366	\$47,190	2	46	1	4	11	1	1.02	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tier 2	Long Canyon Improvements	CNFN28	416	508	1917	\$40,845	3	37	1	4	11	1	1.31	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Taos Cone Extension from Sawmill Park	CNFN26	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	42	4	4	10	0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Taos Ski Valley BikePark	CNFN1	262	302	1366	\$47,190	3	45	2	3	10	2	4.26	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tier 3	Hike Bike Pattison Land connector	CNFN 30	262	302	1366	\$47,190	3	41	2	3	7	1	1.10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Taos Peak Eagle Nest Connector	CNFN 32	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	27	4	2	7	1	1.18	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TSV Access trail	CNFN 31	262	302	1366	\$47,190	2	34	8	3	10	2	4.93	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

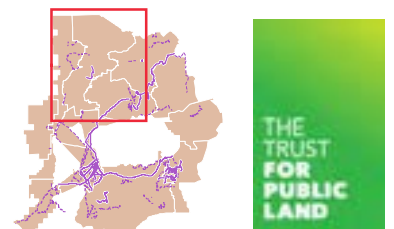
Eagle Nest planning area

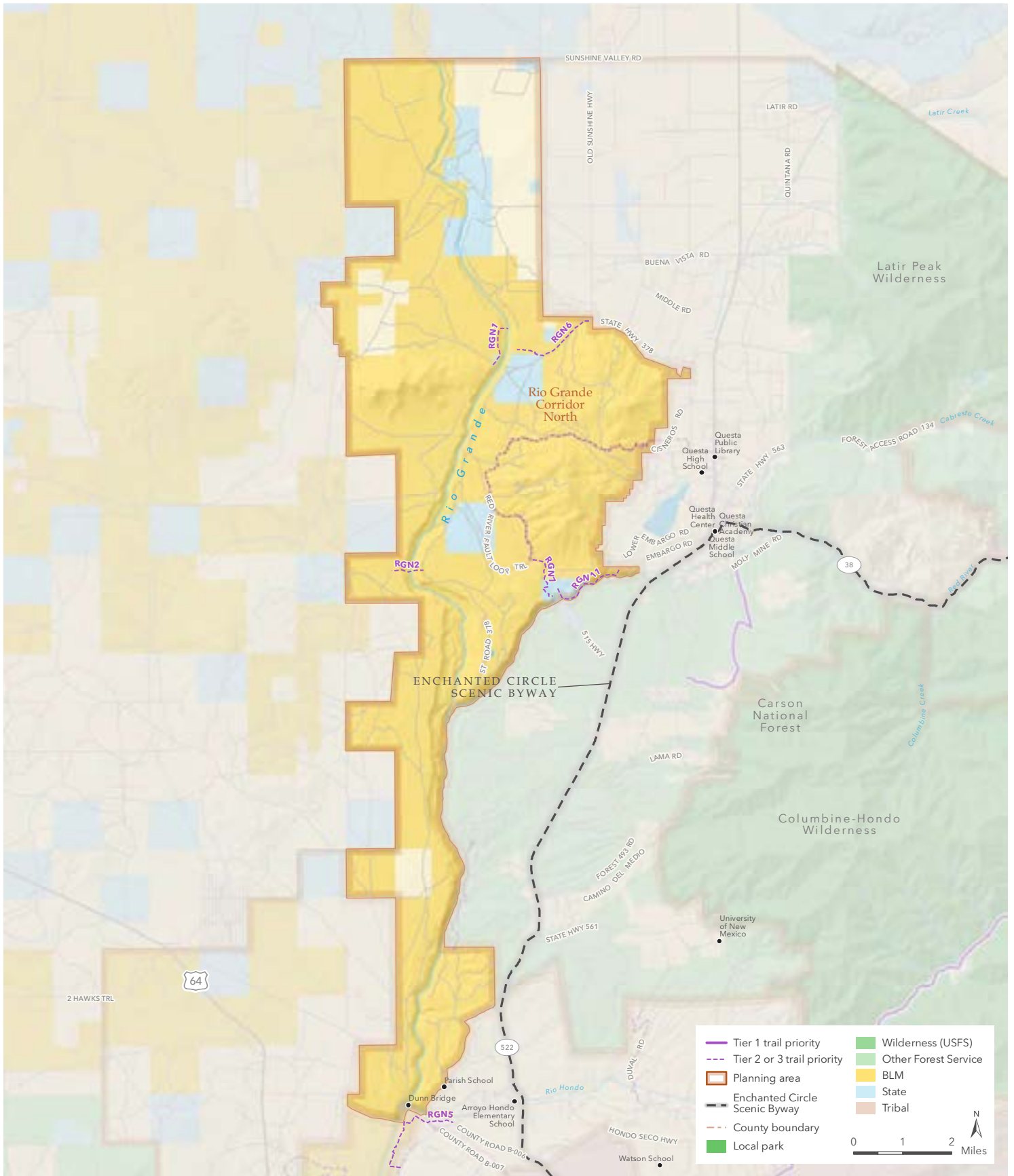




ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

Questa Cerro planning area

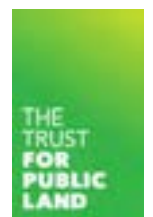
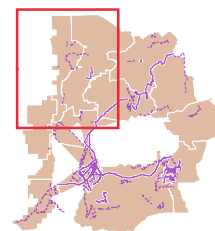


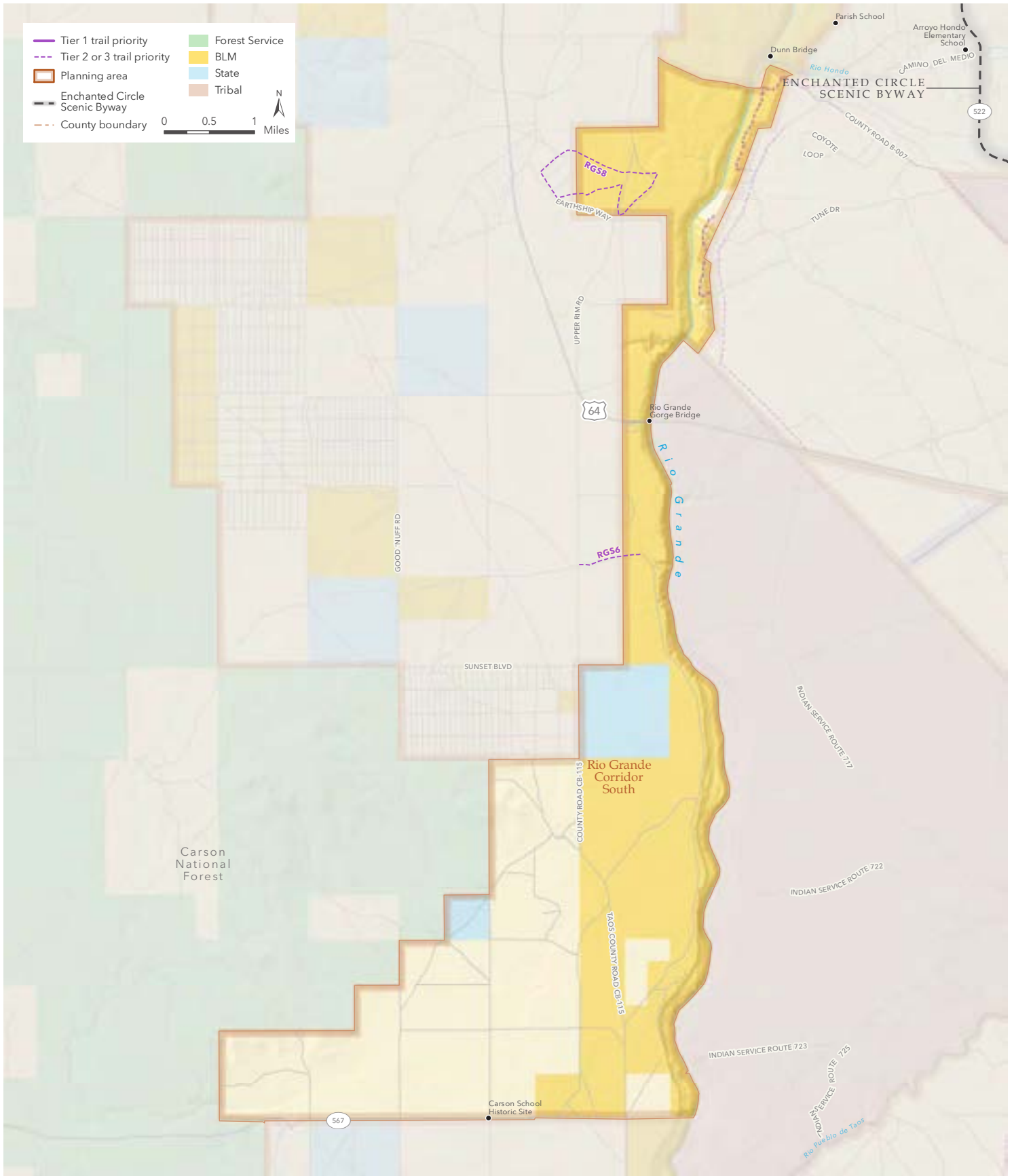


ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

Rio Grande Corridor North planning area

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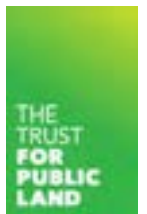
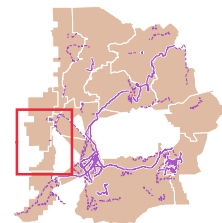


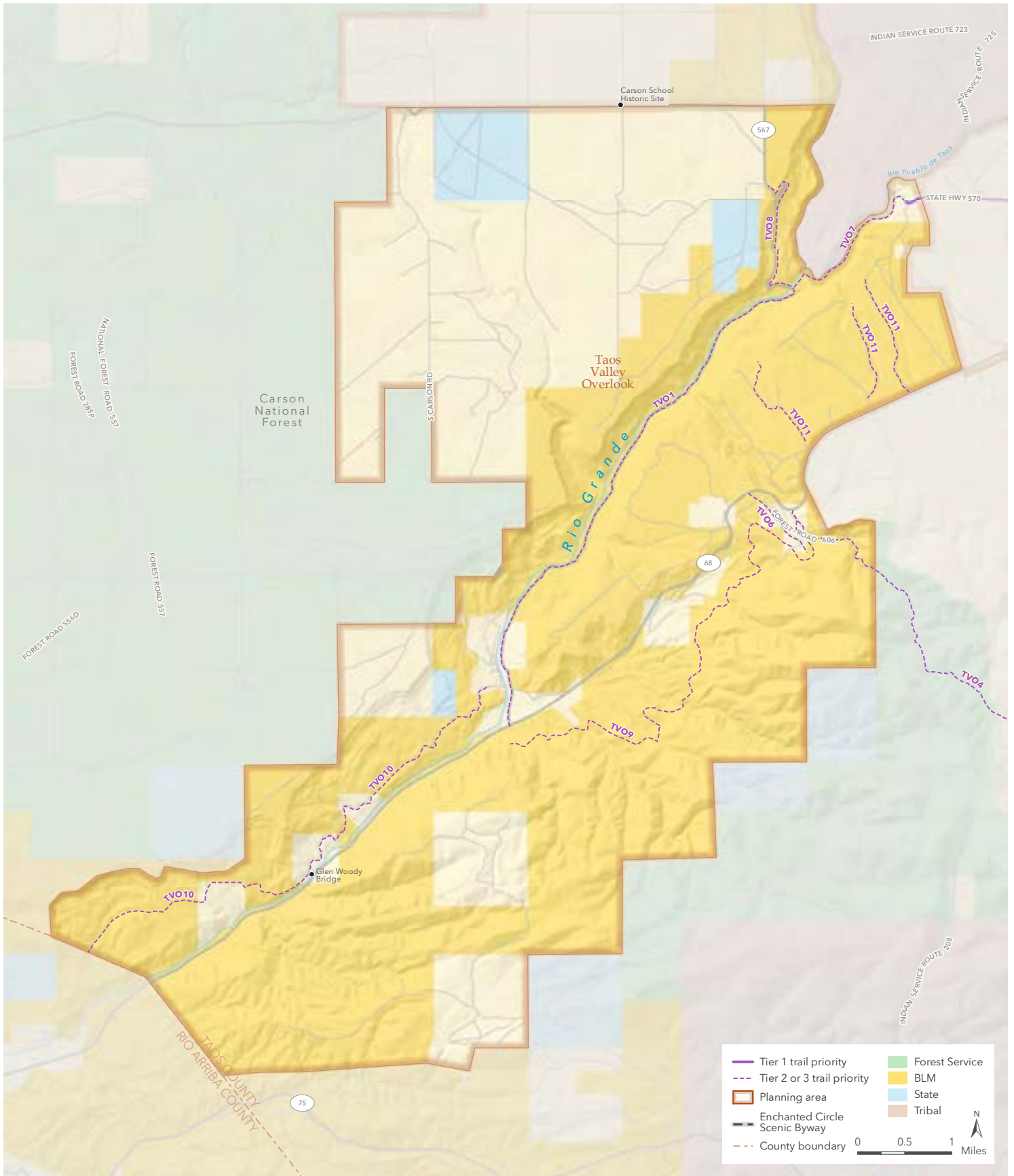


ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

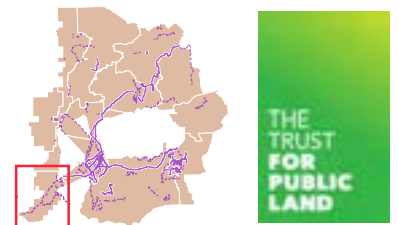
Rio Grande Corridor South planning area

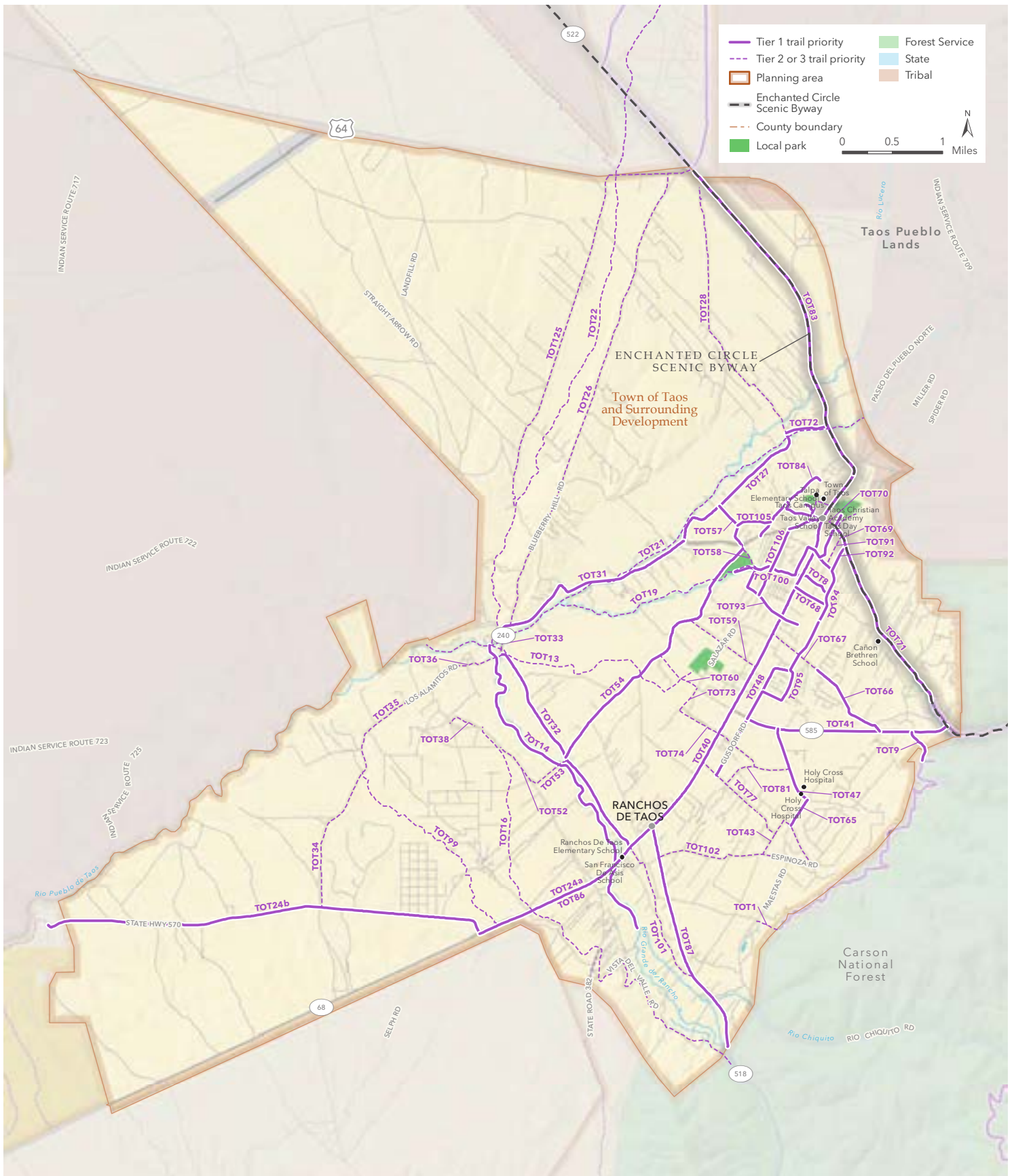
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ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES
Taos Valley Overlook planning area

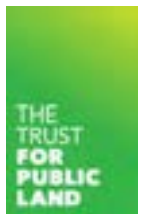
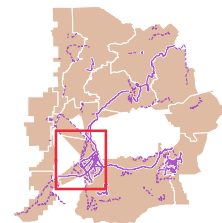




ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

Town of Taos and Surrounding Development planning area

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Town of Taos and Surrounding Development Planning Area

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PROJECT - PROPOSED TRAILS

September 25, 2017



		Overview			Uses										Statistics and Field Verification									
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Length (Miles)	Overall Ranking	Primary Surface Ownership	Primary Use	Walk/Hike	Road Bike	Mountain Bike	Horse	Nordic	OHV or Snowmobile	# of Private Parcels Crossed	Schools in Proximity	# of Stream Crossings	Slope (mean%)	Public Preference Ranking	Special Opportunities	Impediments	Health Score	Viability Score	User Experience Score	Overall User Score	
Tier 1	Bike Lane: Albright Rd	TOT68	0.36	48		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	3	4	1	6			2	3	2	3	
	Bike Lane: Cam del Medio	TOT54	2.85	44		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	5	0	1	2	3			2	3	2	3	
	Bike Lane: Carabaja Rd	TOT57	0.48	48		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	5	0	4	2	4			3	5	3	4	
	Bike Lane: Gusdorf Rd	TOT48	2.11	56		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	4	2	2	6			3	3	3	3	
	Bike Lane: La Lomita Rd	TOT105	0.34	45		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	9	4	4	2	3			3	3	3	3	
	Bike Lane: Maestes Rd	TOT65	0.30	43		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	1	0	3	7	4			3	4	3	4	
	Bike Lane: Ranchitos Rd	TOT107	0.21	54		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	5	4	4	3			3	3	3	3	
	Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook	TOT24b	6.46	43		Road Biking	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	35	1	1	5	4			3	4	3	4	
	Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook	TOT24a	6.46	43		Road Biking	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	35	1	1	5	4			3	4	3	4	
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT31	2.13	48		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	0	2	7	3			3	2	3	3	
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT32	2.34	45		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	4	1	4	3	3			3	2	3	3	
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 518	TOT87	2.38	53		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	2	3	6	4			3	5	3	3	
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 585	TOT41	2.02	58		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	0	3	2	6	5			4	5	5	5	
	Bike Lane: Upper Ranchitos Rd	TOT27	1.62	50		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	3	1	2	2	3			3	3	3	3	
	Bike Lane: US Hwy 64	TOT71	1.77	62		Road Bike	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	4	4	9	5			3	3	3	3	
	Bike Lane: Weimer Rd	TOT47	0.78	51		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	1	0	4	4	3			4	4	4	3	
	Bike Route: Cruz Alta Rd	TOT66	0.91	51		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	2	4	3	4			4	5	4	4	
	Bike Route: Los Pandos Rd	TOT49	0.63	47		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	7	3	2	3			3	3	3	3	
	Bike Route: Salazar Rd	TOT106	0.73	48		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	5	6	2	2	3			3	3	3	3	
	Bike Route: US Hwy 64	TOT69	0.22	47		Road Bike	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	5	4	3	1			0		0		
	Bike Route: Valverde St	TOT84	0.87	55		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	12	6	4	3	4			4	2	4	3	
	Don Fernando to Library	TOT103	0.29	57		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	6	4	3	3			3	3	3	3	
	Don Fernando to Saavedra	TOT104	0.34	47		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	8	6	4	2	3			3	3	3	3	
	High School to Baca	TOT93	0.88	58		Hiking	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	12	2	4	2	7			3	5	3	5	
	High School to Kit Carson	TOT94	1.34	62		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	7	8	3	2	7			3	4	3	5	
	High School to Youth and Family Center	TOT95	1.41	44		Hiking	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	13	4	3	2	4			3	4	3	5	
	Kit Carson to Baca Connector - Alternative 1	TOT100	1.47	46		Hiking	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	25	7	2	2	3			3	3	3	3	
	Los Cordovas Rio Grande del Rancho Arroyo	TOT14	3.73	43		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	109	2	1	4	4			4	4	5	4	
	NM150 connector	AH23	3.50	51		Road Bike	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	27	1	2	3	5			4	5	5		
	Ranchito Rd through the Plaza	TOT108	0.11	50		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	6	4	6	3			3	3	3	3	
	Rio Fernando Pedestrian and Bike Path	TOT8	0.84	43		Hiking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	27	3	2	2	4			3	3	3	3	
	Talpa Traverser connector	TOT9	0.32	43		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	4	0	4	18	4			4	5	4	4	
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light	TOT88	0.54	61		Road Bike	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	6	4	2	4			3	4	3	5		
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light	TOT83	3.50	52		Road Bike	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	2	2	2	3			2	4	2	3		
Town of Taos to Ranchos de Taos	TOT40	3.52	55		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	11	2	2	2			0	4	1	2		
Upper Ranchitos Rd	TOT72	0.43	45		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	1	4	2	4			3	5	3	4		

Town of Taos and Surrounding Development Planning Area Cont'd

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PROJECT - PROPOSED TRAILS

September 25, 2017



		Overview			Uses										Statistics and Field Verification									
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Length (Miles)	Overall Ranking	Primary Surface Ownership	Primary Use	Hiking	Walk/Hike	Road Bike	Mountain Bike	Horse	Nordic	OHV or Snowmobile	# of Private Parcels Crossed	Schools in Proximity	# of Stream Crossings	Slope (mean%)	Public Preference Ranking	Special Opportunities	Impediments	Health Score	Viability Score	User Experience Score	Overall User Score
	Arroyo Seco Trail	TOT22	7.45	41		Hiking	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	84	1	1	4	4	4			4	3	4	3
	Bike Lane: Espinosa Rd to Estes Rd	TOT102	2.02	38		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	18	2	4	3	3				3	3	3	3
	Bike Lane: Este Es Rd	TOT77	1.27	42		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	12	0	4	3	5				4	4	5	5
	Bike Lane: La Morada Rd	TOT28	2.77	36		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	15	0	3	3	2				3	3	3	2
	Bike Lane: La Posta Rd	TOT58	0.30	31		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	0	2	1	2				2	2	2	2
	Bike Lane: Paseo del Canon W	TOT60	0.50	36		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	2	4	2	1				0		0	
	Bike Lane: Salazar Rd	TOT73	0.28	37		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	2	2	2	3				3	5	3	3
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT33	0.27	42		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	4	0	1	1	3				3	3	3	3
	Bike Route: Cam de la Placitas	TOT89	0.37	38		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	3	6	4	2	1				0		0	
	Bike Route: Los Cordovas Rd	TOT34	1.73	38		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	12	0	2	5	3				3	3	3	3
	Bike Route: Los Cordovas Rd Seg #2	TOT36	0.68	37		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	0	2	2	3				3	3	3	3
	Bike Route: Los Cordovas Rd Seg. #1	TOT35	1.10	38		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	4	0	4	3	3				3	3	3	3
	Bike Route: Morgan Rd	TOT81	0.71	38		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	0	3	3	4				4	5	5	5
	Bike Route: Rim View Rd	TOT38	0.30	31		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	0	4	3	3				3	3	3	3
Tier 2	Bike Route: Romero Rd	TOT53	0.43	33		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	0	2	3	3				4	2	4	3
	Bike Route: Roy Rd	TOT80	0.48	39		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	3	2	4	2	4				4	4	4	5
	Bike Route: Tafoya Rd	TOT43	0.24	32		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	0	4	3	3				3	3	3	3
	Bike Route: US Hwy 64	TOT70	0.18	38		Road Bike	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	6	4	2	1				0		0	
	Blueberry Hill Rd	TOT26	4.80	41		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	15	1	4	7	2				4	3	4	3
	Burch St Road Improvements	TOT92	0.28	31		Multi-use	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	3	5	4	2	1				0		0	
	Hwy 64 Connector	TOT127	0.84	30		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	1	2	3	1				0		0	
	Los Cordovas Eco Park connector	TOT13	2.40	33		Hiking	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	32	0	1	3	1				0		0	
	Los Cordovas to Highway hiking trail	TOT99	2.37	38		Hiking	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	50	0	2	6	4				4	5	5	4
	Montoya St Road Improvements	TOT91	0.33	33		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	5	5	4	2	1				0		0	
	Morada Road Improvements	TOT90	0.25	34		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	3	5	4	4	1				0		0	
	Rio Fernando de Taos Blueberry Hill to Fred Baca	TOT19	3.90	40		Hiking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	75	1	1	4	3				4	2	4	3
	Rio Pueblo de Taos	TOT21	3.73	34		Hiking	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	93	1	1	2	2				0		0	
	San Fransico to E Camino Aboja de la Loma	TOT101	1.52	35		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	18	2	4	9	3				3	3	3	3
	Talpa Traverse Connector	TOT1	0.23	37		Mountain Biking	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	6	0	4	7	3				3	5	3	3
	Acequia Llano Quemado and Acequia de Avago la Loma	TOT16	5.38	20		Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	147	1	2	8	1				0		0	
	Bike Lane: Cam de la Merced	TOT59	0.80	29		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	1	4	2	1				0		0	
	Bike Lane: Cruz Alta Rd	TOT67	0.57	26		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	3	1	4	2	1				0		0	
Tier 3	Bike Lane: Roy Rd	TOT74	0.46	22		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	3	2	3	4	1				0		0	
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 68	TOT86	2.05	23		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	1	1	5	2				2	5	2	2
	Bike Route: Cuchilla Rd	TOT52	0.47	25		Road Biking	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	0	4	8	2				2	2	2	2
	Lower Las Colonias Rd	TOT125	3.49	29		Road Bike	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	23	1	4	4	4	1	4		4	4	4	4

Town of Taos and Surrounding Development Planning Area Cont'd

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PROJECT - PROPOSED TRAILS

September 25, 2017



Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Accessibility Score				Feasibility Score				Current Usage Score *Strava Usage on scale of 0 (lowest) to 10			Public Preference and Proximity					Overall Trail Rankings		
			Kids within 1/2 mile	Seniors within 1/2 mile	Total Population within 1/2 mile	Median Household Income	Overall Accessibility Score (mean)	Private Parcel Crossings	Stream Crossings	Overall Feasibility Score	Median Strava Score	Mean Strava Score	Overall Current Usage Rank	# Museums within 1/2 mile	# Schools within 1/2 mile	# Parks within 1/2 mile	# Libraries within 1/2 mile	# Hospitals within 1/2 mile		Overall Proximity Rank	# of Top 5 Trail Votes
Tier 1	Bike Lane: Albright Rd	TOT68	578	418	1847	\$35,796	7	1	1	4	16	1	1.01	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	3
	Bike Lane: Cam del Medio	TOT54	749	430	2535	\$34,332	8	2	5	1	11	2	4.94	4	0	0	3	0	0	3	0
	Bike Lane: Carabajal Rd	TOT57	354	264	1235	\$26,405	8	2	5	4	18	2	4.39	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
	Bike Lane: Gusdorf Rd	TOT48	578	418	1847	\$35,796	8	2	1	2	11	1	3.82	3	0	4	1	0	0	5	3
	Bike Lane: La Lomita Rd	TOT105	354	264	1235	\$26,405	8	2	9	4	18	1	1.81	2	4	4	3	0	0	11	0
	Bike Lane: Maestros Rd	TOT65	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	7	1	3	13	2	4.58	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Bike Lane: Ranchitos Rd	TOT107	354	264	1235	\$26,405	8	4	1	4	16	2	4.95	4	8	5	3	1	0	17	0
	Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook	TOT24b	932	612	3338	\$38,567	4	5	35	1	11	2	4.34	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Bike Lane: Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook	TOT24a	932	612	3338	\$38,567	4	5	35	1	11	2	4.34	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT31	932	612	3338	\$38,567	2	7	2	2	7	10	6.16	4	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT32	749	430	2535	\$34,332	8	3	4	4	13	2	4.60	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 518	TOT87	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	6	1	3	10	10	6.14	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	1
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 585	TOT41	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	6	0	2	9	10	6.23	4	0	3	0	0	0	3	1
	Bike Lane: Upper Ranchitos Rd	TOT27	354	264	1235	\$26,405	8	2	3	2	13	5	5.03	4	1	1	1	0	0	3	0
	Bike Lane: US Hwy 64	TOT71	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2	9	2	4	11	10	6.28	4	6	4	2	0	0	12	2
	Bike Lane: Weimer Rd	TOT47	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	4	1	4	15	10	6.08	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Bike Route: Cruz Alta Rd	TOT66	578	418	1847	\$35,796	8	3	1	4	16	2	3.78	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
	Bike Route: Los Pandos Rd	TOT49	176	205	778	\$17,312	7	2	1	3	14	1	3.00	3	7	7	3	0	0	17	0
	Bike Route: Salazar Rd	TOT106	749	430	2535	\$34,332	6	2	5	2	14	2	2.62	2	7	6	4	1	0	18	0
	Bike Route: US Hwy 64	TOT69	82	128	458	\$47,349	6	3	1	4	14	10	6.07	4	8	5	3	1	0	17	0
	Bike Route: Valverde St	TOT84	127	233	643	\$35,579	7	3	12	4	16	1	2.67	2	8	6	4	1	0	19	1
	Don Fernando to Library	TOT103	127	233	643	\$35,579	7	3	2	4	16	5	5.80	4	8	6	3	1	0	18	0
	Don Fernando to Saaverdra	TOT104	127	233	643	\$35,579	7	2	8	4	18	1	2.18	2	8	6	3	1	0	18	0
	High School to Baca	TOT93	749	430	2535	\$34,332	6	2	12	4	18	1	2.99	3	0	2	1	0	0	3	2
	High School to Kit Carson	TOT94	578	418	1847	\$35,796	8	2	7	3	16	1	1.00	1	8	8	3	1	0	20	2
	High School to Youth and Family Center	TOT95	578	418	1847	\$35,796	8	2	13	3	16	1	1.00	1	0	4	1	0	0	5	0
	Kit Carson to Baca Connector - Alternative 1	TOT100	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2	2	25	2	15	1	3.53	3	8	7	4	1	0	20	0
	Los Cordovas Rio Grande del Rancho Arroyo	TOT14	483	380	1866	\$41,938	3	4	109	1	11	1	2.94	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
	NM150 connector	AH23	932	612	3338	\$38,567	4	3	27	2	15	2	4.18	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	4
	Ranchito Rd through the Plaza	TOT108	127	233	643	\$35,579	6	6	2	4	16	2	4.32	3	8	6	3	1	0	18	0
Rio Fernando Pedestrian and Bike Path	TOT8	176	205	778	\$17,312	7	2	27	2	16	0	0.00	1	3	3	1	0	0	7	1	
Talpa Traverse connector	TOT9	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	18	4	4	15	2	4.32	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light	TOT88	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2	2	1	4	16	10	6.06	4	8	6	3	1	0	18	0	
Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light	TOT83	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2	2	2	2	12	10	7.16	4	2	2	2	1	0	7	0	
Town of Taos to Ranchos de Taos	TOT40	749	430	2535	\$34,332	8	2	1	2	12	10	6.20	4	8	11	5	1	0	25	0	
Upper Ranchitos Rd	TOT72	274	151	883	\$42,188	4	2	1	4	17	2	3.87	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	

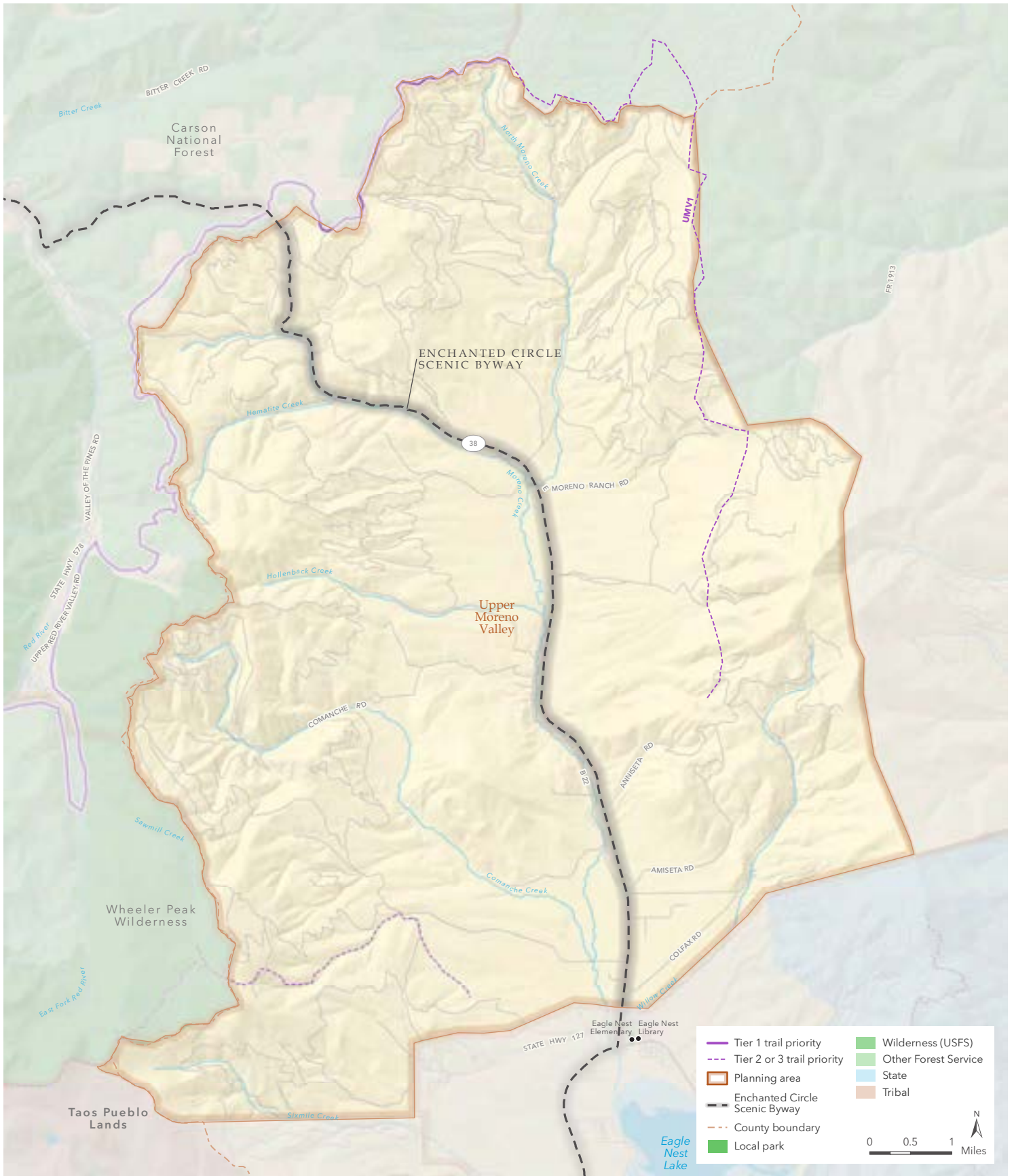
Town of Taos and Surrounding Development Planning Area Cont'd

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PROJECT - PROPOSED TRAILS

September 25, 2017

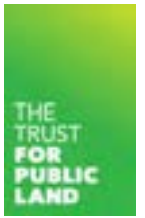
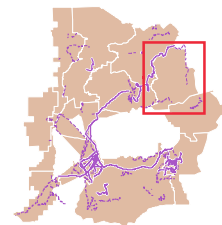


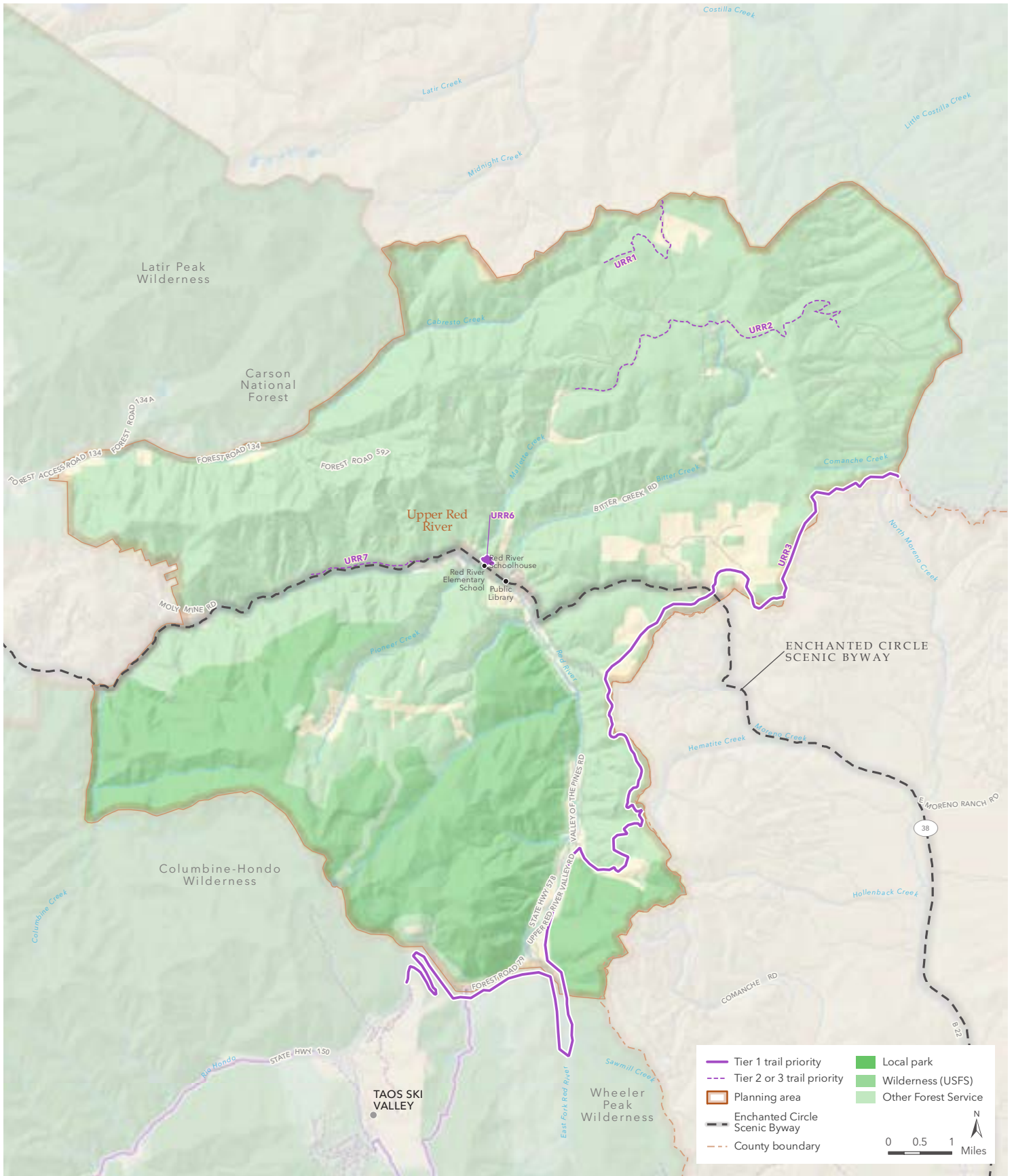
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Accessibility Score					Feasibility Score					Current Usage Score *Strava Usage on scale of 0 (lowest) to 10		Public Preference and Proximity					Overall Trail Rankings	
			Kids within 1/2 mile	Seniors within 1/2 mile	Total Population within 1/2 mile	Median Household Income	Overall Accessibility Score	Overall Slope (mean)	Private Parcel Crossings	Stream Crossings	Overall Feasibility Score	Median Strava Score	Mean Strava Score	Overall Current Usage Rank	# Museums within 1/2 mile	# Schools within 1/2 mile	# Parks within 1/2 mile	# Libraries within 1/2 mile	# Hospitals within 1/2 mile	Overall Proximity Rank	# of Top 5 Trail Votes
Tier 2	Arroyo Seco Trail	TOT22	932	612	3338	\$38,567	5	4	84	1	10	1	1.33	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
	Bike Lane: Espinosa Rd to Estes Rd	TOT102	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	3	18	4	14	1	3.90	3	0	2	0	0	1	3	0
	Bike Lane: Este Es Rd	TOT177	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	3	12	4	17	1	1.02	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
	Bike Lane: La Morada Rd	TOT28	932	612	3338	\$38,567	3	3	15	3	12	2	4.75	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Bike Lane: La Posta Rd	TOT58	749	430	2535	\$34,332	5	1	2	2	13	1	1.76	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
	Bike Lane: Paseo del Canon W	TOT60	749	430	2535	\$34,332	5	2	1	4	14	5	5.16	4	0	2	2	0	0	4	0
	Bike Lane: Salazar Rd	TOT73	749	430	2535	\$34,332	4	2	2	2	15	1	1.04	1	0	2	2	0	0	4	0
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	TOT33	932	612	3338	\$38,567	2	1	4	1	14	5	5.63	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bike Route: Cam de la Placitas	TOT89	127	233	643	\$35,579	7	2	3	4	15	1	3.65	3	8	6	3	1	0	18	0
	Bike Route: Los Cordovas Rd	TOT34	779	415	2561	\$40,782	4	5	12	2	12	2	3.90	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bike Route: Los Cordovas Rd Seg #2	TOT36	779	415	2561	\$40,782	3	2	2	2	13	2	3.84	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bike Route: Los Cordovas Rd Seg. #1	TOT35	779	415	2561	\$40,782	4	3	4	4	12	2	4.42	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bike Route: Morgan Rd	TOT81	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	3	1	3	15	1	1.00	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Bike Route: Rim View Rd	TOT38	779	415	2561	\$40,782	2	3	2	4	16	1	1.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bike Route: Romero Rd	TOT53	779	415	2561	\$40,782	2	3	1	2	11	1	1.11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bike Route: Roy Rd	TOT80	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	2	3	4	18	1	1.00	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
	Bike Route: Tafoya Rd	TOT43	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	3	1	4	16	1	1.00	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Bike Route: US Hwy 64	TOT70	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2	2	2	4	14	5	5.93	4	8	6	3	1	0	18	0
	Blueberry Hill Rd	TOT26	932	612	3338	\$38,567	4	7	15	4	12	5	4.93	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Burch St Road Improvements	TOT92	176	205	778	\$17,312	7	2	3	4	15	1	1.10	1	6	5	2	0	0	13	0
	Hwy 64 Connector	TOT127	932	612	3338	\$38,567	2	3	1	2	11	5	5.68	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Los Cordovas Eco Park connector	TOT13	749	430	2535	\$34,332	8	3	32	1	8	2	4.93	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
	Los Cordovas to Highway hiking trail	TOT99	779	415	2561	\$40,782	4	6	50	2	12	1	1.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Montoya St Road Improvements	TOT91	82	128	458	\$47,349	7	2	5	4	15	1	1.00	1	8	5	3	1	0	17	0
	Morada Road Improvements	TOT90	363	250	1268	\$34,816	2	4	3	4	15	2	4.42	3	8	5	3	1	0	17	0
	Rio Fernando de Taos Blueberry Hill to Fred Baca	TOT19	932	612	3338	\$38,567	4	4	75	1	9	1	3.14	3	2	1	1	0	0	4	0
	Rio Pueblo de Taos	TOT21	932	612	3338	\$38,567	4	2	93	1	10	2	4.99	4	2	1	0	0	0	3	1
San Fransico to E Camino Aboja de la Loma	TOT101	483	380	1866	\$41,938	2	9	18	4	14	1	2.74	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	
Talpa Traverse Connector	TOT1	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	7	6	4	17	2	3.87	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tier 3	Acequia Llano Quemado and Acequia de Avago la Loma	TOT16	772	709	2947	\$30,995	2	8	147	2	9	1	1.52	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Bike Lane: Cam de la Merced	TOT59	749	430	2535	\$34,332	6	2	1	4	13	1	3.14	3	0	1	2	0	0	3	0
	Bike Lane: Cruz Alta Rd	TOT67	578	418	1847	\$35,796	7	2	3	4	14	1	1.95	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Bike Lane: Roy Rd	TOT74	749	430	2535	\$34,332	5	4	3	3	14	0	0.00	1	0	2	1	0	0	3	0
	Bike Lane: State Hwy 68	TOT86	483	380	1866	\$41,938	2	5	1	1	11	0	0.00	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Bike Route: Cuchilla Rd	TOT52	779	415	2561	\$40,782	2	8	1	4	12	1	1.15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Las Colonias Rd	TOT125	932	612	3338	\$38,567	4	4	23	4	14	1	1.59	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	



ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

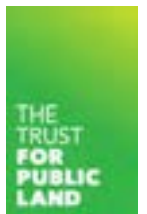
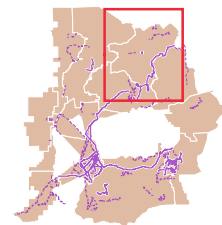
Upper Moreno Valley planning area





ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PLAN: TRAIL PRIORITIES

Upper Red River planning area



Upper Red River Planning Area

ENCHANTED CIRCLE TRAIL PROJECT - PROPOSED TRAILS

September 25, 2017



		Overview				Uses								Statistics and Field Verification									
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Length (Miles)	Overall Ranking	Primary Surface Ownership	Primary Use	Walk/Hike	Road Bike	Mountain Bike	Horse	Nordic	OHV or Snowmobile	# of Private Parcels Crossed	Schools in Proximity	Slope (mean%)	Public Preference Ranking	Special Opportunities	Impediments	Health Score	Viability Score	User Experience Score	Overall User Score	
Tier 1	Barbara Dry Flagge Mtn Trail	URR6	0.82	44	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	4	1	48	5			4	5	5	5	
	The Big Ditch - Upper Red River	URR3	22.01	49	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	94	0	29	7			4	5	5	5	
Tier 2	La Belle Historic StageCoachTrail	URR2	6.63	39	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	1	0	25	5			4	4	5	5	
Tier 3	Cabresto Canyon Extension	URR1	2.54	21	USFS	Hiking	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	0	18	1			0		0	0	
	OHV Elephant Rock Access	URR7	1.95	23	USFS	ATV	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	2	0	19	1			0		0	0	

		Accessibility Score					Feasibility Score				Current Usage Score *Strava Usage on scale of 0 (lowest) to 10 (heaviest)			Public Preference and Proximity					Overall Trail Rankings		
Tier	Trail Name	Segment Id	Kids within 1/2 mile	Seniors within 1/2 mile	Total Population within 1/2 mile	Median Household Income	Overall Accessibility Score	Slope (mean)	Private Parcel Crossings	Stream Crossings	Overall Feasibility Score	Median Strava Score	Mean Strava Score	Overall Current Usage Rank	# Museums within 1/2 mile	# Schools within 1/2 mile	# Parks within 1/2 mile	# Libraries within 1/2 mile	# Hospitals within 1/2 mile	Overall Proximity Rank	# of Top 5 Trail Voters
Tier 1	Barbara Dry Flagge Mtn Trail	URR6	238	197	976	\$57,001	2	48	4	4	14	1	1.01	1	0	1	2	1	0	4	1
	The Big Ditch - Upper Red River	URR3	260	261	1170	\$37,587	2	29	94	1	11	1	1.15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Tier 2	La Belle Historic StageCoachTrail	URR2	135	173	707	\$48,805	2	25	1	2	9	1	1.02	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tier 3	Cabresto Canyon Extension	URR1	135	173	707	\$48,805	2	18	2	3	7	2	2.75	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	OHV Elephant Rock Access	URR7	238	197	976	\$57,001	2	19	2	4	9	1	3.76	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

Appendix B: Resources for Trail Building and Design

Appendix B: Resources for Trail Building and Design

This information is provided as a resource for local trail advocates. An additional list of resources included below.

Trail Classification

According to the U.S. Forest Service, there are three trail types and five trail classes. The three trail types are the standard/terra trail; a snow trail; and a water trail. The classes of trails are (1) minimally developed; (2) moderately developed; (3) developed; (4) highly developed; and (5) fully developed. There are also designated use types for trails that include hiker/pedestrian; pack and saddle; bicycle; motorcycle; all-terrain vehicle; cross-country ski, snowshoe, snowmobile, and motorized watercraft; and nonmotorized watercraft.

Table Ap.B-1: Trail Attributes					
Trail Attributes	Trail Class 1 Minimally Developed	Trail Class 2 Moderately Developed	Trail Class 3 Developed	Trail Class 4 Highly Developed	Trail Class 5 Fully Developed
Area	Nature Trail	Recreation trail	Rural multiuse	Rural/Urban multiuse	Urban/Suburban multiuse
Trail Uses	Low-impact uses Hiking Cycling Snowshoeing Cross-country skiing	Mountain biking Cycling Hiking Cross-country skiing Horseback	Bicycling Walking Hiking Snowmobiling ATVs Horseback Cross-country skiing Snowshoeing	Bicycling Skateboarding Skating Walking/hiking Riding scooters Horseback Wheelchairs Strollers	Bicycling Skateboarding Skating Walking/hiking Riding scooters Wheelchairs Strollers
Trail Purpose	Natural unmodified connection to trail systems Protect sensitive areas Avoid degradation of natural areas	Natural, essentially unmodified Connections between trail systems	Natural, primarily unmodified Connect to public facilities	Transition between urban and rural	Access to community sites, including residences, schools, parks, greenbelts, or other commercial areas
Trail Surface	Natural surface	Gravel or native surface 3–4 feet wide Steeper trails	Gravel or packed earthen surface 8–10 feet wide	Hard-surfaced, paved, or packed gravel 4–10 feet wide	Hard-surfaced or paved, with amenities such as benches and lighting, where appropriate

Table Ap.B-1: Trail Attributes					
Trail Attributes	Trail Class 1 Minimally Developed	Trail Class 2 Moderately Developed	Trail Class 3 Developed	Trail Class 4 Highly Developed	Trail Class 5 Fully Developed
			Where mixed use proposed, proper trail signage		10–12 feet wide
Obstacles	Obstacles common, naturally occurring, often substantial and intended to provide increased challenge Narrow passages; brush, steep grades, rocks, and logs present	Obstacles may be common, substantial, and intended to provide increased challenge Blockages cleared to define route and protect resources Vegetation may encroach into trailway	Obstacles may be common but not substantial or intended to provide challenge Vegetation cleared outside trailway	Obstacles infrequent and insubstantial Vegetation cleared outside trailway	Obstacles not present Grades typically < 8%
Constructed Features and Trail Elements	Structures minimal to nonexistent	Structures of limited size, scale, and quantity; typically constructed of native materials	Structures may be common and substantial; constructed of imported or native materials Bridges as needed for resource protection and appropriate access	Structures frequent and substantial; typically constructed of imported materials Bridges as needed for resource protection and user convenience Trailside amenities may be present	Structures frequent or continuous; typically constructed of imported materials May include bridges, boardwalks, curbs, handrails, trailside amenities, and similar features
Signs	Route identification signing limited Information and interpretive signing generally not present	Route identification signing limited to junctions Information and interpretive signing not common	Route identification signing as needed for user reassurance Resource protection signing may be common Information and interpretive signs may be present outside wilderness	Route identification signing as needed for user reassurance Regulatory and resource protection signing common Information and interpretive signs may be common outside wilderness Accessibility information likely displayed at trailhead	Route identification signing for user reassurance Route markers as needed for user reassurance Regulatory and resource protection signing common Information and interpretive signs common Accessibility information likely displayed at trailhead

Sources: Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation, *Trails Guidelines and Best Practices Manual*, updated October 2014, www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/greenway/docs/dcrguidelines.pdf; National Park Service, *North Country National Scenic Trail Construction and Design Standards*, August 1996, <https://www.nps.gov/noco/learn/management/upload/Handbook-complete-2.pdf>; New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, *Standards and Guidelines for Trails in New York State*, April 2010, <http://parks.ny.gov/recreation/trails/documents/TrailsTechnicalStandardsandGuidelines.pdf>; U.S. Forest Service, *Trail Class Matrix*, October 2008, https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/trail-management/documents/trailfundamentals/National_Trail_Class_Matrix_10_16_2008.pdf.

Trail Types

In addition to the Forest Service classification above, trails can be divided into the following four categories: (1) nonmotorized trails, (2) roads, (3) off-road facilities, and (4) on-road facilities.

Table Ap.B-2 Nonmotorized Trails	
Natural Surface Trails	Multiuse Paths
<p>Rugged Trails. These trails are meant to have a minimal impact on the natural system and can include grade reversals, switchbacks, benching, and outsloping. These trails are ideal for mountain bikers, hikers, horseback riders, and even snowshoers.</p>	<p>Graded Trails. These trails are graded and level, and are intended for accessible outdoor recreation, including walkers, hikers, people in wheelchairs, and people with baby strollers.</p> <p>Paved Paths. These paved paths are designated for all nonmotorized users and can accommodate all forms of self-propelled modes of travel except bicycles.</p>

Table Ap.B-3 Motorized and Nonmotorized Roads		
Natural Surface	Soft Surface	Asphalt
<p>OHV Roads. These roads are intended for four-wheeled vehicle use and can accommodate off highway vehicles (OHVs), including dirt bikers, motorcyclists, and mountain bikers.</p>	<p>Graded Roads. Gravel roads and graded surfaces, sometimes with seasonal closures, can accommodate horseback riders, mountain bikers, and on-road cyclists.</p>	<p>Paved Roads. Service roads and highways can provide a place for road cyclists.</p>

Table Ap.B-4 Off-Road Facilities	
Paved Paths	Sidewalks
<p>Local Multiuse Paths. These shared paths are physically separated from motorized vehicle traffic. They accommodate both adult and child bicyclists, in-line and roller skating, skateboarding, horseback riding, walking,</p>	<p>Attached Sidewalk. Sidewalks are reserved for pedestrian use and are constructed next to a roadway and contiguous with the street curb.</p>

<p>jogging and running, wheelchair use, baby strollers, and dog walking.</p> <p>Regional Multiuse Paths. These longer-distance paths may be multi-jurisdictional and can provide alternate transportation needs. They are sometimes linear features along a river or stream corridor, road, railroad, utility corridor, or irrigation canal, and can be used similarly as the local multiuse paths.</p>	<p>Detached Sidewalk. Detached sidewalks are physically separated from the motor vehicle traffic and are also intended for pedestrian use but can also be used by other nonmotorized users.</p>
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Table Ap.B-5 On-Road Facilities	
Designated Bicycle Space	Shared Roadways
<p>Cycle Track A cycle track is an exclusive bike facility that combines the user experience of a separated path with the on-street infrastructure of a conventional bicycle lane, separated by some physical barrier between the motorized traffic.</p> <p>Bicycle Lane. A bicycle lane is intended for bike use but also shares infrastructure with motorized traffic.</p>	<p>Paved Shoulder. Paved shoulders are seen sometimes on rural roads and provide an area for disabled vehicles, but can also be used by cyclists.</p> <p>Shared Lane. All streets and roadways, unless specifically prohibited by law, permit shared use of bicycles and motorized vehicles. Signage is helpful to encourage shared use.</p>

Source: Estes Valley Recreation and Park District, *Estes Valley Master Trails Plan*, October 2016, <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/evrpd/news/estes-valley-trails-master-plan-complete>.

Trail Users



Many trail users are categorized as walkers, runners, or bikers, but each of these categories has people with varying skill levels and comfort levels. For example, are pedestrians using a trail for exercise, leisure, or a safe route to work? These distinctions in classification change the way the user interacts with the trail. The categories outlined below are based on those in the Estes Valley Master Trails Plan (2016).

Bicyclists

- **Advanced Bicyclists.** Advanced cyclists are usually comfortable riding with the flow of traffic and can ride long distances for recreation or complete direct trips for utilitarian purposes. Advanced cyclists operate at maximum speed with minimum delays and are comfortable using the existing street system.
- **Basic Bicyclists.** Basic cyclists are casual riders who may be less confident on their bicycle and prefer riding with special provisions for bicycles. Their trips are closer to home, and they avoid interacting with motor vehicle thoroughfares and low-volume traffic. They prefer well-defined separation from traffic. This group can include people, particularly vulnerable populations, who rely on bikes for transportation because they do not have access to cars.
- **Child Bicyclists.** Children and preteens who may use cycling as a mode of getting to or from school are usually monitored by an adult. Child cyclists, and their adult supervisor(s), would prefer routes with low motor vehicle traffic and well-defined separation from cars. Furthermore, it is important to have proper signage that helps designate these safe routes and these bicycle systems that link residential areas to schools, recreation facilities, shopping centers, and more.
- **Mountain Bikers.** Mountain bikers prefer off-road experiences with varying skill levels. The preferred trails for mountain bikers are loop systems within a connected web of trails, with contours following the natural topography of the land.

Pedestrians

- **Utilitarian Walking.** Pedestrians often walk to reach destinations such as work or school. The priority of many utilitarian walkers is to have a contiguous and safe sidewalk system that connects to major destinations.
- **Walking or Running.** Walkers are on trails as a recreational activity, for either exercise or enjoyment, or both. Activities included in this category can be walking the dog, pushing a baby stroller, jogging, walking briskly, or running.
- **Strolling or Linger.** Pedestrians who stroll and linger are people who enjoy amenities along a path or trail such as a bench, looking at a sign, people watching, or just stopping to talk to others. This category also includes paths or sidewalks near storefronts, parks, plazas, music venues, or unique landscape features.
- **Hiking.** Hikers recreationally spend time outdoors and on trails, often on a natural surface and in nature. Slopes and grade vary, and the trails are often longer segments or connect to other trails in a trail network for hikers.
- **Limited Mobility Users.** Users of trails with limited mobility may include wheelchair users and people with vision impairments. They are likely to interact with a trail that is paved, smooth, and flat. This category could include sidewalks, curb ramps, street crossings, and multiuse paths.
- **Nonmotorized Users.** This classification of trail user encompasses other forms of movement that are considered under the pedestrian category. These users include cross-country skiers, in-line skaters, bird watchers, and more. These users often can interact with trails in a variety of ways, while their recreation is dependent on an environmental or natural setting.

Equestrians

- Equestrian sites need appropriate staging areas for unloading and grooming horses. Hard surfaces and coarse gravel can injure horse hooves.

Resources for Trail Design

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Urban Bikeway Design Guide. National Association of City Transportation Officials. 2012. <http://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/>.

Appendix C: Conservation Finance Report

CONSERVATION FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDY | SEPTEMBER 2017

TOWN OF TAOS AND TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



THE
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INTRODUCTION

The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit land conservation organization working to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being. The Trust for Public Land helps conserve land for parks, greenways, recreation areas, watersheds and wilderness. To help public agencies or land trusts acquire land, the Trust for Public Land's Conservation Finance program assists communities in identifying and securing public financing. The Trust for Public Land offers technical assistance to elected officials, public agencies and community groups to design, pass, and implement public funding measures that reflect popular priorities.

Helping communities to secure dedicated conservation funding is often the tipping point that can lead to deeper ecological responsibility, including more prudent land use, better managed growth, and the increased protection of natural landscapes. To stimulate engagement across jurisdictions and constituencies, the Trust for Public Land has historically found effective partnerships among a broad spectrum of players from the environmental left to the fiscally conservative right and recognizes that it is important to consistently explore new tools, such as economic benefits research, that can encourage and strengthen the willpower of the voters to seek dedicated conservation funds. This focused, up-front investment pays dividends over the long-term in voter-supported funding that is dedicated to conservation.

Since 1996, the Trust for Public Land has been involved in nearly 500 successful ballot measures and twenty successful legislative campaigns that have created more than \$57 billion in new funding for parks, restoration, and land conservation. Voters have approved 81 percent of the ballot measures assisted by the Trust for Public Land. In New Mexico, the Trust for Public Land has supported ten local conservation finance ballot measures since 1996. All of these measures passed, generating nearly \$94.5 million for parks and land conservation purposes. The Trust for Public Land most recently helped Bernalillo County pass a 15-year property tax levy of \$0.20 per \$1,000 taxable value for open space and acquisition and maintenance of other natural areas in November 2014. The measure was approved with 72 percent support.

The Trust for Public Land has undertaken a study of potential public funding options to support the strategic planning process to conserve land and water and improve parks and recreational opportunities in the Town of Taos and Taos County, New Mexico. This research provides a stand-alone, fact-based reference document that can be used to evaluate financing mechanisms from an objective vantage point.^{1,2}

¹ The contents of this report are based on the best available information at the time of research and drafting, February-June 2016, with updated revenue estimates as of September 2017.

² This feasibility study is not a legal document and should not be relied upon for legal purposes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Many opportunities exist to conserve land in the Town of Taos and Taos County and to provide recreation amenities for residents and visitors. At the heart of the most successful conservation funding programs is a substantial, long-term, dedicated source of local revenue. With a reliable source of funds, local governments can establish meaningful conservation priorities that protect the most valuable resources and meet important goals and values. Local governments with significant funds are much better positioned to secure and leverage funding from the federal government and attract other local and state government or private philanthropic partners.

In New Mexico, a range of public financing options have been authorized to fund parks and recreation, such as the property tax, local gross receipts/sales taxes, and general obligation bonds. However, many of these mechanisms are limited to capital expenses and may not be used to support regular operations. The mechanism utilized most often in the state for operations is the property tax. Because of the need to leverage funds, this report describes specific local funding opportunities, state funding sources, and federal programs that may be available for land acquisition, parks, and trails in the Town of Taos and Taos County.

This report begins by analyzing local public funding tools available to the Town of Taos and Taos County, including revenue generating capacity and estimated costs to taxpayers where relevant. These tools are summarized below.

- **General Obligation Bonds:** Bonds are the most utilized tool for parks and conservation purposes by local governments in New Mexico, accounting for 12 of 19 measures on the ballot since 1996. The Town of Taos could issue a bond for parks and open space purposes. A \$2 million bond would cost the average household about \$34 per year. Taos County could also issue a bond for open space. A \$9 million bond, for example, would cost the average household about \$33 each year. Voter approval is required.

Bonds provide several advantages over pay-as-you-go funding, including the opportunity to make significant land acquisitions in the near term, presumably before the price of land increases. However, this mechanism is not always appropriate or feasible (e.g. typically bond proceeds may not be used for stewardship purposes).

- **Property Tax:** In New Mexico, one jurisdiction, Bernalillo County, has dedicated a property tax to parks and open space. New Mexico statutes limit the maximum allowable mill levy for county general purposes to \$11.85 per \$1,000 of taxable value, and for municipal general purposes the limit is \$7.65 per \$1,000 of taxable value. Both the Town of Taos and Taos County have capacity to levy a tax for open space under these caps.

For example, the Town of Taos could increase the mill levy by 0.5 per \$1,000 assessed value, which would generate more than \$161,000 per year at a cost of \$37 to the average homeowner. Similarly, Taos County could increase the mill levy by 0.5 per \$1,000 assessed value, which would generate more than \$716,000 per year at a cost of \$36 to the average homeowner.

- **Gross Receipts/Sales Tax (GRT):** The State of New Mexico has a statewide GRT and Compensating tax rate of 5.125 percent. New Mexico's municipalities and counties are authorized to impose local option gross receipts taxes for select purposes. The combined gross receipts tax rate in the Town of Taos is currently 8.5 percent. The Town of Taos has

capacity to levy an additional 0.125 percent of municipal gross receipts tax, and this tax can be dedicated to parks and open space. Based on budgeted revenue of \$4.3 million from the 1.375 percent municipal gross receipts tax for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, an additional 0.125 percent could be expected to generate about \$394,000 annually.

The Town of Taos may levy a capital outlay gross receipts tax in increments of 0.0625 percent, up to 0.25 percent. Based on budgeted revenue of \$4.3 million from the 1.375 percent municipal gross receipts tax for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, a capital outlay gross receipts tax of 0.25 percent could be expected to generate about \$788,000 annually. The town could also start with smaller increments.

The combined gross receipts tax rate in the unincorporated areas of Taos County is currently 7.3125 percent. The county currently imposes the maximum level of capital outlay gross receipts tax. Taos County could amend the capital outlay gross receipts tax ordinance to dedicate a portion to parks and open space, such as 0.0625 percent. Revenue from the 0.25 percent capital outlay gross receipts tax for the 2016-2017 fiscal year was just over \$131,000. Thus dedicating one-quarter, or 0.0625 percent, to parks and open space could be estimated to generate nearly \$33,000 each year.

- **Lodging Tax:** Proceeds from a municipal or county lodging tax may only be used for tourist-related events, facilities, and attractions. The Town of Taos currently imposes the maximum 5 percent lodging tax. Estimated revenue for the 2017-2018 fiscal year was \$1,037,922. Taos could use a portion of this revenue to acquire land for parks, so long as the parks are intended to be used or visited by tourists.

Taos County also imposes the maximum 5 percent lodging tax in the unincorporated areas of the county. Estimated revenue for the 2017-2018 fiscal year was \$285,350. The county could use a portion of this revenue for park land acquisition, provided that the parks are intended to be used or visited by tourists.

- **Special Districts:** The Town of Taos and Taos County have the option of establishing a special district. Public Improvement Districts (PIDs) are authorized to finance various infrastructure and improvements, including streets, trails, parks, public buildings, libraries, cultural facilities, and equipment and related costs of operation and administration. Tax Increment Development Districts (TIDDs) may use tax increment financing to pay for non-vehicular trails, recreational facilities, pedestrian malls, and library/educational/cultural facilities. Infrastructure Development Zones (IDZs) may provide a variety of services, including trails and areas for pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle or other non-motor vehicle use for travel, pedestrian malls, parks, recreational facilities and open space areas for the use of members of the public for entertainment, assembly and recreation, including programming events for the community and public

Finally, the report provides a brief summary of numerous state and federal conservation programs that could potentially be leveraged to support projects within the Town of Taos and Taos County.

CHOOSING A LOCAL FUNDING STRATEGY

At the heart of successful conservation funding programs is a substantial, long-term, dedicated source of local revenue. With a reliable source of funds, local governments can establish meaningful conservation priorities that protect the most valuable resources and meet important goals. Local governments with significant funds are much better positioned to secure and leverage funding from the federal government and attract other local and state government or private philanthropic partners.

Generally, there are three broad-based types of revenue sources available to local governments to pay for parks and land conservation: discretionary annual spending (i.e. budget appropriation), creation of dedicated funding streams such as voter-approved special taxes, and the issuance of bonds. The financing options utilized by a community will depend on a variety of factors such as taxing capacity, budgetary resources, voter preferences, and political will. While most local governments can create funding for park and recreation through their budgetary process, this either happens infrequently or does not yield adequate funding.

In the Trust for Public Land's experience, local governments that create funding via the budget process provide substantially less funding than those that create funding through ballot measures. As elected officials go through the process of making critical budgetary decisions, funding for land conservation lags behind other public purposes and well behind what voters would support. It is often quite difficult to raise taxes without an indisputable public mandate for the intended purpose.

The power of conservation finance ballot measures is they provide a tangible means to implement a local government's vision. With their own funding, local governments are better positioned to secure scarce funding from state or the federal government or private philanthropic partners. Having a predictable funding source empowers the city, county, or special district to establish long-term conservation priorities that protect the most valuable resources, are geographically distributed, and otherwise meet important community goals and values.

Nationwide, a range of public financing options has been utilized by local jurisdictions to fund parks and open space, including general obligation bonds, the local sales tax, and the property tax. Less frequently used mechanisms have included real estate transfer taxes, impact fees, and income taxes. The ability of local governments and special districts to establish dedicated funding sources depends upon state enabling authority.

Conservation finance ballot measures are not right for every local government or they might not be the best approach at the moment. Budget appropriations and other revenue mechanisms that can be used by the local government, such as developer incentives, may serve as short-term funding options, while parks and conservation proponents develop a strategy and cultivate support for longer-term financing options.

The State of New Mexico provides local governments with several options for funding capital purchases, improvements, and operations for parks, trails and open space purposes including general obligation bonds, the gross receipts tax, and the property tax. Each of these funding mechanisms requires approval by the electorate. These funding mechanisms have enjoyed widespread support in communities throughout the state.

General obligation bonds are the most commonly used finance mechanism in New Mexico to fund county and municipal parks and open space programs. For the most part, however, bond funds may

be spent only for capital facilities and improvements and may not be expended for regular maintenance. Municipalities may issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of building, beautifying, and improving public parks within or without the municipal boundary, but not beyond the planning and platting jurisdiction of the municipality, as well as for acquiring land and equipment for recreational purposes.³ On the other hand, counties may only issue general obligation bonds for acquiring necessary real estate for open space, open space trails, and related areas and facilities.⁴ Thus this feasibility report also explores other potential financing mechanisms, as well as the development of an industrial development zone.

Since 1996, voters across New Mexico have voiced their strong support for parks and land conservation by approving more than \$283 million for these purposes. The rate of approval for local ballot measures voted upon in New Mexico is 100 percent (17 out of 17 measures approved), compared to the nation-wide approval rate of 76 percent. See Appendix A for a list and map of New Mexico measures.

U.S. Local Conservation Finance Ballot Measures (1996-2016)					
Finance Mechanism	Number of Measures	Pass	% Pass	Total Funds Approved	Conservation Funds Approved
Bond	846	698	83%	\$18,021,541,888	\$10,160,761,965
Income tax	85	60	71%	\$596,259,012	\$397,359,012
Property tax	1032	729	71%	\$12,073,760,701	\$7,299,572,641
Real estate trans. tax	43	37	86%	\$1,118,225,154	\$1,112,573,686
Sales tax	176	132	75%	\$48,082,948,920	\$7,933,520,615
Other	81	54	67%	\$2,451,849,210	\$829,236,949
Total	2263	1710	76%	\$82,344,584,885	\$27,733,024,868
New Mexico Local Conservation Finance Ballot Measures (1996-2016)					
Finance Mechanism	Number of Measures	Pass	% Pass	Total Funds Approved	Conservation Funds Approved
Sales tax	3	3	100%	\$70,700,000	\$50,300,000
Property tax	3	3	100%	\$73,804,640	\$60,845,202
Bond	11	11	100%	\$139,077,000	\$45,176,000
Total	17	17	100%	\$283,581,640	\$156,321,202
<i>Source: The Trust for Public Land, LandVote database.</i>					

³ NMSA 3-30-5

⁴ NM Constitution, Article IX, Sec. 10

LOCAL CONSERVATION FINANCING OPTIONS

This section of the report presents a range of funding mechanisms for local support of park acquisition in the Town of Taos and Taos County. Specifically, the following pages provide information related to the use of general obligation bonds, property taxes, gross receipts/sales taxes, and the development of an industrial development zone.

General Obligation Bonds

To raise funds for capital improvements such as land acquisition, municipalities and counties in New Mexico may issue general obligation bonds. General obligation bonds are secured by the full faith and credit of the local property taxing authority. The governing body of any municipality or county may issue bonds to acquire lands for open space and recreational purposes.⁵ General obligation bonds that are to be paid from property taxes require voter approval at an election. Generally, bond proceeds are limited to capital projects and may not be used for operations and maintenance purposes. However, municipalities may use general obligation bonds to build, beautify, and improve public parks within or without the municipal boundary, but not beyond the planning and platting jurisdiction of the municipality.⁶ All municipal and county bonds are limited to 20 years maturity.⁷ New Mexico limits general obligation bonding capacity to 4 percent of assessed value.

There is no limit on the rate or amount of property tax that can be levied or collected to pay the interest on and the principal of general obligation bonds, as the interest and principal become due.⁸ New Mexico does limit property taxes imposed by cities and counties based on a percentage of market value. The state also caps the maximum allowable mill levy for general purposes and imposes a yield control. However, taxes assessed for voter approved bonded debt are not subject to these restrictions.

General Obligation Bonds in the Town of Taos

As of June 30, 2016, Town of Taos had total long-term obligations outstanding of \$15,181,197. The Town of Taos does not have any outstanding general obligation bonds. The table below demonstrates the town's general obligation bonding capacity under the statutory limits. As of June 30, 2016, the Town's investment in the New Mexico Local Government Investment Pool was rated as AAAM by Standard & Poor's. Additionally, the Town has investments held in U.S. Treasury Money Market Mutual Funds, which were rated Aaa by Moody's.⁹ The town does not have a rating for general obligation debt.

Town of Taos GO Bonding Capacity	
Assessed Value	\$322,798,330
4% of Assessed Value	\$12,911,933
Less Outstanding GO Bonds	\$0
Remaining Capacity	\$12,911,933

⁵ NMSA 3-30-5, NM Constitution, Article IX Sec. 10

⁶ NMSA 3-30-5

⁷ NMSA 6-15-3

⁸ NMSA 3-30-9

⁹ Town of Taos 2016 CAFR

The Town of Taos could issue a general obligation bond payable by property taxes for open space and recreational purposes. The current operating property tax rate, which includes debt service, is 2.573 mills for residential property, and 4.225 mills for non-residential property.¹⁰ The table below demonstrates what various bond amounts for parks and open space would cost the average household in the Town of Taos. For example, a \$2 million bond would cost the average household about \$34 each year. Voter approval is required.

Town of Taos Bond Financing Costs			
Bond Issue	Annual Debt Service	Mill Increase	Annual cost per household*
\$1,000,000	\$73,582	0.2279	\$17
\$1,500,000	\$110,373	0.3419	\$25
\$2,000,000	\$147,164	0.4559	\$34
\$2,500,000	\$183,954	0.5699	\$42
\$3,000,000	\$220,745	0.6838	\$50
<i>Assumes a 20-year bond issue at 4.0% Interest Rate</i>			
<i>Total Taxable Value= \$322,798,330</i>			
<i>*Average taxable value = \$73,581</i>			

The Trust for Public Land’s bond cost calculations provide an estimate of debt service, tax increase, and cost to the average homeowner in the community of potential bond issuances for parks and conservation. Assumptions include the following: the entire debt amount is issued in the first year and payments are equal until maturity; 20-year maturity; and 4 percent interest rate. Property tax estimates assume that the county would raise property taxes to pay the debt service on bonds; however, other revenue streams may be used. The cost per household represents the average annual impact of increased property taxes levied to pay the debt service. The estimates do not take into account growth in the tax base due to new construction and annexation over the life of the bonds. The jurisdiction’s officials, financial advisors, bond counsel and underwriters would establish the actual terms.

General Obligation Bonds in Taos County

As of June 30, 2016, Taos County had total long-term obligations outstanding of \$61,729,241 consisting of \$31,152,350 in bonds payable and \$30,023,899 is notes payable. The remaining liabilities totaling \$552,992 consist of capital leases of \$28,800 and compensated absences \$524,192. Taos County does not have any outstanding general obligation bonds. The table below demonstrates the county’s general obligation bonding capacity under the statutory limits. The county’s investment in the U.S. Treasury Money Market Mutual Funds was rated AAAM.¹¹ The county does not have a rating for general obligation debt.

Taos County GO Bonding Capacity	
Assessed Value	\$1,432,976,050
4% of Assessed Value	\$57,319,042
Less Outstanding GO Bonds	\$0
Remaining Capacity	\$57,319,042

Taos County could issue a general obligation bond payable by property taxes for open space acquisition. The current operating property tax rate, which includes debt service, is 5.778 mills for

¹⁰ Town of Taos 2017-2018 Budget

¹¹ Taos County 2016 CAFR

residential property, and 11.283 mills for non-residential property.¹² The table below demonstrates what various bond amounts for open space would cost the average household in Taos County. For example, a \$9 million bond would cost the average household about \$33 each year. Voter approval is required.

Taos County Bond Financing Costs			
Bond Issue	Annual Debt Service	Mill Increase	Annual cost per household*
\$3,000,000	\$220,745	0.1540	\$11
\$6,000,000	\$441,491	0.3081	\$22
\$9,000,000	\$662,236	0.4621	\$33
\$12,000,000	\$882,981	0.6162	\$44
\$15,000,000	\$1,103,726	0.7702	\$55
<i>Assumes a 20-year bond issue at 4.0% Interest Rate</i>			
<i>Total Taxable Value= \$1,432,976,050</i>			
<i>*Average taxable value = \$71,899</i>			

Property Tax

New Mexico statutorily limits the imposition of property taxes upon residential and non-residential properties. State statutes limit the percentage of values against which tax rates are assessed to thirty-three and one third percent (33.3 percent) of market value.¹³ In 2001, the state capped the annual increase in taxable value of residential property to 3 percent.¹⁴ State statutes also provide for exemptions for head-of-family, veterans, and disabled veterans.

In addition, New Mexico caps the maximum allowable mill levy for general municipal purposes. The maximum rate for county general purposes is \$11.85 per \$1,000 of taxable value, and the maximum rate for municipal general purposes is \$7.65 per \$1,000 of taxable value.¹⁵ Property tax revenues are also subject to a yield control which limits the allowable increase in revenues over the previous year based on a growth control factor. See Appendix B for more details about property tax limitations.

Revenue Raising Capacity in the Town of Taos

In the Town of Taos, the calculated levy for residential property is 2.573 mills for residential property, and 4.225 mills for non-residential property. Thus the Town of Taos has ample capacity to increase the property tax under the statutory limit of 7.65 mills, subject to any tax or yield constraints. The table on the following page demonstrates the annual revenue and per household cost of various levy increments that could potentially be levied for parks and open space in the Town of Taos. For example, a mill increase of 0.5 per \$1,000 assessed value would generate more than \$161,000 per year at a cost of \$37 to the average homeowner.¹⁶ A majority vote of the

¹² New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration, 2016 Taos County Tax Certificate

¹³ NM Constitution, Article VIII, Sec. 1; Taxation and Revenue 7-37-3

¹⁴ This cap is "lifted" when a property changes hands. At that time the property is re-valued at current market rates and as such the new owners pay higher property taxes than the previous owners.

¹⁵ NMSA 7-37-7

¹⁶ These tables calculate property tax burden by assuming houses are assessed at market value. The assessed value may be lower because of the 3% cap. To partially compensate for that possibility, the figures do not include the head of household exemption (\$2,000).

governing body is required to approve the resolution and the measure for ballot.¹⁷ Voters must then approve the property tax increase in an election.

Town of Taos Estimated Revenue & Cost of Property Tax Increase			
Mill Increase	Taxable valuation*	Annual revenue	Annual cost per household**
0.30	\$322,798,330	\$96,839	\$22
0.40	\$322,798,330	\$129,119	\$29
0.50	\$322,798,330	\$161,399	\$37
0.60	\$322,798,330	\$193,679	\$44
0.70	\$322,798,330	\$225,959	\$52
<i>*New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration, Net Taxable Value 2016 Final Valuations</i>			
<i>**Average taxable value = \$73,581</i>			

Revenue Raising Capacity in Taos County

In Taos County, the calculated levy for residential property is 5.778 mills for residential property, and 11.283 mills for non-residential property. Thus Taos County has some capacity to increase the property tax under the statutory limit of 11.85 mills, subject to any tax or yield constraints. The table below demonstrates the annual revenue and per household cost of various levy increments that could potentially be levied for parks and open space in Taos County. For instance, a mill increase of 0.5 per \$1,000 assessed value would generate more than \$716,000 per year at a cost of \$36 to the average homeowner. A majority vote of the County Commission is required to approve the resolution and the measure for ballot.¹⁸ Voters must then approve the property tax increase in an election.

Taos County Estimated Revenue & Cost of Property Tax Increase			
Mill Increase	Taxable valuation*	Annual revenue	Annual cost per household**
0.30	\$1,432,976,050	\$429,893	\$22
0.40	\$1,432,976,050	\$573,190	\$29
0.50	\$1,432,976,050	\$716,488	\$36
0.60	\$1,432,976,050	\$859,786	\$43
0.70	\$1,432,976,050	\$1,003,083	\$50
<i>*New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration, Net Taxable Value 2016 Final Valuations</i>			
<i>**Average taxable value = \$71,899</i>			

History of Using the Property Tax for Open Space

Local property taxes in New Mexico are typically used for general government operating purposes. Bernalillo County is the only jurisdiction to create a dedicated property tax for open space. Beginning in 1998, Bernalillo County has imposed a property tax for open space purposes, and continuing in 2000 with a 0.25 mill levy that was approved by county voters with 68 percent support. Two procedural errors between the Clerk’s office and the County Manager’s office prevented a renewal in 2006 and 2012. However, since 2006 a 0.10 mill levy has been administratively extended by the County Commission every May when they approve the following year’s budget.¹⁹ In November 2015, Bernalillo County voters approved a 15-year, 0.20 mill levy

¹⁷ NMSA 3-17-4

¹⁸ NMSA 4-37-6

¹⁹ <http://www.abqjournal.com/134462/news/open-space-not-on-ballot.html>

for open space and the acquisition and maintenance of other natural areas. The measure was approved with 72 percent support. The ballot language for this measure is included in Appendix C.

Gross Receipts/Sales Tax

The gross receipts tax (GRT) is a tax placed on businesses in the state for the privilege of doing business. It is based on the total (gross) receipts of the business. Businesses are not required by law to pass this tax on to their customers; however, by common practice, businesses do pass this tax on to the consumer. The “Compensating tax” is a companion tax. It is an excise tax imposed on persons using property or services in New Mexico and is designed to protect New Mexico businesses from unfair competition from out-of-state businesses not subject to New Mexico’s gross receipts tax.²⁰

The State of New Mexico has a statewide GRT and Compensating tax rate of 5.125 percent.²¹ New Mexico’s municipalities and counties are authorized to impose local option gross receipts taxes for select purposes. The gross receipts tax rate varies throughout the state from 5.125 percent to more than 9 percent depending on location. It varies because the total rate combines rates imposed by the state, counties, and, if applicable, municipalities. Changes to the tax rates may occur twice a year in January or July.

GRT in the Town of Taos

General Municipal

The combined gross receipts tax rate in the Town of Taos is currently 8.5 percent. This rate is effective through December 31, 2017.²² The current municipal gross receipts tax is 1.375 percent.²³ Municipalities can impose a maximum municipal gross receipts tax of up to 1.5 percent. The tax can be implemented by adoption of one or more ordinances in tax rate increments of 0.125 or 0.25 percent. Although no election is required, municipalities may provide for voter approval of the ordinance imposing the tax. Voters also may petition for an election. Proceeds from the tax may be dedicated to a specific area of government of the municipality.²⁴

The Town of Taos has capacity to levy an additional 0.125 percent of municipal gross receipts tax, and this tax can be dedicated to parks and open space. Based on budgeted revenue of \$4.3 million from the 1.375 percent municipal gross receipts tax for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, an additional 0.125 percent could be expected to generate about \$394,000 annually.²⁵ The table on the following page summarizes these estimates.

Capital Outlay

Municipalities can also impose a maximum municipal capital outlay gross receipts tax of up to 0.25 percent.²⁶ The tax can be implemented by adoption of one or more ordinances in tax rate increments of 0.0625 percent. Proceeds from the tax may be dedicated to any municipal

²⁰ These taxes are akin to sales and use taxes commonly imposed in many states.

²¹ NMSA 7-9-4 and 7-9-7

²² Municipal councils determine the municipalities’ portion of gross receipts tax. Changes can go into effect in January and July of every year.

²³ New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, Enactment Dates of Local Option Taxes – as of July 1, 2017

²⁴ New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, FYI-M121: Municipal Gross Receipts Tax Local Options

²⁵ Town of Taos 2017-2018 Budget

²⁶ New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, FYI-M121: Municipal Gross Receipts Tax Local Options

infrastructure purpose, including acquisition of land for open space, public parks or public recreational facilities and the design, acquisition, construction, improvement or equipping of parks and recreational facilities.²⁷ All ordinances, regardless of the tax rate increment, require an election. The Town of Taos currently does not impose this tax.

The Town of Taos may levy a capital outlay gross receipts tax in increments of 0.0625 percent, up to 0.25 percent. Based on budgeted revenue of \$4.3 million from the 1.375 percent municipal gross receipts tax for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, a capital outlay gross receipts tax of 0.25 percent could be expected to generate about \$788,000 annually. The town could also start with smaller increments. The table below summarizes these estimates.

Town of Taos Gross Receipts Tax				
	Current GRT	Maximum GRT	Remaining Capacity	Maximum Potential Revenue
General Municipal	1.375%	1.5%	0.125%	\$394,020
Capital Outlay	0%	0.25%	0.25%	\$788,041

GRT in Taos County

General County

The combined gross receipts tax rate in the unincorporated areas of Taos County is currently 7.3125 percent. This rate is effective through December 31, 2017.²⁸ Incorporated areas have higher tax rates. The highest is 9.25 percent in Taos Ski Valley. Counties can impose a maximum county gross receipts tax of 0.5208 percent; Taos County currently imposes a tax of 0.4375 percent.²⁹ However, revenues from this tax cannot be dedicated to parks and open space. Proceeds must go to the general fund, road fund, or for the payment of revenue bonds.³⁰

Capital Outlay

Counties can also impose a maximum county capital outlay gross receipts tax of 0.25 percent. The tax can be implemented by adoption of one or more ordinances in four tax rate increments of 0.0625 percent. Proceeds from the tax may be dedicated to any county infrastructure purpose, including acquisition of land for open space, public parks or public recreational facilities and the design, acquisition, construction, improvement or equipping of parks and recreational facilities.³¹ All ordinances, regardless of the tax rate increment, imposing the capital outlay gross receipts tax require an election.³² The county currently imposes the maximum capital outlay gross receipts tax, 0.25 percent, so there is no capacity to increase this tax.

The only section of a County Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance that can be amended is the dedication section. The procedures for enacting the ordinance to amend an ordinance and any election requirements are the same as those for enacting the original ordinance. Taos County could amend the capital outlay gross receipts tax ordinance to dedicate a portion to parks and open space, such as 0.0625 percent. Revenue from the 0.25 percent capital outlay gross receipts tax for the 2016-

²⁷ NMSA 7-19D-12

²⁸ The counties' portion of gross receipts tax is determined by the county commissions. These increments can go into effect in January and July of every year.

²⁹ New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, Enactment Dates of Local Option Taxes – as of July 1, 2017

³⁰ New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, FYI-C120: County Gross Receipts Tax Local Options

³¹ NMSA 7-20E-21

³² New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, FYI-C120: County Gross Receipts Tax Local Options

2017 fiscal year was just over \$131,000.³³ Thus dedicating one-quarter, or 0.0625 percent, to parks and open space could be estimated to generate nearly \$33,000 each year.

History of Using the GRT for Open Space

Bernalillo, Santa Fe County, and Albuquerque have used the gross receipts tax for parks and open space. Most recently, in 2006, Bernalillo enacted a 1/8-cent gross receipts tax increase for open space and water rights acquisition. This measure was approved with 78 percent support. In 2002, voters in Santa Fe County approved a 1/4-cent capital outlay gross receipts tax for open space, trails, waste, and wastewater programs. This measure was approved with 77 percent support.

Lodging Tax

A municipality may impose by ordinance an occupancy tax for revenues on lodging within the municipality, and the board of county commissioners of a county may impose by ordinance an occupancy tax for revenues on lodging within the unincorporated parts of the county. The occupancy tax may not exceed 5 percent of the gross taxable rent.³⁴

A portion of the proceeds must be used for advertising, publicizing, and promoting tourist-related attractions, facilities, and events. The remaining amount must be used to defray the costs of:

- collecting and otherwise administering the tax, including the performance of audits;
- establishing, operating, purchasing, constructing, otherwise acquiring, reconstructing, extending, improving, equipping, furnishing or acquiring real property or any interest in real property for the site or grounds for tourist-related facilities, attractions or transportation systems of the municipality, the county in which the municipality is located, or the county;
- the principal of and interest on any prior redemption premiums due in connection with and any other charges pertaining to revenue bonds;
- advertising, publicizing and promoting tourist-related attractions, facilities and events of the municipality or county and tourist facilities or attractions within the area;
- providing police and fire protection and sanitation service for tourist-related events, facilities and attractions located in the respective municipality or county; or
- any combination of the foregoing purposes or transactions stated in this section, but for no other municipal or county purpose.³⁵

Tourist-related events are defined as events that are planned for, promoted to, and attended by tourists. Tourist-related facilities and attractions are defined as facilities and attractions that are intended to be used by or visited by tourists. Tourist-related transportation systems are defined as transportation systems that provide transportation for tourists to and from tourist-related facilities and attractions and tourist-related events.³⁶

³³ Taos County Gross Receipts Tax 2016/2017 FY Final Budget

³⁴ NMSA 3-38-15

³⁵ NMSA 3-38-21

³⁶ NMSA 3-38-14

Lodging Tax in the Town of Taos

The Town of Taos currently imposes the maximum 5 percent lodging tax. Proceeds may only be used for the purposes described above. Estimated revenue for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is \$1,037,922.³⁷ Taos could use a portion of this revenue to acquire land for parks, so long as the parks are intended to be used or visited by tourists.

Lodging Tax in Taos County

Taos County also imposes the maximum 5 percent lodging tax in the unincorporated areas of the county.³⁸ Proceeds may only be used for the purposes described above. Estimated revenue for the 2017-2018 fiscal year was \$285,350.³⁹ The county could use a portion of this revenue for park land acquisition, provided that the parks are intended to be used or visited by tourists.

Special Districts

Public Improvement District (PID)⁴⁰

Public Improvement Districts (PIDs) are authorized to finance various infrastructure and improvements, including streets, trails, parks, public buildings, libraries, cultural facilities, and equipment and related costs of operation and administration. Financing is based on levying property taxes on land within a PID; imposing special levies based on benefit to property, front footage, acreage, cost of improvements (or other factors apart from assessed valuation); or by providing for use charges for improvements or revenue-producing projects or facilities. An election is required to form a PID, and the measure must pass by at least a three-fourths majority of the votes cast at the election.

PID taxes, levies, and charges may be pledged to pay debt service on bonds issued by a PID. PID bonds are not obligations of the State of New Mexico or the local government jurisdiction in which the PID is located, but are obligations solely of the PID issuing the bonds. An election for bond issuance of the PID must contain an authorization for a property tax or special levy to pay debt service on the bonds as well as a limitation on the amount of that levy in the case of a special levy. The total aggregate outstanding amount of bonds and any other indebtedness for which the full faith and credit of the district are pledged may not exceed 60 percent of the market value of the real property and improvements in the district after the public infrastructure improvements of the district are completed, plus the value of the public infrastructure owned or to be acquired by the district with the proceeds of the bonds, and shall not affect the general obligation bonding capacity of the municipality or county in which the district is located.

Tax Increment Development District (TIDD)

The Metropolitan Redevelopment (MRD) Act has historically been the tool used to offer tax increment financing and authorize the issuance of property tax increment bonds to finance metropolitan redevelopment projects.⁴¹ Only areas that have been determined by resolution to be a

³⁷ Town of Taos 2017-2018 Budget

³⁸ http://www.taosnews.com/news/article_d5de58f6-fa61-11e4-88a8-6b32b0ab0378.html

³⁹ Taos County 2017-2018 Budget

⁴⁰ Section 5-11-1 through 5-11-27, NMSA 1978 governs the creation of PIDs through a petition and hearing process, followed by a unanimous consent procedure or approval through an election of property owners and qualified resident electors.

⁴¹ NMSA 3-60A-1 to 3-60A-48

slum area or blighted area, or a combination thereof, are eligible to be a metropolitan redevelopment project. Improvements that can be financed include non-vehicular trails, recreational facilities, pedestrian malls, and library/educational/cultural facilities.

The tax increment method, for the purpose of financing metropolitan redevelopment projects, is the dedication for further use in metropolitan redevelopment projects of that increase in property tax revenue directly resulting from the increased net taxable value of a parcel of property attributable to its rehabilitation, redevelopment or other improvement because of its inclusion within an urban renewal, community development or metropolitan redevelopment project. Tax increment financing allows local officials to designate a Tax Increment Development District (TIDD) for improvement and then earmark and future growth in property tax revenues in that district to pay for the predetermined development expenditures in the district. The tax increment method may be approved by the local governing body.

The MRD Act authorizes a municipality to issue tax increment bonds or tax increment anticipation notes that are payable from and secured by real property taxes and gross receipts. Bonds and notes issued shall not constitute an indebtedness within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory debt limitation or restriction, shall not be general obligations of the municipality, shall be collectible only from the proper pledged revenues, and shall not be subject to the provisions of any other law or charter relating to the authorization, issuance or sale of tax increment bonds or tax increment bond anticipation notes. Bonds or notes may be authorized by ordinance.

Infrastructure Development Zone (IDZ)⁴²

Similar to tax increment financing or a Public Improvement District (PID), in an Infrastructure Development Zone (IDZ), projects are financed by property taxes, the sale of bonds, and fees or charges imposed by the development zone. An IDZ must adopt a service plan which governs the scope of its activities. IDZs may provide a variety of services, including trails and areas for pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle or other non-motor vehicle use for travel, ingress, egress and parking; and pedestrian malls, parks, recreational facilities and open space areas for the use of members of the public for entertainment, assembly and recreation, including programming events for the community and public.

IDZs may cover property within one or more municipalities or counties, however, IDZs may not overlap with other IDZs or special districts providing the same services.

In order to create an IDZ, there must be a petition signed by the lesser of 30 percent or 400 of the taxpaying electors in the area, followed by hearings to approve or disapprove the formation of the IDZ. A maximum mill levy must be established in the service plan. Once the service plan is approved by the local governing authority, a majority of voters must approve the organization of the proposed IDZ. Voter approval is also required in order for the IDZ to issue bonds.

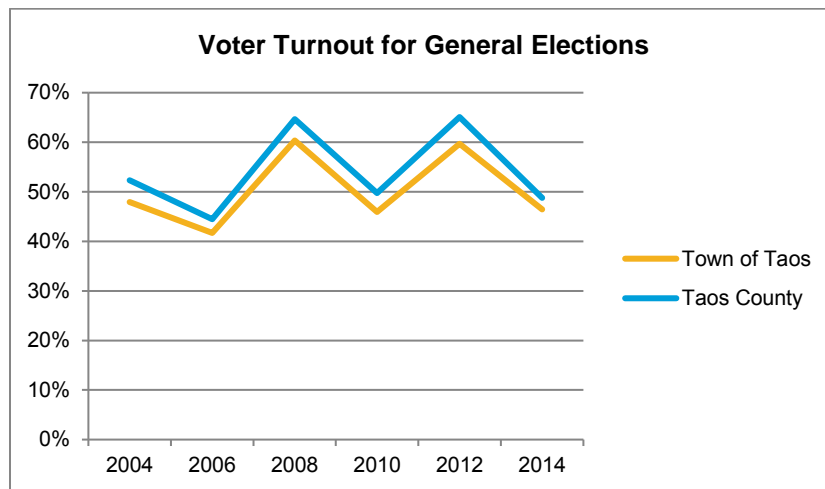
⁴² NMSA 5-17-1 to 5-17-36: Infrastructure Development Zone Act

ELECTION ANALYSIS

In March 2016, Taos County voters approved a mill levy of \$1 per \$1,000 taxable value to benefit Holy Cross Hospital. The measure passed with 76 percent support. The property tax is expected to raise about \$5 million over four years, at which point it will sunset.^{43,44}

In November 2014, Taos County voted on three separate state-wide bond propositions, which all passed. The first, Bond A, would fund construction, renovations, and the purchase of essential equipment at senior citizen centers. This \$17 million bond received 78 percent support from Taos County. Bond B would fund public libraries. This \$11 million bond received 77 percent support from Taos County. Bond C would fund institutions of higher learning. This \$141 million bond also received 77 percent support from Taos County.^{45,46}

The chart below shows voter turnout for the past several general elections. As of May 2016, Taos County had 22,289 registered voters, with 15,385 Democrats (69 percent), 4,037 Independents (18 percent), and 2,867 Republicans (13 percent). The Town of Taos had 2,275 registered voters, with 1,590 Democrats (70 percent), 459 Independents (20 percent), and 226 Republicans (10 percent).⁴⁷



⁴³ http://www.taosnews.com/news/article_ad630254-9adf-11e5-ad40-133176267b80.html

⁴⁴ http://www.taosnews.com/news/article_45547aee-e5ad-11e5-912a-27006551b6e1.html

⁴⁵ http://www.taosnews.com/news/article_aafb3d86-5bbd-11e4-bde0-e3344fab3709.html

⁴⁶ <http://www.sos.state.nm.us/uploads/files/Statewide%20by%20County%20Canvass.pdf>

⁴⁷ http://app.l2political.com/reports/PDF/NM/NMCNTY_TAOS-PCP.PDF

STATE CONSERVATION FUNDING PROGRAMS

New Mexico Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), provides federal funding to eligible entities within New Mexico to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized uses. These Federal transportation funds benefit recreationists who enjoy hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrianism, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, and off-road four-wheel driving.⁴⁸ The RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks. In New Mexico, the estimated set aside of RTP funds on an annual basis is \$1,429,831. RTP requires a local match of 14.56 percent of the total project cost.⁴⁹

New Mexico Transportation Alternatives Program

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a Federal program authorized under Section 1122 of the Federal transportation act, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). In New Mexico, TAP is administered by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT). TAP provides funding for programs and projects such as: pedestrian and bicycle facilities, safe routes to school projects, infrastructure improvements that provide non-drivers better access to transit, environmental mitigation, and other infrastructure improvements to the transportation system. Because New Mexico elected to continue the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), also administered by NMDOT, these funds are deducted from New Mexico's TAP allocation. The estimated total reserve for New Mexico TAP for FY2016 and FY2017 is \$7,319,573. Thus, after deducting \$1,429,831 for the RTP, the estimated annual balance available for TAP is \$5,889,742. TAP requires a local match of 14.56 percent of the total project cost.⁵⁰

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

The primary state agency that acquires land is the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. The Department receives general fund appropriations from the state legislature and proceeds from nongame tax check offs on income tax forms. Previously, it also drew upon funds from a 1988 state bond to acquire and lease lands for wildlife management areas. The only grant program offered by the Department of Game and Fish is the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program, which provides for off-highway motor vehicle recreation.

New Mexico State Parks

New Mexico State Parks acquires land through capital outlay requests and through donations. There are no grant programs for local governments.

⁴⁸ <http://www.dot.state.nm.us/en/Planning.html#RTP>

⁴⁹ http://www.dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/planning/NM_RTP_FFY1617_Guide_FINAL.pdf

⁵⁰ http://www.dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/planning/NMDOT_TAP_Guide%20FINAL_FFY16&17.pdf

New Mexico Natural Heritage Conservation Act

Made effective March 19, 2010, the Natural Heritage Conservation Act created a fund, with a one-time allocation of \$4.8 million, which was administered by the Department of Energy, Mineral and Natural Resources. The stated purpose of the law is "to protect the state's natural heritage, customs and culture by funding conservation and agricultural easements and by funding land restoration to protect the land and water available for forests and watersheds, natural areas, wildlife and wildlife habitat, agricultural production on working farms and ranches, outdoor recreation and trails and land and habitat restoration and management". The funds have all been appropriated.

FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. federal government is an important partner for state and local governments, parks and conservation organizations, and community advocates. This report provides a summary of numerous relevant federal conservation funds for open space and urban areas. The programs discussed are administered by federal agencies, but vary in how funds are delivered for conservation projects. For example, some of these program funds are directed to the states, which in turn decide what projects to fund, while other program funds are granted by a federal agency through a competitive process.

Each program has different requirements and offers various partnership opportunities (for example, applying through the state, or working with private landowners) that should be further evaluated to determine the most likely funding outcomes. The descriptions are meant to provide a broad overview of funding sources. The Trust for Public Land can provide additional information on program rules and accessibility.

State Directed Federal Grants

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

An offspring of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), CREP is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CREP, state and federal partnerships allow landowners to receive incentive payments in exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and introducing conservation practices that help to clean the air, filter water, and prevent soil erosion. Farmers can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible land.⁵¹

State Revolving Fund Programs (Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs)

Under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds three water quality programs, with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) being the largest by far.^{52:53:54}

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (Section 212): The CWSRF provides loans for water quality improvements and has traditionally been used for wastewater treatment upgrades, although some states have used funding for land conservation. The annual capitalization grants totaled \$1.39 billion in FY2016.

Under the CWSRF, the EPA provides annual grants to states that match the capitalization grants with 20 percent of their own funds. States use these capitalization grants to provide loans to public and private borrowers, with a maximum term of 30 years. Under certain conditions, CWSRF programs may provide up to a fixed percentage of their capitalization grants as additional subsidization in the form of principal forgiveness, negative interest rate loans, or grants. Since the CWSRF Program began in 1987, the federal government has provided more than \$37.5 billion in capitalization grants. Building on the federal

⁵¹ <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement/index>

⁵² <http://www2.epa.gov/cwsrf>

⁵³ http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/dwsrf/index.cfm

⁵⁴ <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/cwact.cfm>

investment of over \$37 billion, the state CWSRFs have provided more than \$105.4 billion to communities through 2014. States have provided more than 34,900 low-interest loans to protect valuable water resources.

States file an intended use plan with the EPA that clearly spells out how they will allocate their CWSRF funds. Since the program's inception, most states have used their CWSRF primarily for wastewater treatment plants. However, since 1995, more funding has been shifted into nonpoint source pollution control and estuary management, with roughly 6 percent of annual funds going for non-point source pollution, up from 1 percent in prior years. In particular, several states have used their CWSRF to help local governments and nonprofits purchase watershed land, restore watersheds, and reduce flooding.

- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, the EPA is authorized to provide grants to states to capitalize DWSRFs. The State Revolving Funds provide loans and other assistance to eligible public water systems to finance the cost of infrastructure projects, including land acquisition. States must file an intended use plan describing how they will use the proceeds and must match 20 percent of the grant. Up to 15 percent of the funds can be set aside to fund source water protection activities, including land acquisition. However, no more than 10 percent of the set-asides can be used for a single type of activity. Grants are allotted to each state based on needs identified in the most recent Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey, which is conducted every four years. The funds awarded to states totaled over \$863 million in FY2016.
- Nonpoint Source Program (Section 319). Provides grants for projects that address nonpoint source pollution, such as best management practices (BMP) implementation, restoration and public education. On a very limited basis, Section 319 has been used for land conservation. Funding for FY2016 totaled \$165 million.

In 1987 Congress recognized that state and local water authorities needed assistance with developing and implementing measures to control nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The enactment of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) established a national program to control nonpoint sources of water pollution, as well as a means to help fund state and local implementation of nonpoint source management programs.

Under the provisions of Section 319, land acquisition can be used as a nonpoint source management tool. Across the country, fifteen land acquisition projects were approved between FY1994 and FY2010.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)⁵⁵

Established by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of

⁵⁵ <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/>

the land. Land protected by agricultural land easements provides many public benefits, including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat and protection of open space.

Under the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component, NRCS may contribute up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. Land eligible for agricultural easements includes cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forest land. NRCS will prioritize applications that protect agricultural uses and related conservation values of the land and those that maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use. To enroll land through agricultural land easements, eligible partners may submit proposals to the NRCS state office to acquire conservation easements on eligible land. In FY2015, \$228 million was allocated to states through the ACEP program. New Mexico received \$770,000.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)⁵⁶

Since 1990, the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program (FLP) has provided states and U.S. Territories with federal funding to help protect threatened forestland. The program uses conservation easements or fee transactions to prevent land from being converted to non-forest use. A state enters the voluntary program by submitting an Assessment of Need (AON) to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval. These plans establish the lead state agency, the state's Forest Legacy project criteria, and areas within which proposed Legacy projects must be located. Each enrolled state has a Forest Legacy Program coordinator, housed within the agency designated in the AON to administer the program.

The program requires a minimum non-federal match of at least 25 percent of total project cost. Match can consist of state, local, or private funds, donated land value, and in some cases, project costs. This program has protected 2,470,000 acres in its 25 year history by leveraging \$669 million to secure land valued at more than \$15 billion. Currently, there are 53 states and territories participating. Nearly 17,000 acres in New Mexico have been enrolled in the program as of May 2016.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)⁵⁷

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act was passed in 1989 to provide matching grants for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wetland ecosystems for the benefit of waterfowl and other wetland-associated migratory species. Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, grants are available to nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and private individuals in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Two types of grants are awarded: small grants for up to \$75,000 and standard grants for over \$75,000. There is a one-to-one non-federal match requirement for each grant.

The NAWCA matching grant program grew steadily from \$15 million in FY2000 to \$66.1 million in FY2006, but has seen decline in recent years. The FY2013 appropriations level for NAWCA was \$33.6 million. These funds are supplemented by funds from other sources and matched by significant levels of non-federal funding.

Since 1995, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has funded 2,553 projects totaling \$1.4 billion in grants. More than 5,000 partners have contributed another \$2.9 billion in matching

⁵⁶ <http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/04/17/the-forest-legacy-program-25-years-of-keeping-working-forests-working/>

⁵⁷ <http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php>

funds to affect 30.7 million acres of habitat. In FY2014, New Mexico received a NAWCA grant of \$75,000.

State Wildlife Grants (SWG)⁵⁸

Created by Congress in 2001, the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program is a matching grant program available to every state to support cost-effective, on-the-ground conservation efforts aimed at restoring or maintaining populations of native species before listing under the Endangered Species Act is required. In order to maximize the effectiveness of this program, Congress required each state to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy for the conservation of the state's full array of wildlife and the habitats they depend upon. These plans identify species and habitats of greatest conservation need and outline the steps necessary to keep them from becoming endangered.

The SWG program provides matching funds that are to be used to implement the conservation recommendations outlined in these plans. Grant funds are disbursed to states for approved grants at a maximum federal share of 75 percent for Planning grants and 65 percent for Implementation grants. Funds appropriated under the SWG program are allocated to every state according to a formula based on a state's size and population. Since its inception in 2001, the SWG program has played a critical role in the conservation of wildlife in all states. The FY2016 appropriation for the SWG program was \$60.5 million. New Mexico's apportionment was \$837,785.⁵⁹

In 2014, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish implemented a project to monitor narrowheaded gartersnake populations at four locations within the Gila/San Francisco River drainage using a State Wildlife Grant and matching funds. The surveys were planned in areas affected by the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire and post-fire ash flows. A species of greatest conservation need in New Mexico, the narrow-headed gartersnake was listed as Threatened under the ESA during the course of this project. The surveys allowed researchers to describe the status of post-fire gartersnake populations and determine the effectiveness of translocations as a method of conserving this species.⁶⁰

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of New Mexico's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. New Mexico has received more than \$300 million in LWCF funding over the past 50 years, protecting places such as Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Fe and Carson National Forests, and Organ Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grants are also funded under LWCF, to help protect working forests – supporting timber sector jobs and sustainable forest operations while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation. The Forest Legacy Program assists states and private forest owners in maintaining working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easements and fee acquisitions while protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, access to recreation,

⁵⁸ <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>

⁵⁹ <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG2016Apportionment.pdf>

⁶⁰ https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal_assistance/PDFs/R2WSFRStateWildlifeGrantsSWGSUCCESSSTORIES22April2015.pdf

and other public benefits provided by forests. As noted above, nearly 17,000 acres in New Mexico have been enrolled in the program.

LWCF state assistance grants have further supported hundreds of projects across New Mexico's state and local parks. The state has received approximately \$42 million in stateside grants from LWCF.

Direct Federal Acquisition

Federal land holdings are a significant component of the state's system of protected natural areas, including parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. However, federal programs should not be expected to make significant contributions towards the state's conservation goals as the number and size of current and ongoing federal acquisitions is relatively small. As of May 2015, the federal government owned roughly 640 million acres. Four agencies – the National Park Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) in the Department of Agriculture – manage approximately 95 percent of the federal acres. The principal financing mechanism for federal land acquisition is annual appropriations under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF is credited with \$900 million annually from designated sources, and Congress determines the level of appropriations each year.⁶¹

There are other, less significant sources of funding for these federal agencies. The FWS receives some funding from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. The BLM has the authority to retain the revenues of some land sales, primarily in Nevada, to use for subsequent acquisitions and other purposes. All four agencies may, in general, accept land as gifts and bequests.

National Park Service (NPS)

The NPS is not authorized to acquire lands for new or existing units of the National Park System, except in special circumstances. Congress has created most units, and typically includes specific authority for the NPS to acquire nonfederal inholdings within the identified boundaries of a park in the law creating that park unit. In FY2016, Congress appropriated \$386,000 from the LWCF for the NPS to acquire property at Pecos National Historical Park. Substantial LWCF funds have also gone to Petroglyphs National Monument.

Under the Antiquities Act of 1906, the President is authorized to create national monuments on federal lands. Presidential proclamations have created 142 national monuments. These monuments are managed mostly by the NPS, some by the BLM, and some by other agencies. Two recent monument designations occurred in New Mexico: Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains.

The Río Grande del Norte National Monument was established on March 25, 2013 and covers 242,500 acres. It is comprised of rugged, wide open plains at an average elevation of 7,000 feet, dotted by volcanic cones, and cut by steep canyons. The Río Grande carves an 800 foot deep gorge through layers of volcanic basalt flows and ash. Among the volcanic cones in the Monument, Ute Mountain is the highest, reaching to 10,093 feet. The Monument is an important area for wintering animals, and provides a corridor by which wildlife move between the two mountain ranges. The unique setting of the Monument also provides a wealth of recreational opportunities. Whitewater

⁶¹ <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34273.pdf>

rafting, hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and camping are some of the more outstanding activities that can be enjoyed in the Monument.⁶²

U.S. Forest Service (FS)

The Secretary of Agriculture has various authorities to acquire lands for the National Forest System (NFS). The NFS is comprised of 282 units of federal land, containing 232.1 million acres, which consists of national forests, national grasslands, purchase units, land utilization projects, and other areas. New NFS units may only be created by an act of Congress; however, the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands within or adjoining the stated exterior boundaries of an NFS unit. There are five national forests in New Mexico; Carson National Forest is the closest to Taos.

From FY2011 to FY2014, Congress appropriated over \$10 million for the acquisition of the Miranda Canyon property by the Carson National Forest, just south of Taos. Other recent funding for land acquisition has protected important lands for outdoor recreation and water protection in the Gila National Forest.

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1929 gives the FWS authority to acquire land. After consulting with the relevant governor or state agency and appropriate local government officials, the Secretary of the Interior may provide recommendations of lands which are crucial to the conservation of migratory birds to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The state in which the land acquisition will take place must consent to the acquisition by law. The Secretary is then authorized to purchase or rent lands approved by the Commission and to acquire any land or interest within. In 2011 the US Fish and Wildlife Service established the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in Bernalillo County, just south of Albuquerque, and over \$8 million was allocated from the LWCF from FY2011 to FY2014 to purchase land for the refuge.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The BLM has comprehensive, universal authority to acquire lands, mainly under Section 205 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). Specifically, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands or partial interests in land, by purchase, exchange, donation, or eminent domain. An interest in land is less than full ownership. Examples include conservation easements, access easements, mineral rights, and water rights. The BLM acquires land or interests in land for a variety of reasons, including the protection of natural and cultural resources, increasing opportunities for the public to access land and use it for recreation, and improving the way land is managed. In FY2016, Congress appropriated \$2.9 million from the LWCF for the BLM to acquire property at the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, as well as \$2.3 million for the agency to secure a stretch of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in New Mexico.

⁶² http://www.blm.gov/publish/content/nm/en/prog/NLCS/RGDN_NM.html

Urban Park and Trail Federal Grants

National Park Service, LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLPP)

Congress created the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program (ORLPP), administered by the National Park Service, to complement the agency's existing Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State and Local Assistance Program. The new program seeks to identify and highlight new ways of providing opportunities for expanding outdoor play in areas with great need, as well as promoting the development of new or enhanced partnerships for outdoor recreation in urban communities across the nation.

The NPS will prioritize projects that seek to:

- directly connect people to outdoor places in their communities;
- engage and empower underserved communities and youth;
- provide opportunities for youth employment or job training;
- involve and expand public-private partnerships, particularly to provide for the leveraging of resources; and
- rely on a high degree of coordination among all levels of government in order to improve recreation opportunities for all.

Program Specifics:

- Proposals must first go to each state's lead LWCF agency. Each state agency will be allowed to nominate a maximum of two proposals to NPS for national consideration.
- Funds can be used to provide for acquisition, design, or capital costs. LWCF grants may be used for the acquisition or development (or a combination) of lands and facilities that will provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public.
- Congress appropriated \$12 million for FY2016, but \$3 million of unspent funding from FY2015 will be rolled into the FY2016 cycle, bringing the total funds available to \$15 million.

U.S. Department of Transportation

On December 4, 2015 President Obama signed into law the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act," or FAST Act. The authorization provides five years of funding – starting in FY2016 – for federal highways and transit programs at slightly increased funding levels and uses essentially the same funding programs as are available today (including the core funding programs for bicycling and pedestrian projects). Over the five-year life of the bill, highway funding will increase by 15 percent and transit funding by 18 percent.

Since 1991, the most significant sources of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects have been the Transportation Enhancements (TE) program, Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. In 2012, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) combined the TE, SRTS and RTP programs into one Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

The biggest changes to these programs in the 2015 FAST Act are that the STP was renamed the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program, and the TAP became a set-aside program of this block grant. Walking and bicycling projects remain an eligible activity for the larger STBG as well as CMAQ and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). So, what used to be the TAP is now the “Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-aside Program.” Just as with the TAP, funding in the STBG Set-aside Program is available for more than just bike and pedestrian projects.

TAP funding was set at 2 percent of all the core highway programs and yielded approximately \$820 million in FY2015. Funding levels in the new STBGSP are set at \$835 million for FY2016 and FY2017, rising to \$850 million in FY2018 to FY2020. Within that, funding for the Recreational Trails Program is preserved and is effectively a set-aside of the STBGSP.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ) was created by Congress to help states and metropolitan areas meet ambient air quality standards. The CMAQ program provides funding to areas that face the challenge of attaining or maintaining the air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter. Funds are used on transportation projects that improve air quality, lower auto emissions, and reduce congestion. Eligible activities of potential interest for projects include bike and pedestrian trail construction, parking, and public right-of-ways for transit connections.

Regional transportation authorities are responsible for allocating discretionary federal, state, and local transportation funds to improve all modes of surface transportation. Generally, a competitive process through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) distributes discretionary capital transportation funds to regionally significant projects. While the MPO generally administers the CMAQ program, localities propose various projects to the MPO for consideration and prioritization. Local jurisdictions, transit operators, and other public agencies are encouraged to submit applications proposing projects for funding.

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)

In 2015, there was hope that Congress would include the TIGER program in the new transportation authorization law, however the FAST Act neither authorized it nor provided any funding. Still, for FY2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) was authorized to award \$500 million in TIGER Discretionary Grants pursuant to the FY2016 Appropriations Act. Funds for the TIGER program are awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. The TIGER Discretionary Grant program provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives.

Eligible applicants for TIGER Discretionary Grants include: state, local, and tribal governments, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), other political subdivisions of state or local governments, and multi-state or multi-jurisdictional groups applying through a single lead applicant. Projects in urban areas must meet a baseline of \$5 million and have at least a 20 percent non-federal match. Successful applications would include cost-benefit analysis for economic and environmental impacts, projections for job creation, and should generally have multiple stakeholders and political support. While funding cannot be used for land acquisition, activities of note include hard and soft costs for bike and pedestrian trails and environmental plans that include greenhouse gas reduction.

To date, New Mexico has been awarded four TIGER Grants, totaling over \$7.87 million in combined investments. In FY2015, Pueblo of Laguna received a \$1 million TIGER award, providing funding to construct a multi-use trail and reduce motorized vehicle lanes. The project will help complete a bicycle and pedestrian route network along NM Highway 124 that was planned with a 2010 TIGER planning grant.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Brownfields Grants

If a property identified for acquisition or redevelopment is or might be a “brownfields” site, many programs and other benefits at the local, state and federal levels encourage its redevelopment. The EPA’s Brownfields Program provides direct funding to eligible entities for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, and environmental job training. In addition, legislation signed into law in 2001 limits the liability of certain contiguous property owners and prospective purchasers of brownfields properties, and innocent landowners are also afforded liability benefits to encourage revitalization and reuse of brownfield sites. EPA’s brownfields program provides several types of grants:

- Assessment Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct cleanup and redevelopment planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites. Eligible entities are states, local governments, regional planning and redevelopment agencies, and Indian tribes. An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 to assess a site contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, petroleum, or contaminants co-mingled with petroleum, with a waiver up to \$350,000 for site-specific proposals. Such waivers must be based on the anticipated level of hazardous substances, pollutants, petroleum or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum) at a single site. Total grant fund requests must not exceed a total of \$400,000 per applicant unless the applicant requests a waiver. Due to budget limitations, no entity may apply for more than \$700,000 in assessment funding.
- Remediation Grants are available for remediation of brownfield sites. These grants are limited to \$200,000 per site, with no more than three applications per entity. There is a 20 percent cost share. Eligible entities are the same as listed above, with the addition of NGOs, who are eligible to apply, but must have site control of the property. One site may qualify for two grants if pollutants include petroleum and non-petroleum contaminants.
- Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to capitalize a revolving loan fund to provide sub grants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. Grants may be awarded up to \$1 million per eligible entity, or a group of eligible entities, with a 20 percent cost share and a five year time frame for completion. Eligible entities are the same as those listed under assessment grants.
- Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grants may be used by communities to facilitate community involvement in developing an area-wide plan for brownfields assessment, cleanup, and subsequent reuse on a catalyst site and other high-priority brownfield sites. Each grant is funded up to \$200,000 for two years.
- Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) Grants help communities tackle the challenge of assessing, cleaning up, and preparing brownfields sites for redevelopment, especially underserved/rural/small and otherwise distressed communities. Technical assistance being provided through this grant should also be geared toward results and help

to move brownfields sites forward in the process toward cleanup and reuse. The maximum value of each grant will be based on the technical assistance being provided.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Our Town Grants

Through the Our Town program the NEA provides a limited number of grants, ranging from \$25,000 to \$200,000, for creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. The grants are invested in creative and innovative projects in which communities improve their quality of life, encourage greater creative activity, foster stronger community identity and a sense of place, and revitalize economic development.

Arts Engagement

Arts engagement projects support artistically excellent artistic production or practice as the focus of creative placemaking work.

- Innovative programming that fosters interaction among community members, arts organizations, and artists, or activates existing cultural and community assets.
- Festivals and performances in spaces not normally used for such purposes.
- Public art that improves public spaces and strategically reflects or shapes the physical and social character of a community.

Cultural Planning

Cultural planning projects support the development of artistically excellent local support systems necessary for creative placemaking to succeed.

- Creative asset mapping.
- Cultural district planning.
- The development of master plans or community-wide strategies for public art.
- Support for creative entrepreneurship.
- Creative industry cluster/hub development.

Design

Design projects that demonstrate artistic excellence while supporting the development of environments where creative placemaking takes place, or where the identity of place is created or reinforced.

- Design of rehearsal, studio, or live/work spaces for artists.
- Design of cultural spaces – new or adaptive reuse.
- Design of public spaces, such as parks, plazas, landscapes, neighborhoods, districts, infrastructure, bridges, and artist-produced elements of streetscapes.
- Community engagement activities including design charrettes, design competitions, and community design workshops.

All applications must have partnerships that involve two primary partners: a nonprofit organization and a local governmental entity. One of the two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. Additional partners are encouraged.

Art Works Grants

NEA recognizes that arts and design organizations are often in the forefront of innovation in their work and strongly encourage innovative projects which are characterized as those that:

- are likely to prove transformative with the potential for meaningful change, whether in the development or enhancement of new or existing art forms, new approaches to the creation or presentation of art, or new ways of engaging the public with art;
- are distinctive, offering fresh insights and new value for their fields and/or the public through unconventional solutions; and
- have the potential to be shared and/or emulated, or are likely to lead to other advances in the field.

Partnerships can be valuable to the success of projects. While not required, applicants are encouraged to consider partnerships among organizations, both in and outside of the arts, as appropriate to their project.

American arts and design organizations must be inclusive of the full range of demographics of their communities, as well as individuals of all physical and cognitive abilities. Toward that end, projects are encouraged to strive for the highest level of inclusiveness in their audiences, programming, artists, governance, and staffing. NEA also welcomes projects that will explicitly address the issue of inclusion.

NEA is interested in projects that extend the arts to underserved populations – those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. This is achieved in part through the use of Challenge America funds.

Art Works Grants generally will range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Grants of \$100,000 or more will be made only in rare instances and only for projects that the NEA determines demonstrate exceptional national or regional significance and impact. In recent years, well over half of the agency's grants have been for amounts less than \$25,000. All grants require a nonfederal match of at least 50 percent. For example, if an organization receives a \$10,000 grant, the total eligible project costs must be at least \$20,000 and the organization must provide at least \$10,000 toward the project from nonfederal sources.

Below are some examples of possible uses of grant funds within the grant categories:

Creation

- Design or planning for designer live/work spaces, new arts/cultural spaces, districts, neighborhoods, public spaces, or landscapes.
- Design research or collaboration projects that examine current practice and propose design solutions for pressing problems.

Engagement

- Historic and community preservation projects that promote awareness of cultural and historic assets.

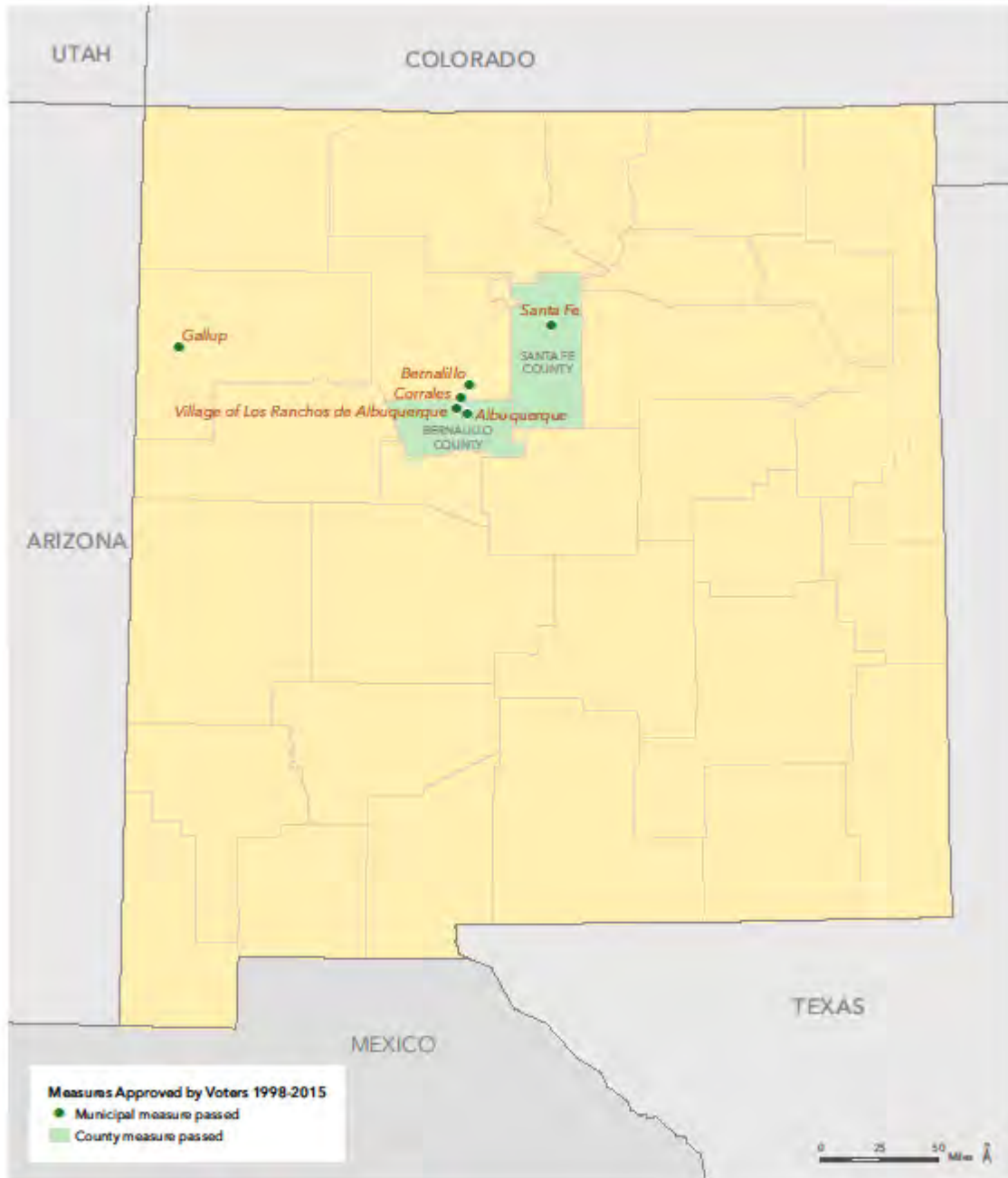
Livability

- Community-wide or neighborhood planning and design activities that promote economic and cultural vitality.
- Design exhibitions, residencies, and other activities in public spaces that are intended to foster community interaction and/or enhance the unique characteristics of a community.
- Design projects that promote livability, including those which involve community-based partnerships and assist underserved communities or neighborhoods.
- Design projects that promote the unique assets and characteristics of a community.
- Design projects that promote the use of universal design to improve community livability.
- Projects that support emerging fields of design, including social impact/public interest design; universal design; and the application of design thinking to health, education, and economic development.
- Social impact/public interest design projects that benefit underserved communities or address social issues.
- The adaptive reuse of historic properties for cultural and arts uses.
- The development of plans for growth of the design sector in the local community.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: New Mexico Conservation Finance Ballot Measures

New Mexico Conservation Finance Ballot Measures 1996-present						
Jurisdiction Name	Date	Finance Mechanism	Description	Conservation Funds Approved	Status	% Yes
Bernalillo County	11/4/2014	Property tax	15-year, .20 mill property tax levy for open space and other natural areas acquisition and maintenance	\$28,845,202	Pass	72.41%
Santa Fe	3/4/2008	Bond	Bond for the improvement and acquisition of parks, trails and open space	\$2,900,000	Pass	70.51%
Santa Fe County	11/4/2008	Bond	Bond for parks, open space, and trail acquisitions and improvements	\$3,500,000	Pass	66.97%
Albuquerque	10/2/2007	Bond	Bond for parks and recreation capital improvements including land acquisition	\$6,000,000	Pass	65.50%
Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque	3/13/2007	Bond	Bond for the purchase of open space and trails	\$3,600,000	Pass	65.24%
Bernalillo	3/7/2006	Sales tax	1/8 of 1% gross receipts tax increase for open space and water rights acquisition	\$1,700,000	Pass	78.16%
Corrales	8/31/2004	Bond	Bond for the purchase of conservation easements for farmland	\$2,500,000	Pass	83.23%
Albuquerque	10/28/2003	Bond	Parks and Recreation Bonds, Bonds for acquisition and improvement of park, recreational facilities	\$3,440,000	Pass	59.90%
Gallup	8/12/2003	Bond	Public Parks and Recreation Bond Question, Bond for parks, trails, playgrounds, public recreational facilities	\$1,000,000	Pass	76.06%
Santa Fe County	4/9/2002	Sales tax	Capital Outlay Tax; .25% gross receipts tax for open space, trails, waste and wastewater programs	\$3,600,000	Pass	76.88%
Bernalillo County	11/7/2000	Property tax	6-year, .25 mill property tax extension to acquire and maintain land for open space	\$25,000,000	Pass	67.76%
Bernalillo County	11/7/2000	Bond	Bond issue to acquire land and expand parks and recreational facilities	\$1,576,000	Pass	69.78%
Santa Fe County	11/7/2000	Bond	Bond issue to acquire real estate and easements for open space	\$8,000,000	Pass	69.52%
Bernalillo County	11/3/1998	Property tax	Mill Levy Question, 2-year, 0.5 mill property tax increase for open space	\$7,000,000	Pass	56.80%
Bernalillo County	11/3/1998	Bond	Parks and Recreational Facilities Bond, Bond for Parks, Recreation	\$660,000	Pass	68.17%
New Mexico	11/3/1998	Bond	Bond for ecologically significant land, wildlife, open space		Fail	48.10%
Santa Fe County	11/3/1998	Bond	Bond for Open Space, Trails, Recreation, Parks, Wildlife	\$12,000,000	Pass	70.15%
Albuquerque	1/14/1997	Sales tax	2-year, quarter of a percent municipal gross tax	\$45,000,000	Pass	60.17%
New Mexico	11/5/1996	Other	Constitutional Amendment 7, authorizes counties to issue bonds to acquire open space lands		Pass	50.13%



New Mexico

LOCAL CONSERVATION MEASURES APPROVED BY VOTERS 1998 - 2016

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Appendix B: Further Information About Property Taxes

New Mexico provides a head-of-family exemption of \$2,000 of the taxable value of residential property.⁶³ For example, a single residence assessed at \$150,000 has a net taxable value of \$47,950 with the head of household exemption. Although property tax revenues are typically used for operational purposes, the statutes authorize property tax imposition for payment of bond debt service and voter-approved purposes, which are not subject to the rate limitation.

Property tax revenues are subject to a yield control, which limits the allowable increase in revenues over the previous year based on a growth control factor.⁶⁴ Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 (“Additional limitations on property tax rates”) is commonly referred to as the “yield control statute” because it limits revenue yields that result when property values are increased due to reassessment. Yield control reduces certain property tax rates from the tax rate as originally imposed (“imposed rates”) to the rates actually applied against reassessed property (“yield controlled rates”). It is applied separately to residential and non-residential properties. Since the rate of increase of property value on reassessment is typically different for residential and non-residential property, the separate application of yield control to each gives rise to different yield controlled rates on residential and nonresidential properties in the same jurisdiction. Yield control applies only to taxes imposed for certain purposes. In general, yield control does not apply to debt service levies. In order to limit the revenue yielded by the new property values, the statute mandates that tax rates be adjusted. The result in a district in which reappraisals have increased values is that property tax rates are reduced so that, when applied to the new property values including the reappraised values, they yield only the limited revenue growth allowed. In short, rates are adjusted downward in the same proportion that reappraisals have increased total values.⁶⁵

⁶³ NMSA 7-37-4. State statutes also provide for exemptions for veterans and disabled veterans (NMSA 7-37-5 to 7-37-5.1).

⁶⁴ NMSA 7-37-7.1

⁶⁵ Excerpted from http://nmdfa.state.nm.us/Yield_Control_Formula.aspx

Appendix C: Bernalillo County Property Tax Ballot Language

Shall the County of Bernalillo, New Mexico establish a 0.20 mill levy for 15 years for the purposes of acquiring, improving, operating, and maintaining natural areas, open spaces, and cultural, historic and nature education sites within the county to protect drinking water sources, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land, including along the Rio Grande, and to allow children and families to get outdoors in nature, with all expenditures subject to independent annual audit and citizen review?

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Appendix D: Trust for Public Land Survey Report



Taos County Community Conservation Plan and Enchanted Circle Trail Plan

COMMUNITY SURVEY 2016



Taos County Community Conservation Plan

Enchanted Circle Trails Plan

Community Survey 2016

1. Executive Summary

A summary of key results is provided below.

Overall highlights/themes

- Water, wildlife, recreation, and historical/cultural resources (including agriculture) are the highest priorities for conservation.
- Over 86% of survey participants support expanding the trail system in the Enchanted Circle.
- Residents are most dissatisfied with paved options for road biking.
- There is no consensus about the relationship between increasing tourism and protecting local culture.
- The top priority for trail investments is creating new walking and biking options to increase safety.

Who responded to the survey?

There were 655 responses to the community survey. Nearly all the responses were online, but a handful were submitted through hardcopy forms that had been circulated at several community events.

- Over 70% of respondents have lived in the Taos area for more than six years, and over 57% have been in the area for more than ten years.
- 56% of responses were from men.
- Over 40% of participants were 61 years old or older. Less than 10% of responses were from people 35 years old or younger.
- Over 40% of participants have household incomes of over \$75,000 per year, and 18% had household incomes under \$25,000 annually.
- The largest percentage of survey respondents reside in the town of Taos, followed by Angel Fire.
- Slightly over 8% of survey participants said that at least one member of their household needs ADA-accessible trails.
- Only 14% of respondents identified themselves as Hispano/Hispanic, but key results were weighted to accurately reflect local demographics.

Conservation priorities

Participants were asked to choose their top three priorities among seven possible conservation goals. The goal options were based on input at the first stakeholder meeting in July 2015. Once Hispano/Hispanic responses were weighted to reflect local demographics, the overall priorities were: **(1) Protect water quality and quantity; (2) Protect wildlife habitat; (3) Provide access to recreational opportunities; and (4) Protect cultural and historical resources, including agriculture.**

Support for expanding the trail system

There is very strong support for expanding the trail system. Over 86% of survey participants support or strongly support expanding the trail and pathway system in Enchanted Circle. Over 60% strongly support expansion, and less than 5% do not support expansion. There was not widespread support for expanded access to water-based recreation.

Current trail activities. Many residents use trails and pathways daily or almost daily. The most common trail activities are wildlife viewing, dog walking, and hiking/walking/running on dirt paths. The activities that respondents participate in the least are were snowmobiling, hunting, road biking for transportation, off-road ATVs and motorcycles, and horseback riding.

Trail satisfaction. Only two categories of trails have higher dissatisfaction than satisfaction: road biking for recreation and road biking to commute. This is likely a result of safety concerns on local roads. Walking/running on paved paths has equal satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Highest satisfaction is with wildlife viewing and with hiking/walking on unpaved paths.

Investing in trails. The first priority for trail investments by large margin (for both participants overall and for Hispano/Hispanic respondents in particular) was to create new pathways for safety. The second priority for both was creating long, continuous road cycling paths. The third priority overall was maintaining/improving existing back country trails, and for Hispano participants it was new non-motorized backcountry trails.

2. Methods

The community survey was available online from September 2015 through January 2016. Outreach for the survey included posting survey information on the Town of Taos and Taos Land Trust websites and in a weeklong wallpaper ad in the online version of the *Taos News*. The Taos Land Trust and others in the core team also reached out to the Questa Economic Development Fund, Taos Entrepreneurial Network, Taos Chamber of Commerce, University of New Mexico faculty, Taos Charter School, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Taos Health Council, Agricultural Resolution Committee (now Alianza Agri-Cultura), and community leaders in Angel Fire. Postcards advertising the community survey were distributed at the speak out events listed below. Survey information was also posted on community bulletin boards in Questa. Paper surveys (and postage paid return envelopes) were distributed at Ancianos and at Super Save Market (in addition to postcards with the survey website information). The survey URL was also included in utility bills for the Kit Carson Electric Co-op. In addition to survey responses, nearly 300 people participated in speak out poster activities in fall 2015. The poster activities captured community priorities for conservation values and trail types. A total of 736 people were contacted at speak outs and other outreach events (breakdown below).

- September: Farmers' Market (205) and San Geronimo Day (117)
- October: Farmers' Market (63)
- November: Cid's Market (170), Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (24), Ancianos Lunch (55), Elevation
- Coffee (31), Super Save Market (71)

Survey Weighting

Despite targeted outreach, the Hispano/Hispanic community was underrepresented in survey responses. Two-thirds of respondents answered our ethnicity question, and, of those, only 14% indicated that they were Hispanic/Hispano. According to census data, 56% of Taos County residents identify as

Hispanic/Latino. To compensate for the underrepresentation of the Hispano/Hispano community, key responses were weighted so that they represented 56% of responses in determining the goals of the Community Conservation Plan.

3. Detailed Survey Results

The survey results are listed here in the categories “Demographics,” “Open Space Conservation,” and “Trails and Recreation.” The question numbers that appeared in the original survey are indicated by “Q1,” etc. at the beginning of the question as listed. The demographic questions were at the end of the original survey, which is why they begin with “Q16” below.

Demographics

Demographic questions were optional and appeared at the end of the survey. They are included at the beginning here for context. Approximately 200 participants did not answer the demographic questions.

Q16. How long have you lived in Taos County or the Enchanted Circle region?

By far the most common answer to our question about length of residency in the region was “more than 10 years.” Nearly 48% of respondents have been in the area for more than 10 years, followed by nearly 18% who have lived in the area for 1 to 5 years.

Length of Residency

How long have you lived in Taos County or the Enchanted Circle region?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I do not live in the region.	8.8%	36
Less than 1 year	2.9%	12
1 to 5 years	17.9%	73
6 to 10 years	13.0%	53
More than 10 years	47.7%	194
I was born in the region.	9.6%	39
answered question		407
skipped question		208

Q23. In what zip code is your primary residence located?

The five most common zip codes among survey respondents were 87571, 87710, 87529, 87557, and 87514.

Most Common Zip Codes

Zip Code	Number of Respondents
87571	93
87710	49
87529	41
87557	37

Most Common Zip Codes

Zip Code	Number of Respondents
87514	26

Q24. Name of the city or community where you live?

Survey participants were also asked to identify the community where they reside. Although many of the communities listed below are part of the town of Taos, only those who specified the town of Taos in general are counted in that category below. The two most common communities listed were the town of Taos (73) and Angel Fire (52). These were followed by Ranchos de Taos and El Prado.

City/Community of Residence

Community	Number	Community	Number
Town of Taos	73	Llano Querando	4
Angel Fire	56	Talpa	4
Ranchos de Taos	32	Colorado	3
El Prado	31	Penasco	3
New Mexico - Other	23	Rio Rancho	3
Arroyo Seco	22	San Cristobal	3
Texas	19	Taos Canyon	3
Red River	16	Taos Pueblo	3
Arroyo Hondo	11	Taos Ski Valley	3
Las Colonias	11	Outside NM - Other	3
Questa	11	Idlewilld	2
Albuquerque	9	Ojo Sarco	2
Valdez	9	Oklahoma	2
Eagle Nest	7	Pilar	2
Cañon	6	Pot Creek	2
Des Montes	6	Valle Escondido	2
Hondo	5		

Q17. What is your gender?

Nearly 56% of the survey responses were from men; just over 44% of responses were from women.

Gender Breakdown of Survey Responses

What is your gender?	Response Percent	Response Count
Answer Options		
Female	44.2%	178
Male	55.8%	225
answered question		403

skipped question 212

Q18. What is your ethnicity?

White/Anglo participants were over-represented and Hispano/Hispanic/Latino participants were underrepresented in survey responses. Only 14% of survey responses were from Hispano participants even though the population of Taos County is 56% percent Hispano.

Ethnicity Breakdown of Survey Responses

What is your ethnicity? Please select as many as apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
White/Anglo	81.1%	321
Hispano/Hispanic/Latino	13.9%	55
Other	6.8%	27
American Indian/Native American	3.5%	14
Asian	0.8%	3
answered question		396
skipped question		219

Q19. What is your age?

Approximately 90% of survey responses were from participants over 35 years old. Younger community members were underrepresented.

Age Breakdown of Survey Responses

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18	0.2%	1
18 to 35	9.6%	39
36 to 60	48.9%	198
61 or older	41.2%	167
answered question		405
skipped question		210

Q20. What is your gross household income?

Approximately 64% of survey responses came from participants with household above \$50,000 per year, and over 40% had household incomes over \$75,000. Lower-income community members were underrepresented.

Household Income Breakdown of Survey Responses

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
What is your gross household income?		

Under \$25,000 per year	18.6%	67
Above \$25,000 but less than \$50,000 per year	17.2%	62
Above \$50,000 but less than \$75,000 per year	23.9%	86
\$75,000 or more per year	40.3%	145
answered question		360
skipped question		255

Q21. Number of children (under age 18) in household?

Most survey participants either did not have children living at home or did not answer this question. The average number of children among responses was 0.5 (both mode and median were zero). Of the 105 survey respondents who did have children at home, the average number of children was 1.9. Parents with children at home were underrepresented.

Q22. Do any members of your household have a need for ADA-accessible trails?

Slightly over 8% of survey participants said that at least one member of their household needs ADA-accessible trails.

Household Members that Need ADA-accessible Trails

Do any members of your household have a need for ADA-accessible trails?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	8.3%	32
No	91.7%	353
Please specify if you would like:		20
answered question		385
skipped question		230

Open Space Conservation

Q1. Please rank the top three regional values you think are the most important for current and future generations in Taos County.

This question was used to establish which community goals to map through the Community Conservation Plan process. Survey participants were asked to choose their top three priorities among seven possible conservation goals: water quality/quantity, access to recreational opportunities, views, acequias, agricultural land/ranch land, cultural and historic resources, and wildlife. The selection of these suggested goals was based on input at the first community meeting in July 2015.

Results below are shown with Hispano/Hispanic weighting already calculated. Totals are shown for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices separately and totaled together. For “choice ranked total” first choice responses were weighted most heavily (given full weight); second choice responses were weighted 0.8; and third choice responses were weighted 0.6.

Top Three Regional Priorities

Goal	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked Total	Choice Ranked Total
Water Quality and Quantity	1044	160	47	1251	1200
Cultural and Historic Resources, Including Traditional Agriculture	174	600	614	1388	1022
Wildlife	57	365	268	690	510
Access to Recreational Opportunities	84	190	269	543	397
Cultural and Historic Resources	44	211	320	575	1022
Acequias	57	269	110	436	338
Agricultural Land/Ranch Land	73	120	184	377	279
Views	47	67	137	251	183
Other	24	7	50	81	60
TOTAL	1,604	1,989	1,999	5,592	5,011

Because of input from the wider community engagement process, protection of agricultural land and acequias was folded into the “Protect cultural resources, including traditional agriculture” goal. As a result this goal became the second-highest priority below protecting water. Once Hispano responses were weighted to reflect local demographics, the overall priorities were:

1. Protect water quality and quantity;
2. Protect cultural resources, including traditional agriculture;
3. Protect wildlife habitat; and
4. Provide access to recreational opportunities.

Although not shown here, more Hispano/Hispanic participants (88 percent) ranked water as their most important regional value than did Anglo participants (75 percent). In addition, Hispano/Hispanic respondents were more concerned about agriculture and acequias and slightly less concerned about recreational access.

- To some extent most communities have short term vision and consider the money brought in by tourists more important than the preservation of the natural environment.
- Tourism is our number one source of revenue. We need to clean up our forest, improve and maintain our trail system and allow more and better access to our natural forest for our guests and the residents.
- Yes, but we do have to keep our taxes to a minimum, that's an ongoing task. If we can increase police security in the Penasco area I believe it will help. Our reputation in this area is not good because of the drugs and alcohol [which] hurts tourism tremendously.
- I don't think they value tourism, but it is the only thing that brings new money into Taos and surrounding area. People are concerned with retaining local culture at the expense of the town. Change and progress must occur to keep Taos viable. This is not understood, nor is there anyone (i.e., gov't) working to find balance in these areas. Again, water use plays a huge role in both of these.
- Tourism is certainly a lifeblood of the region. BUT we must retain our uniqueness, landscapes, community, culture and funkiness, in order to be the draw that we are.
- Some value it and others do not. Tourism threatens local culture. Change is inevitable and I believe that we need some kind of training for cultural sensitivity land conflict resolution. The agenda of local government representatives is often times questionable
- No, I think increasing tourism (or any other industry for that matter) is mostly given lip service while maintaining local culture and resisting change continues to be the top priority.
- I don't believe increasing tourism and retaining local culture is a high priority in the Taos community. I think the Pueblo residents value their culture & want it preserved, as do most Taos county residents. However, most of us are so consumed with keeping body & soul together, that it is hard to give priority & thought to these other issues
- Local culture is a lot of what drives tourism in Taos County. It all has to work together to work at all. I think our local culture is well protected, isn't going to change much, and is what makes us who we are.
- Here is what needs to be done. Encourage people to visit, and strongly discourage them from staying.
- I think that the Anglo would like to see increased tourism and growth in Taos, but the Hispanic and Native American would like to see Taos with less tourism and keeping local culture as it was in the past. The problem with that is the without change there is no growth. Without growth there is no revenue.
- Yes, retaining local culture for history/roots, increased tourism for business. Right now, Taos is too congested, need an alternate north/south route, also need tourism to increase in outskirts, not within Taos proper, already too congested. In-town Chile Line is a good idea to reduce traffic, but to be attractive to tourists, needs to run every 10 minutes, not every 35 to 40 minutes.
- Yes. Maintain trails. Build additional trails. Allow mountain bikes and hikers to use these trails.
- I don't think there's a community-wide cohesive opinion on these. There are those who value increasing tourism, and it's often very much at odds with the opinions of those who want to retain local culture.
- Yes. Keep Taos pristine. Retain and protect traditional buildings and architecture. Prohibit big box expansion. Make Taos different from every other town in America that is or has already been totally homogenized.

Trails and Recreation

Q8. Do you support expanding the trail/pathway system in the Enchanted Circle region?

Overall, 86% of survey participants support or strongly support expanding the trail and pathway system in the Enchanted Circle region. Over 60% strongly support expansion, and less than 5% do not support expansion. Among Hispanic/Hispano respondents and those born in the region approximately 70% support or strongly support expanding the trail system.

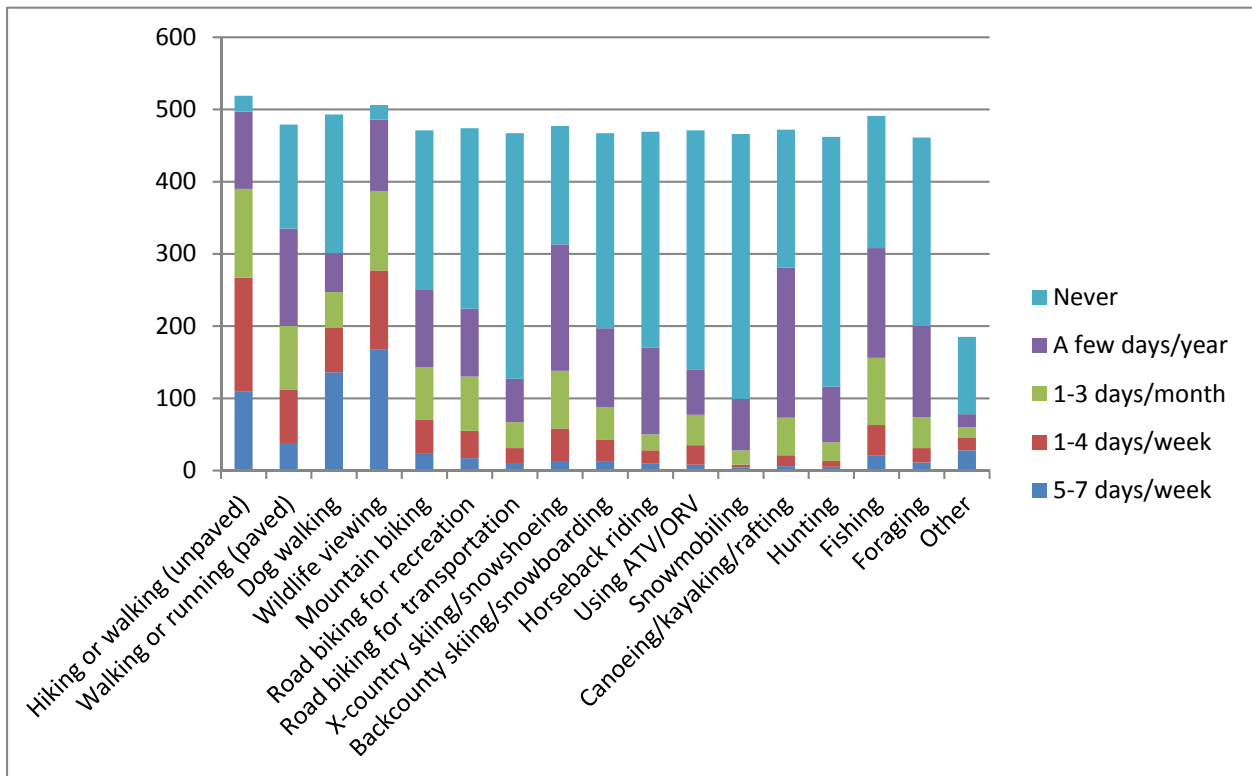
Support for Expanding the Trail/Pathway System in the Enchanted Circle

Do you support expanding the trail/pathway system in the Enchanted Circle Region?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly support	60.8%	301
Support	25.7%	127
No opinion	8.9%	44
Do not support	3.2%	16
Strongly object	1.4%	7
	<i>answered question</i>	495
	<i>skipped question</i>	120

Q6. How often do you or other members of your household typically participate in the following activities?

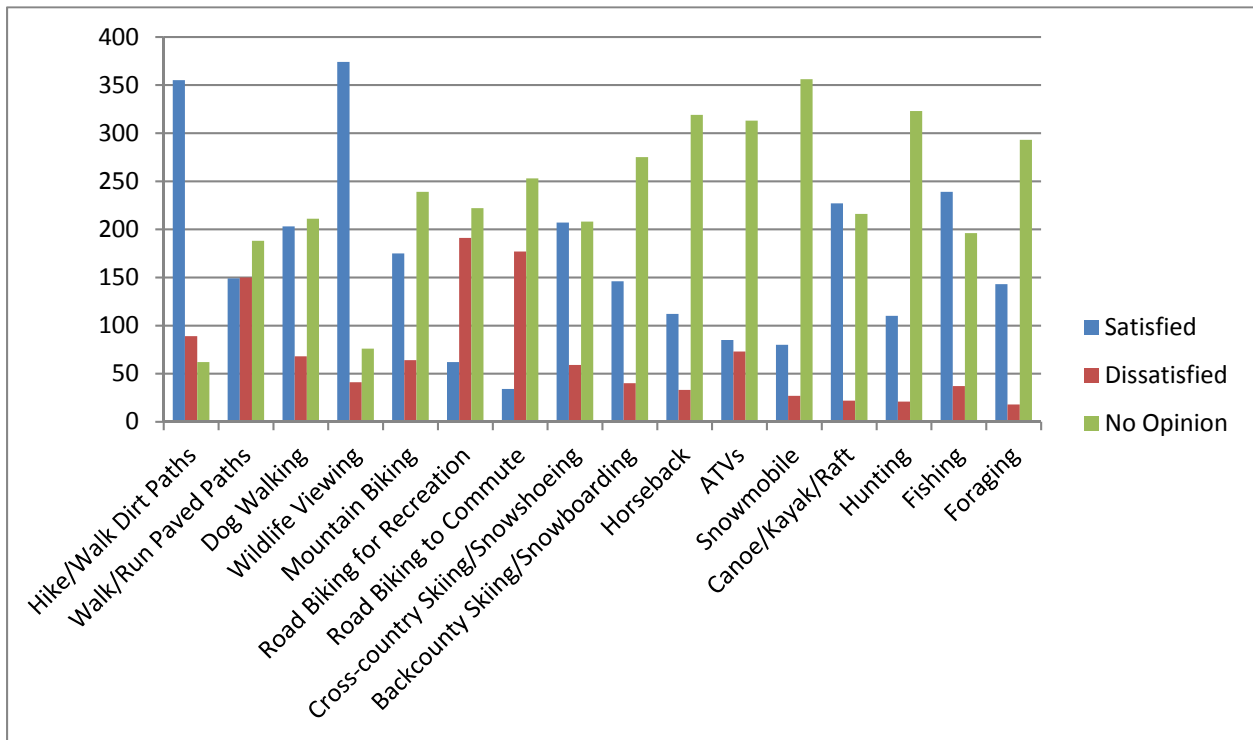
Overall, the top three activities by a large margin are wildlife viewing (155), dog walking (131), and hiking/walking/running on dirt paths (107). Hiking/walking/running on dirt paths (146) and wildlife viewing (104) also rank highest for activities that respondents participate in 1-4 days per week. The activities that respondents participate in the least are were snowmobiling (345), hunting (319), road biking for transportation (312), off-road ATVs and motorcycles (307), and horseback riding (281).

Anglo participants were more likely to hike and run on dirt paths, walk their dogs, view wildlife, and cross-country ski/snowshoe. Hispano/Hispanic respondents were more likely to ride horses, snowmobile, canoe/kayak/raft, and hunt, fish, and forage.



Q7. How satisfied are you with the quality and quantity of trails in the Enchanted Circle region for the following activities?

In the figure below blue represents that respondents are satisfied, and red represents that they are unsatisfied. Only two categories of trails have higher dissatisfaction than satisfaction: road biking for recreation and road biking to commute. Walking/running on paved paths has equal satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Highest satisfaction is with wildlife viewing and with hiking/walking on unpaved paths.



Q9. Please rank up to five connections in the Enchanted Circle region that you would prioritize for bike lanes and/or multiuse paths.

The tables below show the highest priorities for bike lanes or multi-use paths among 17 options provided in the survey. Overall and Hispano only responses showed the same three top priorities (1) Town of Taos to Ranchos de Taos; (2) Town of Taos to Old Blinking Light intersection; and (3) Old Blinking Light to Arroyo Seco.

Highest Priorities for Bike Lanes and Paths (all survey responses)

Trail Connection	Weighted Score
Town of Taos to Ranchos de Taos	140
Town of Taos to the Old Blinking Light intersection	139
The Old Blinking Light intersection to Arroyo Seco	110
Angel Fire to Taos	100
Eagle Nest to Angel Fire	62
Ranchos de Taos to the Old Blinking Light intersection via Route 240/Blueberry Hill Road	58
The Old Blinking Light to the Gorge Bridge	56
Arroyo Seco to Taos Ski Valley	56
Questa to Red River	43
Red River to Eagle Nest	38
Questa to the Wild Rivers Visitor Center in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument	36
Arroyo Hondo to Arroyo Seco	33
Ranchitos to the Old Blinking Light intersection	31
Ranchos de Taos to Pilar/Orilla Verda Recreation Area	26
Ranchos de Taos to Sipapu Ski Area	23
Valdez to Taos Ski Valley	20
Arroyo Hondo to Questa	18

Highest Priorities for Bike Lanes and Paths (Hispanic/Hispano responses only)

Trail Connection	Weighted Score
Town of Taos to Ranchos de Taos	24
Town of Taos to the Old Blinking Light intersection	12
The Old Blinking Light intersection to Arroyo Seco	9
Arroyo Seco to Taos Ski Valley	8
Eagle Nest to Angel Fire	7
Valdez to Taos Ski Valley	6
Red River to Eagle Nest	6
Arroyo Hondo to Questa	6
Questa to Red River	5
Ranchos de Taos to Pilar/Orilla Verda Recreation Area	4
Arroyo Hondo to Arroyo Seco	4
The Old Blinking Light to the Gorge Bridge	4

Priority Roads and Road Segments for Improved Walking and Biking Paths

ROADS/ROAD SEGMENTS	COUNT
NM 68 – Paseo del Pueblo Sur y Norte	59
NM 240 – Ranchitos Rd.	58
US Hwy 64 - Angel Fire to Taos / Taos to Angel Fire	48
NM 150 - OBL to arroyo seco / arroyo seco to OBL	30
Salazar Rd.	17
NM 434 – 64 – Mora to Angel Fire to Eagle Nest / Eagle Nest to Angel Fire to Mora	16
Gusdorf Rd.	11
Valdez, Rim West	11
NM 230	10
NM 38 - Questa to Red River	9
NM 518	8
NM 522	8
Camino del Medio (from Upper Ranchito Road all the way to State Road 240 in La Cordillera)	5
Camino de la Placita	4
La Posta Rd.	4
NM 518 - Taos to Sipapu (76)	3
Valdez to Taos Ski Valley	2
NM 522, Questa to Costilla	2

Q11. In the area near your place of residence, is there a need for new recreational opportunities or new trails in nearby open spaces, wilderness, or recreational areas?

Sixty percent of survey participants said that there is a need for new recreational opportunities or trails in nearby open spaces, wilderness, or recreational areas. Word clouds for where participants would like new recreational opportunities and what kind of trails they would like are shown below.

Q14. Please rank up to three priorities for trails and path related investments in the Enchanted Circle region.

The tables below show the top priorities for trail related investments among all survey participants and among Hispano participants only. Priority responses were weighted so that a first choice answer received full weight, a second place selection one-half weight, a third choice was given one-third, and fourth choice one-fourth. The first priority by a large margin for both participants overall and for Hispano respondents in particular was to create new pathways for safety. The second priority for both was long road cycling paths. Third priority overall was maintaining/improving existing back country trails, and for Hispano participants it was new non-motorized backcountry trails. Participants overall and Hispano participants in particular ranked access to water activities as a very low priority. For Hispano participants, motorized trails were a higher priority than new mountain biking trails, while for respondents overall new mountain biking trails were a higher priority than motorized trails (but still a relatively low priority.)

Top Priorities for Trail Related Investments (All Survey Responses)

Investment	Weighted Score
Create new pathways for safety	266
Long road cycling paths	147
Maintain/improve existing back country trails	116
New non-motorized backcountry trails	96
Access to recreation	71
New accessible trails	61
Maintain/improve existing paved paths	55
New mountain biking trails	44
Motorized trails	36
Access to water activities	26

Top Priorities for Trail Related Investments (Hispanic/Hispano Responses Only)

Investment	Weighted Score
Create new pathways for safety	24
Long road cycling paths	15
New non-motorized backcountry trails	10
New accessible trails	9
Motorized trails	8
Access to recreation	8
Maintain/improve existing paved paths	8
Maintain/improve existing back country trails	7
Access to water activities	3
New mountain biking trails	2

Q15. Any additional questions, comments, or suggestions?

A sample of answers:

- We can look to Colorado as a great example of how improving and maintaining accessibility to land for recreation attracts users and boosts economic development. We already have the terrain, beauty, views and passionate people here in the enchanted circle, but we are behind in creating the level of accessibility needed for all users.
- It's important to keep our trails safe especially for those whom enjoy them for walking, biking and/or strolling with their families and/or children.
- Safety for our Children!
- Survey is very biased in favor of expensive developed city/town trails it seems
- Please please please create more biking, hiking, walking trails! It is very difficult to raise kids here and go for family walks...We live in this incredibly beautiful area and have done so little to truly honor it and integrate with it. It's the future!
- Widen Hwy 64 between Angle Fire and Taos
- Trail linkages for better through travel. Either hiking, biking or both.
- The 1st priority is trail signage throughout the Enchanted Circle
- Commuting via bike is a way of the future and the youth. I currently do not ride my bike on the road because there is a lack of infrastructure. If Taos wants to keep up with the ways of the world, we need bike paths so that citizens can easily commute around the area!
- This is for not just tourists (whose money Taos relies on for its existence) but for the Taos County Residents who have been here for generations. WE deserve something well-planned, well-built and SAFE so that we may also enjoy our communities.



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Appendix E: Headwaters Economics Survey Report

Enchanted Circle Trails Final Survey Results

September 2016



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The LOR Foundation, whose goal is to enhance livability and quality of life in the Intermountain West through community-driven solutions, provided funding for this research to help communities better understand the use of trails and pathways, and to make informed choices about investing in and managing this infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Headwaters Economics and RRC Associates conducted this survey in partnership with the Taos Land Trust. The purpose of this study is to collect public feedback on trails in the Enchanted Circle, which includes Taos County, New Mexico and the towns of Eagle Nest and Angel Fire in Colfax County, New Mexico. The research is intended to help stakeholders prioritize improvements for the trails network based on resident usage, satisfaction, reasons for living in the area, and suggestions for improvement.

This report contains reliable information regarding the opinions of a representative sample of county residents, including those who use and do not use trails, a variety of user types, long-time residents and newcomers, locations around the county, and incomes and ages.

Data from this survey show that trails are an essential part of daily life in the Enchanted Circle:

- Two out of three residents used trails in the last year.
- Residents use trails almost every day in the summer and almost every other day in the winter.
- More than half of residents' weekly physical activity occurs on trails.
- Three-quarters of residents support the development of an expanded and better connected trail system in the Enchanted Circle.
- Two-thirds of residents identified proximity to trails and paths as an important factor influencing their decision on where to live.

Survey respondents identified several opportunities to increase trail use and satisfaction:

- There is strong interest in safer separation of bikes and pedestrians from traffic (such as sidewalks, wide shoulders, and bike lanes), with half of residents saying they would use trails more if these safety features were implemented.
- There is strong interest in more trails in and around residential areas and improved accessibility, with one in three residents saying they would use trails more if they lived closer to them.
- There is strong interest in more broadly shared information about trails. One in three residents do not use trails because they are unsure where they are.

The Enchanted Circle's trails are a core amenity that are closely integrated with respondents' health, quality of life, and historic ranching and farming activities. Access to trails also provides increased opportunities for outdoor recreation and public land accessibility and protects the rural setting and natural beauty of the area, which many respondents feel is essential to their decision to live in Taos County.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to collect public feedback on the Enchanted Circle trail system. The research and subsequent analysis are intended to help local stakeholders prioritize future improvements for the trails network based on resident usage, satisfaction, reasons for living in the area, and suggestions for improvement. This report contains reliable information that communicates the opinions of a representative sample of county residents, including those who use and do not use trails, a variety of user types, long-time residents and newcomers, and a range of incomes and ages. This information can be used to help plan the future of trails in Taos County and the Enchanted Circle.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted using two primary methods: 1) a mail-back survey sent to a random sample of residents (the “invitation sample”) in the subject area (respondents could send their paper survey back or complete the survey online); and 2) an open-link online survey for members of the public who were not part of the invitation sample. The analysis herein primarily focuses on responses from the combined invitation and open link online samples, as responses were generally similar between the two samples.

The primary list source used for the invitation sample mailing was a list purchased from a third-party list vendor, Gravis Marketing, a marketing agency that specializes in political polling. Gravis provides consumer lists for U.S. addresses as well as automated robocalls. Use of the Gravis list for this study included renters in addition to homeowners, as well as residents who are not registered to vote in addition to registered voters. Follow-up reminder robocalls were utilized for this study to further encourage survey response.

A total of 3,000 surveys were mailed to a random sample of Taos County residents in January 2016. The final sample size for the statistically valid survey (with responses either via mail survey or online survey) was 265; the open link survey received an additional 99 responses. Due to the relatively small sample size and similar response patterns between the two samples, the invitation survey and open link survey results are combined and discussed in aggregate throughout the report. This combined sample of 364 has a margin of error of approximately +/- 5.1 percentage points for questions at 50 percent response.¹

The underlying data were weighted by age and ethnicity to ensure appropriate representation of Taos County residents across different demographic cohorts in the sample. Using the U.S. Census 2014 American Community Survey five-year estimates, the age and ethnicity

¹ For the total invitation sample size of 265, margin of error is +/- 5.14 percent calculated for questions at 50% response (if the response for a particular question is “50%”—the standard way to generalize margin of error is to state the larger margin, which occurs for responses at 50%). Note that the margin of error is different for every single question response on the survey depending on the resultant sample sizes, proportion of responses, and number of answer categories for each question. Comparison of differences in the data between various segments, therefore, should take into consideration these factors. As a general comment, it is sometimes more appropriate to focus attention on the general trends and patterns in the data rather than on the individual percentages.

distribution within the overall respondent sample was matched to the 2014 demographic profile of Taos County, within the limitations of the statistical weighting process.²

Due to variable response rates by some segments of the population, the underlying results, while weighted to best match the overall demographics of residents, may not be completely representative of the Hispanic and Native American communities.

The survey also asked several open-ended questions to elicit more in-depth comments from respondents on their opinions and experiences. For various open-ended questions throughout the report, a brief summary of open-ended responses from the survey is provided with word clouds and random samplings of comments. The final open-ended question in the survey is analyzed in more depth, with an examination of recurring themes supported by relevant groupings of comments. A full listing of comments is available.

² The use of statistical weighting is intended to “fine-tune” or adjust the responses such that they are representative of the intended population of interest, but without fundamentally changing the overall results. Applying too high (or too low) of a weighting factor can result in substantial differences between the overall unweighted and overall weighted results. As such, from time to time, a more moderate weighting factor for certain sub-groups of the overall sample might be applied than what would otherwise be suggested from raw weighting calculations. In other words, the process of weighting responses is done deliberately and with thought towards how much the overall results change because of the weighting process, and certain adjustments to the weighting factors might be made.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This section details the demographic and residential characteristics of the overall sample of respondents.

- Gender. The sample had a higher proportion of females (65 percent) than males (35 percent).
- Age. More than a quarter (29 percent) of respondents are under age 45, with an additional 43 percent between the ages of 45 and 64. Twenty-eight percent are age 65 or older. The average age was 55.7 years old, consistent with the somewhat older age profile of respondents.
- Annual Household Income. Greater than half of the respondent households (55 percent) reported annual earnings of less than \$50,000. Roughly a quarter (27 percent) said their income is between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year, and 18 percent reported annual household incomes of \$100,000 or more.
- Ethnicity. Slightly more than half of respondents were of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin (55 percent).
- Race. Most respondents identified themselves as white (82 percent). An additional 16 percent said they are some “other” race, 1 percent are Asian, and 1 percent are Native American.
- Primary Residency. Ninety-one percent of respondents consider the Enchanted Circle their primary residence.
- Length of Residence in the Enchanted Circle per Year. Consistent with the high proportion of respondents indicating that the Enchanted Circle is their primary residence, a strong majority (92 percent) said they typically live in the area all year. Three percent indicated that they reside in the area between seven and eleven months each year, and four percent live there less than six months.
- Location of Residence. Approximately a quarter of respondents (23 percent) live in the Town of Taos. One in five lives in Ranchos de Taos, and 14 percent live in El Prado. Other common residence locations include Questa (8 percent), some other area of New Mexico (5 percent), Red River (4 percent), or Angel Fire (1 percent). Twenty-four percent of respondents said they live in some other area in the Enchanted Circle. “Other” areas frequently mentioned in the open-ended comments include Arroyo Hondo, Arroyo Seco, Taos Canyon, Valdez, and Valle Escondido.

- Number of Years Lived in the Enchanted Circle. Almost half of respondents have lived in the Enchanted Circle for more than 20 years (46 percent). An additional 37 percent have been in the area between five and 20 years, and 11 percent have lived in the Enchanted Circle for under five years.
- Total Number of Household Members. The largest share of respondents reported that there are two people living in their home (44 percent), while 19 percent indicated that they live alone. Sixteen percent said there are three people in their home, and twenty-one percent said there are four or more people in their home. On average, 2.6 individuals live in respondent households.
- Number of Household Members Age 18 or Under. More than half of the sample (59 percent) do not have household members under the age of 18. Those who do have children more frequently report having one or two children (32 percent) as opposed to three or more (9 percent).
- Household Need for ADA-Accessible Facilities. Eight percent of respondents indicated that their household has a need for ADA-accessible facilities.
- Business Ownership. Approximately a quarter (24 percent) of respondents identified themselves as business owners in Taos County.

Figure 1: Respondent Demographic Profile

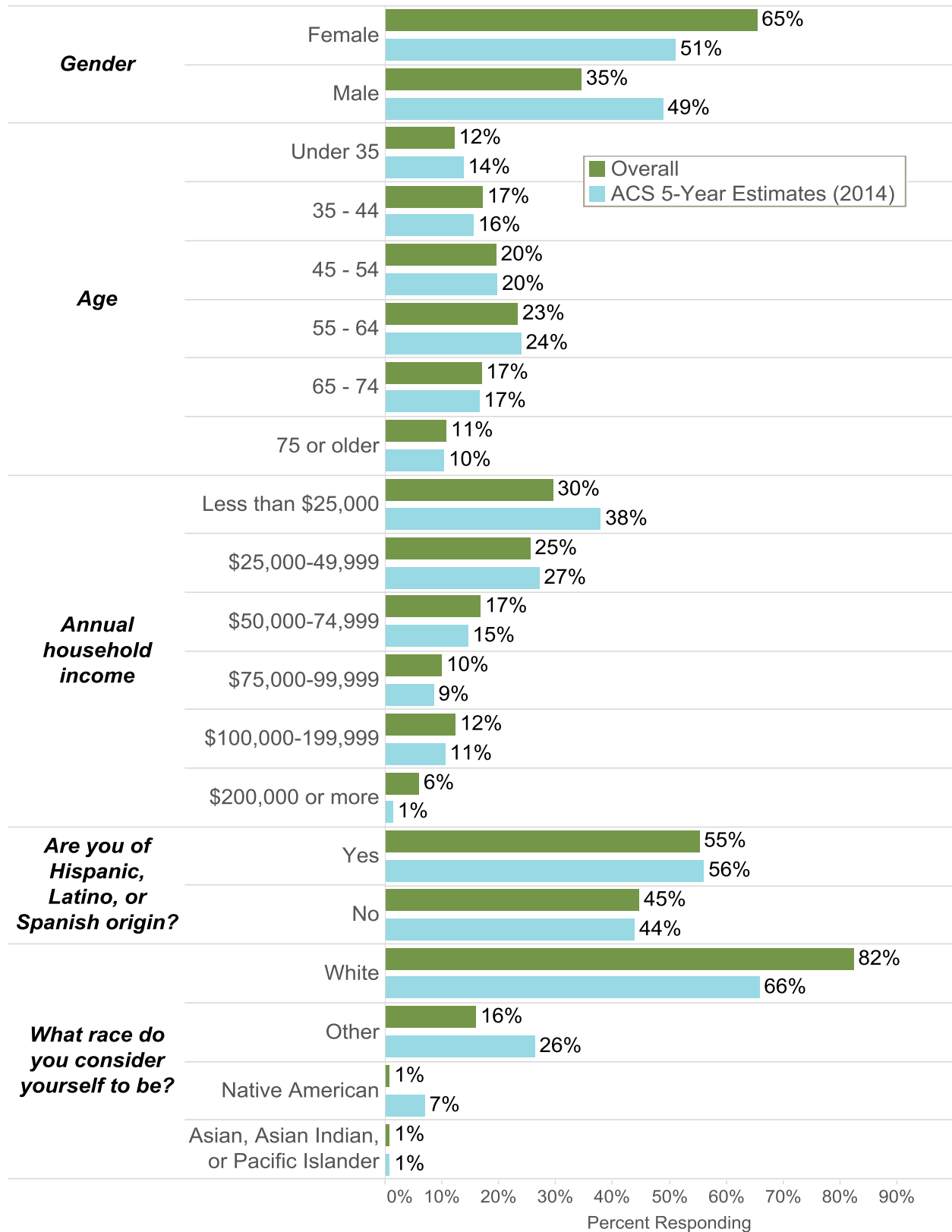
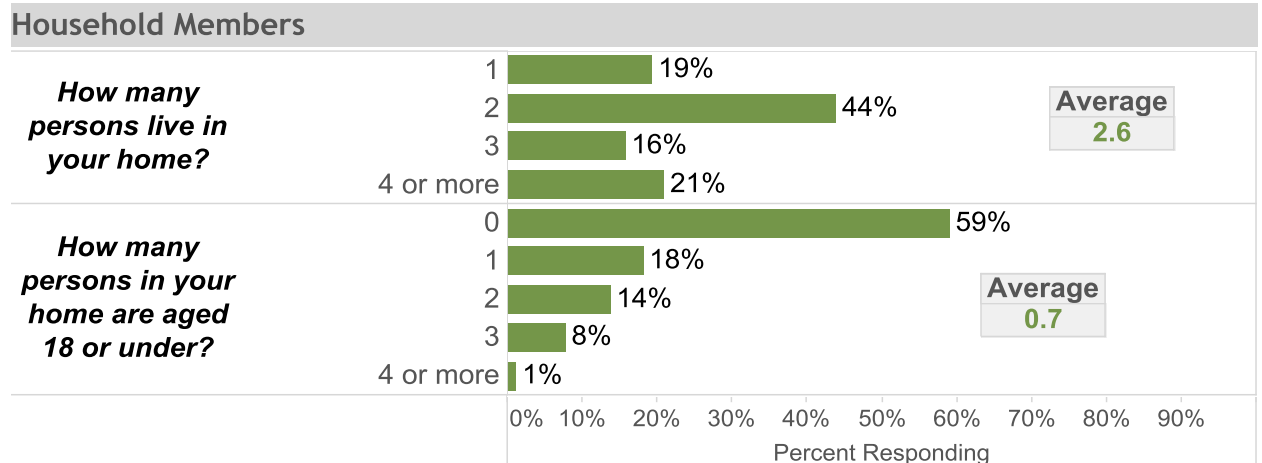
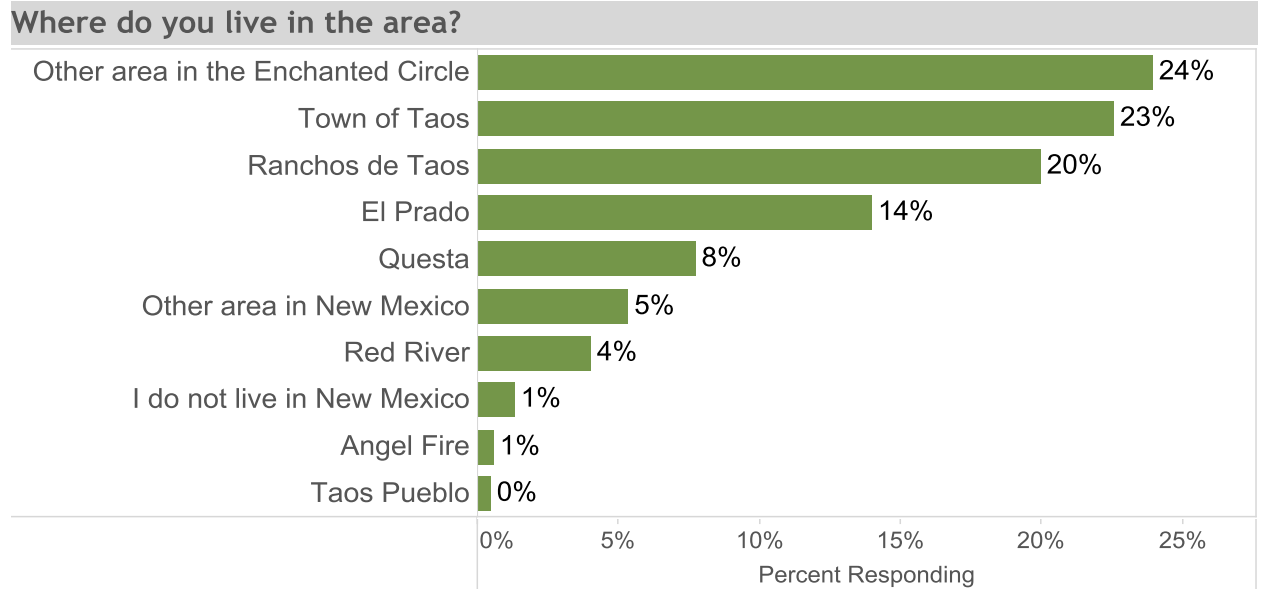
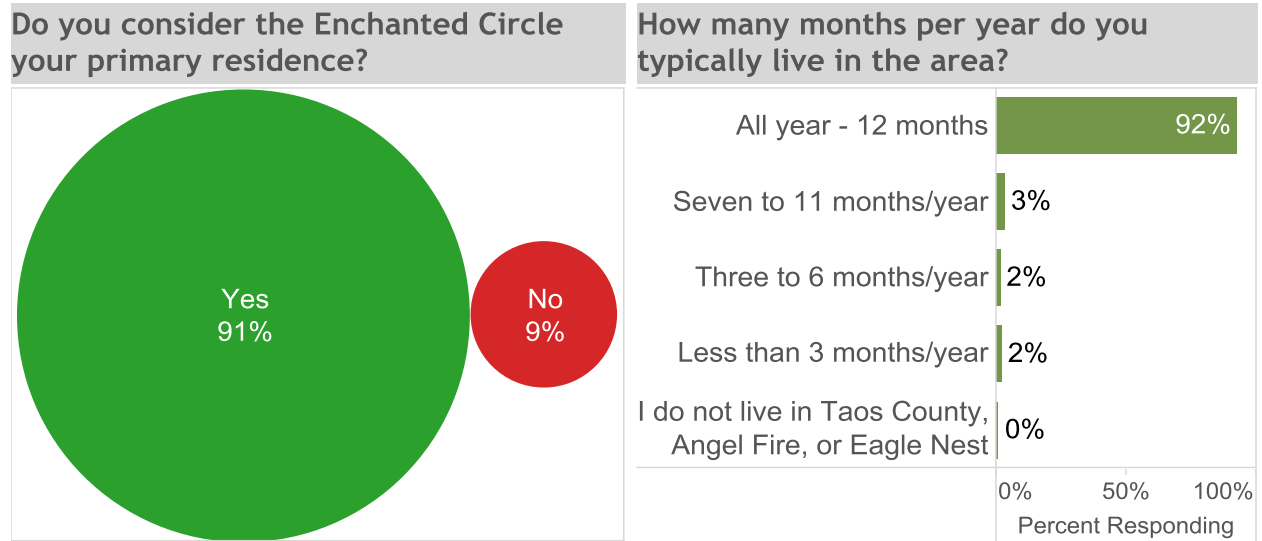


Figure 2: Residential Profile



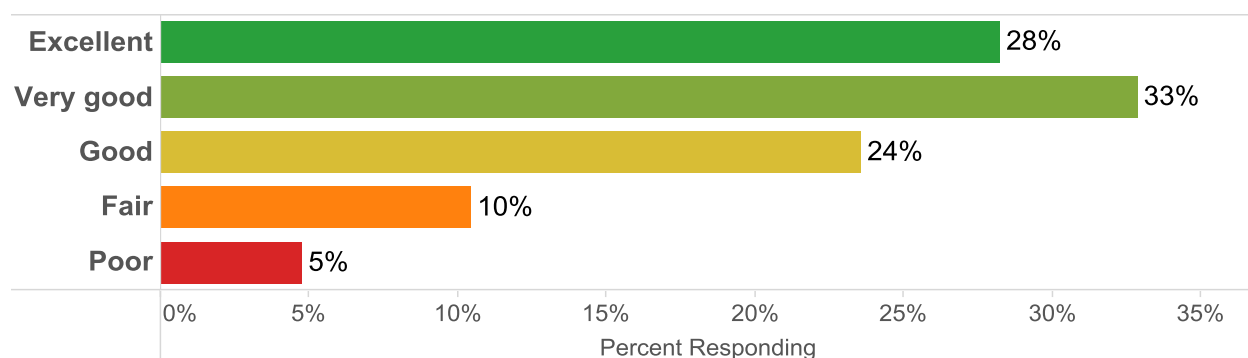
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

A section of the survey asked respondents a variety of questions about their health and participation in physical activity during summer 2015. This section of the survey details the findings from these questions.

Overall Health

When asked to rate their overall health, respondents were highly positive, with 28 percent responding “excellent,” 33 percent responding “very good,” and 24 percent responding “good.” Only 15 percent indicated that their health is “fair” or “poor.”

Figure 3: Would you say in that in general your health is...



Participation in Physical Activity/Exercise

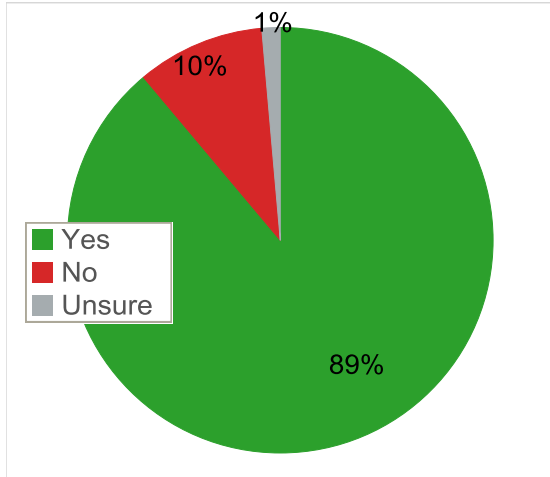
Respondents were asked if they participated in any physical exercise or activities during a typical summer month in 2015 other than their regular job. Most respondents (89 percent) indicated that they did, while 10 percent did not and an additional 1 percent were unsure. When asked to specify what type of activity or exercise they participated in, respondents most frequently mentioned hiking, walking, biking, and gardening, as depicted in the word cloud in Figure 4 below.

Respondents participated in their selected activity for an average of 4.1 times per week during summer 2015, indicating a relatively high frequency of participation. Twenty-two percent reported typically doing their activity one or two times per week, 38 percent three or four times, and 40 percent five or more times per week. Participation in the activities also typically had a fairly lengthy duration, as respondents reported an average of 2.5 hours devoted towards their activity or exercise each time. Roughly a third overall (32 percent) took part in their activity for under an hour, 37 percent for one to two hours, and 31 percent for more than two hours; hiking, gardening, fishing, farming, and mountain biking tend to have the longest duration of participation.

When asked to estimate how much of their physical activity time in summer 2015 took place on trails and paths, respondents reported an average of 56 percent.

Figure 4: Participation in Physical Activity/Exercise During Summer 2015

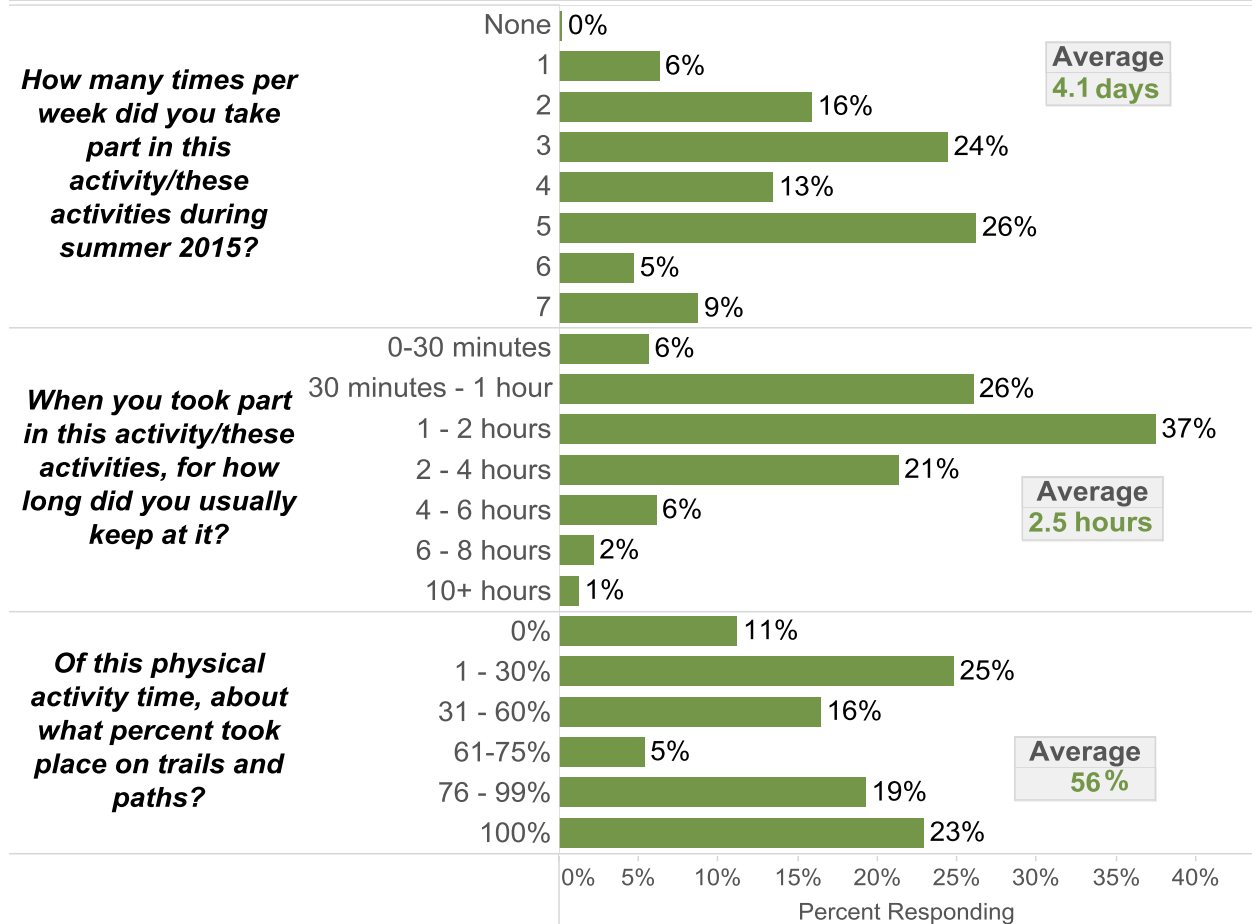
During a typical summer month in 2015 (May–September), did you participate in any physical activities or exercises?



What type of physical activity or exercise did you spend the most time doing during a typical summer month in 2015?



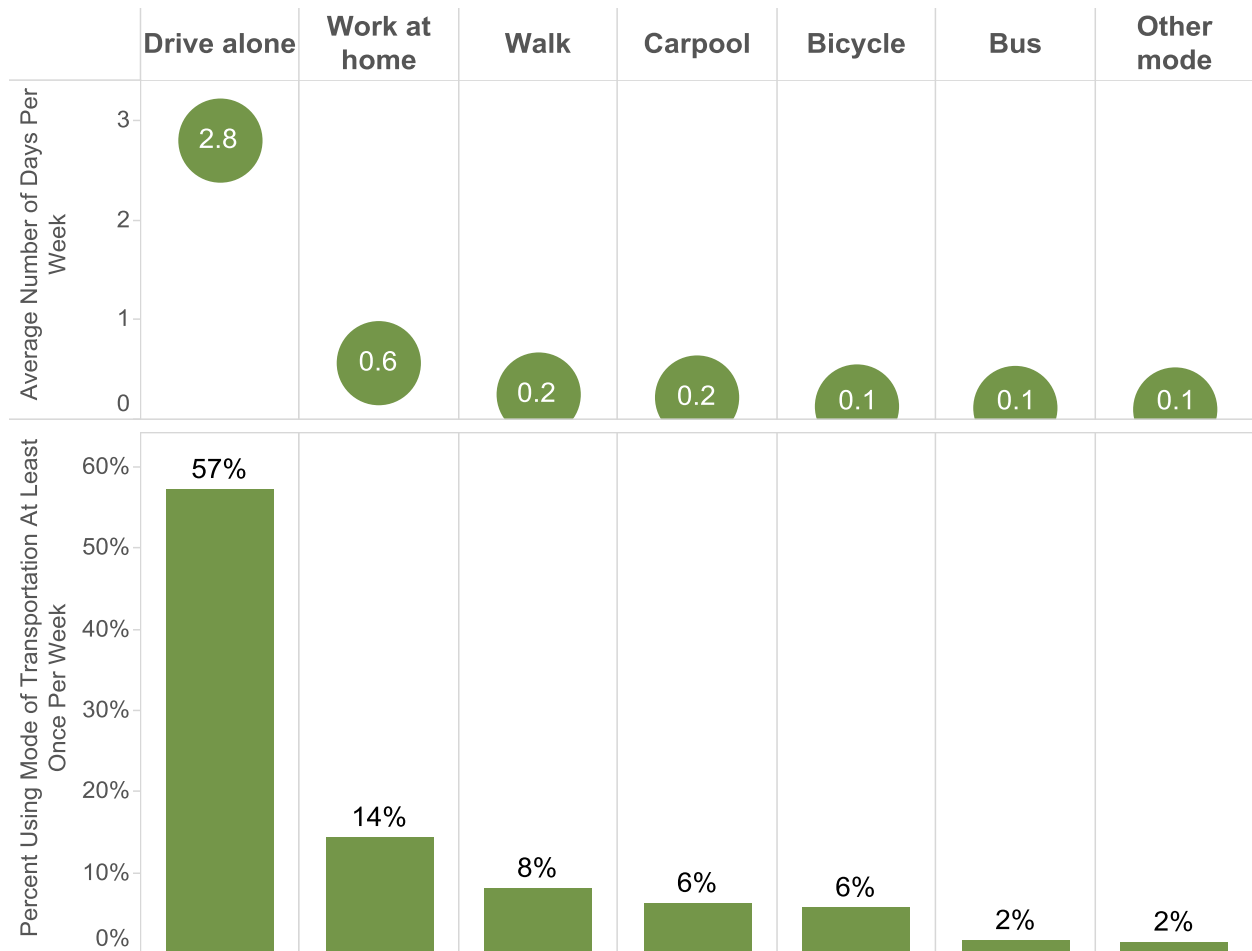
Frequency and Length of Exercise and Usage of Trails



DAILY TRAVEL AND COMMUTING

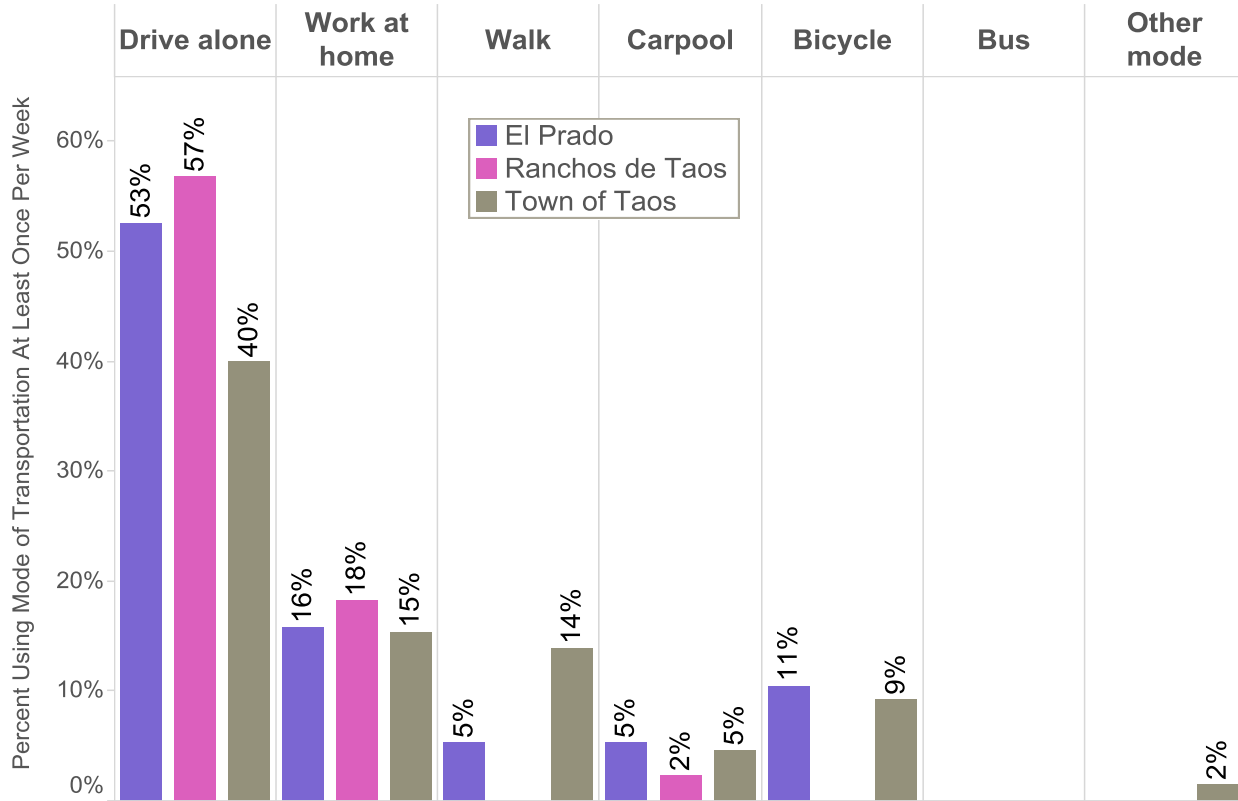
Respondents were asked to indicate the average number of days per week they typically use various transportation modes to get to work during the summer. As illustrated in Figure 5 below, driving alone is the most common method of commuting among respondents, with 57 percent using this transportation mode at least once per week and an average usage of 2.8 days per week. Working at home is somewhat common, with 14 percent staying home at least one time a week and an average of 0.6 days worked from home each week. Eight percent walk to work at least once a week (0.2 days on average), 6 percent carpool at least once (0.2 days), and 6 percent bike at least once (0.1 days). Taking the bus (2 percent) was selected by few respondents as a frequently used commuting method.

Figure 5: Typical Number of Days Using Transportation Modes to Commute to Work During Summer



This question was also analyzed for residents of different cities in Taos County (Figure 6).

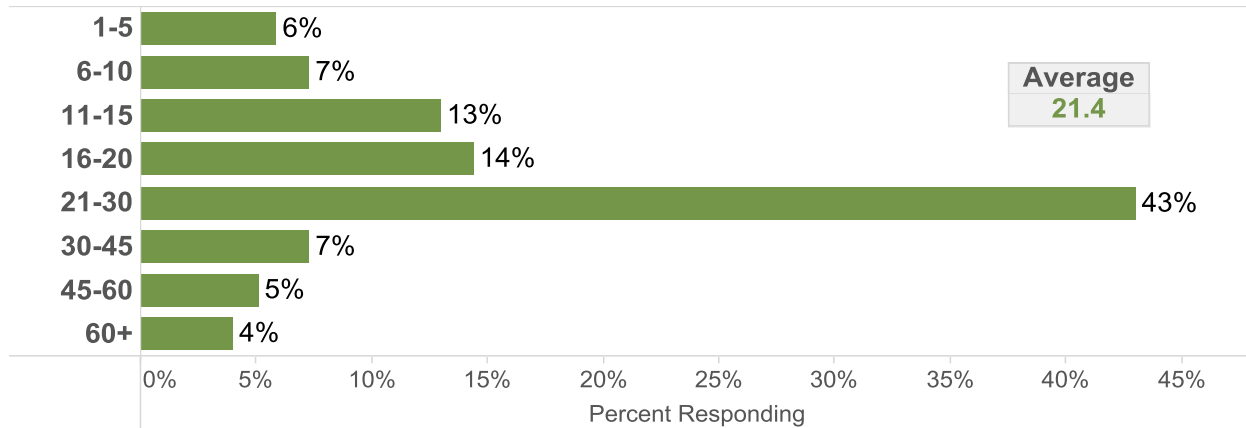
Figure 6: Typical Proportion of Days Using Transportation Modes to Commute to Work During Summer By Location of Residence



Residents of the Town of Taos were considerably less likely to indicate that they drive to work alone at least once a week during the summer (40 percent) than residents of El Prado (53 percent) or Ranchos de Taos (57 percent). Taos residents were more likely to use alternative forms of transportation at least once a week, most notably walking (14 percent). Respondents living in El Prado were most likely to report that they commute via bicycle at least once a week (11 percent).

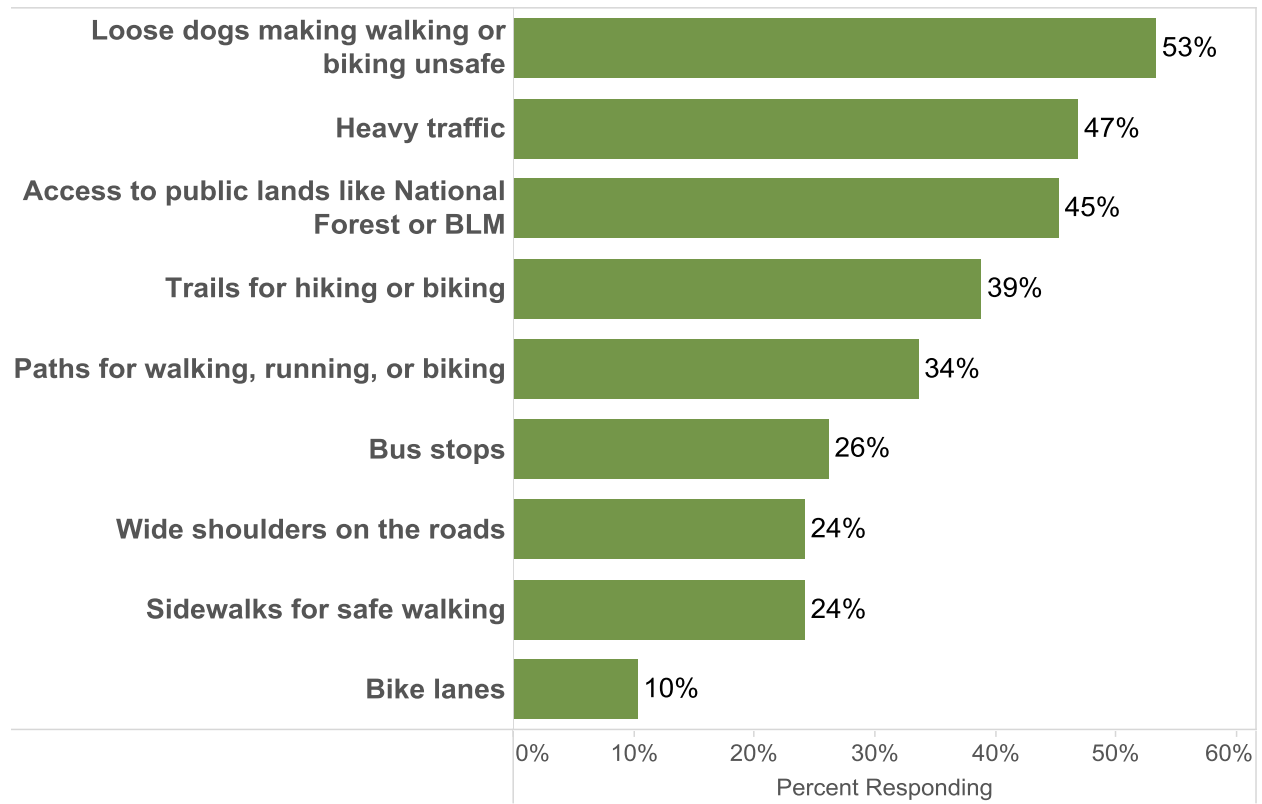
Respondents who walked or biked for transportation during the past month were asked how many minutes they usually walked or biked each way. The largest share spent between 21 and 30 minutes walking or biking each way (43 percent), with an average time of 21.4 minutes. Thirteen percent spent ten minutes or less walking/biking to their destination, 27 percent between 11 and 20 minutes, and 16 percent more than half an hour.

Figure 7: Number of Minutes Walked/Biked for Transportation Each Way



Lastly, to evaluate the amenities and challenges in close proximity to respondents’ homes related to trail and pathway usage, a question asked, “within a 15-minute walk of your home, are there any of the following?” Some of the barriers identified included loose dogs making walking or biking unsafe (53 percent of respondents indicated this is close to their home) and heavy traffic (47 percent). However, respondents also identified a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities located close to their home, such as access to public lands like National Forest or BLM (45 percent), trails for hiking or biking (39 percent), and paths for walking/running/biking (34 percent). Roughly a quarter reported the presence of bus stops (26 percent), wide shoulders on the roads (24 percent), and sidewalks for safe walking (24 percent) nearby. Only 10 percent said bike lanes were close to their home, reflecting a potential area for improvement and expansion.

Figure 8: Within a 15-minute walk of your home, are there any of the following?



TRAIL USE

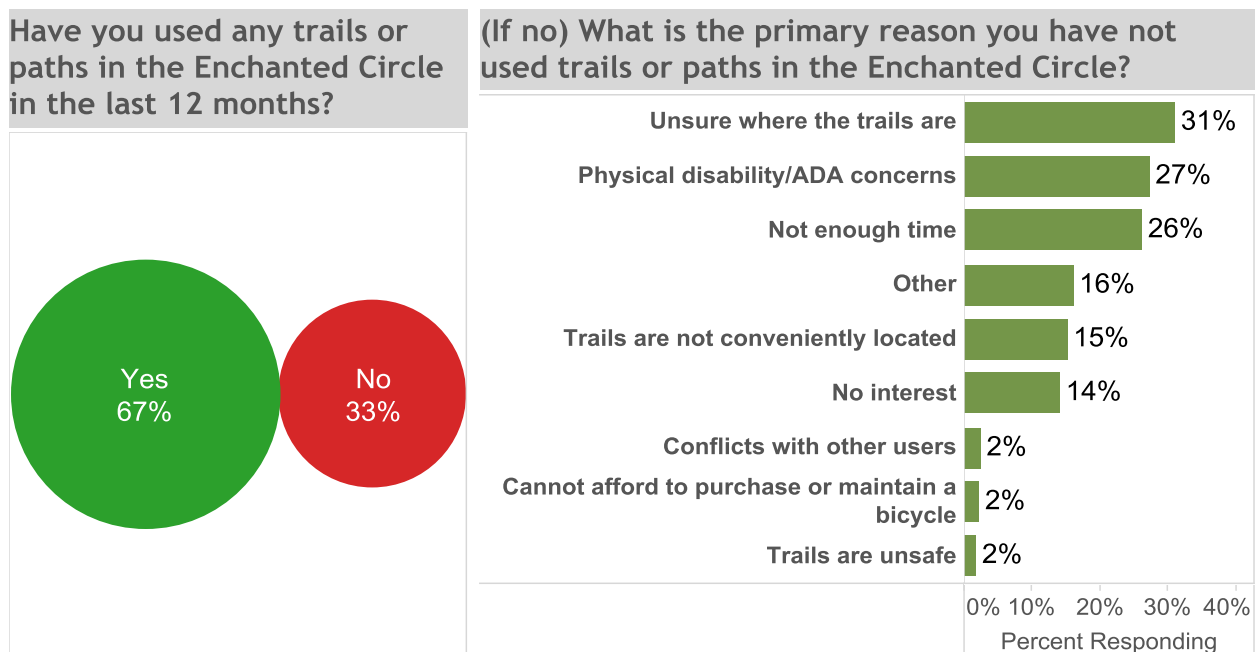
A primary goal of the survey research is to document the usage patterns of the Enchanted Circle trail system. Those who indicated that they have used trails in the past year were asked a series of additional questions including usage by activity, locations used, satisfaction with trails, methods of learning about trails, and factors that would encourage increased trail usage. Those who have not used trails in the past year were asked to identify reasons for not using the trails and factors that would encourage trail usage. The findings from each of these questions are discussed in the section below.

Recent Use of Trails

Figure 9 shows that two-thirds of respondents (67 percent) indicated that they have used trails in the Enchanted Circle during the last 12 months.

Among those who said they have not used trails in the Enchanted Circle, the three most common reasons cited for not using trails were uncertainty about the location of the trails (31 percent of those not using trails, or 10 percent of the overall sample), a physical disability/ADA concerns (27 percent, 9 percent of overall sample), or not having enough time (26 percent, 9 percent of overall sample). Other reasons include some other reason (16 percent, 5 percent of overall sample), the lack of convenience of trail location (15 percent, 5 percent), or a lack of interest (14 percent, 5 percent). Few respondents identified conflicts with other users, an inability to purchase or maintain a bicycle, or a perception that the trails are unsafe (each 2 percent) as major deterrents.

Figure 9: Enchanted Circle Trail Usage in Last 12 Months



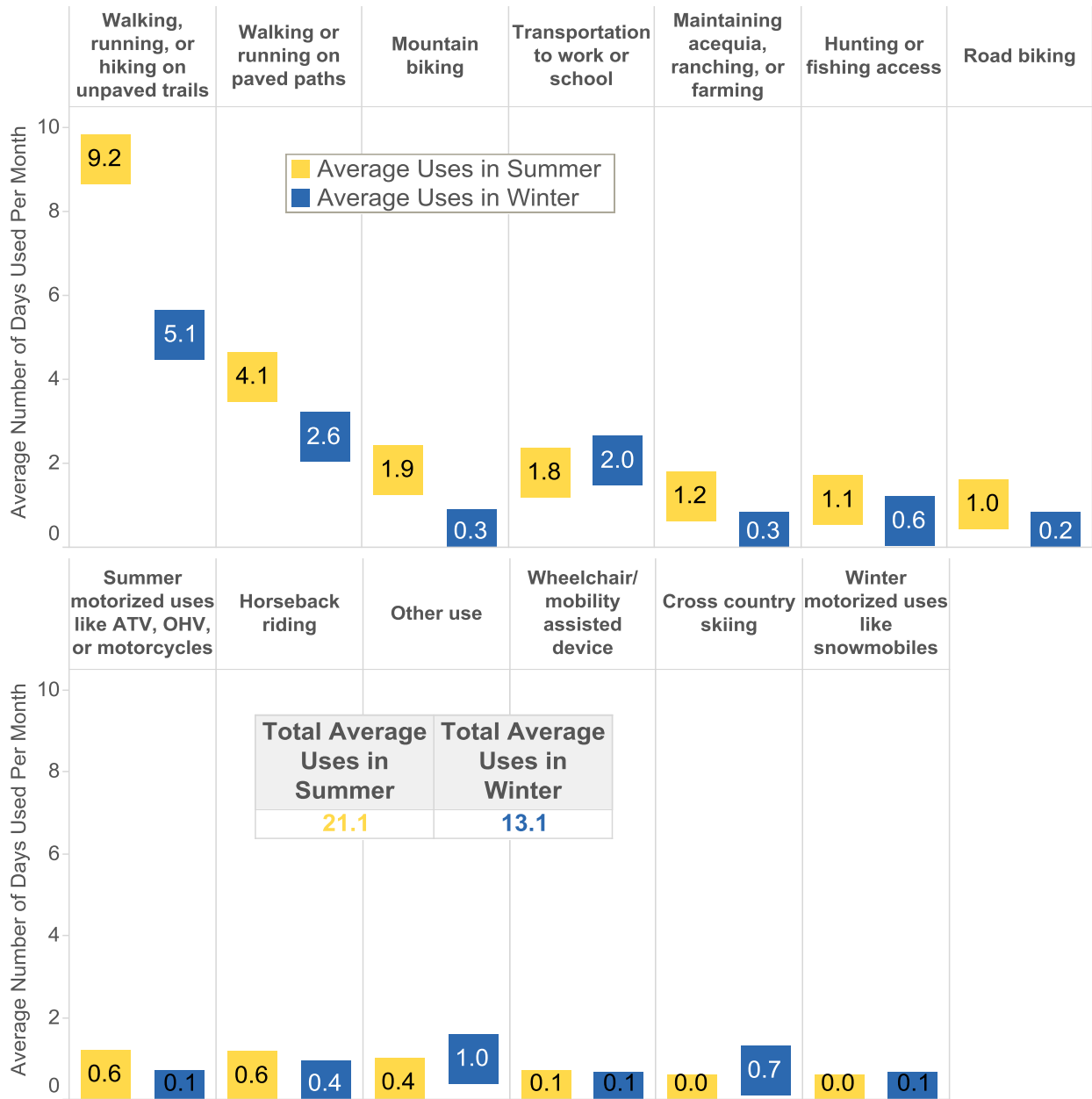
Trail Usage by Activity

Respondents estimated the number of days per month, on average, that they use the Enchanted Circle trail system, both during the summer (May through October) and the winter (November through April). Figure 10 on the following page depicts the average number of days used per month among overall respondents. Average usage is considerably higher during summer (21.1 days on average) than winter (13.1 days on average). These averages indicate that respondents use trails almost every day during summer months and almost every other day during winter months.

Recreation is the most common reason why residents use of trails, but non-recreational uses like transportation and maintaining acequias are also among the top five uses.

Walking, running or hiking on unpaved trails, and walking or running on paved trails are the most popular summer activities, with 9.2 days and 4.1 days of participation per month on average, respectively. These are also the most popular winter activities, though with lower participation levels (5.1 days and 2.6 days, respectively). Respondents also reported a higher level of summer participation in mountain biking, maintaining acequia/ranching/farming, hunting or fishing access, road biking, summer motorized use, and horseback riding. Not surprisingly, higher participation was noted for cross country skiing and winter motorized use during winter months. Average monthly use of trails for commuting was generally similar between summer months (1.8 days) and winter months (2.0 days).

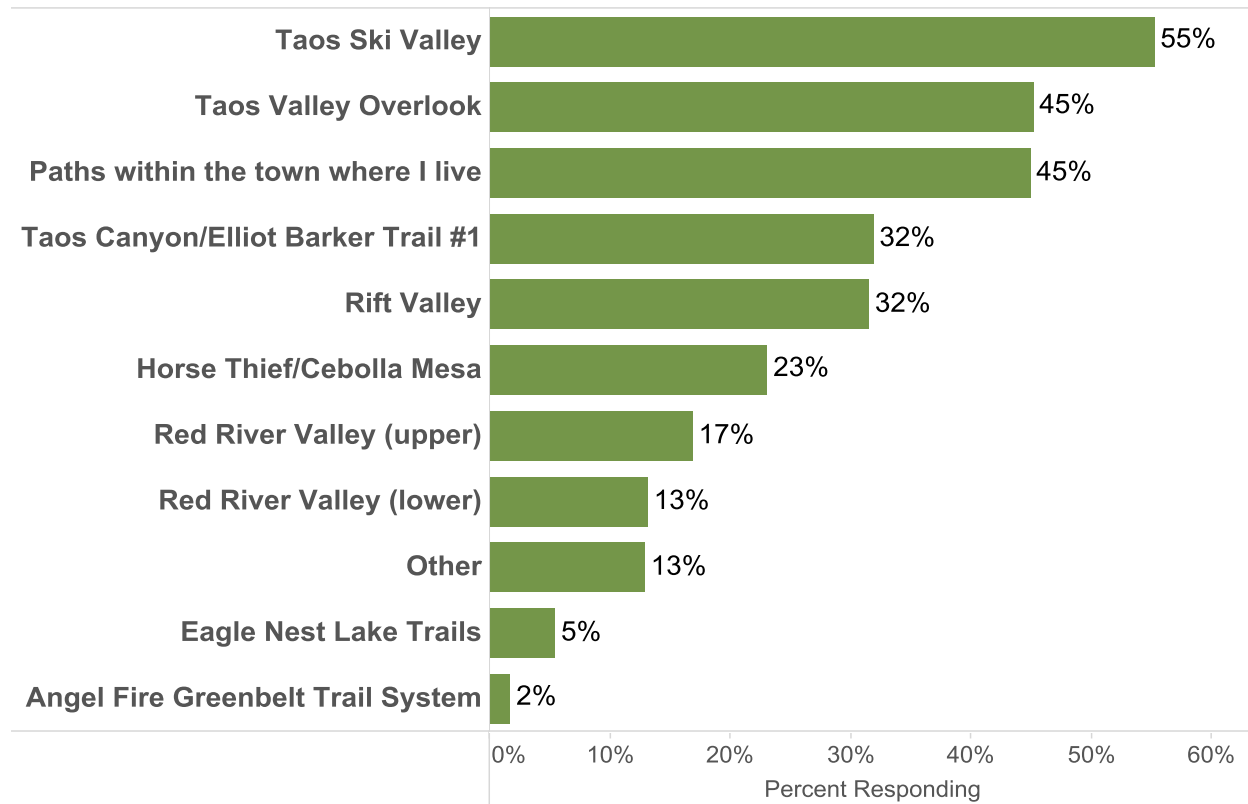
Figure 10: Monthly Trail Usage by Activity



Locations Used Most Often

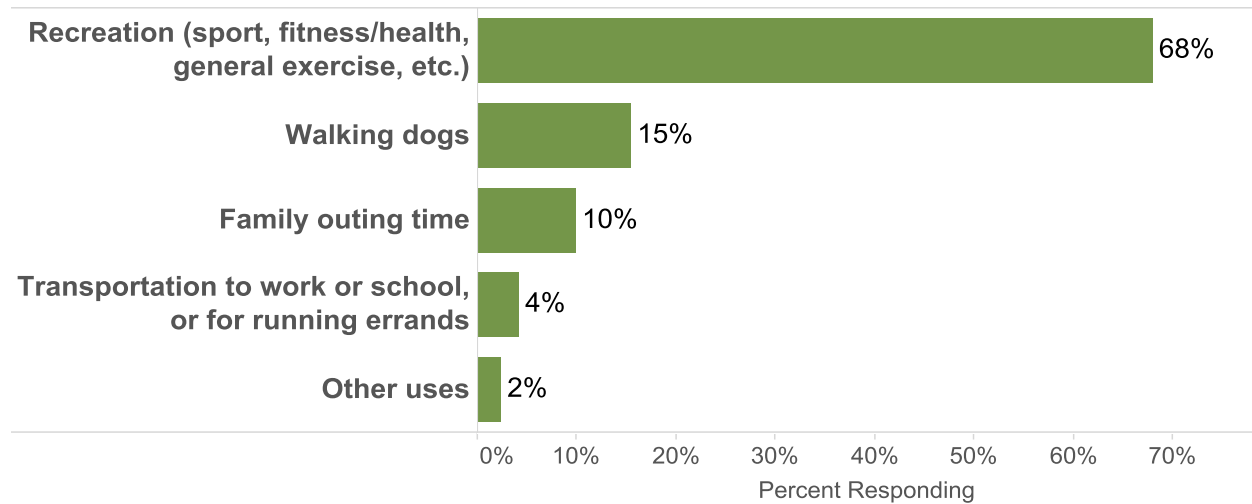
Respondents who indicated that they have used trails in the past year were asked to identify the locations of Enchanted Circle trails that they use most frequently. The most popular trail location is Taos Ski Valley (with 55 percent of respondents utilizing trails in this area), followed by Taos Valley Overlook and paths within the respondents' town of residency (each 45 percent). The Taos Canyon/Elliot Barker Trail #1, Rift Valley (each 32 percent), and Horse Thief/Cebolla Mesa (23 percent) are also commonly used.

Figure 11: Locations of Enchanted Circle Trails Used Most Often



When asked to indicate the percentage of total trail usage attributable to various purposes, respondents identified recreation as their top purpose by far (68 percent on average), followed by walking dogs (15 percent) and family outing time (10 percent). Smaller amounts of usage are attributable to transportation to work or school or for running errands (4 percent) or other uses (2 percent).

Figure 12: Percentage of Overall Trail Usage for Various Activities



Satisfaction with Trail System

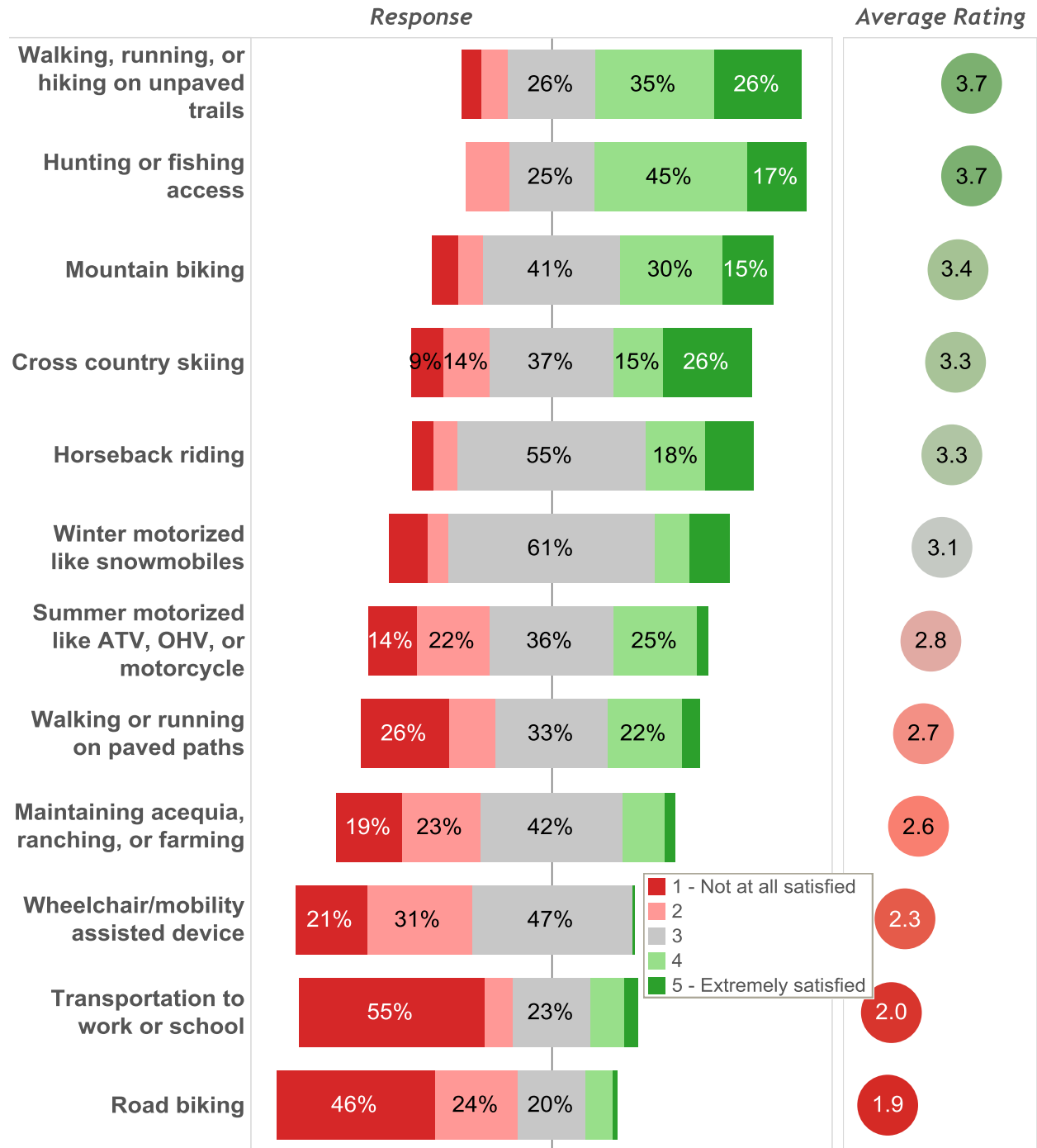
Respondents who use trails rated their satisfaction with various trail activities on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means “not at all satisfied” and 5 means “extremely satisfied.” Figure 13 on the following page illustrates the share of respondents selecting each rating for each activity, with “1” and “2” responses depicted in dark and light red (indicating the respondent is dissatisfied) and “4” and “5” responses depicted in light and dark green (indicating the respondent is satisfied). Each activity is sorted in relation to the others based on their average satisfaction ratings, which are shown on the right side of the graph.

The activities receiving the largest share of “4” and “5” responses and highest average satisfaction ratings include:

- Walking/running/hiking on unpaved trails (average rating 3.7; 61 percent rated 4 or 5)
- Hunting or fishing access (3.7 average; 62 percent)
- Mountain biking (3.4 average; 45 percent)
- Cross country skiing (3.3 average; 40 percent)
- Horseback riding (3.3 average; 32 percent)

Activities receiving relatively lower satisfaction ratings include summer motorized use (average 2.8), walking or running on paved paths (2.7), maintaining acequia/ranching/farming (2.6), wheelchair/mobility assisted device (2.3), transportation to work or school (2.0), and road cycling (1.9). Each of these activities received a larger share of respondents providing a “1” or “2” rating than the share providing a “4” or “5” rating, indicative of general dissatisfaction with the trail system for these uses. Future improvements on trails to better accommodate these specific activities may boost the overall degree of satisfaction felt by respondents.

Figure 13: Satisfaction with Trail System



Respondents answered an open-ended question following the satisfaction ratings asking, “What makes you satisfied or dissatisfied with the current trail system?” A random sampling of twenty comments is presented below to provide a general idea of specific responses. Ten comments indicating satisfaction with trails were selected, and ten comments indicating dissatisfaction with trails were selected. Overall, respondents who are satisfied with the trail system mentioned beautiful scenery, adequate maintenance, cleanliness, and variety as positive qualities of the trails network. On the other hand, those who feel dissatisfied overall identified poor conditions/maintenance, lack of signage, lack of bike lanes/shoulders and dangerous conditions for road biking, excessive motorized use, and a desire for more trails as factors reducing their satisfaction.

Sampling of Comments Indicating Satisfaction

- *“Beautiful views, trails seem well maintained*
- *“Clean, well maintained, lack of motorized vehicles”*
- *“Good proximity to where I live; generally well maintained.”*
- *“Love the scenery that Taos has to offer when going for a walk or hiking.”*
- *“Many good hiking trails”*
- *“Paths are well maintained - obstructions such as tree limbs are removed and rain runoff controlled”*
- *“Scenic and well maintained”*
- *“Scenic, unpopulated, rugged”*
- *“US Forest trails are maintained very well, and their signage continues to improve”*
- *“We can walk into the forest around our house and go for miles in any direction. There's usually a game trail or old road, but we don't mind bushwhacking.”*

Sampling of Comments Indicating Dissatisfaction

- *“Almost no bike paths or paved or surfaced paths”*
- *“Dangerous roads, no bike lanes, shoulders (where they are) badly maintained, not enough signage”*
- *“I am dissatisfied with the lack of continuous trails in the area. Almost all one has to drive to.”*
- *“Lack of maintenance”*
- *“Mostly their maintenance...I think especially with bike through ways in town we are lacking. Thanks for asking.”*

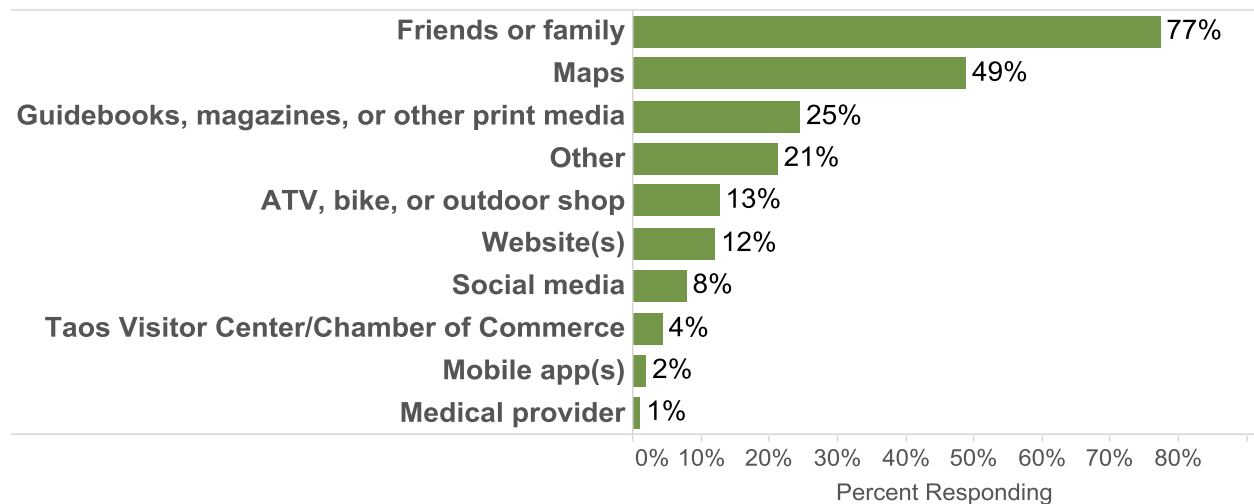
Sampling of Comments Indicating Dissatisfaction (Continued)

- *“Need more of them with adequate signage for global visitors”*
- *“Parking is a challenge. Safe parking, too. Too much breaking and entering of cars.”*
- *“Taos town paths are few and poorly maintained. They are better in the mountain areas, but most are very steep.”*
- *“Too many areas DO allow ATVs, not enough are limited to non-motorized. In town: not enough bike lanes or sidewalks.”*
- *“Trash left behind, need more trash cans”*

Learning About Trail Location

Trail users were also asked to identify the forms of communication through which they learn about the location of trails within the Enchanted Circle. The top method of learning by far is friends or family (77 percent). A map (49 percent), guidebooks/magazines/print media (25 percent), ATV/bike/outdoor shop (13 percent) and the web (12 percent) were also mentioned fairly frequently.

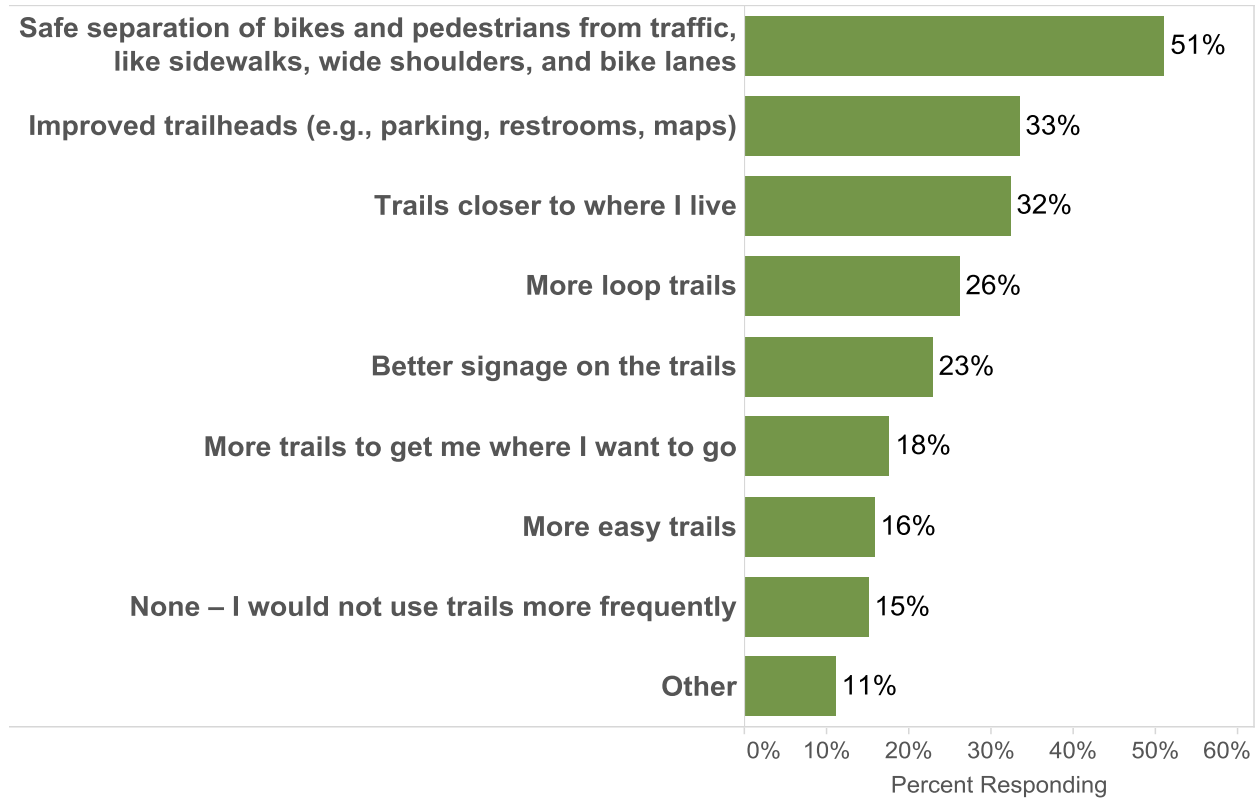
Figure 14: Learning About Trail Location



Infrastructure that Would Encourage Increased Usage

All respondents, both users and non-users of trails, were asked to identify improvements and changes related to infrastructure that would encourage them to use the Enchanted Circle trail system more in the future. More than half of respondents cited safe separation of bikes and pedestrians from traffic such as sidewalks, wide shoulders, and bike lanes (51 percent), by far the top infrastructure improvement that would encourage more usage. Roughly a third of respondents selected improved trailheads (33 percent) and closer trails to their home (32 percent), followed by more loop trails (26 percent), better signage on trails (23 percent), more trails (18 percent), and more easy trails (16 percent). An additional 15 percent indicated that they would not use trails more frequently despite infrastructure improvements. These results, coupled with the open-ended comments from above, reflect a community desire for safer pathway and trail options in town for cyclists and pedestrians.

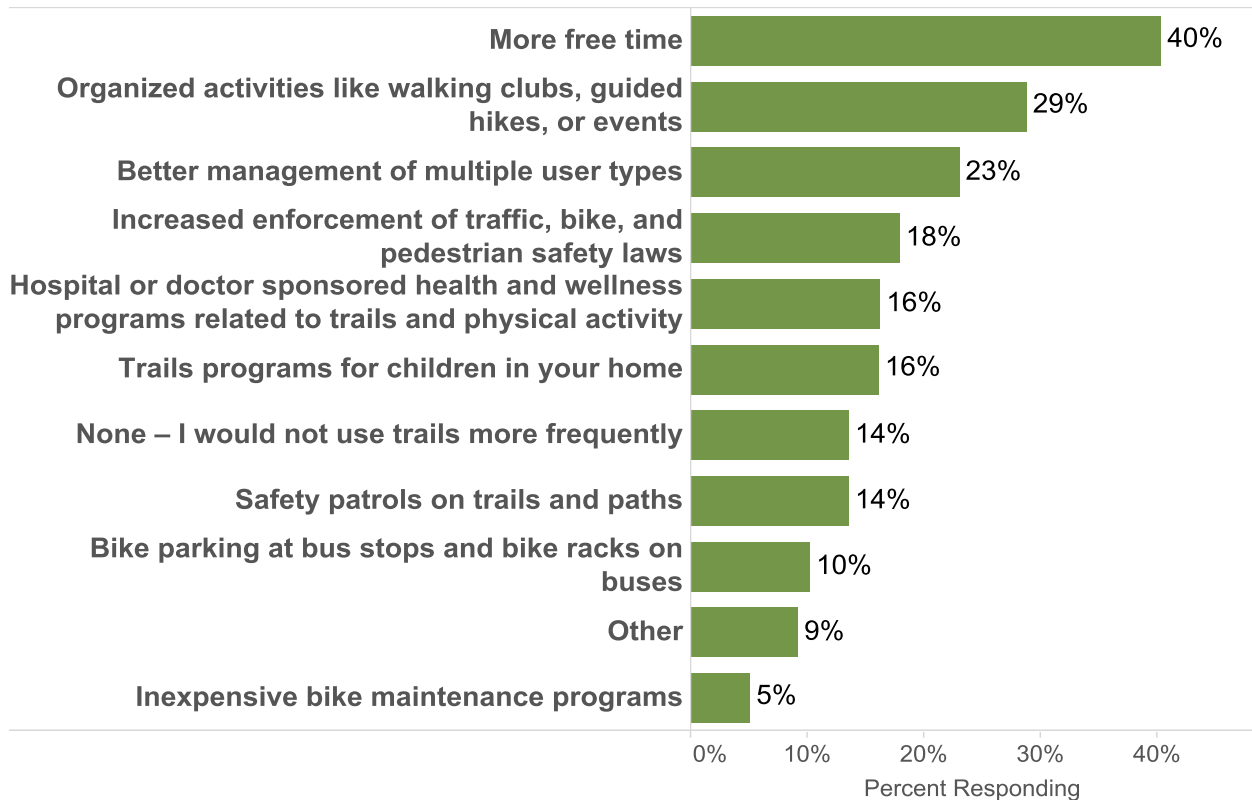
Figure 15: Infrastructure that Would Encourage Increased Trail Usage



Programs that Would Encourage Increased Usage

Respondents were also asked to identify trail and path related programs that would most encourage them to use Enchanted Circle trails and pathways more frequently. Most commonly mentioned was more free time (40 percent of respondents), followed by organized activities like walking clubs/guided hikes/events (29 percent) and better management of multiple user types (23 percent). More modest shares selected increased enforcement of safety laws (18 percent), hospital or doctor sponsored health and wellness programs, trails programs for children (each 16 percent), safety patrols on trails and paths (14 percent), and bike parking at bus stops/bike racks on buses (10 percent). Few respondents felt that inexpensive bike maintenance programs would encourage them to use trails more (5 percent). Fourteen percent indicated that they would not use trails more frequently despite the introduction of trail and path related programs.

Figure 16: Programs that Would Encourage Increased Trail Usage



LIVING IN THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE

A section of the survey had respondents identify some of the influential factors in their decision to move to or stay in the Enchanted Circle as well as live in their current residence. Key findings from these questions are summarized below.

Influential Factors in Decision to Move to/Stay the Enchanted Circle

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of eleven amenities and characteristics of the Enchanted Circle in their decision to move to or stay in the area on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning “not at all important” and 5 meaning “extremely important.” Responses are illustrated in Figure 17, with the dark and light red segments representing “1” and “2” responses (indicating the item was not important) and light and dark blue segments representing “4” and “5” responses (indicating the item was important). Items are sorted in descending order by their average importance ratings, which are depicted in the right column.

The following items received very high average ratings and strong shares of “4” and “5” ratings, indicating that they are highly important to respondents’ decisions to live in the Enchanted Circle:

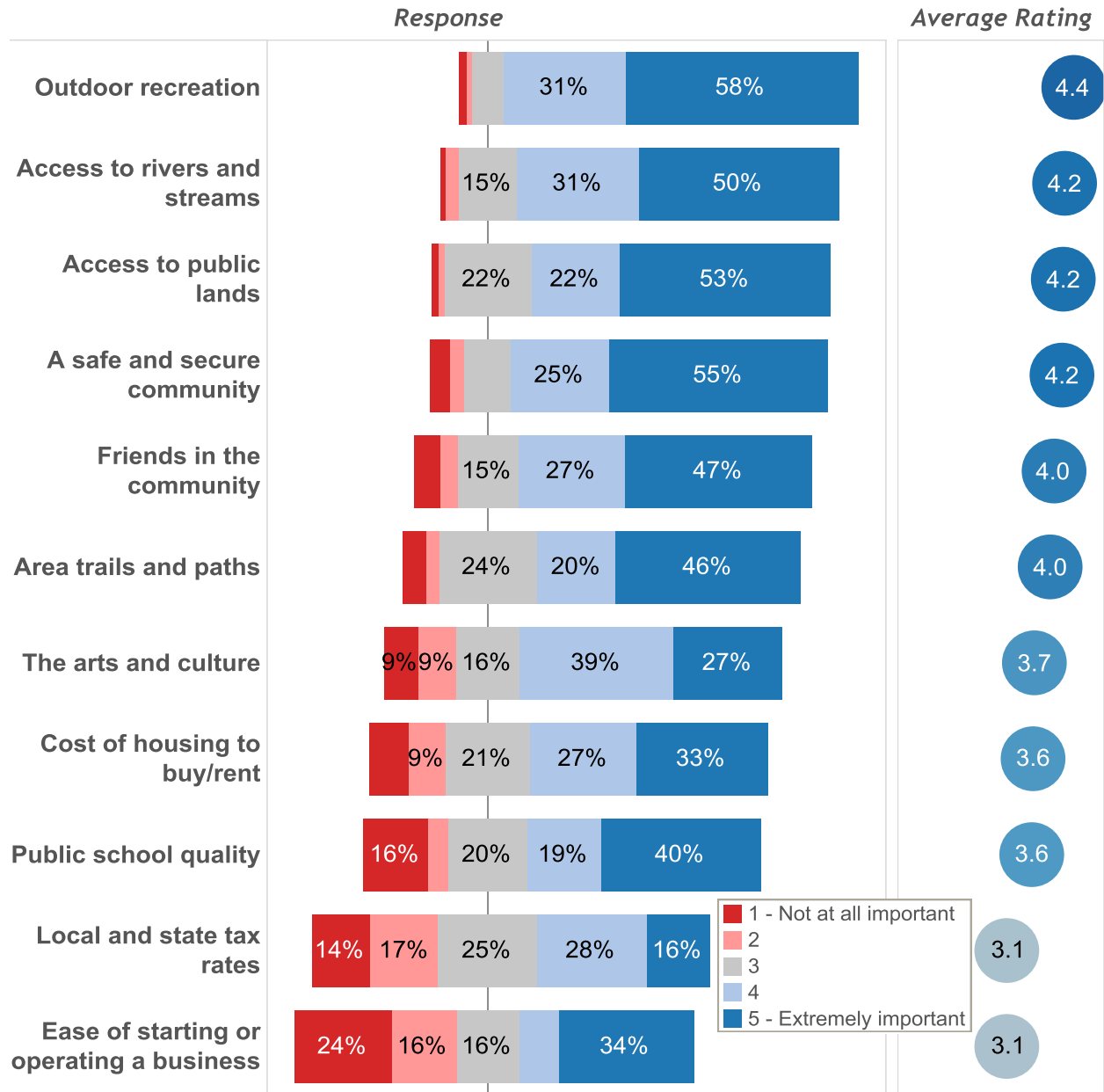
- Outdoor recreation (4.4 average rating; 89 percent provided a 4 or 5 rating)
- Access to rivers and streams (4.2 average; 81 percent)
- Access to public lands (4.2 average; 75 percent)
- A safe and secure community (4.2 average; 80 percent)
- Friends in the community (4.0 average; 74 percent)
- Area trails and paths (4.0 average; 67 percent)

Although area trails and paths ranks somewhere in the middle (6th out of 11 attributes), trails are integral to residents’ outdoor recreation, access to rivers and streams, and access to public lands, which are the top three most important attributes.

A second tier of importance ratings, somewhat lower in comparison but still quite high on an objective basis, included the following items: the arts and culture (3.7), cost of housing to buy/rent, and public school quality (each 3.6).

Finally, the lowest-rated categories include local and state tax rates and ease of starting or operating a business (each 3.1). These factors were rated as relatively less influential in the decision to move to or stay in the Enchanted Circle. Generally, respondents seem to be focused most on local recreational opportunities and safety and character of the local community in their decision to live in the area.

Figure 17: Importance of Factors in Decision to Move to or Stay in the Enchanted Circle



Influential Factors in Decision About Location of Residence

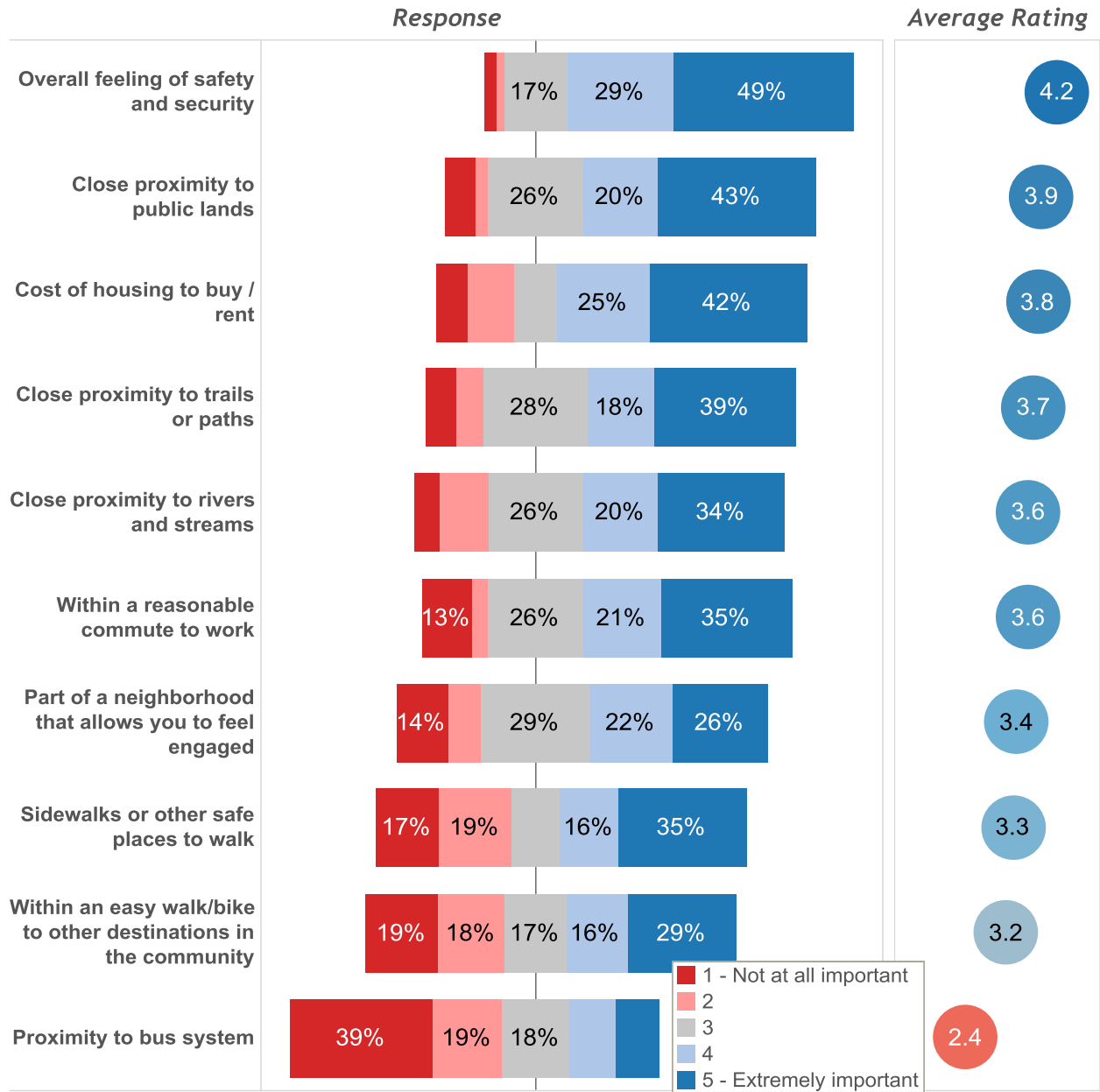
In a similar question, respondents rated ten amenities and characteristics of their community in their decision about the location of their current residence on the same scale, where 1 is “not at all important” and 5 is “extremely important.” Results are shown in Figure 19. The items that received the highest average ratings and largest shares of “4” and “5” responses from respondents include:

- Overall feeling of safety and security (average rating 4.2; 78 percent rated 4 or 5)
- Close proximity to public lands (3.9 average; 63 percent)
- Cost of housing to buy/rent (3.8 average; 67 percent)
- Close proximity to trails or paths (3.7 average; 57 percent)
- Close proximity to rivers and streams (3.6 average; 54 percent)
- Within a reasonable commute to work (3.6 average; 57 percent)

Items that were rated somewhat lower but were still fairly important to respondents in their residence location decision include an engaged neighborhood (3.4), sidewalks/safe places to walk (3.3), and an easy walk/bike ride to other destinations in the community (3.2). Proximity to the bus system received a low average importance rating (2.4), and the share of respondents indicating that this item was unimportant (57 percent) far outnumbered the share indicating it was important (24 percent).

Similar to their decision to locate in the Enchanted Circle, respondents noted that community safety and proximity to public lands were highly important to where they chose to live. Close proximity to trails or paths was also rated as the fourth most important attribute, indicating that the trail system factored into their decision on where to live.

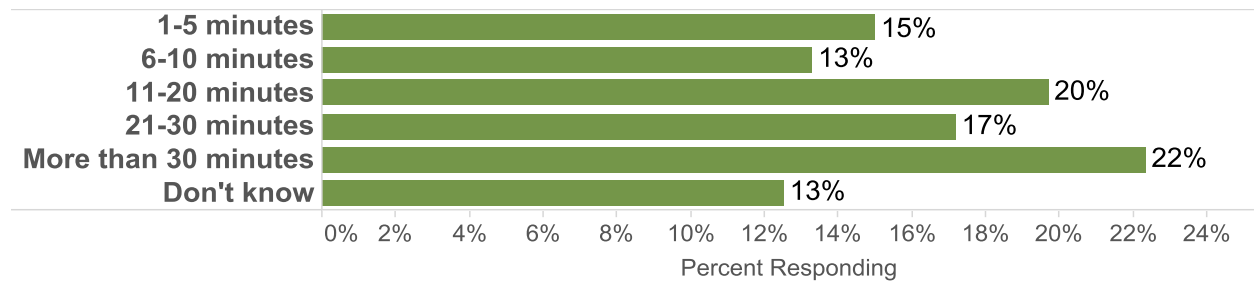
Figure 19: Importance of Factors in Decision About the Location of Your Current Residence



Walking Distance from Trail System to Home

Respondents indicated approximately how much time it would take them to walk to a path, trail, or other public lands from their residence. Just more than a quarter are very close to trails or public lands, with a 10-minute walk or shorter to access them (28 percent). Twenty percent said it would take 11 to 20 minutes, 17 percent 21 to 30 minutes, and 22 percent more than 30 minutes. An additional 13 percent didn't know.

Figure 21: About how long would it take you to walk to a path, trail, or other public lands from your home?



PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS TO TRAILS

In a final section of the survey, respondents answered several questions regarding the future of trails in the Enchanted Circle, including opinions of future trail development and an allocation of potential future funding towards various components of trails. The results from each question are discussed below.

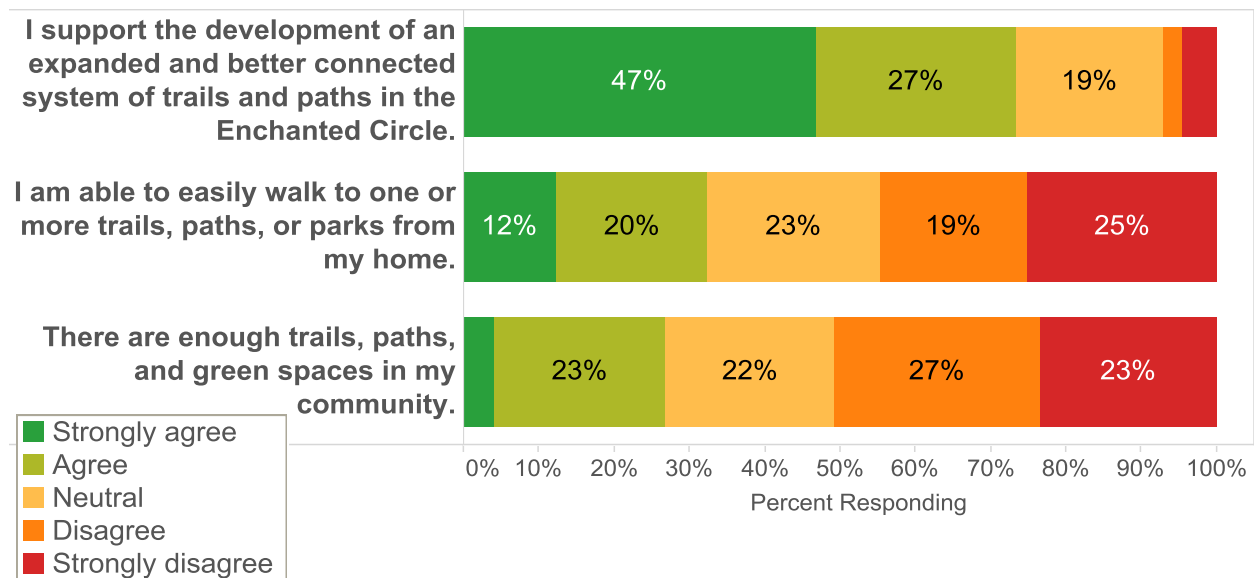
Opinions of Future Trail Development

Respondents rated their level of agreement with three statements about future trail development in the Enchanted Circle on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “strongly disagree” and 5 is “strongly agree.” The first, “I support the development of an expanded and better connected trail/pathway system in the Enchanted Circle,” received strong agreement, with roughly three-quarters of respondents (73 percent) providing a “4” or “5” rating and an average rating of 4.1. Seven percent of respondents disagreed with this statement (provided a “1” or “2” rating).

Lower levels of agreement were noted for “I am able to easily walk to one or more trails, paths, or parks from my home.” Only a third (32 percent) of respondents rated this statement as a “4” or “5” and the average agreement rating was 2.7. Forty-five percent disagreed. Agreement with “there are enough trails, paths, and green spaces in my community” was also low, with only a quarter of respondents (27 percent) providing a “4” or “5” rating and a 2.6 average. In contrast, half of respondents (51 percent) disagreed with this statement.

Consistent with other findings throughout the survey, these results illustrate a community desire for expanding the trail system and improving local accessibility.

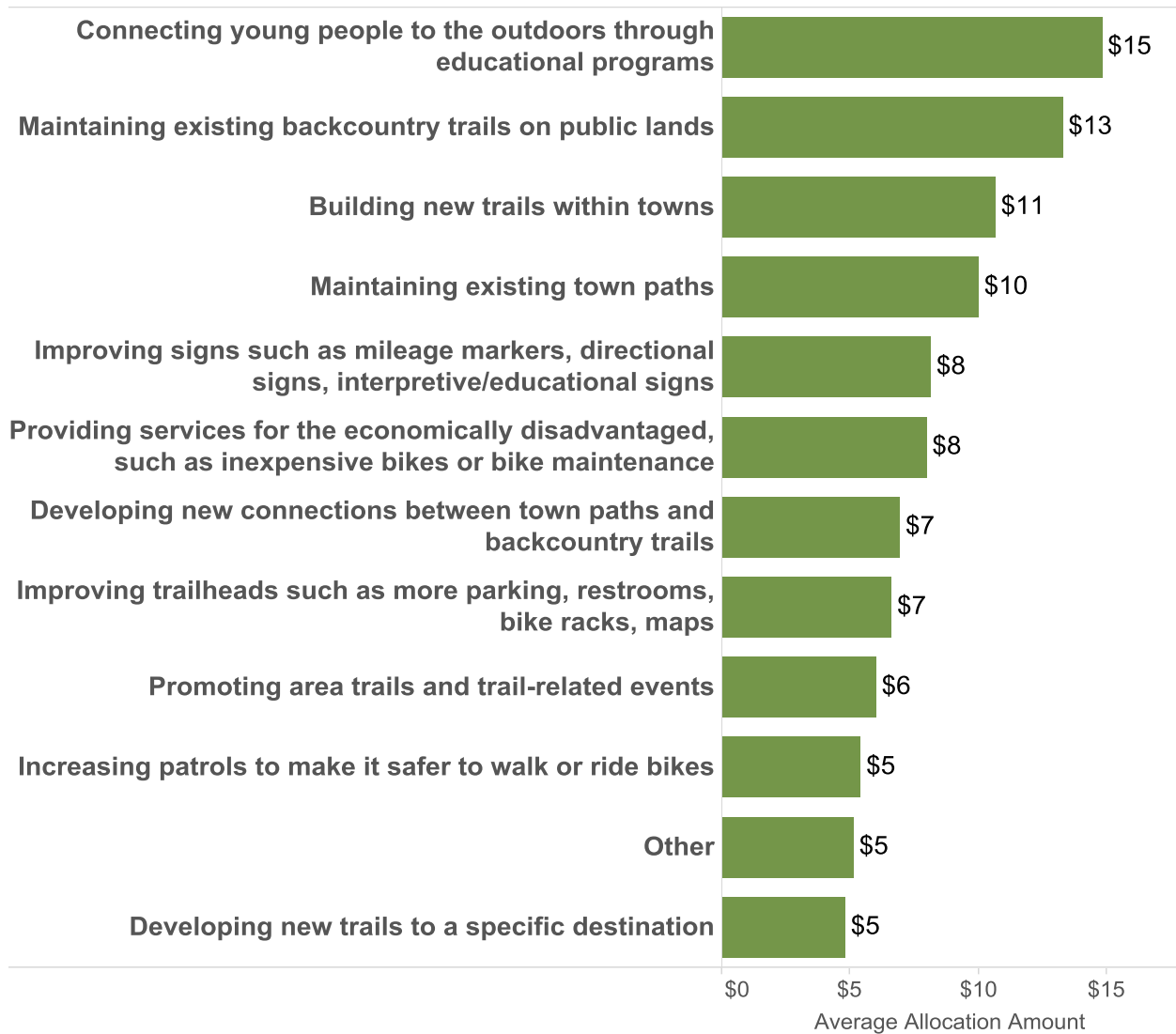
Figure 22: Level of Agreement with Statements about Enchanted Circle Paths and Trail Development



Allocation of Future Funding

Respondents were asked, “If you had \$100 to spend on trails and paths, how would you allocate that \$100 across the following categories?” and provided a list of eleven options. As illustrated in Figure 23 below, respondents allocated the largest sum on average towards connecting young people to the outdoors through educational programs (\$15), followed by maintaining existing backcountry trails on public lands (\$13), building new trails within towns (\$11), and maintaining existing town paths (\$10). Improving signs (\$8), providing services for the economically disadvantaged (\$8), connecting town paths and backcountry trails (\$7), and improving trailheads (\$7) also received moderate allocations.

Figure 23: If you had \$100 to spend on trails and open space, how would you allocate that \$100 across the following categories?



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON TRAILS

At the end of the survey, respondents were provided with an opportunity to write in any additional comments about trails and paths in the Enchanted Circle area. A multitude of comments were received, and these should be read in their entirety in order to gain a full understanding of the ideas expressed. However, some common themes did emerge and have been summarized below along with a sampling of relevant verbatim comments. A full listing of verbatim comments is available.

Improve safety for walking and biking by adding bike lanes or shoulders on roads and adding new pathways/increasing pathway connectivity in town.

- *"I am afraid to ride my bike around here. The supposed bike lanes in town are about a foot wide and lead you right into storm drains. I have seen many a rider nearly be hit by cars when they realize they have to swerve into traffic to avoid them. I would love to see real effort put into making this a bike-friendly town."*
- *"I don't road bike, but I do drive to TSV quite often during warmer months. Something needs to be done to make the road safe for bikes AND realistically convenient for cars. Just having a "share the road" sign does not work. Either shoulders need to be built or bikes need to be banned on Ski Valley Road."*
- *"I would like to see more walking paths in town. The paths should be cleared in winter."*
- *"I'm a super active person and would like to feel safer on my bike. I didn't ride when I moved here some years ago, but finally started riding my road bike again. There are few places I feel safe enough to ride with confidence and ease."*
- *"More safe bike and pedestrian trails linking county to town."*
- *"Really would love more in town paths for people to walk and bike in all of the towns in Taos County"*
- *"Roadway shoulders are non-existent, if they were improved it would be safer for cyclists and pedestrians, therefore increasing that activity."*
- *"There are plenty of USFS trails around the Enchanted Circle. Priority should be given to making communities walker friendly and safe for biking. We currently do not bike in Taos because it feels too dangerous. There are many places where sidewalks or the few bike lanes end abruptly, and this is unsafe. It also makes planning routes difficult."*
- *"We desperately need to make our town bike friendly, both for residents as well as tourists - not just painted lanes but designated bike paths and loops."*

Maintain, improve, and clean up existing trails.

- *“Even though I don't hike the trails as much as I once did, my family includes folks down to age 3. They all love the Red River area, and all do extensive walking, hiking. I would love to see Red River get money allocated to improve our jeep and walking trails. I still jeep on as many trails as I feel safe, and feel is not damaging to my jeep, but hate that due to low maintenance, there are several jeep trails that I no longer am able to enjoy.”*
- *“I would love public areas to be cleaner and better maintained”*
- *“Just maintain or improve existing trails”*
- *“Reopening Middlefork Rd. and much better maintenance of existing trails for easier and safer OHV use would provide a more positive experience for locals and tourist alike”*
- *“We have great hiking trails. Let's keep them maintained.”*

Establish and maintain a high quality, well-connected trail system to serve the needs of locals and attract visitors.

- *“Because tourism is such a large part of the economy of the Enchanted Circle, good quality trails are extremely important. Good quality trails include signage, maintenance, access, and promotion.”*
- *“Building and improving the trail systems in and around the town of Taos would be of great benefit to the local residents as well as encouraging/increasing economic tourism to the area by individuals and families.”*
- *“My husband and I are avid users of the Taos area trails. We believe that Taos could benefit from an enhanced, well-maintained, hike/bike trail system that would promote Taos as being an outdoor recreational destination.”*
- *“Trails are underutilized here. We can promote what we have and improve it to help bring more tourists to our area.”*

Improve trail signage.

- *“Forming local groups to help maintain trails & signage in their own local area in order to relieve forestry personnel for more pressing ventures”*
- *“Need more signage - trailhead markers and markers where trails split, etc.”*
- *“Signage could be greatly improved on backcountry trails”*

Keep up the good work.

- *“As you can see by my birth year - I'm not likely to be hiking or discovering new trails. But I am grateful for associations such as yours that take time and effort to better surroundings and have the youth in mind. Best of luck with this endeavor. God bless you.”*
- *“Glad to see the Taos Land Trust taking initiative to make our trail systems better as it is a significant part of my lifestyle and much of our community”*
- *“I appreciate the trails in this spectacular area. I am very grateful to be living here!”*
- *“I use trails often and they contribute to my quality of life! Thank You!”*
- *“Keep up the good work! What you do is incredibly important. I believe that the vast majority of people who live in Taos County live here because of the beauty and access to nature, so preserving land as a resources is vital for the culture as well as for the environment itself.”*
- **“THANK YOU FOR ALL THE GREAT EFFORT TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND OUR TRAIL SYSTEMS!!!”**

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the survey show clear areas of strength and opportunities for improvement related to the trail system in the Enchanted Circle. Trails are used by about two-thirds of residents, and those who do use the trails are on them frequently. Trails provide access to some of the most valued assets in the region: outdoor recreation, public lands, and rivers. Trails contribute to the area's quality of life as recreational assets and by supporting a healthy community: respondents report that more than half of their physical activity occurs on trails.

Strong support exists for expanding and better connecting trails in the Enchanted Circle. The greatest needs are in residential areas, where there is strong interest in for making cycling and walking safer from cars and dogs. Residents are also very supportive of investments in education and programs to connect young people to the outdoors.

Unpaved trails for walking or hiking, hunting/fishing access, and mountain biking provide the trail system's highest levels of satisfaction, while transportation to work or school and road biking options are least satisfactory.

Trails are popular in Taos County and the Enchanted Circle, and investing in and improving these trail resources will enhance the quality of life and overall health of residents, as well as provide opportunities for additional amenities for visitors to the area.

APPENDIX: RESULTS BY ETHNICITY, INCOME, AND RESIDENCE

As noted in the survey results, across Taos County the majority of residents use trails and support improving and expanding the trail system. Residents' support for trails, access to trails, and needs for improvements vary, however, between Hispanic and non-Hispanic respondents, between the highest- and lowest-income respondents, and between communities within the county. These findings are relevant for developing effective outreach efforts and for prioritizing the location and types of trail-related investments.

This appendix summarizes the results that are most informative for trail planning and outreach.

We find the following trends related to trail use and access:

- Hispanic respondents and low-income respondents are less likely to use trails, but among those Hispanic and low-income respondents who *do* use trails, they use them just as often as non-Hispanic and high-income respondents.
- Hispanic respondents and low income respondents are much less likely to have trails and paths within easy walking distance, and much less likely to have bike or pedestrian infrastructure like sidewalks or wide shoulders near their homes. This is likely contributing to relatively low use among these residents.
- Respondents from the town of Taos and nearby are much less likely than those living in other parts of the Enchanted Circle to have trails and parks within an easy walk of their home.
- A lack of access has a particularly significant effect on the lowest income residents, with low income residents who live within an easy walk of trails nearly twice as likely to have used trails in the previous year.

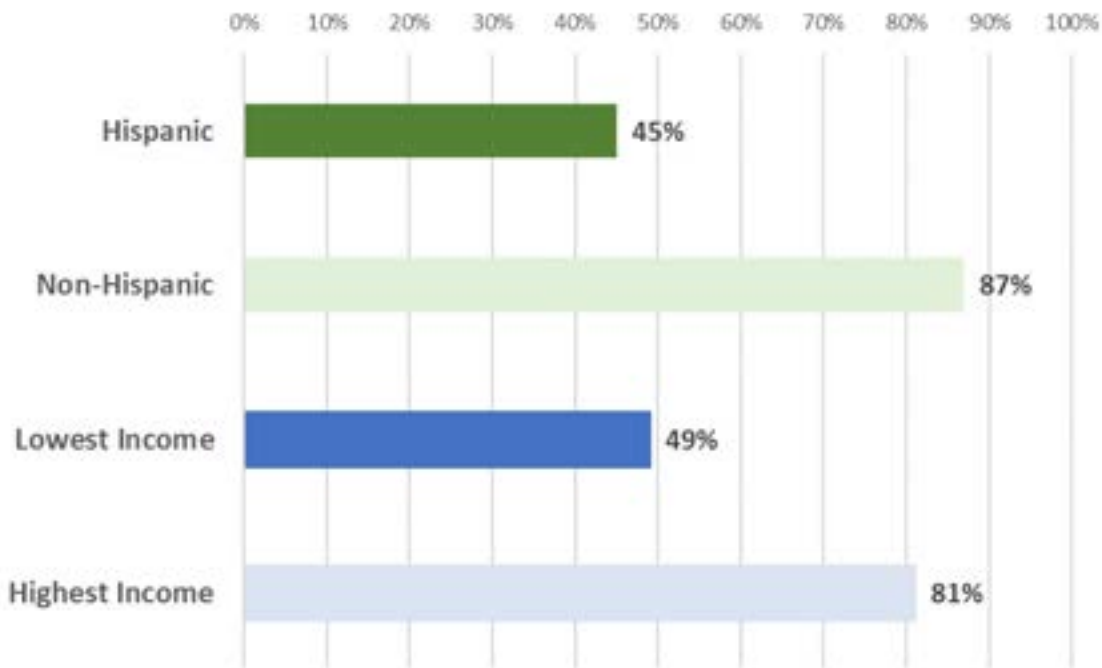
We find the following trends related to factors most likely to increase respondents' trail use:

- Hispanic respondents most often identified the following factors as likely to increase their trail use: having trails closer to where they live, hospital- or doctor-sponsored wellness programs such as prescribed exercise, and trail-based programs for kids.
- Low income respondents most often identified the following factors as likely to increase their trail or pathway use: safe separation of bikes and pedestrians from traffic, having trails closer to where they live, and organized activities like guided hikes.
- Respondents from the city of Taos and nearby communities are much more likely than respondents from other parts of the Enchanted Circle to identify greater enforcement of traffic laws as a factor that would increase their use of trails and pathways.

Trail Use

Two-thirds of Enchanted Circle respondents have used trails in the past year, with little variation by location of residence within the area. Hispanic respondents and low income respondents, however, are significantly less likely to use the trails (Figure 24).

Figure 24. Proportion of Respondents, by Subcategory, Who Used Trails in the Previous Year.



Forty-five percent of Hispanic respondents have used trails in the previous year compared to 87 percent of non-Hispanics. There also is a significant difference in use between highest- and lowest-income respondents, with 81 percent of the highest income respondents using trails in the previous year compared to 49 percent of the lowest income respondents.

Among those respondents who *do* use the trails, however, the survey does not show significant differences in how often they use them, regardless of season, across ethnicity, income, or location of residence. In other words, once residents are on the trails, they use them often.

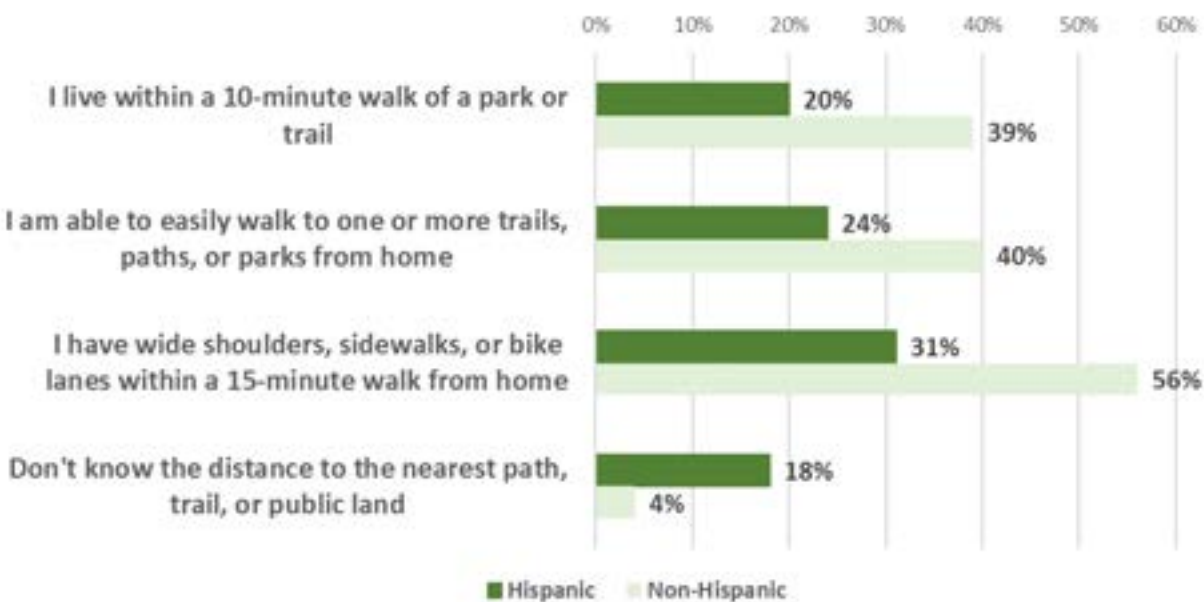
There are differences in *how* respondents use trails. Across all respondents, the most common type of use is for recreation (68 percent of trail time). Hispanic respondents, however, are significantly more likely also to use trails as family outing time (17 percent of trail time for Hispanic respondents versus 6 percent of trail time for non-Hispanics).

Hispanic respondents also generally conduct less of their overall physical activity on trails or pathways (47 percent versus 63 percent for non-Hispanic respondents). There is no difference across income or location of residence in the share of physical activity that occurs on trails or pathways.

Proximity and Access to Trails and Safe Infrastructure

The differences in trail use may be related to differences in access to trails. On average, Hispanic and low income respondents have less access to trails, paths, and bike or pedestrian infrastructure like sidewalks and wide shoulders (see Figure 25).

Figure 25. Difference in Access to Trails, Paths, and Public Lands Between Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Respondents.

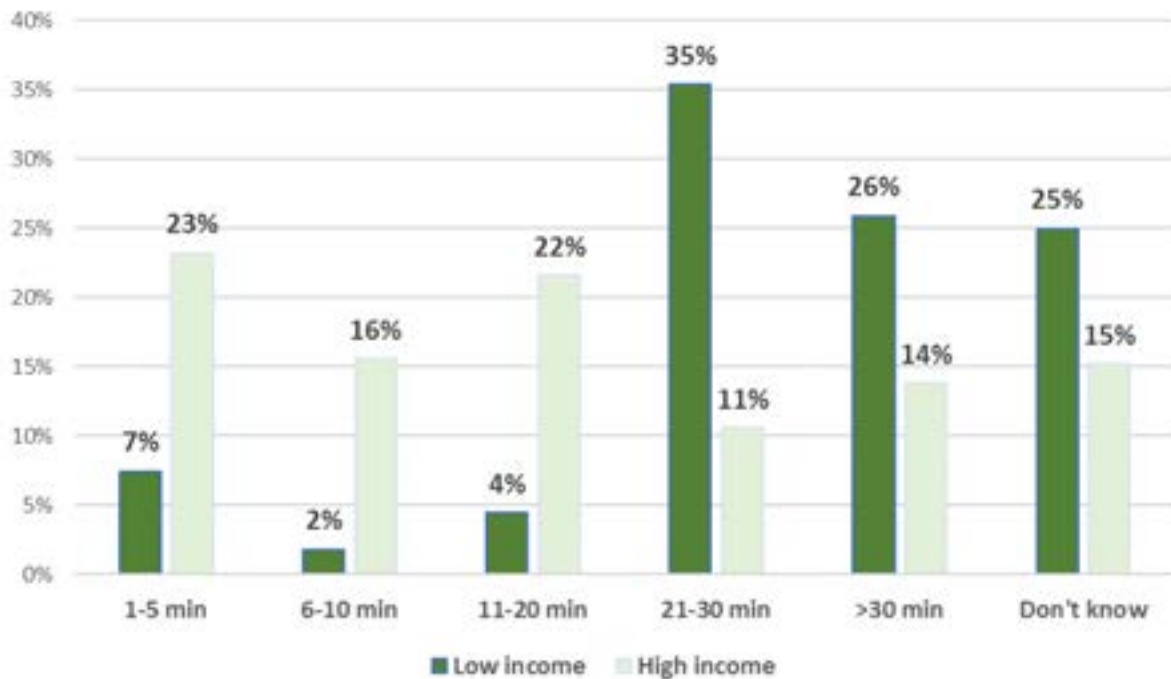


Hispanic respondents are significantly less likely to live within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail (20 percent of Hispanics versus 39 percent of non-Hispanics) and are less likely to agree with the statement, “I am able to easily walk to one or more trails, paths, or parks from my home” (24 percent of Hispanic respondents versus 40 percent of non-Hispanic respondents). Hispanic respondents also are significantly less likely to have wide shoulders, sidewalks, or bike lanes within a 15-minute walk of their home (31 percent of Hispanic respondents versus 56 percent of non-Hispanic respondents).

Hispanic respondents are significantly less likely to know how far they live from the nearest path, trail, or public land area. When asked how long it would take to walk to one of these areas, 18 percent of Hispanic respondents responded “Don’t know” compared to four percent of non-Hispanic respondents. This finding suggests that some of the differences in access to trails and pathways may be due to a lack of awareness about nearby facilities.

Figure 26 highlights the substantial differences in walking time to paths, trails, or other public lands between low and high income respondents. Low income respondents are much less likely to live within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail (9 percent of lowest income respondents versus 39 percent of highest income). Low income residents are much more likely to have at least a 20-minute walk to the nearest path (81 percent of low income respondents versus 25 percent of high income respondents).

Figure 26. Approximate Length of Time It Takes to Walk to a Path, Trail, or Other Public Lands from Home for Low-Income Versus High-Income Respondents.



Low income respondents also are less likely to live within a 15-minute walk of places with wide shoulders, sidewalks, or bike lanes (19 percent of lowest income respondents versus 54 percent of highest income respondents).

Taos area respondents are significantly less likely than respondents living in other parts of the Enchanted Circle to have parks or trails within an easy walk from their home (21 percent versus 50 percent). Nineteen percent of Taos area respondents report living within 10 minutes of a park or trail, compared to 42 percent of respondents outside Taos.

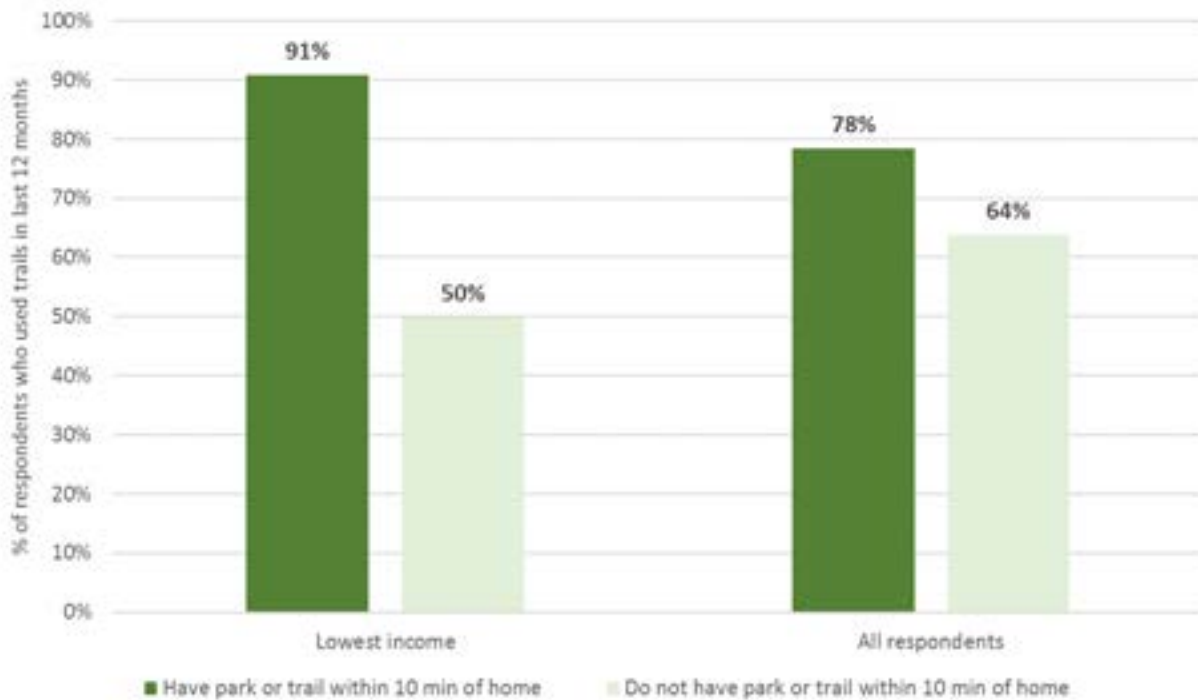
People Who Live Close to Trails Are More Likely to Use Them

Low income residents who live within 10 minutes of a trail are significantly more likely to have used trails in the previous year. Among low income residents who live within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail, 91 percent have used trails within the previous year. Only 50 percent of low income residents who do not live within a 10-minute walk of trails used trails in the previous year (Figure 27).

For comparison, the average respondent who lives within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail is slightly more likely to have used trails in the previous year. Seventy-eight percent of those who live within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail have used trails within the previous 12 months compared to 64 percent trail use for those who do not live within a 10-minute walk. This difference is not statistically significant.

Among Hispanic residents trail use is very similar between those who live within a 10-minute walk of trails and parks and those who do not (46 percent trail use for those who live nearby and 50 percent trail use for those who do not live nearby).

Figure 27. Trail use for those who live close to and far from trails, for low income respondents and all respondents.



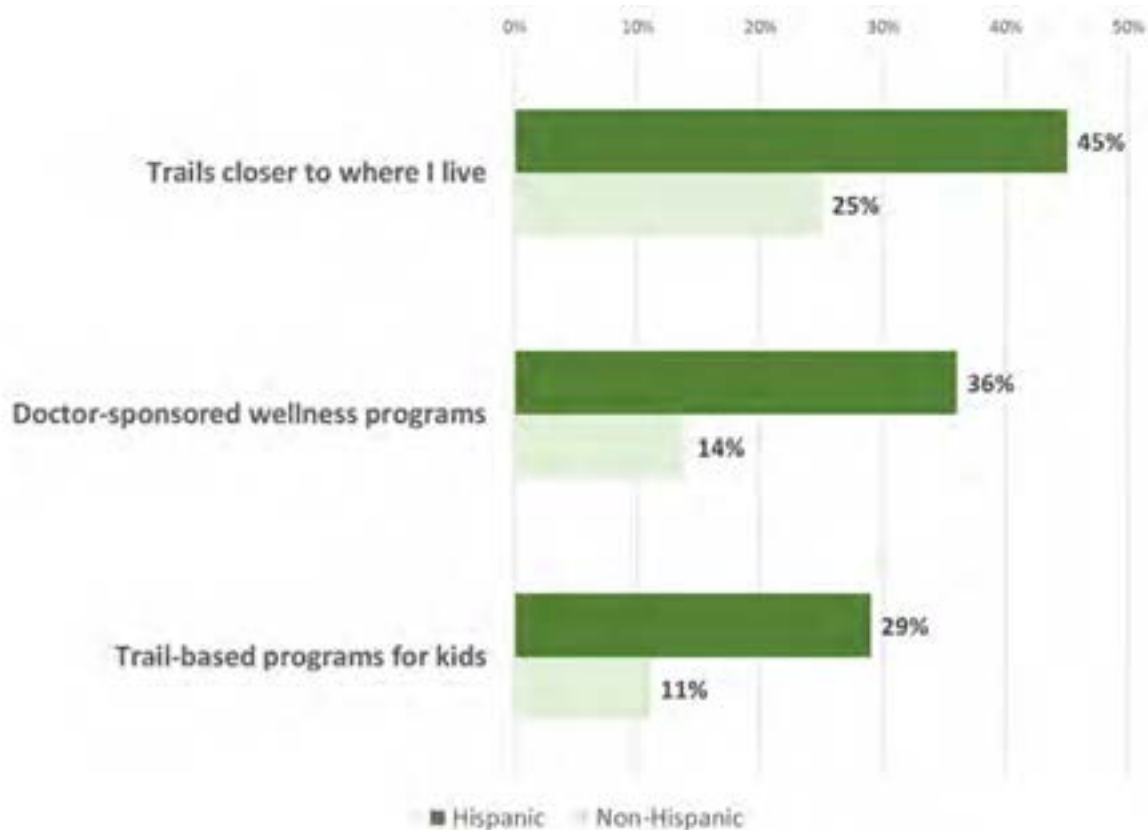
Factors that Would Increase Trail Use

The overall survey found no significant differences across our sub-samples in the reasons why respondents do not use trails. But it did show important differences in factors that could increase trail use.

Across all respondents, creating safe separation of bikes and pedestrians from traffic is the top infrastructure-related factor that would increase use of trails and paths (56 percent of all respondents), followed by having trails closer to where people live (35 percent). The most common program-related factors likely to increase trail use are organized activities like walking clubs or guided hikes (29 percent) and hospital- or doctor-sponsored wellness programs (26 percent).

Figure 28 (next page) highlights differences in factors that respondents report most likely to increase their use of trails. Hispanic respondents are significantly more likely to prioritize having trails closer to where they live, identified by 45 percent of Hispanic respondents compared to 25 percent of non-Hispanic respondents. Hispanic respondents are significantly more likely to prioritize hospital- or doctor-sponsored wellness programs (36 percent versus 14 percent of non-Hispanic respondents) such as a prescribed walking program. We also find greater support among Hispanic respondents for trail-based programs for kids (29 percent of Hispanic respondents versus 11 percent of non-Hispanic respondents), although this difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 28. Factors most likely to increase trail use for Hispanic and non-Hispanic respondents.



Among low-income respondents, the top three infrastructure-related factors that would increase trail use are safe separation of bikes and pedestrians from traffic (41 percent), having trails closer to where they live (36 percent), and trailhead improvements like more parking and maps (21 percent). Among low income respondents the most commonly cited program-related factors that would increase trail use are organized activities (36 percent), having more free time (29 percent), and having trail-based programs for kids (25 percent).

Taos-area respondents are more likely to identify increased enforcement of traffic, bike, and pedestrian safety laws as a factor that would increase trail use (26 percent versus 8 percent of respondents outside Taos). They are also more likely to identify a need for trails closer to where they live (42 percent of Taos respondents versus 22 percent of those outside Taos).

Support for Expanding and Improving Trails

Seventy-three percent of respondents agree or strongly agree with the statement “I support the development of an expanded and better connected system of trails and paths in the Enchanted Circle.” A significant difference exists, however, between Hispanic and non-Hispanic respondents (60 percent of Hispanic respondents in support versus 88 percent of non-Hispanic respondents in support).

A significant difference also exists between lowest income (60 percent supporting) and highest income (90 percent supporting) respondents.

There is no difference in support between the Taos area (El Prado, Ranchos de Taos, Town of Taos) and areas outside Taos (Angel Fire, Questa, Red River, Taos Pueblo, other areas): 76 percent support trails within the Taos area, 79 percent outside.

Methods

Although the results in this appendix are statistically significant and care was taken to develop a representative sample, these findings do not necessarily characterize all residents of the area.

As in the main survey report, these data are weighted by age and ethnicity to ensure the sample reflects current Taos County residents. As a robustness check, all frequencies were calculated using the mail sample only, as well as the combined random and web-based samples. Statistical testing was calculated using the combined mail and web-based samples.

We used t-tests to determine whether differences in responses to questions were meaningfully different between different types of respondents. This test compares means between groups, taking into account the variation in responses within each group.

“Low income” respondents are those who report an annual household income of \$25,000 or less (30 percent of the sample). “High income” respondents are those who report an annual household income of \$100,000 or more (18 percent of the sample).

We define “Taos area” respondents as respondents living in El Prado, Ranchos de Taos, Town of Taos. Residents of Angel Fire, Questa, Red River, Taos Pueblo, and other areas were classified as non-Taos area respondents.

Conclusions

Looking across all respondents, trail use and support for trails is relatively high. But closer analysis of Hispanic respondents’ and low income respondents’ preferences reveals important differences. These differences have implications for the effectiveness of strategies to increase trail use and physical activity, and for future support for expanding trails.

Hispanic respondents and low income respondents do not use trails nearly as often, are less likely to support expanding the trails network, and are much less likely to have trails and pathways near where they live. While there are many probable reasons behind this pattern, significant differences in access to trails undoubtedly contributes to a lack of use. This research suggests that investments in bike and pedestrian infrastructure should identify and prioritize areas that are not well served now.

These results suggest that low income residents are more strongly affected than other Enchanted Circle residents when trails are not located in their communities. This may be due to several factors such as having less leisure time or not having access to a vehicle. It also suggests

that locating trails in areas with more low income residents may lead to large gains in trail use and physical activity.

This research also implies that programming and outreach related to trails, such as organized hikes, walking clubs, wellness programs run by medical professionals like prescribed walking, and trail-based programs for kids might be particularly effective with groups who presently use trails less. This outreach might also help address a lack of knowledge about local trails among Hispanic respondents.

The design of new trails can also reflect the needs of currently underserved groups. For example, investing in trails suitable for a prescription trails program, or for family outings, may be effective in encouraging use among Hispanic residents.

Growing a broader user base of trail users and supporters can start with more specific community conversations to learn about the reasons behind the patterns observed in this survey.

Initial conversations may be focused on learning more about the types of kids' programs and other organized trail activities most likely to interest new users, and the medical based programs that would be most effective at getting otherwise inactive people on the trails. A recurring theme of a need for improved safety might be addressed by identifying those places that currently are barriers for bike and pedestrian travel using traffic and accident monitoring data, particularly around connections to schools and between neighborhoods. Conversations with residents would also reveal places that are perceived as unsafe and to improve these conditions.

While these results show significant variation between different groups of Enchanted Circle residents, overall people are using the trails regardless of ethnicity, income, or location of residence. Targeting trail-related programs and infrastructure investments will further increase trail use and support.

Appendix F: Trails and ParkRx White Paper

TAOS LAND TRUST, HEADWATERS ECONOMICS, THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND, AND NATIONAL
PARK SERVICE

Prescriptions for Better Health at Taos Parks & Trails

White Paper

2017

Executive Summary

Prescriptions for health that incorporate exercise in parks is an overall strategy that has been implemented in communities around the United States to improve public health. These programs, known nationally as ParkRx, are a coordinated effort between healthcare providers; parks, trails, and land agencies; and community organizations like land trusts and social services.

The purpose of this white paper is to describe how a prescription park program could help play a role in improving public health in Taos, New Mexico.

There is a significant need to promote greater physical activity among Taos residents. According to the Holy Cross Hospital's most recent Community Health Needs Assessment, rates of morbid obesity, chronic diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are much higher than the national average, while the rates of people with regular vigorous exercise and healthy eating habits are lower than average.

Peer reviewed medical literature highlights the mental, social, and physical health benefits of increased physical activity. Mental health research demonstrates that time spent exercising in nature is associated with reduced stress,¹ and improved attention,² improved mental restoration and ability to cope with attention deficits.³ Exercising and spending time in nature is connected to many physical benefits, including some of the most significant health problems facing Taos residents like obesity (particularly among children), diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.⁴

A survey of medical providers at El Centro found that the majority of providers think a primary barrier to discussing healthy lifestyles is not knowing enough information about healthy lifestyle programs in the community.

By seeing the successes of ParkRx in other communities, in tandem with identifying Taos-specific health assessment data, it is apparent that nature, parks, and public lands can be used to help improve individual and community health. ParkRx can play a role in helping prevent and treat many of the chronic conditions articulated by both healthcare providers and patients, while providing additional programming that doctors can refer to. By bringing together professionals in the health, education, recreation, and parks sectors, we can begin to prescribe better health using the parks and trails in Taos.

¹ Ulrich, RS; Simons, RF; Losito, BD; Fiorito, E; Miles, MA; Zelson, M. Stress recovery during exposure to natural and urban environments. *J. Environ. Psychol* 1991, 11, 201–230.

² Hartig, TM; Evans, GW; Jamner, LD; Davis, DS; Gärling, T. Tracking restoration in natural and urban field settings. *J. Environ. Psychol* 2003, 23, 109–123.

³ Sugiyama, T., Leslie, E., Giles-Corti, B., & Owen, N. (2008). Associations of neighbourhood greenness with physical and mental health: do walking, social coherence and local social interaction explain the relationships?. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 62(5), e9-e9.

Taylor, A. F., & Kuo, F. E. (2009). Children with attention deficits concentrate better after walk in the park. *Journal of attention disorders*, 12(5), 402-409.

⁴ Pretty, J; Peacock, J; Hine, R. Green exercise: The benefits of activities in green places. *Biologist* 2006, 53, 143–148.

Key Points

- A park prescription from a healthcare provider can provide numerous physical and mental benefits, including lower stress, lower blood pressure, lower risks for heart disease and other chronic diseases, increased brain function, and increased sense of overall well-being.⁵
- Psychologically, time spent exercising in nature has been reported to not only reduce stress,⁶ and improve attention,⁷ but also positively impact mental restoration and coping with attention deficits.⁸
- According to the Holy Cross Hospital's most recent Community Health Needs Assessment, rates of morbid obesity, chronic diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are much higher than the national average, while the rates of people with regular vigorous exercise and healthy eating habits are lower than average.
- Healthcare providers are trusted resources in the community, with relationships that can be leveraged to influence new behavior, in addition to spreading awareness about the locations, uses, and benefits of parks & trails in and around Taos.

Introduction to ParkRx

*"What if there were a prescription you could take that lowered your blood pressure, prevented diabetes, improved your mood, increased bone density, helped you remain independent as an older adult, enhanced your ability to think, and gave you more energy?"*⁹ Park Prescriptions (ParkRx) are programs designed collaboratively between public land managers, health care providers, and community partners to encourage people to use parks, trails, and open space to improve their physical and mental health.¹⁰

The national ParkRx Initiative is made up of many organizations who are dedicated to using nature, parks, and public lands to improve individual and community health. There are a variety of models and case studies for programs based on community need, but the heart of every program is focused on preventive health to improve public health. ParkRx is a public health initiative building healthy communities. ParkRx programs work through fostering a unique patient-provider relationship where providers talk with patients about how to start routine that incorporates physical activity and effectively use their neighborhood parks to promote mental, physical and social wellness.¹¹

⁵ <https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/upload/ParkPrescriptionBrochureForWeb.pdf>

⁶ Ulrich, RS; Simons, RF; Losito, BD; Fiorito, E; Miles, MA; Zelson, M. Stress recovery during exposure to natural and urban environments. *J. Environ. Psychol* 1991, 11, 201–230.

⁷ Hartig, TM; Evans, GW; Jamner, LD; Davis, DS; Gärling, T. Tracking restoration in natural and urban field settings. *J. Environ. Psychol* 2003, 23, 109–123.

⁸ Sugiyama, T., Leslie, E., Giles-Corti, B., & Owen, N. (2008). Associations of neighbourhood greenness with physical and mental health: do walking, social coherence and local social interaction explain the relationships?. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 62(5), e9-e9.

Taylor, A. F., & Kuo, F. E. (2009). Children with attention deficits concentrate better after walk in the park. *Journal of attention disorders*, 12(5), 402-409.

⁹ Dr. Jim Sallis at San Diego State University and Active Living By Design

¹⁰ <http://www.parkrx.org/>

¹¹ <http://www.parkrx.org/community-of-practice>

A park prescription from a healthcare provider can provide numerous physical and mental benefits, including lower stress, lower blood pressure, lower risks for heart disease and other chronic diseases, increased brain function, and increased sense of overall well-being.¹² Outdoor activities have been shown to improve cognitive development in schoolchildren, decrease anxiety and negative thinking, and help manage blood sugar levels.

The Benefits of ParkRx

Peer reviewed medical literature has demonstrated the positive correlation between time spent in nature and an individual's physical and mental health. Some of the strongest relationships are found with low income patients and with relatively small behavior changes. Additionally, Park Rx programs begin to change the public health conversations in communities across the country. Public health, parks and recreation, public land managers and land trust professionals realize they have mutual goals in improving the lives of citizens—parks, trails and open space could be the best health prevention tool available.

Mental Health Benefits

Psychologically, time spent exercising in nature has been reported to not only reduce stress,¹³ and improve attention,¹⁴ but also positively impact mental restoration and coping with attention deficits.¹⁵ Group walks in particular are associated with lower levels of depression, stress, and negative affect.¹⁶

These findings are consistent across adults and children. Time in nature may contribute to children's cognitive, emotional, social and educational development.¹⁷ In one study where 450 parents nationwide ranked their children's attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms after taking part in various activities, many parents ranked activities conducted outside in green space as being particularly helpful with the management of their children's ADHD.¹⁸

An analysis of 10 studies in the U.K. found statistically significant improvements in self-esteem and mood after participants exercised outside in a natural setting. Although all cohorts and types of settings

¹² <https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/upload/ParkPrescriptionBrochureForWeb.pdf>

¹³ Ulrich, RS; Simons, RF; Losito, BD; Fiorito, E; Miles, MA; Zelson, M. Stress recovery during exposure to natural and urban environments. *J. Environ. Psychol* 1991, 11, 201–230.

¹⁴ Hartig, TM; Evans, GW; Jamner, LD; Davis, DS; Gärling, T. Tracking restoration in natural and urban field settings. *J. Environ. Psychol* 2003, 23, 109–123.

¹⁵ Sugiyama, T., Leslie, E., Giles-Corti, B., & Owen, N. (2008). Associations of neighbourhood greenness with physical and mental health: do walking, social coherence and local social interaction explain the relationships?. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 62(5), e9-e9.

Taylor, A. F., & Kuo, F. E. (2009). Children with attention deficits concentrate better after walk in the park. *Journal of attention disorders*, 12(5), 402-409.

¹⁶ Marselle Melissa R., Irvine Katherine N., and Warber Sara L. Examining Group Walks in Nature and Multiple Aspects of Well-Being: A Large-Scale Study. *Ecopsychology*, September 2014 DOI: 10.1089/eco.2014.0027

¹⁷ Strife, S., & Downey, L. (2009). Childhood development and access to nature a new direction for environmental inequality research. *Organization & environment*, 22(1), 99-122.

¹⁸ Kuo, F.E., & Taylor, A.F. (2004). A potential natural treatment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: evidence from a national study. *Am J Public Health*, 94(9), 1580-1586.

experienced improvements, the greatest gains are apparent after short duration and light exercise. **In other words, easily attainable behavioral changes led to the biggest improvements in mental health.**¹⁹

Physical Health Benefits

Exercising and spending time in nature is connected to many physical benefits, including some of the most significant health problems facing Taos residents like obesity (particularly among children), diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.²⁰

In rural, southeastern Missouri communities, researchers found that walking trails are associated with the greatest increase in exercise for those most at risk of being in poor health: those who were not already regular walkers, have a high school education or less, or who earn less than \$15,000 per year.²¹

At an after school program for children ages 6-14 in urban parks near Miami, Florida, researchers found that the BMI of overweight and obese groups dropped significantly after participating in the program for one year.²² For children, outdoor play in a natural setting can improve motor strength, balance, and coordination.²³

Researchers also have found that encouraging residents to walk on local trails is a cost-effective means of improving health. In Morgantown, West Virginia, constructing a new trail was effective in encouraging new physical activity among inactive residents, and greater levels of physical activity for those who were already active. Trail cost per newly active resident was on the lower end of health interventions aimed at encouraging sedentary individuals to become active, and is likely to reach more people than other common interventions.²⁴

Social Benefits

Research finds that spending time and exercising in nature also provides social benefits by providing opportunities to see neighbors, meet friends, and develop community connections and pride. Time spent in places with natural landscaping can encourage social interactions and integration.²⁵ Through park conservation projects like tree planting or park clean-ups and community gardens, these outdoor activities have been associated with lower violent crime.²⁶ In Bloomington, Indiana, residents who live

¹⁹ Barton, J., & J. Pretty. (2010). What is the best dose of nature and green exercise for improving mental health? A multi-study analysis. *Environmental Science and Technology* 44(10): 3947-3955.

²⁰ Pretty, J; Peacock, J; Hine, R. Green exercise: The benefits of activities in green places. *Biologist* 2006, 53, 143–148.

²¹ Brownson, R., R. Housemann, D. Brown, J. Jackson-Thompson, A. King, B. Malone, and J. Sallis. 2000. Promoting Physical Activity in Rural Communities: Walking Trail Access, Use, and Effects. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 18(3): 235-242.

²² Messiah, S., Vidot, D., Hansen, E., Kardys, J., Matthew, M., Nardi, M., & Arheart, K. 2017. Impact of a park-based afterschool program replicated over five years on modifiable cardiovascular disease risk factors. *Preventive Medicine*, 95, 66-73.

²³ Fjørtoft, I. (2001). The natural environment as a playground for children: The impact of outdoor play activities in pre-primary school children. *Early childhood education journal*, 29(2), 111-117.

²⁴ Abildso, C., S. Zizzi, S. Selin, and P. Gordon. 2012. "Assessing the cost effectiveness of a community rail-trail in achieving physical activity gains." *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration* 30(2): 102-113.

²⁵ Kweon, B. S., Sullivan, W. C., & Wiley, A. R. (1998). Green common spaces and the social integration of inner-city older adults. *Environment and behavior*, 30(6), 832-858.

²⁶ Kuo, F.E., & Sullivan, W.C. (2001b). Environment and Crime in the Inner City Does Vegetation Reduce Crime? *Environment and Behavior*, 33(3), 343-367.

near a community trail describe meeting neighbors and visiting over back fences and recreating with friends, neighbors, and family among their favorite sections of the trail.²⁷



Community Health Assessment Data

Many of the most pressing health concerns in Taos are connected to un-healthy weight and lifestyle. As described in Holy Cross Hospital’s most recent Community Health Needs Assessment, rates of morbid obesity and chronic diabetes are much higher than the national average, while the rates of people with regular vigorous exercise and healthy eating habits are lower than average (Table 1). For example, in Taos 33.7 percent of the population is obese, which is 11 percent higher than the national average. Taoseno’s who get regular vigorous exercise (50.6%), is 11 percent lower than the national average.

Table 1. Taos health indicators compared to national averages, 2015.²⁸

Health indicator	% of Taos population affected	Taos, relative to U.S. average
Obesity	33.7%	11.0%
Chronic diabetes	18.6%	50.9%
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	6.8%	71.6%
Vigorous exercise	50.6%	-11.0%
Healthy eating habits	27.9%	-6.0%

²⁷ Corning, S., R. Mowatt, and H. Chancellor. 2012. “Multiuse Trails: Benefits and Concerns of Residents and Property Owners.” *Journal of Urban Planning and Development* 138(4): 277-285.

²⁸ Holy Cross Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment. http://taoshospital.org/uploads/files/Holy_Cross_Hospital_-_Community_Health_Need_Assesment_-_2016.pdf

Obesity rates are high and rising, with rates for both men and women increasing by nearly seven percentage points since 2001.²⁹ These health problems are overlaid by persistent poverty among many local families and children, making chronic disease more difficult to treat and placing a premium on affordable, effective interventions. Taos is among the most impoverished counties in the country, with at least 20 percent of its families and children living below the poverty line since 1980.³⁰

Needs Assessment Data from El Centro Clinic

In January of 2017, health assessment surveys were distributed to both patients and healthcare providers at El Centro Clinic in Taos. Surveys were available in both English and Spanish.

Healthcare Providers [7 responses; all in English]

- Of the 7 healthcare providers at El Centro Clinic; 5 of the 7 providers see more than 30 patients per week.
- The top three chronic conditions of their patients include chronic pain, diabetes, and high blood pressure.
- All of the healthcare providers agree/strongly agree with the statement “I feel comfortable talking to my patients about exercise”; however the majority of providers think a primary barrier to discussing healthy lifestyles is not knowing enough information about healthy lifestyle programs in the community.

Patients [84 responses; 76 in English 8 in Spanish]

- Of the patient responses, 56% were female; 57% are white-Hispanic.
- 86% of respondents have visited their doctor for a checkup within the past year. 68% had received a prescription at the end of their visit, and 82% had been asked to come back to a follow up appointment after their last visit.
- 95% of patients said that a doctor or nurse has talked to them about healthy eating, and 87% of patients said that a doctor or nurse has talked to them about exercise.
- 25% of respondents said they do not exercise at all.
- Walking/jogging is the form of exercise used most often among patients, followed by physical labor at work, and chores outside.
- Respondents said they enjoy exercising by themselves, followed by exercising with their dog.
- Chronic pain, arthritis, high blood pressure, depression, anxiety, and being overweight are the top conditions that have been diagnosed among patients.
- 51% of patients believe they already live a healthy lifestyle.
- 25% of patients responded that a barrier to maintaining a healthy lifestyle is there are not enough safe place to walk or be outside.

²⁹ Holy Cross Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment.

³⁰ U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. 2016. Geography of Poverty. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/rural-poverty-well-being/geography-of-poverty/> Accessed January 18, 2017.

Survey Data from Headwaters Economics and The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land and Headwaters Economics conducted surveys of Taos area residents in 2016 to better understand how people use trails, and factors that could improve residents' experience with trails. The findings suggest potential interest in exercise programs associated with healthcare providers, particularly among Hispano residents:

- Thirty-six percent of Hispano respondents report that hospital- or doctor-sponsored wellness programs are likely to increase their trail use;
- Twenty-nine percent of Hispano respondents identify trail-based programs for kids as likely to increase their trail use³¹; and
- Eighty-eight percent of Hispano respondents said they have used hiking, walking, or running dirt paths in their community.³²

Healthcare providers are trusted resources in the community, with relationships that can be leveraged to influence new behavior, in addition to spreading awareness about the locations, uses, and benefits of trails.

Case Studies

Case Study: DC ParkRx

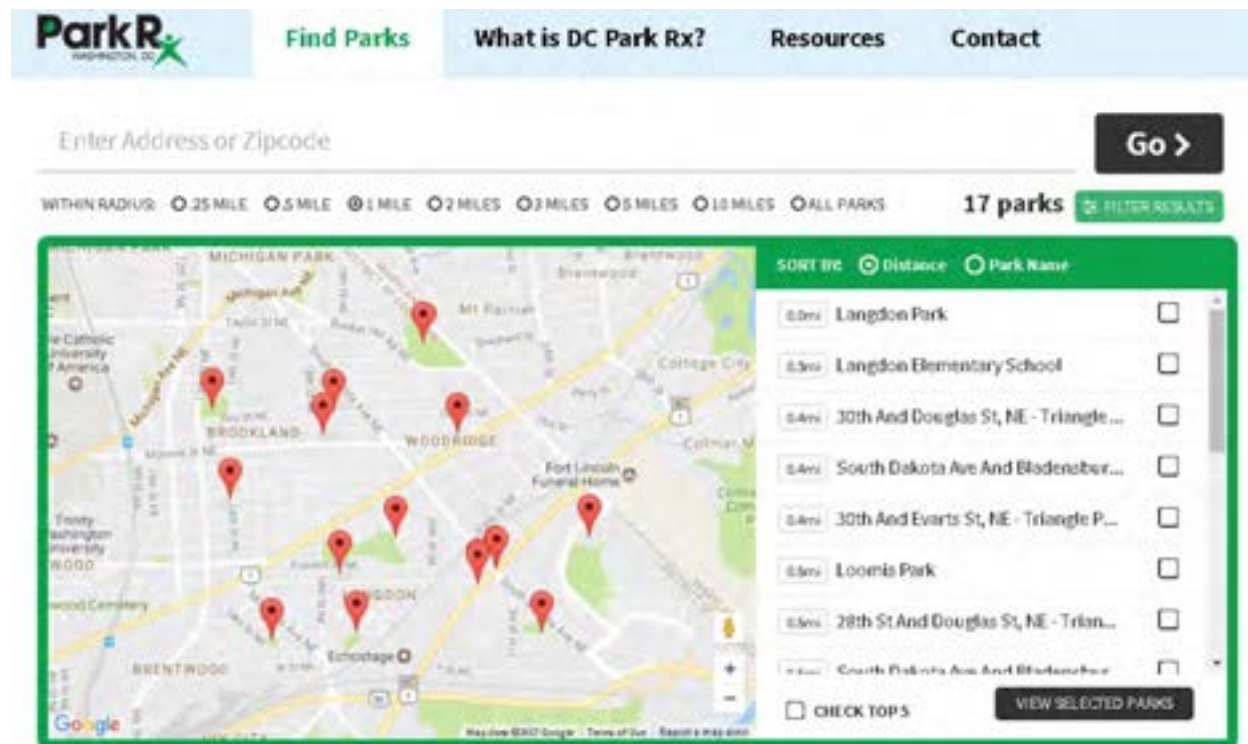
DC ParkRx is a Community Health Initiative with a mission to decrease the burden of chronic disease, promote wellness, and create the next generation of environmental stewards, by connecting people to parks.³³ This health initiative is in partnership with Unity Health Care, Inc., National Park Service, National Recreation and Park Association, National Environmental Education Foundation, and Institute at the Golden Gate.³⁴ To date, DC ParkRx has mapped and rated hundreds of parks in the region and entered them into a searchable database to help healthcare providers find the best park for their patients. See Image 2 for website platform. Practitioners at Unity Health Care have handed out over 700 prescriptions to patients and Unity Health Care recently gave the green light to begin the long process of mining the biometric data that has been collected — from BMIs to blood pressure and depression. DC ParkRx is modeled after Albuquerque Prescription Trails, one of the first initiatives in the country.

³¹ RRC Associates. 2016. *Enchanted Circle Trails Final Survey Results*. Bozeman, MT: Headwaters Economics.

³² RRC Associates. 2016. *Enchanted Circle Trails Final Survey Results*. Bozeman, MT: Headwaters Economics.

³³ ParkRx Washington, DC. <http://dcparkrx.org/about.php>.

³⁴ Find Parks, ParkRx Washington, D.C., <http://dcparkrx.org/>.



Case Study: Prescription Trails New Mexico

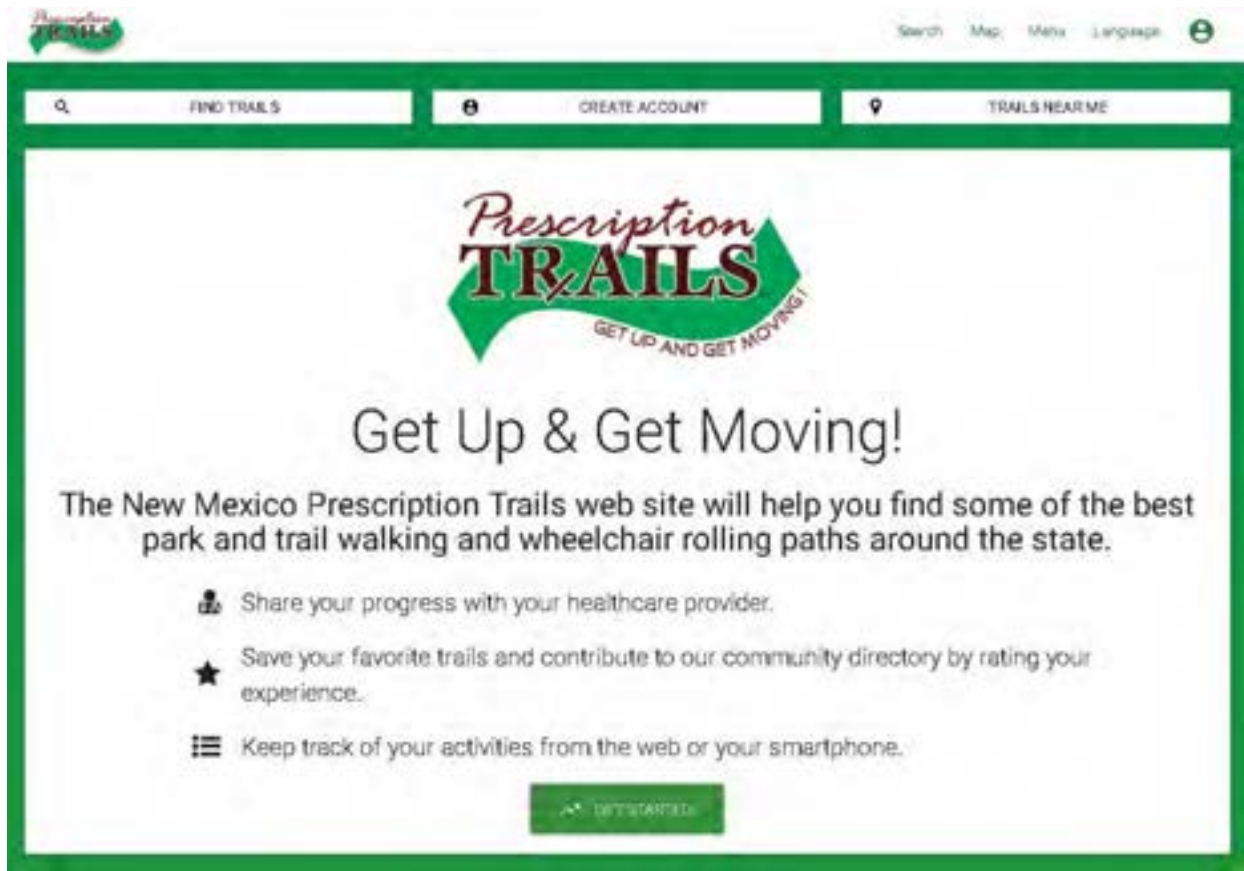
Prescription Trails New Mexico is a program designed to provide health care professionals tools to help increase walking and wheelchair rolling on suggested routes.³⁵ The routes are both safe and accessible to patients and families to promote healthy lifestyles. The prescriptions are given based on the patients' current physical condition, targeting the prevention of chronic conditions such as diabetes, depression, and high blood pressure.

The Albuquerque Prescription Trails program was initiated with strong support from NM Department of Health, the NM Takes on Diabetes Coalition, Presbyterian Hospital, Lovelace Hospital, Molina Health Plan, Blue Cross Blue Shield, First Choice Community Health Care, the National Park Service and Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department. These partners developed trail assessment tools, practitioner training modules, prescription pads, waiting room posters and pilot tested the delivery system at a public health clinic.

There are on-going programs in Albuquerque, Chaves County, Grant County, Las Cruces, Otero County, Lincoln County, Rio Rancho and Raton, NM, each with a coalition of partners tailoring the tools to help the patients fill their prescription; having curated booklets of approved parks and trails, with photos of amenities, park locations, and trail ratings.³⁶ See Image 3 for website platform.

³⁵ About Prescription Trails, <https://prescriptiontrails.org/about/>.

³⁶ About Prescription Trails, <https://prescriptiontrails.org/about/>.



Conclusion and Next Steps

Through case studies and health assessment data, it is apparent that nature, parks, and public lands can be used to improve individual and community health. ParkRx can play a role in helping prevent and treat many of the chronic conditions articulated by both healthcare providers and patients, while providing additional programming that doctors can refer to. By bringing together professionals in the health, education, recreation, and parks sectors, we can begin to prescribe better health using the parks and trails in Taos. In the February 9th Park and Trail Rx Summit, we will discuss potential partners to establish capacity and a draft work plan based upon Appendix A. For additional information about this program and if you would like to be involved, please contact Kristina Ortez, Executive Director at Taos Land Trust, kristina@taoslandtrust.org.

Appendix A: Recommended Framework for ParkRx

A Park Prescriptions Framework created by ParkRx is a five-phase multilevel approach that follows the Community Health (MATCH) model.³⁷ This framework builds existing programs, and although the details may vary by community, there are some core elements that can help practitioners build on the lessons

³⁷ Simons-Morton B. G., Greene W. H., Gottlieb N. H. Introduction to health education and health promotion. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press; 1995.

learned from other case studies. A full framework can be found at www.parkrx.org. The Park Prescriptions Framework outlined by ParkRx³⁸ includes:

Phase 1 – Goal Selection

Articulate your program goals, which include target population, health indicators, and park use

- **Target population:** Understanding a target population's behavioral patterns, social circumstances, lifestyles, and environmental factors allows you to understand the group's overall health and park usage. The target population can be based on geography, income-level, ethnicity, or patient group.
- **Health indicators:** Within this target population, a ParkRx program should be designed to address one or more of its articulated health needs/goals. These can come from places including: ParkRx partners, community health assessments, or focus groups with the target population. Beyond increasing exposure to nature, ParkRx programs can address health indicators such as: social cohesion, diabetes management, or hypertension.
- **Park use:** Determine the type of park use your ParkRx program wants to encourage. Does your ParkRx program hope to do any of the following: increase group physical activity, increase individual passive recreation, or increase individual active recreation?

Phase 2 – Intervention Planning

Identify and onboard partners and engaged stakeholders to create a network of care for program participants

- **Promising practices:** Examine case studies of existing programs (ParkRx and beyond) that demonstrate examples of strong partnerships between park and health agencies.
- **Health care providers:** Identify a health care partner(s) that provides direct services to patients. They should have buy-in from their own agency and provide the necessary staff to participate in the design and implementation process.
- **Park partners:** Identify a park partner(s) that provides direct services to participants. They should have buy-in from their own agency and provide the necessary staff to participate in the design and implementation process.

Establish a collaboration process that clearly delineates roles and responsibilities

- **Roles:** For example, it is important to determine who will provide administrative support, set up meetings, and follow-up on action items.
- **Buy-in:** Identify the common goals between partner agencies and create a document that summarizes the program and builds supervisor buy-in. This document could be a memorandum of understanding.

Design a patient to park experience that addresses the health indicators and park use goals identified in Phase 1

³⁸ http://parkrx.org/sites/default/files/MATCH%20Framework%20for%20ParkRx_09.2016.pdf

- **Patient flow:** Create a conceptual flowchart that maps the journey of a patient from a visit to the health partner to a park program. Outline the agency roles within this flow of care. Important roles include: who prescribes the ParkRx? Who follows up with the patient on a prescription? Who does the patient contact if there is a question about a prescription? Who leads the patient in a park?
- **Program needs:** Identify elements to increase the sustainability and impact of your delivery model. For example, will your target population have a better experience if they are welcomed by park program staff? Does your health care provider need to establish an electronic medical record program referral to increase uptake of a ParkRx program? Do you have existing programs that fit or can be realigned to fit the audience needs within the ParkRx framework?
- **Evaluation:** Determine the evaluation metrics and the process for collecting data. Types of measurements could include: participation rate, compliance rate, stress reduction, and blood pressure.

Phase 3 – Development

Identify the trainings that staff need to communicate and implement the new ParkRx program

- **Partner roles:** Direct service providers who will be interfacing with patients should understand their role as well as the roles of their partner agency counterparts. This could be shared through a cross agency training or brochure.
- **Understanding the role of ParkRx:** Determine the communication training needs of direct service staff so they can effectively message the ParkRx program and act as an ambassador of both public health and parks.

Determine your stress test for the pilot ParkRx program

- **Barometer of success:** Articulate short-term benchmarks of success that will indicate readiness to scale up. Some barometers include: number of participants, percentage compliance rate, and agency enthusiasm.

Create a communication and outreach strategy to disseminate the ParkRx program

- **Collateral:** Create versatile materials for partner agencies to promote the ParkRx program. Items can include: waiting room posters, flyers, and badges.

Phase 4 – Implementation

Pilot a small ParkRx program

- **Test:** Test your flowchart at a small scale, gathering preliminary data and identifying what works and what doesn't work. Refer back to your barometers of success and adjust your model based on lessons learned.
- **Staff feedback:** Encourage direct service staff to note and share barriers and challenges that were not addressed in the provided training. This will be the basis of your scaling program. Areas to note and measure: accessibility, ability, compliance, receptiveness, and communication with patients as well as program partners.

Prepare to scale your ParkRx program

- **Additional trainings:** Identify and roll out trainings that can help staff overcome the barriers that emerged through the pilot.
- **Additional stakeholders:** Connect with additional stakeholders that might help overcome barriers that your staff identified.
- **Flowchart:** Review your process and flow as necessary to reflect additional changes.

Launch your larger ParkRx program

- **Connectivity:** In collaboration with your ParkRx program partners, implement your revised flowchart, collecting data to measure efficacy, and building a robust connection between a health care visit and a park program for your target audience.

Phase 5 – Evaluation

Evaluate impacts

- **Goals:** Based on identified program metrics, measure improvements in health outcomes, as well as program attendance amongst your target audience. Continue to communicate regularly with your program partners to track progress, share successes, and troubleshoot issues as they arise.

Appendix G: Meeting Summaries

Community Conservation Plan (Greenprint) and Trail Plan Kick Off Meeting Summary

July 29, 5 to 8 pm, KTAO Solar Center
9 NM-150, Taos

Participants

Nina Anthony, Taos Land Trust
Karina Armijo, Xynergy
Ernie Attencio, The Nature Conservancy
Dan Barrone, Taos Mayor
Rose Bauhs
Rick Bellis, Taos Town Manager
Darren Bond, Gearing UP Bike Shop
Cindy Brown
Elisabeth Brownell, Brownell Chalet
Jake Caldwell, LOR Foundation
Joseph Chupek, Cyclist
Sheara Cohen, The Trust for Public Land
Carl Colonius, Taos Land Trust, Del Norte Trails
Tim Corner, Taos County Planning Department
Alex Cserhat
Madison Davisinger, Crossfit Taos
Leilani Dean
Davie Dittmar, Foot Not Bombs
Taylor Etchemendy
Linda Fair
Louis Fineberg, Taos Town Planner
Trey Finnell, Cyclist
Susie Fiore, Team FIT/NICA
Matt Foster, Village of Taos Ski Valley
Mark Fratrack, Village of Taos Ski Valley
Pete French, Taos Sports Alliance
Hank Friedman, Taos Sports Alliance
Chris Furr, Carson National Forest
Eric Garner, Carson National Forest
Fred Gifford, The Trust for Public Land
Fritz Hahn, Taos Town Council
Lafe Harrower, Lucas Construction
Jessica Harrower
Mark Henderson, Old Spanish Trail Association
Sandi Hill
Megan Hosterman, Taos Land Trust
Gary James, Not Forgotten Outreach
Bill Knief, University of New Mexico-Taos
Jack Lewis, Forest Service
David Lewis, ART
Lindsay Mapes, Zia Rides
Toby Martinez, ART
Annette McClure
Robyn McCulloch, The Confluence
Molly McMullin, Appleseed
Lara Miller, The Trust for Public Land
Rich Montoya
Amy Morris, The Trust for Public Land
David Mount, Cyclist
Ken Murrell
Peggy Nelson, ART
Charlie O'Leary, Santa Fe Conservation Trust
Kristina Ortez de Jones, Taos Land Trust
Lore Pease, El Centro Family Health
Rudy Perea, Taos County
Sanjay Poovadan, Taos Land Trust
Peter Rich
Tim Rogers, Santa Fe Conservation Trust
Priscilla Rokohl
Shannon Romeling, Amigos Bravos
Nathan Sanchez, Taos County
Paul Schilke, Forest Service
Joel Serra, Aqualia
Rachel Singer, Crossfit Taos
Chris Smith, Taos Land Trust
Susie Soderquist
Jean Stevens, Environmental Film Festival
Nick Still, 10,000 Wags
John Ubelaker, SMU
Matthew van Buren, Taos Land Trust
Karlis Viceps
Edward Vigil, Taos County
Patrick Vigil, Ojo Caliente
Linda Yardley, Taos Pueblo, Taos Land Trust

1. Welcome

Kristina Ortez de Jones, Executive Director of the Taos Land Trust, welcomed participants.

2. Meeting Goals and Agenda

Amy Morris from The Trust for Public Land (TPL) reviewed meeting goals: (1) Provide information about conservation and trail planning efforts; (2) Recruit stakeholders to help with community-based planning; and (3) Begin to gather information about priority trails and trail destinations and priority conservation values.

3. Taos Land Trust Community Conservation Plan

Kristina described Taos Land Trust's efforts to gather input for their Community Conservation Plan, which will cover all of the areas where the land trust works, including areas outside of Taos County. The Taos County Community Conservation Plan/Greenprint will be part of the land trust's larger Community Conservation Plan. Taos Land Trust's Community Conservation Plan will tell the story of local conservation values based on local voices. Taos Land Trust will rely on individual interviews with people in the community who have special perspectives, deep ties to the land and the water, and local knowledge.

4. Trails and Parks Master Plan

Carl Colonius is working with Taos Land Trust to develop a Trails and Parks Master Plan for the Enchanted Circle area. Previously, Carl organized the Del Norte Trails Coalition, and that group began efforts to set trail planning priorities. Those efforts included a survey in fall 2014 that was focused on a potential trail from Arroyo Seco to the Town of Taos. A summary from a November 2014 meeting of the Del Norte Trails Coalition is attached to this meeting summary. The Conceptual Trail Plan that TPL is helping to develop will be a component of the larger Trails and Parks Master Plan.

5. Greenprinting (Community Conservation Plan) and Conceptual Trail Planning

Amy Morris and Fred Gifford (also from TPL) provided overviews of the Community Conservation Plan/Greenprint and Conceptual Trail Plan process. Study area maps for the Taos County Community Conservation Plan/Greenprint and the Enchanted Circle Conceptual Trail Plan are attached.

Community Conservation Plan. The Community Conservation Plan will be based on community goals and will be a set of tools (including interactive maps) to help the community prioritize areas for voluntary conservation. The general goals of the Community Conservation Plan are to: (1) Steer growth away from key resources; (2) Preserve unique local cultural heritage; and (3) Protect natural and recreational assets that are important for local quality of life and the local economy. The specific goals of the plan will be determined through community input. TPL and the Taos Land Trust will be holding speak outs, open houses, polling, and additional stakeholder meetings to gather feedback. Data from the community will be translated into a GIS model that blends the best available scientific data with community preferences. In addition to the general stakeholder group, a sub-set of participants will assist by providing input through a mapping/technical advisory team.

Conceptual Trail Plan. The objectives of the Conceptual Trail Plan are to: (1) Identify existing trails; (2) Identify potential trails based on community priorities; (3) Build community support for trails; and (4) Set priorities for trail development and funding that contribute to local quality of life and the local economy. Like the Community Conservation Plan, the Trail Plan will involve speak outs, open houses, polling, additional stakeholder meetings, and reliance on a mapping/technical advisory team. Some trail volunteers will also assist with groundtruthing/field verification of proposed trail segments. TPL will incorporate community input and prioritization and GIS modeling of trails into final conceptual maps.

6. Small Group Discussions of Trail Destinations and Conservation Values

After being introduced to the Community Conservation Plan and Trail Plan, meeting participants answered conservation and trails questions in small groups (based on the tables where they were already sitting). Small groups were facilitated by Kristina, Carl, Matthew Van Buren, Megan Hosterman, Nina Anthony, Sanjay Poovadan, and Chris Smith from Taos Land Trust; Amy, Fred, Lara Miller, and Sheara Cohen from TPL; and Matthew Foster from Taos Ski Valley.

Small groups discussed the following questions:

- **Community Conservation Plan/Greenprint:** What conservation values (for example: working lands, viewsheds, wildlife habitat) are your highest priorities?
- **Trail Plan:** What types of trails (in town, commuting, back country, hiking, ATV, dirt bike, mountain bike) are your highest priorities? What trail destinations are your highest priorities? What areas do you think could be connected by a trail system? What are your favorite parks or open spaces?

Groups discussed each topic for approximately 20 minutes. After 15 minutes, participants were asked to use three dot stickers to vote for their highest priorities from their group's brainstorming. The full summary of small group discussion results is attached.

Responses to the conservation value question included the following: Improve recreational access (37 priority votes); Protect water quality and quantity/wetlands and riparian habitat (26 priority votes); Protect acequias (21); Preserve agricultural land, particularly irrigated farmland (18); Protect viewsheds (15); Protect cultural and historical resources (12); and Conserve wildlife habitat (11).

The highest ranked trail types based on priority votes were protected bike lanes (12 priority votes); paved multi-use trails (8); connector trails (6); and interpretive/educational trails (4). Top trail destinations were Rio Grande/Gorge (6 priority votes) and the Town of Taos (5). Highest priority trail connections were Town of Taos to Arroyo Seco (12 priority votes); Town of Taos to existing trailheads (6); between communities (5); Taos Ski Valley to Red River (5); and Old Blinking Light to Arroyo Seco (4). The top parks and open spaces mentioned were Kit Carson (3 priority votes) and acequias, Eco Park, Fred Baca, Gorge Rim, Overlook Trail Area, and Rift Valley (each with 2 priority votes).

Key issues brought up by small group participants included the safety of bike lanes and urban trails (7 priority votes); need for better trail maintenance (4); and the need for more public/private partnerships (2).

7. Next Steps and Closing

Finally, Amy reviewed next steps and Kristina thanked participants for coming to the meeting and sharing their time and feedback.

Next Steps

- **Mapping Team Volunteers.** Volunteers are needed for mapping/technical advisory teams for both the Community Conservation Plan and the Trail Plan (contact Fred: fred.gifford@tpl.org). Mapping teams will meet between stakeholder meetings.
- **Outreach to Diverse Stakeholders.** Taos Land Trust will work on expanding the stakeholder group. They will reach out to farmers/ranchers, people of color, the Pueblo, churches, youth/teachers, and neighborhood associations. Any and all feedback related to reaching a more diverse stakeholder group is welcome. Please contact Kristina (kristina@taoslandtrust.org).
- **Speak Outs and Community Survey.** Taos Land Trust and TPL will conduct speak outs and a community survey in fall 2015. (Please note that Headwaters Economics will also be conducting a poll related to trails this fall. Results from this poll will also be used in the Community Conservation Plan and Trail Plan.)
- **Stakeholder Meetings.** The next stakeholder meetings will be in fall 2015:
 - A mapping-focused trail meeting will be held on Saturday, September 26.
 - The next joint meeting for Community Conservation Plan and Trail Plan will be in mid-November. The meeting will address the results of fall speak out events and polling and the refinement of Conservation Plan and Trail Plan goals.

Meeting Summary Attachments

- Del Norte Trails Coalition, November 2015 Meeting Notes
- Greenprint Study Area Map
- Conceptual Trail Plan Study Area Map
- Kick Off Meeting Small Group Discussion Summary Tables

DEL NORTE TRAILS COALITION

TRAILS AND PARKS VISIONING NOTES – November 2014

The Del Norte Trails Coalition convened and facilitated a conversation in 2014 to develop a vision for the development of a trail system in the Enchanted Circle. These are notes from that conversation.

1. Why is this important?

- a. Economic development – sustainable tourism
- b. Community vitality – active lifestyles
- c. Honor cultural and historical legacy of region

2. Where are we now?

- a. Planning process resources (Taos Land Trust, Trust for Public Land)
- b. We have significant road infrastructure throughout the Enchanted Circle – north, south, east to west
- c. Great mtn biking rides
- d. We have the potential of alignment of interest of Enchanted Circle
- e. The acequia system can be an ally – TVAA/NMAA for enhancement of current trails/access to waterways?
- f. Tourists visit area with adventure/physical activity in mind (weekly requests at bike shops for urban trails)
- g. Significant percentage of public land in region
- h. Pueblo is engaged and talking about trails
- i. Relatively uncrowded public land (vs. Colorado, California, etc.)
- j. Thriving visitor infrastructure (hotels, restaurants, etc.)
- k. Fantastic weather for almost year-round activities
- l. Range of topography for interest groups (flats, hills, etc.)
- m. Active local population
- n. Interested local government (IGC, Town, County, NM Dept. of Tourism, etc.)

3. Our Priorities

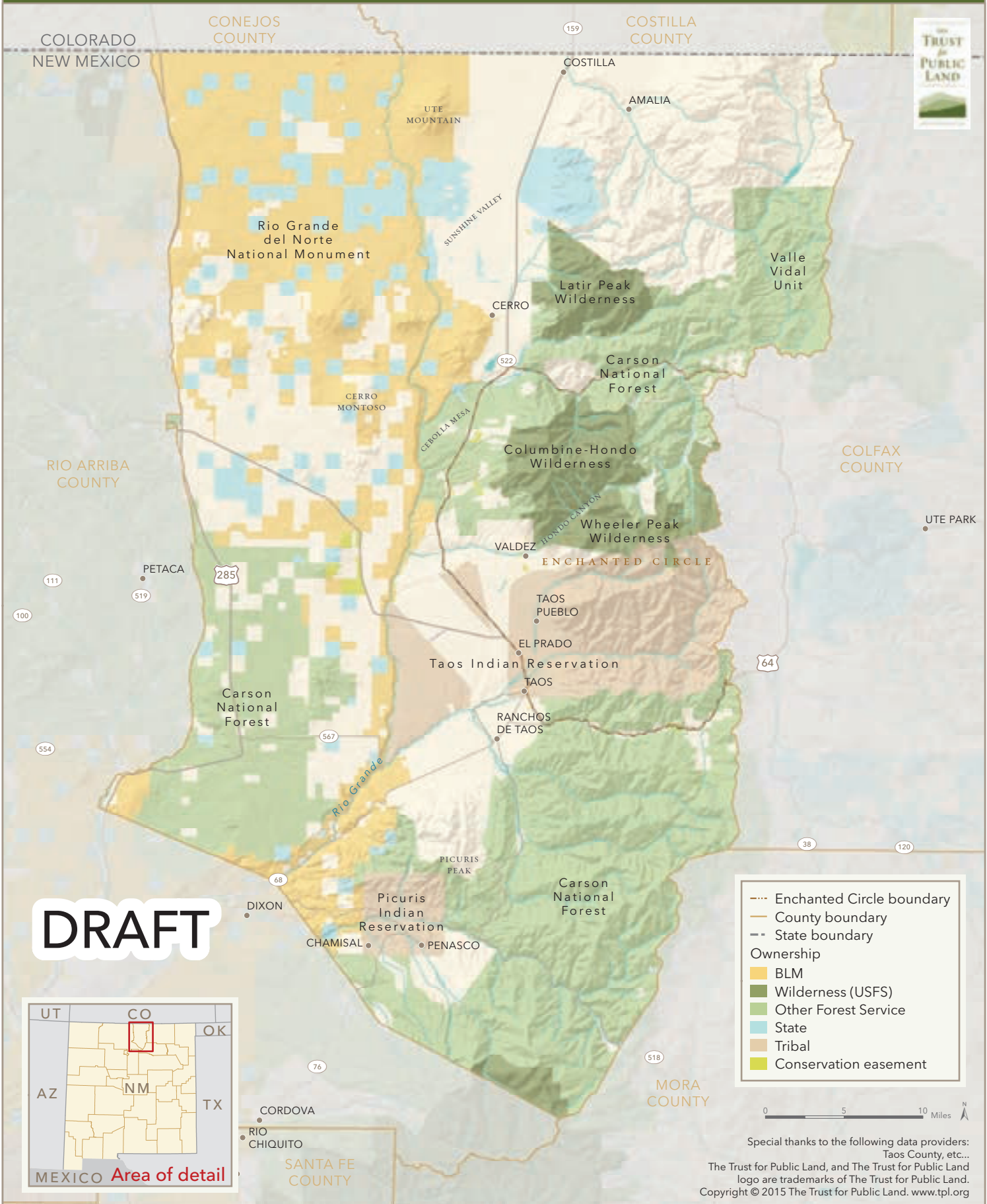
- a. Conserve open space – viewscape
- b. Full high quality recreational trail system
 - i. Connect hubs for commute potential
 - ii. Standalone loops/ stacked loops with trail heads, signage and parking
 - iii. Longer safe, well-marked rides, both road and trail
- c. More users of all ages – better educated too
- d. Regional commitment to the enhancement of full range of recreational activities:
 - i. Hiking
 - ii. Hunting
 - iii. Dirt biking/ATV
 - iv. Road biking
 - v. Mountain biking
 - vi. Adventure biking (TSV, Angel Fire)
 - vii. Races and events

4. How do we get there?

- a. Inventory analysis – green hubs, links, gaps
 - i. Public lands
 - ii. Private lands - Current cons. easements and future easements
 - iii. Tribal lands – engage Tribe to invite their input
 - iv. Connectivity/linkages
- b. Pass or update Resolutions for local government to appreciate alternative transportation infrastructure
 - i. Improve infrastructure (better roads, shoulders, signs)
 - ii. Target certification from **League of American Bicyclists**
 - iii. Generate commitment from local government for ongoing funding for new development, maintenance, marketing
- c. Engage public land management agencies for alignment
 - i. Update Master Plans for increased recreational infrastructure
 - ii. Align GIS maps with other systems
 - iii. Increase signage, trail heads, parking
- d. Increase user base
 - i. Support youth engagement (FIT)
 - ii. Engage Trips for Kids (Marin County non-profit) maybe as partner with FIT
 - iii. User education program – drivers and bikers
 - iv. Develop interscholastic mountain bike team (NICA)
 - v. Create alignment with other events in the community (PASEO)
- e. Strategic Partnerships
 - i. IMBA – look for certification
 - ii. Bikes Belong
 - iii. Kids on Bikes
 - iv. Trips for Kids
 - v. National Interscholastic Cycling Association
 - vi. Headwaters Economics –system impact study
 - vii. SFCT – Tim Rogers
 - viii. TPL – GreenPrint
 - ix. Mapping relationships
 1. STRAVA
 2. MTB Project
 3. DOT
 4. Municipalities
- f. Resource development
 - i. Development strategy based upon agreed objectives
 1. Bond issue for trail development and maintenance
 2. Gain commitment from local government for annual recreational infrastructure investment and maintenance
 3. Private foundations
 4. DOT (Rec Trails Program, TIGER grants, Transportation Alternative Plan, Federal Land Access Grant Program)

TAOS COUNTY GREENPRINT

STUDY AREA

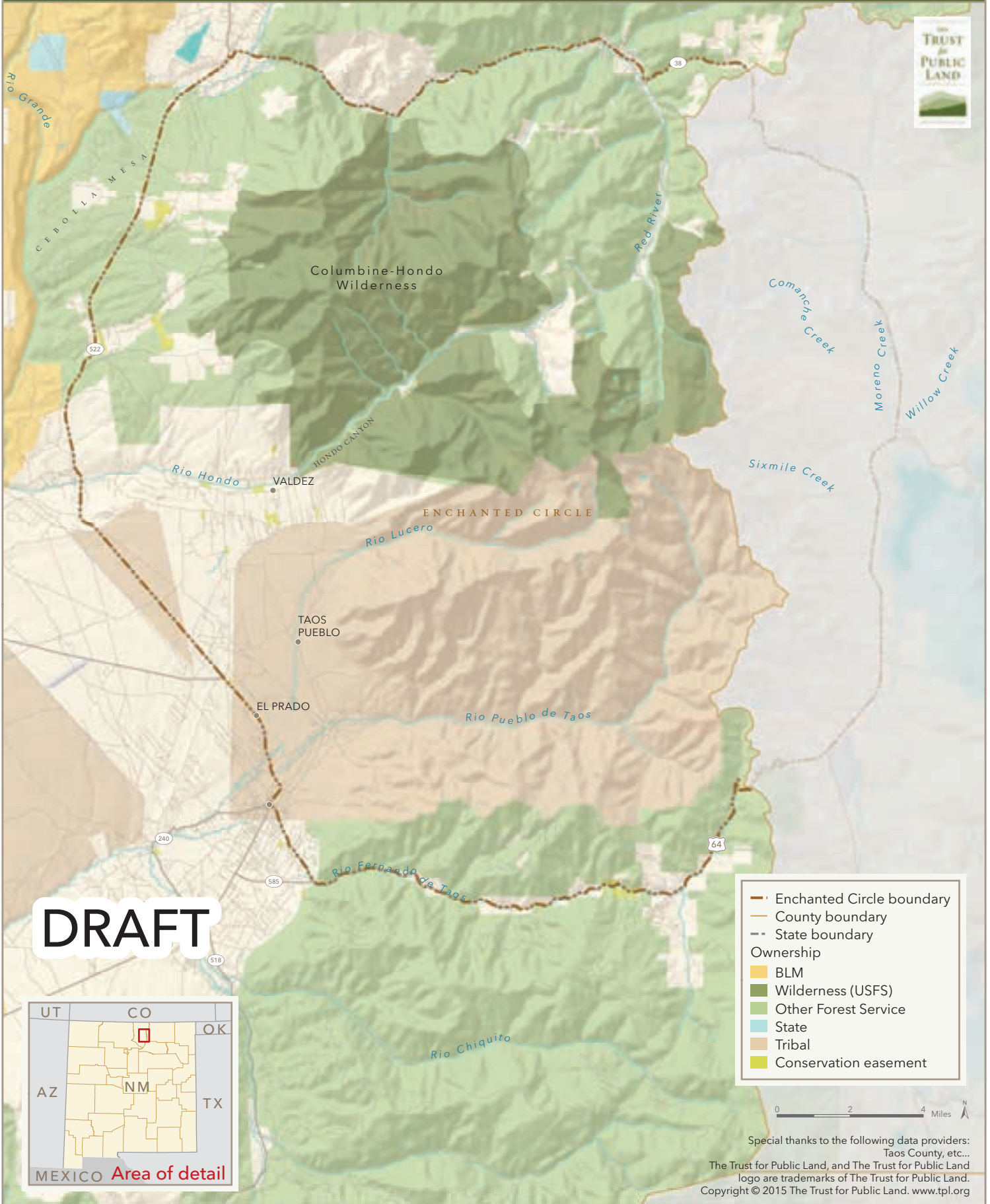


DRAFT



TAOS - ENCHANTED CIRCLE

TRAILS STUDY AREA

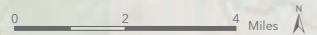


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MEXICO Area of detail

- Enchanted Circle boundary
- County boundary
- - State boundary
- Ownership
- BLM
- Wilderness (USFS)
- Other Forest Service
- State
- Tribal
- Conservation easement



Special thanks to the following data providers:
 Taos County, etc...
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Community Conservation Plan/Greenprint Goals (From 7/29/15 Stakeholder Meeting)

Goal	Priority Votes	Criteria	Areas to Map	Other Possible Future Actions
1. Improve recreational access	37	Enhance local access (not just tourists); increase public access to public lands, including wilderness; maintain river access; non-motorized use and access; trail access in town; access to acequias and water; bicycle lanes; promote diverse land uses and user groups	Open spaces/parks/trails - near hospitals, schools, senior centers, community centers (El Prado, Ranchitos and La Posta, Fred Baca park - expand, swampy land by Blueberry Hill); high density recreation areas (Kit Carson, TSV, Fred Baca); El Salto and Rio Hondo near Valdez	Lower fees for locals; preserve free river access; increase access for youth, ADA, seniors, low income; connect young people to the land; promote entrepreneurship; make trails sensitive to habitat and archaeological resources; more funding and attention to John Dunn Bridge, Hot Springs, Wild and Scenic, signage; promote educational opportunities
2. Protect water quality and quantity	26	Protect watersheds; surface water and groundwater; riparian and wetland habitat	Rio Fernando; El Prado; Seco; Ranchitos to Los Cordovas; hubs of villages	Keep water rights in Taos; prevent overgrazing in watersheds; ban fracking
3. Protect acequias	21		Acequia maps from Town, County and Taos Co Soil and Water; Acequia Del Madre; Camino del Medio; parcel across from Cid's; La Posta property; Rio Fernando; El Monte (historic orchard, open space, wildlife habitat)	Improve water delivery and sustainability; improve water storage of ponds, lakes, and reservoirs; promote farming cooperatives and farmers' markets; increase resilience of in-town acequias to flooding and erosion
4. Preserve agricultural Land	18	Protect irrigated farmlands and orchards, prevent pasture fragmentation;	Irrigated agricultural land; Mitchell pasture (and access from CIDs); El Prado pasture	Promote sustainability of agriculture; promote rural character
5. Protect viewsheds	15	Protect important views	Overlooks - Horseshoe from Rio Grande; view of Taos Mountain from town; important overlooks and panoramas as part of design; vistas (from El Prado to Taos Mountain - near Overland)	Prevent transmission lines and radio towers in Del Norte National Monument
6. Protect cultural and historical resources	12		Achaeological sites; native people's history; historical buildings; buffers around Pueblo lands; heritage sites; Blumenschein Map; site by Arroyo Seco; acequias; historic trails; rock art	Revive historical preservation organizations; interface with neighborhood associations; educational/mitigation
7. Conserve wildlife habitat	11		Bird habitat (riparian, ranches, ponds); migratory corridors; sensitive and unique ecosystems	
8. Promote smart growth	8		Threatened properties	Prevent subdivision; protect land while it is still in large parcels; improve guidelines/permitting for development
9. Protect dark skies	4			
10. Promote freedom	3			
11. Protect forests	2		Alpine forests	Partner with Forest Service

Priority Trail Types (From 7/29/15 Stakeholder Meeting)

Trail Type	Priority	Votes	Notes
Bike - protected bike lanes/paved shoulders/arteries through town	12		Improvements needed for TSV road; shoulders Hwys 64, 68, 150 and Enchanted Circle
Paved multi-use trails	8		
Connector trails	6		
Interpretive/educational trails	4		
Bike - park and ride	3		
Equestrian	2		
Safe Routes to School	2		
Town - neighborhood trails/park trails/walking trails	2		
Bike - mountain bike/downhill/skills trails/single track	1		Multi-level, stacked loops, multi-distance
Hiking	1		
ADA	0		
Back country trails	0		
Boardwalk	0		
Commuter trails	0		
Cross-country skiing	0		
Surface - crushed asphalt	0		
Surface - dirt for bike and hike	0		
Exercise trails (expand on Eco Park option)	0		
Sidewalks - in town	0		
Skateboarding	0		
Walking/strolling lanes	0		

Priority Trail Destinations (From 7/29/15 Stakeholder Meeting)

Trail/Destination	Priority Votes	Trail/Destination	Priority Votes
Rio Grande/Gorge (trail, gorge, water features)	6	Hot springs	0
Town of Taos	5	John Dunn	0
Acequias (trail access along)	2	Llano Quernado	0
Historical sites (St. Francis Church, Taos and Ranchos Plaza)	2	Neighborhoods	0
Parks (Fred Baca and Kit Carson)	2	Old Spanish Trail	0
Public lands	2	Pot Creek to Los Cordovas	0
Talpa Traverse - southside	2	Public transportation hubs	0
Gusdorf (needs bike lane)	1	Pueblo	0
Schools	1	Rancho Martinez	0
Orilla Verde Recreation Area	1	Southern Colorado, Fort Garland	0
Taos Ski Valley (including park and shuttle)	1	Stagecoach Hot Springs	0
Rio Grande del Norte National Monument	1	UNM Campus	0
Wild Rivers	1	Upper Rio Hondo	0
Airport loop	0	Valdez	0
Amole Canyon	0	Valle Vidal	0
Blueberry Hill	0	Weimer/Talpa Foothills	0
Cebolla Mesa (Wild and Scenic)	0	Work	0
Community Center/Youth and Family Center	0	West Rim Road	0
Grocery Stores	0	By-pass	0
Hospital	0		

Priority Trail Connections (From 7/29/15 Stakeholder Meeting)

Trail Connection	Priority Votes
Town of Taos to Arroyo Seco (and Gorge Bridge)	12
Town of Taos to existing trailheads	6
Between communities (Penasco to Taos; Town of Taos to Ranchos; Hondo to Seco plus Old Blinking Light)	5
Taos Ski Valley to Red River (wilderness trail)	5
Old Blinking Light to Arroyo Seco	4
Plaza to everything	3
Public transportation (trails from)	3
Town of Taos to mountain bike singletrack	3
Town of Taos to West Gorge (non-motorized)	3
UNM to Old Blinking Light - 522 + 64 + 150	3
Century ride bike lanes (Enchanted Circle north and south)	2
Hwy 64E to Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument	2
Taos Ski Valley to Arroyo Seco hub)	2
OBL to Valdez/Taos Ski Valley	1
Connectivity corridors	1
Full trail system	1
Hondo to Arroyo Seco	1
North end of county to south	1
Old Blinking Light to Ranchos	1
Ranchitos to Blueberry Hill (including BH route)	1
Taos Ski Valley to Arroyo Seco	1
Taos Ski Valley to Plaza	1
Town of Taos to Devisadero (Kit Carson Road)	1
Town of Taos to Rift Valley Loop (Taos Valley Overlook)	1
Town of Taos to Taos Pueblo	1
Town of Taos to Taos Ski Valley	1
Walmart to Cid's Food Market	1
Work to play destinations	1
Angel Fire from Taos (shoulder or standalone)	0
Arroyo Seco to San Cristobal/Questa	0
Cebolla Mesa to Red River	0
Enchanted Circle	0
Gorge Bridge to Pilar	0
Historic District loop	0
Hospital to Weimer	0
Local parks - connections between	0
Miranda Canyon Ridge to Horseshoe Curve	0
Neighborhoods to schools	0
North boundary and ranchos to Taos Valley overlook	0
Old Blinking Light to Seco	0
Overland to Velarde	0
Pilar to John Dunn Bridge	0
Sangre Trail - Santa Fe to Taos	0
Stakeout to Picuris/Comales	0
Taos Ski Valley to Old Blinking Light	0
Town of Taos - Taos Plaza to Taos Canyon	0
Town of Taos to Angel Fire	0

Priority Trail Connections (From 7/29/15 Stakeholder Meeting)

Town of Taos to Caron Forest/Gorge	0
Town of Taos to Pilar	0
Town of Taos to public lands	0
Town of Taos to Slide Trail	0
Tuane Drive (along) to US64	0
UNM to Pilar	0
UNM to schools	0
Valencia to town bike lanes	0
Wheeler and Columbine Honda	0

Favorite Parks and Open Spaces (From 7/29/15 Stakeholder Meeting)

Park/Open Space	Priority Votes
Taos Valley Overlook Trail Area	4
Kit Carson	3
Acequias	2
Eco Park	2
Fred Baca	2
Gorge Rim	2
Overland Complex (area behind)	1
Blueberry Hill and Millicent Rogers	1
Cultural sites	1
Fort Burgwin (ADA)	1
Merced - vacant lots	1
Rio Grande crossing	1
Twining Canyon Trails	1
Upper Ranchitos	1
West Rim Trail	1
Wild Rivers	1
Williams Lake (maintenance and additional parkin	1
Amole Canyon	0
Apple seed	0
Brea Park	0
Cabrito Lake	0
East of county complex near men's shelter	0
El Salto	0
Garcia Park	0
Gold Hill	0
Horseshoe Gorge	0
La Junta biking	0
Los Pandos	0
Mariposa Area off Kit Carson	0
Mitchell Property	0
Orilla Verde Recreation Area (BLM)	0
Overland	0
Parks	0
Pilar	0
Pocket parks (including along Rio Lucero)	0
Rio Chaquito	0
Rio Grande del Norte National Monument	0
Ruin Trail	0
Salazar/Santistevan (five acres for sale)	0
Slide Road area	0
Sunset Park	0
Taos Mountain	0
Tulpa Traverse	0
Ute Mountain	0
Utility rights of way	0
Rio Grande and Red River confluence	0

Key Issues (From 7/29/15 Stakeholder Meeting)

Key Issues Identified	Priority Votes
Safety of bike lanes and urban trails	7
Need for better maintenance (pot holes)	4
Need partnerships (public and private)	2
Congested trails (horseshoe, Williams)	0
Need for education	0
Cost to implement	0
Environmental compliance	0
Need buy-in from Majordomo	0
Need to talk to FEMA/Army Corps about flood plain	0
Trails should be town and county responsibility	0
North side barriers include paperwork and fees	0
Need to look at examples from model cities	0
We don't need formal trails everywhere	0

Enchanted Circle Trail Plan Meeting Summary

September 26, 11 am to 1 pm
600 Valverde Commons

Participants

Amy Simms, Forest Service	Jonah Salloway, Vibram USA
Amy Morris, The Trust for Public Land (TPL)	Judy Liles, Sunset Park
Ben Soderquist	Kerrie Pattison, Taos Ski Valley, Northside and Park and Rec Commission
Ben Thomas, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps/DNMA	Kevin Lehto, US Forest Service
Brad Higdon, BLM – Taos	Kip Price
Carl Colonius, Del Norte Trails Coalition/Taos Land Trust	Kristin Ulibarri, Valverde Commons
Charles Earhart, Angel Fire	Kristina Ortez de Jones, Taos Land Trust
Cheryl Hedden	Lara Miller, TPL
Chris Malashi	Larissa Schaetz
Cindy Brown, Taos Hiking Guide	Lindsay Mapes, Zia Rides
CJ Maluski	Mark Kemper
Claire Latowsky	Mark Sundin
Darren Bond, Gearing Up	Martha Morgan, Taos Saddle Club
David Frazer, Frazer Family Farms	Matthew Foster
Derek Gordon	Michael Martinez, Rough Riders 200
Drew Maxwell, AAFPO Angel Fire	Nancy Montoya
Eddie Dry	Nina Anthony, Taos Land Trust
Eileen Weidner, BLM	Patrick West, Angel Fire
Fred Gifford, TPL	Peter Rich, Carson National Forest
Hogan Kersis, Angel Fire	Rich Montoya
Jake Caldwell, LOR Foundation	Shari Heier, Gearing Up
Jeff Muggleston	Stephens Hall
Jennifer Hauser, Carson National Forest	Susie Soderquist, Des Montes
John Hall, Hay Farmer	
John Miller, Planning, Town of Taos	

1. Welcome and Trail Committee Background

Participants introduced themselves and noted where they were from and where their last hike or bike ride had been. Stakeholders attending the meeting were from diverse areas including Hondo (2); Rancho (4); Taos (17); El Prado (5); Angel Fire (4); Questa; Canon; El Salto; Red River; and Earthship.

Carl Colonius provided a brief history of previous trail planning efforts in the area, including the recent work of the Del Norte Trails Coalition. He noted that this current conceptual trail planning process is largely about setting community priorities about where we need more trails. Carl also discussed the importance of having a dedicated core group of stakeholders who will stay involved in the process in the long term in order to make sure the trail plan gets implemented.

2. Meeting Goals

Amy Morris from TPL reviewed the goals of the meeting: (1) Review existing trail data; (2) Reach consensus on a final study area boundary; (3) Define trail planning areas; (4) Develop a

list of obstacles/challenges to plan implementation (so that we can develop a plan that will work); and (5) Begin brainstorming new potential trails and trail connections.

3. Review Existing Data and Discuss Study Area

Fred Gifford from TPL noted that we already have trail data from the Forest Service, BLM, Taos Ski Valley, State Parks, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and Map My Ride. One participant recommended cross-checking current trail data with local trail guide books.

The group discussed the study area for the trail plan and reached consensus on expanding the study area beyond the Enchanted Circle in the east to include Eagle Nest and Colin Neblett Wildlife Area, in the west to include Rio Grande Corridor from Taos Valley Overlook north to the Rio Grande Del Norte, and in the south to include Carson National Forest Trail north of the NM518. The revised study area map is included at the end of this meeting summary.

4. Define Trail Planning/Trail System Areas

Fred and Carl led the group in beginning to identify distinct trail planning areas. Planning areas will be used to help break up the study area in ways that make sense based on geography, land management/owners (e.g., public lands), and user groups. Preliminary trail planning areas include: Taos Valley Overlook; Taos Ski Valley; Horse Thief/Cebolla Mesa linked to Gallina; in town commuter trails; Red River (upper); Miranda Canyon; and Lower Red River Valley.

5. Small Group Discussions of Obstacles and Constraints

Participants split up into four groups to discuss the major constraints/obstacles to developing an expanded trail system. Small group discussions were led by Fred, Carl, Lara Miller (TPL), and Kristina Ortez de Jones (Taos Land Trust). At the end of small group discussions, flip chart pages listing each group’s ideas were posted in the hallway. Each meeting participant was given four dot stickers to mark the four constraints that they felt were most important to address.

Groups came up with a wide range of important obstacles and constraints. They also discussed potential solutions such as volunteer-led “adopt-a-trail” programs in Carson National Forest and elsewhere and possible local requirements that developers mitigate for impacts by developing trails. Identified obstacles generally fell into the categories shown in Table 1, which are shown in order based on the number of priority votes they received.

Issue Identified	Priority Votes
Public Agencies – lack of resources, complicated process (NEPA, management plans, etc.)	13
Inadequate Current Infrastructure – lack of signage was identified as a particular concern	10
Broad Plan Goals – the study area is very big and addressing both in-town and wilderness trails is very ambitious	8
Limited Capacity – local governments, agencies, organizations have limited funds, staff time, and general support	7
Lack of Awareness – trail planning is relatively new to the area and many	4

Issue Identified	Priority Votes
people may not know enough about the importance of local trails	
Private Land – it can be complicated to work with private landowner to get access and trail easements	4

Participants also noted that cultural perspectives on (and resistance to) tourism can be a challenge in expanding trails.

6. Trail Workshop

After the discussion of constraints, the same small groups reviewed the draft trail maps and provided input about where they think potential new trails/trail connections should be developed. Feedback on these maps will be incorporated into future discussions of trail expansion.

7. Closing

Kristina thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked participants to please let Taos Land Trust know if there are additional groups and individuals we should reach out to about the trail plan.

Next Steps

- **Mapping/Technical Advisory Team** will start meeting (by phone/computer) soon. If you are interested in participating in these calls, please contact Fred (fred.gifford@tpl.org).
- Taos Land Trust and TPL will continue to conduct **speak outs** in fall 2015 (and possibly winter 2016). These are tabling events where we provide information about the Trail Plan and Community Conservation Plan and ask for community input. Please contact Amy (amy.morris@tpl.org) or Kristina (kristina@taoslandtrust.org) if you have suggestions for events where we could reach a large number of community members, especially community members who are not likely to attend stakeholder meetings.
- Taos Land Trust and TPL are conducting a **community survey** this fall to gather perspectives that will inform the Trail Plan and the Community Conservation Plan. Please fill out the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/taoscounty>. Please ask friends, family, and colleagues to fill out the survey as well.
- Taos Land Trust will continue working on **expanding the diversity of the stakeholder group**. There will be speak outs and focus groups that will be organized to encourage participation by diverse groups. Any and all feedback related to reaching diverse groups is welcome. Please contact Kristina (kristina@taoslandtrust.org).
- The **next stakeholder meeting** will be Wednesday, November 18 at **TIME/LOCATION**. This will be a joint stakeholder meeting for both the Trail Plan and the Community Conservation Plan.



Taos County Community Conservation Plan and Enchanted Circle Conceptual Trail Plan

November 18, 2015; 5:30-8:00 pm
Talpa Community Center
NM-518, Ranchos De Taos, NM 87557

Meeting Goals

- (1) Review planning efforts for any new participants.
- (2) Work on vision and guiding principles for the Community Conservation Plan.
- (3) Gather information on proposed new trails.

Participants

Lynn Aldrich, Taos Land Trust (Board Member)	Bill Petterson, Peterson Ventures
Nina Anthony, Taos Land Trust	Teresa Pisaño, Taos Land Trust (Board Member)
Attila Bality, NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program	Kip Price
Rose Bauhs	Shannon Romeling, Amigos Bravos
William Brown, Renewable Taos, Inc.	Beth Searcey
Carl Colonius, Taos Land Trust/Del Norte Trails	Nathan Sanchez, Taos County
Charles Doughtry, Renewable Taos, Inc.	Paul Schilke, US Forest Service
Eddie Dry, Red River	Christopher Smith, Taos Land Trust (Board Member)
Chris Ellis	Jean Stevens, Environmental Film Festival
Matt Foster	Ben Thomas, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Hank Friedman, Taos Sports Alliance	Matthew Van Buren, Taos Land Trust
Gary Jones	Karlis Viceps
Peter Lamont	Linda Yardley, Taos Land Trust (Board), Taos Pueblo
Pam MacArthur, Taos Saddle Club	Parvati Young
John MacArthur, Taos Saddle Club	Fred Gifford, The Trust for Public Land
Jeff Muggleston, Del Norte National Monument, CNF	Amy Morris, The Trust for Public Land
Ken Murrell	Chrissy Pepino, The Trust for Public Land
Melissa Naylor, mountain biker	Greg Hiner, The Trust for Public Land
Kristina Ortez de Jones, Taos Land Trust	Jason Corzine, The Trust for Public Land
Kerrie Pattison, Northside M&B Alliance of TSV	Shannon Parks, The Trust for Public Land
	Megan Lawson, Headwaters Economics

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Kristen Ortez de Jones from Taos Land Trust welcomed participants and thanked them for coming. She briefly explained the outreach process for the Community Conservation Plan and Trail Plan, and then she led the group in introductions. Participants stated their names and their favorite places to spend time outdoors. Favorite outdoor places included Rio Pueblo, Miranda Canyon, Chama River, Taos Ski Valley, Gold Hill, Divisadero Trail, Yerba Canyon, Redwood National Park, Windsor Trail (Santa Fe), San Cristobel Canyon, Rio Medio Trail (Santa Fe), Lost Lake Loop, Valle Vidal, Taos Eco Park, Camino Royale, and Pecos Wilderness.

Overview

Amy Morris from The Trust for Public Land reviewed the two planning efforts: the Taos County Community Conservation Plan and the Enchanted Circle Conceptual Trail Plan. Both the Community Conservation Plan and the Conceptual Trail Plan will combine community input with state-of-the-art mapping to set priorities. Both efforts focus on voluntary, incentive-based conservation and look for areas where there are opportunities to meet multiple goals. The Trail Plan and Community Conservation Plan both involve community input from a community survey, outreach events (including Speak Outs and focus groups), interviews, and stakeholder meetings.

Amy emphasized how important stakeholder meeting participation is to make sure we have the best data and best community input. We need stakeholder help to ensure that we hear from diverse voices throughout the process. If you have ideas about how to help with this, please contact Kristina (kristina@taoslandtrust.org). In response to participant questions, Amy noted that we hope that the Community Conservation Plan will be a central part of the work of the Taos Land Trust moving forward. We also hope it will be adopted by local governments and used by other conservation organizations. Implementation of the Community Conservation Plan (and the Trail Plan) will be a main focus of the final two stakeholder meetings, and we welcome community input about how to ensure that local groups are able to act on the plan. We will work closely with public agencies on issues related to any inholdings or potential trails on public lands. There was a short discussion of conservation in Miranda Canyon, which is now owned by the Forest Service. The Trail Plan process will help provide some public input for the Management Plan revision for Carson National Forest.

Community Conservation Plan

The Community Conservation Plan is intended to: (1) Set priorities for voluntary land conservation in Taos County; (2) Tell the story of local conservation values based on local voices, perspectives, and knowledge; and (3) To help protect unique local cultural heritage and natural and recreational resources. Seven potential goals for the Community Conservation Plan were identified at the kickoff meeting in July: Protect Water Quality, Maintain Views, Increase Opportunities for Recreational Access, Protect Acequias, Protect Agricultural/Ranch Land, Preserve Cultural and Historical Resources, and Conserve Wildlife. Of these, the top four goals (based on community feedback) will be incorporated into Community Conservation Plan mapping. At the first several Speak Out events, participants indicated that they valued Water Quality the most.

Conceptual Trail Plan

The Conceptual Trail Plan is intended to (1) Set community-based priorities for expanding and connecting in-town and backcountry trails in the Enchanted Circle area; and (2) Increase opportunities for commuting, exercise, recreation, and connecting to the outdoors. Under the Trail Plan trails may support hiking, biking, horseback riding, and other activities. In addition to the types of community input that go into the Community Conservation Plan, the Trail Plan will also use input from “ground-truthing” of proposed new trail segments. Through ground-truthing, participants help us identify potential obstacles for trail segments, but also information about what it is like to actually use a trail (for example – are there breath-taking views?). Thus far, participants in Speak Out events have expressed the most interest in using trails for hiking and wildlife viewing.

Fred Gifford from The Trust for Public Land then explained that as of November 17, we were off and running on the trail plan. The first step is to create a Technical Advisory Team (TAT), which is a group of volunteers who are interested in the more detailed mapping work and will meet 7-8 times over the next year. Right now the TAT is working on project study area and dividing up the study area into smaller trail planning areas (based on geography, jurisdiction, and user groups). The GIS team from The Trust for Public Land is currently collecting any available data on existing trails. Fred is also working on licensing Strava’s crowdsourced trail data. Strava is an

app-based activity tracker that allows bikers and others to record their activities and compare their data against people using the same routes (see www.strava.com/how-it-works).

Community Conservation Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles

Participants used worksheet prompts to come up with some initial ideas for vision statements and guiding principles for the Community Conservation Plan. After filling out worksheets, participants discussed in pairs for five minutes, and then later in small groups for an additional 10 minutes on each topic. Small groups were led by Kristina, Carl Colonius, and Matt Van Buren from Taos Land Trust and by Fred from The Trust for Public Land. Flip chart notes were taken by Teresa PISAÑO from Taos Land Trust and by Lara Miller and Chrissy Pepino from The Trust for Public Land. After small group discussions, participants were asked to use four dot stickers to indicate their top two ideas related to elements of vision statements and guiding principles. The vision statement and guiding principles will be revised by the core team and other volunteers before the next Community Conservation Plan meeting. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Amy (amy.morris@tpl.org).

Vision Statements

A vision statement is an aspiration. It should illustrate what we hope Taos County will look like after the Community Conservation Plan has been implemented. The vision statement is meant to be a catalyst for this process, giving us purpose and common goals. The vision statement can be a stretch. For example, Oxfam's vision is "A just world without poverty." Participants came up with a huge range of suggestions for a Community Conservation Plan vision. In particular, they noted the importance of focusing on the unique culture and landscape of Taos County – including its cultural diversity.

Elements of proposed vision statements included:

- Fostering sustainable stewardship, connection with the outdoors, inclusiveness, inspiration, and trust;
- Protecting tri-cultural traditions and local values and history; and
- Providing opportunities for 100% of local residents to use trails and ensuring that people from all walks of life are tied to the land.

One possible vision statement based on participant input would be: "Our vision is a Taos County where cultural traditions are embraced and quality of life is outstanding because everyone is connected to the land and committed to sustainable stewardship of our unique natural and cultural landscapes by and for our community."

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles will steer the mission of the plan and create a cohesive set of goals to guide what we do and how we do it. Amy provided an example of guiding principles from Bonner County, Idaho (see attached slides). As with the vision statement discussions, there was a wide range of ideas about guiding principles. Participants put a great deal of emphasis on ensuring that the planning process is inclusive. The principles that received the highest number of votes were:

- Ensure respect, trust, and inclusiveness are built into the process. Foster participation from:
 - Longtime residents from the Pueblo and Hispano communities
 - All age groups from youth to senior citizens
 - Farmers, ranchers, hunting and fishing, and recreation groups
- Conserve natural resources while respecting cultural values and local traditions
- Protect water generally and acequias in particular
- Increase access to recreation
- Protect agricultural land (especially irrigated land)

Trail Map Workshop

Amy and Fred then led a trail exercise using the large maps of the Town of Taos, Red River, Angel Fire/Moreno Valley, and Arroyo Hondo, which were hung on the meeting room walls. Participants were asked to draw in potential new trail segments and trail connections (including existing unofficial trails and social trails). Each map station had two markers: blue for marking bike lanes on paved roads and red for all other trails (off paved roads). Participants spent approximately 30 minutes adding potential trails to the maps. Many potential trails were identified by the group and they will be used by the Trail TAT during their work. In addition, there may be additional meetings and workshops for users of specific trail planning areas to populate those maps.

Closing and Next Steps

In closing, Amy reviewed next steps for the stakeholders, encouraged everyone to fill out the community survey, and asked participants to pick up more postcards to give to family and friends. The goal is to have several hundred responses to the community survey to give us the best possible input for priority-setting. Speak Outs, focus groups, and community polling will continue until end of January 2016. The next stakeholder meeting(s) will be in March 2016. There will be three more meetings next year for the Community Conservation Plan and the Trail Plan. Amy thanked everyone very much for coming. Meeting adjourned a little before 8:00 PM.

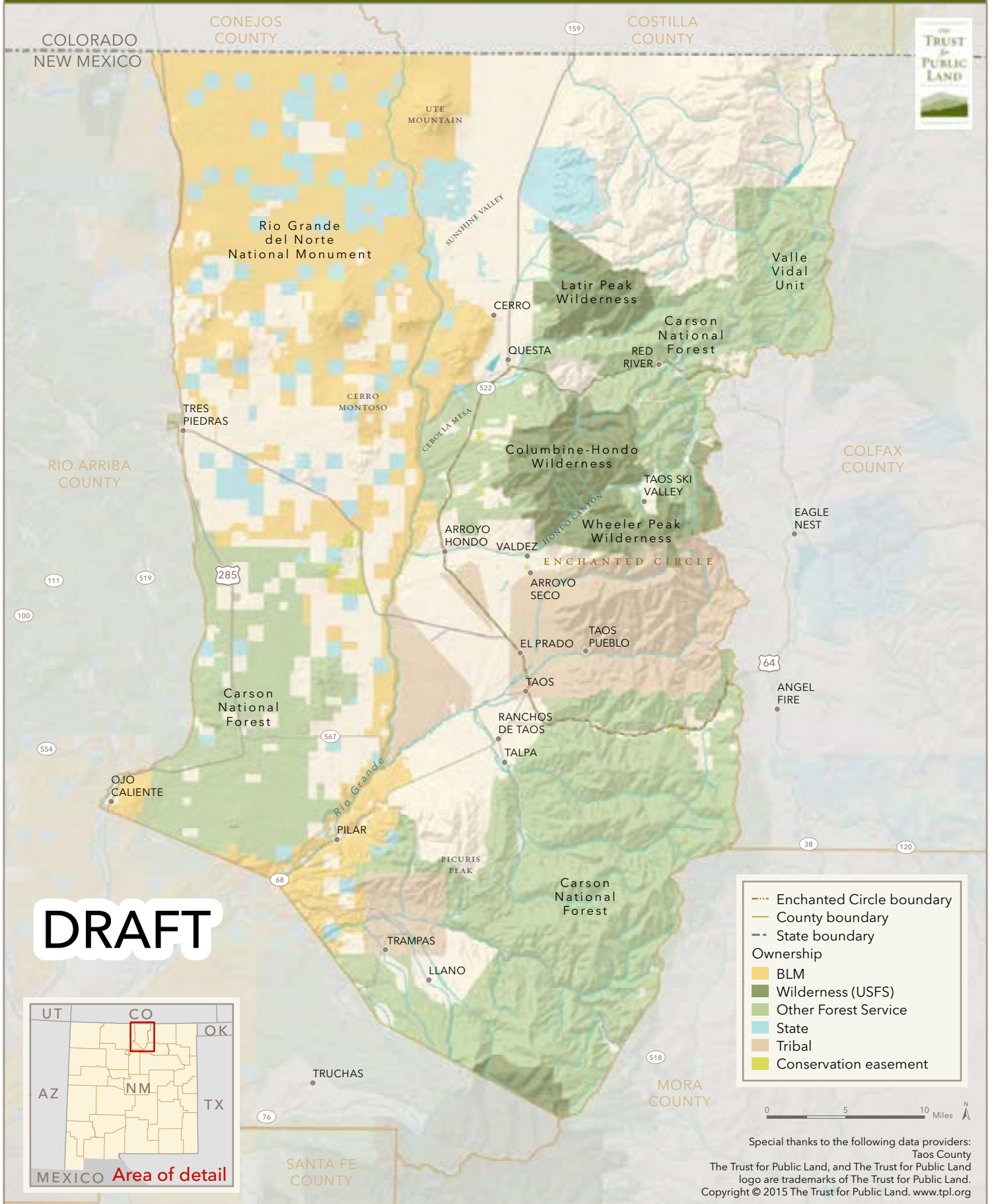
Next Steps

- Fill out the community survey and ask your friends and family to fill it out as well. The survey link is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/taoscounty>.
- Volunteers needed for Technical Advisory Teams (mapping assistance), please contact Fred Gifford (fred.gifford@tpl.org).
- Help us ensure that our planning efforts are as inclusive as possible. If you have ideas or would like to help with this, contact Kristina Ortez de Jones (kristina@taoslandtrust.org).
- Speak outs, focus groups, and community polling will continue through January 2016. This community outreach will determine goals to be mapped for the Community Conservation Plan and will inform the Trail Plan as well.
- If you would like to help with developing the Community Conservation Plan vision statement and guiding principles before the next stakeholder meeting, please contact Amy Morris (amy.morris@tpl.org).
- Next stakeholder meetings in March 2016.

Attachments

- Taos County Community Conservation Plan Study Area Map
- Enchanted Circle Conceptual Trail Plan Study Area Map
- Slides from Stakeholder Meeting

TAOS COUNTY COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN STUDY AREA

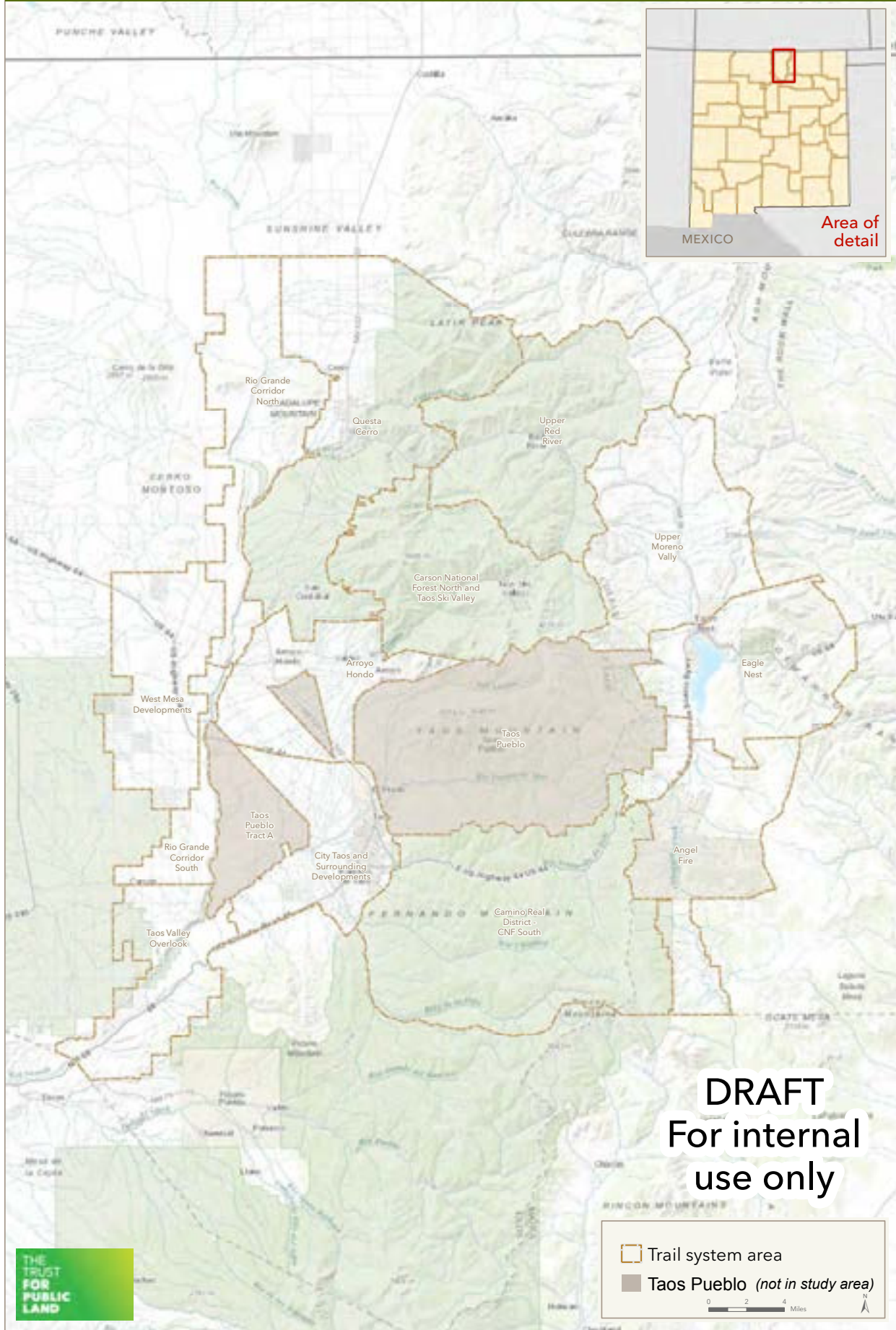


DRAFT



ENCHANTED CIRCLE

TRAIL SYSTEM PLANNING:



Meeting Summary

Enchanted Circle Conceptual Trail Plan

April 13, 2015; 5:30 to 7:30 pm
 Juan I. Gonzales Agricultural Center
 202 Chamisa Road, Taos, NM 87571

Meeting Goals

- (1) Review preliminary survey/speak out results
- (2) Work on vision and guiding principles
- (3) Review preliminary trail maps and gather additional information on proposed new trails
- (4) Discuss field verification and start assigning segments for groundtrutting

Attendees

Alena Gilchrist	Linda Calhoun, Mayor of Red River
Alice Galanka	Louis Fineberg, Taos Town Planner
Attila Bality, National Parks Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Association	Marla Vowell, Red River
Barbara Dry, snowshoe and hiking guide, Red River	Mary Ann Elder, former Forest Service
Ben Thomas, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	Matthew Roeder, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Brian Smith, Angel Fire Trails	Michael Calhoun, Aspen Maps
Carl Colonius, Taos Land Trust	Jeff "Mugsy" Muggleston, DNMA, USFS
Carl Rosenberg	Nathan Sanchez, Chief Planner, Taos County
Carolyn Smith, Angel Fire Trails	Nina Anthony, Taos Land Trust
Cheryl Hedden	Paul Schilke, Forest Service
Darien Fernandez, Town Councilor, Town of Taos	Paul Bryan Jones, Taos Tree Board
Eddie Dry, Red River	Pete French, Taos Sports Alliance
Edward Vigil, Planning Director, Taos County	Randolph Pierce
Eric Garner, Carson National Forest – Questa	Romany Wood
Hannah Miller, Taos Land Trust	Sarah Schrock, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Jake Caldwell, LOR Foundation	Stuart Wilde, Wild Earth Adventures
Jamie Fox, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	Tami Torres, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM
Jean Stevens, Environmental Film Festival	Ted Calhoun, Red River
Joel Serra, Aqualia	Tim Rogers, Trails Program, Santa Fe Conservation Trust
John MacArthur, Taos Saddle Club	Will McMullan
Karlis Viceps	Paula Tsoodle, Taos Pueblo Fitness
Kristina Ortez de Jones, Taos Land Trust	Amy Morris, The Trust for Public Land
Lamonte Guillory, LOR Foundation	Fred Gifford, The Trust for Public Land
	Lara Miller, The Trust for Public Land

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome

Kristina Ortez de Jones from the Taos Land Trust welcomed participants and led introductions. Attendees were asked to share their name, organizational affiliation, and favorite trail. Favorite trails included: Ojitos, South Boundary, Williams Lake, West Rim, East Fork/Lost Lake/Red River, Middle Fork to Wheeler Peak, Italianos, Rift

Valley trails, Pueblo trails, Dome Trail, Gerapata Canyon, Lake Fork and Bull Fork Trails in Latir Wilderness, Latir Mesa Trail, Enlightenment Trail in Angel Fire, and “the trail I happen to be on.”

2. Review Meeting Goals, Agenda, Community Outreach Results

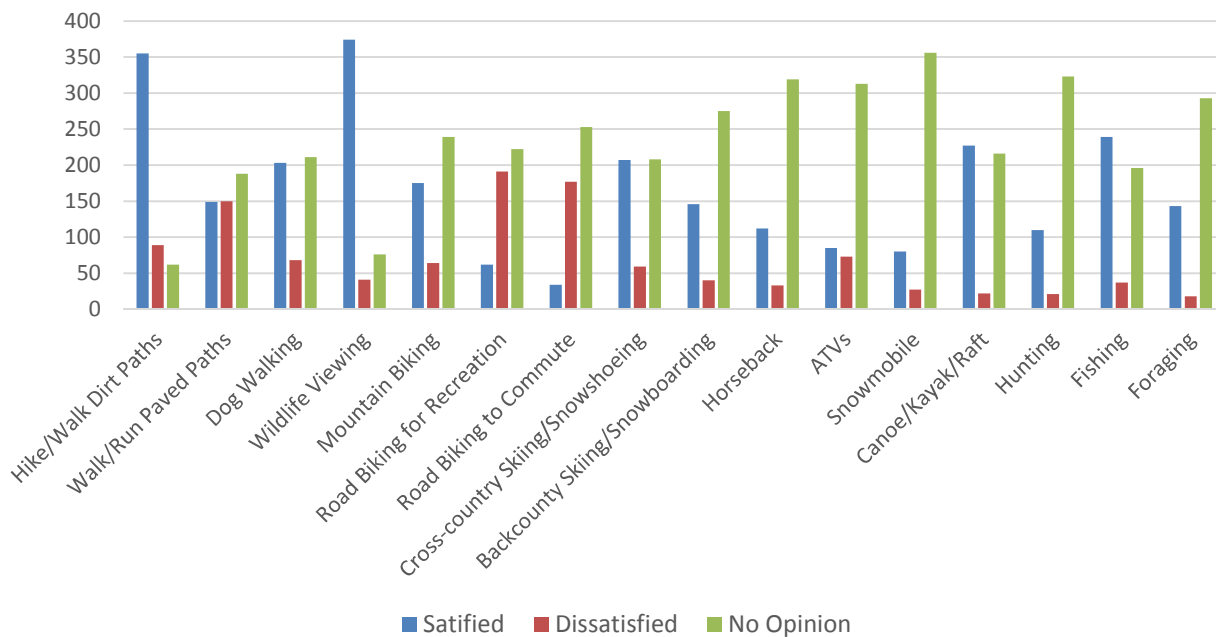
Amy Morris from The Trust for Public Land reviewed the meeting goals and agenda. She noted that the trail plan is intended to (1) Set community-based priorities for expanding and connecting in-town and backcountry trails in the Enchanted Circle area; and (2) Increase opportunities to use trails for commuting, exercise, recreation, and connecting to the outdoors.

Amy also reviewed the results of community outreach efforts from September 2015 to January 2016. There were 655 responses to the joint community survey for the Taos County Community Conservation Plan and the Enchanted Circle Trail Plan. Over 730 people were contacted at speak outs and other outreach events (ranging from the Taos farmers’ market to lunch at Ancianos). Nearly 300 people participated in speak out poster activities. Taos Land Trust also conducted focus groups with the Taos Health Council and UNM Early Childhood Development Center. Over the summer UNM Upward Bound students will be conducting interviews with family members about their trail experiences.

Over 200 survey respondents skipped demographic questions. Of the remaining participants, only 13% were Hispano/Hispanic. Nearly 60% of survey respondents have lived in Taos County for more than 10 years, and over 40% have incomes of over \$75,000 per year. See attached meeting slides for more demographic details. Because the Hispano/Hispanic population is underrepresented among survey respondents, key results are being weighted so that responses from Hispano/Hispanic participants are included four times.

The chart below (Figure 1) shows the respondents level of satisfaction for trails for 16 different activities. Only two – road biking for recreation and road biking to commute – show higher levels of dissatisfaction than satisfaction. This is likely a result of an overall feeling that local roads are unsafe for biking. Figure 2 shows a word cloud of the responses to a question asking about areas that need new or improved trails.

Figure 1. Enchanted Circle Trail Plan Community Survey – Trail Satisfaction



- Engage decision-makers and funders to build support for funding long-term maintenance of public trails and pathways.
- Create a communications plan that helps to promote awareness of trails through publicly available maps and other materials and establishes a trail brand to use on Enchanted Circle system trail signs and trailhead facilities.
- Create a trail development checklist that includes all the steps necessary for local groups to champion trails from design and access rights (e.g., easements) to construction and maintenance.
- Increase opportunities to connect community members of all backgrounds to our unique landscapes.
- Enhance local quality of life by increasing opportunities to use trails for commuting, fitness, and connecting to the outdoors.

4. Groundtruthing Training

Amy reviewed background information about field verifying the proposed trails. Field verification (also known as groundtruthing) refers to assessing potential trail corridors during site visits. Participants were given field verification forms to review. Field verification volunteers are being asked to evaluate trails based on viability, user experience, contribution to community health and equity, special opportunities, and important constraints. Constraints may include: terrain that is too steep or varied, major/complex at-grade crossings, river or wetland crossings, bridges or roads with narrow or no shoulders, incompatible adjacent land uses, and too many small private properties to cross. Special opportunities might include utility rights-of-way, abandoned rail corridors, stream or river corridors with compatible adjacent terrain, or unique cultural or natural features (that would not be damaged by the trail/trail users).

At the time of the stakeholder meeting, there were 149 proposed trail segments. Meeting attendees signed up to groundtruth only 40 of these (see attached list of sign ups). Field verification maps and other information about groundtruthing are available here: <http://web.tplgis.org/taostrails>. The online version of the field verification form (please fill this out instead of a paper form) is here: <http://tinyurl.com/enchantedtrails>. There are also a field verification form and groundtruthing instructions attached to this meeting summary. *Field verification needs to be done by June 23. Unverified segments cannot move forward into the prioritization phase.*

5. Draft Trail Plan Maps

Fred Gifford from The Trust for Public Land briefly reviewed the status of Trail Plan mapping and process of developing trail maps for each of the 13 trail system areas: Angel Fire, Arroyo Hondo and Arroyo Seco, Camino Real District – Carson National Forest South, Carson National Forest North and Taos Ski Valley, Eagle Nest, Questa Cerro, Rio Grande Corridor North, Rio Grande Corridor South, Taos Valley Overlook, Town of Taos, Upper Moreno Valley, Upper Red River, and West Mesa Developments.

Fred noted that we are working on trail planning and not on trail design, so the lines representing proposed trails on our maps often represent large corridors instead of particular trail alignments. Current trail maps include data from: State Parks, USFS, BLM, Taos Ski Valley, Town of Taos, Taos County, Taos Land Trust, and StreetMap. There have already been five web-based meetings of the Technical Advisory Team (TAT).

Fred also mentioned that Strava data will be used in developing proposed trails and in assessing trail use. Strava data is generated by user information from people biking and hiking local trails while using the Strava app. The Trust for Public Land has used this data in another recent trail plan and is the process of purchasing local data from Strava. One participant asked where trail signs and other improvements fit into the Trail Plan. Amy noted that after we prioritize potential new trails, we will focus on other elements of trail system improvements in developing our action plan. Another attendee asked about whether the trail plan is primarily front country or

back country. Fred and Amy responded that the plan includes both, but that the largest number of proposed trails is near the Town of Taos.

Finally, Amy described the tentative metrics that will be used to evaluate proposed trails. These metrics are:

- **Public preference** (priority connections, destinations, survey and open house, stakeholders)
- **Current use** as trail (Strava)
- **Proximity** to parks and schools and hospitals
- **Accessibility** (children, seniors, low income, total population within ½ mile)
- **Feasibility** (length, crossings, sensitive areas, # private parcels crossed, terrain roughness, slope) + trail viability rating from groundtruthing
- **User experience** – field verification scores
- **Community health benefits** – field verification scores, local health expert input

Before moving on to the trail map workshop, Amy review the next steps for the Trail Plan and Kristina thanked everyone very much for coming to the meeting.

6. Trail Map Workshop

Amy explained that this meeting was the last opportunity to add proposed trails at a stakeholder meeting. Maps of each of the 13 designated trail system areas were laid out on tables in the large meeting room. There were several copies of the map for the Town of Taos. Participants were asked to review the maps and draw any additional potential/proposed trails on them (labeled with name of person proposing the trail). Blue for marking bike lanes on paved roads, green for motorized trails, red for all other trails, and black for trailheads and other facilities. Attendees were also asked to sign up for segments to field verify on sign-up sheets that were next to the trail system area maps. New trails proposed at this meeting are being incorporated into new draft trail maps now – and will be added to the field verification maps and sign-up sheets.

7. Next Steps/Schedule

- Additional volunteers are needed to conduct field verification before our next meeting. Field verification should be finished by **June 23**. Unverified segments cannot be prioritized for the Trail Plan. Please contact Amy (amy.morris@tpl.org) if you'd like more information.
- Any additional trail segments need to be proposed by **May 25**.
- Fred/Lara and the technical advisory team (TAT) will work on updating all of the trail maps.
- Amy will prepare a final report of the results from the community survey.
- The Trust for Public Land and TAT to begin discussing trail metrics before the next stakeholder meeting.
- We need to start planning for outreach at the Taos County Fair in August.
- Next stakeholder meeting will be in July or August.

Spring and Summer 2016

- TAT meeting(s)
- Field verification!
- Revision of trail maps
- Stakeholder meeting in July or August (review overall maps, start on action plan)
- Trail Plan open house at County Fair in August

Fall 2016

- TAT meeting(s)
- Creation and approval of final trail priorities
- Stakeholder meeting in September or October

Winter 2016-2017

- Final report and action plan

9. Attachments

- Meeting slides
- Groundtruthing form and instructions
- List of volunteers signed up for groundtruthing

Enchanted Circle Trail Plan Field Verification Form

General Information

Name(s) of Evaluator(s): _____

Date of Evaluation: _____

Segment Label Name and ID (from provided map): _____

Recommend Segment for Inclusion in Plan (Circle one): Yes / No

Overall Segment Score (1-5): _____

Groundtruthing Approach (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> By foot | <input type="checkbox"/> By water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By bicycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By automobile | Please describe: _____ |

Expected Trail Uses (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian | <input type="checkbox"/> ATV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian | Please describe: _____ |

Segment Description

Would Some or All of the Segment...? (Check all that apply)

- Share a road with cars and trucks? If so, which part of the segment?

- Be directly adjacent to an existing highway or paved road? If so, which part of the segment?

- Be set back from the road (i.e. separated from the road by vegetation or something else). If so, which part of the segment?

Scoring

Please use this scale for answering all numeric rating questions on this form:

1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = good 4 = very good 5 = excellent

Health/Equity Score (1-5): _____

Would this area be near existing nearby public amenities like a school or library or hospital? Is there shade for people to rest? Would this be accessible to community members without a car? Does this segment have the topographic features to serve both novice and advanced trail users; as well as children, adults, and seniors? Please explain your scoring.

Viability Score (1-5): _____

Viability considerations: Is there an existing path or passage of some sort? Are there likely major impediments for moving along the segment? Would this corridor be appropriate for the expected trail uses? Are there incompatible adjacent land-uses? *Note: don't worry about evaluating current surface for viability (assume improvements are possible).* Please explain your scoring.

User Experience Score (1-5): _____

User experience considerations: Are there pleasant views to/from the segment corridor? Would it be noisy? Anything else that is notable about the sound and feel of the corridor? Please explain your scoring.

Current Trail Condition Score (1-5): _____

This score measures how much effort would be required to improve the trail. What would need to be done to the existing corridor or social trail to create the envisioned trail? Rate and describe the predicted level of effort, 1 = costly, time intensive, and difficult based upon geographic location and terrain, 5 = minimal cost, could be achieved in a short time frame, and would be a relatively minimal change to the existing terrain. Please explain your scoring.

Additional Information

Are there special opportunities with this segment? (Circle one) Yes / No

Examples are existing corridors like streams, utility ROWs, unique cultural, historic, or natural features, or other features that make this a more desirable segment to develop. Please also note any potential areas or existing areas for parking and trail heads, if relevant. If possible, please record GPS coordinates.

Are there notable impediments with this segment? (Circle one) Yes / No

Examples are: need to cross major transportation or water feature, wetlands, private property, safety issues, or other features that make the segment more difficult to develop. If possible, please record GPS coordinates.

Is there anything else we should know about this trail segment?

Please submit your trail data by June 23 (or earlier). Ideally, we would like you to submit your data online here: <http://tinyurl.com/enchantedtrails>. You can also scan paper forms and email them to Amy (Amy.Morris@tpl.org) or mail them to Amy at The Trust for Public Land, 101 Montgomery Street Suite 900, San Francisco, CA 94104.

Enchanted Circle Trail Plan – Groundtruthing Instructions

The Basics

- The proposed trails have been broken into segments for field verification. Please complete one form (ideally online) for each segment.
- You can fill out paper forms if necessary, but it would be extremely helpful if you could fill out our online Google form instead: <http://tinyurl.com/enchantedtrails>.
- Because this is a conceptual trail plan and not an alignment study, we are looking for a broad overview of each trail segment: overall viability and major impediments and opportunities (hot spots). You will be evaluating corridors rather than precise trail alignment locations. We are asking you to rate trail segments on a 1 to 5 scale with 1 representing poor and 5 meaning excellent.
- Groundtruthing can be done by foot, bicycle, ATV or by car (windshield assessment) as appropriate.
 - If you already know a lot about a trail segment without additional field verification, it is okay to fill out the form without additional groundtruthing.
- Data needs to be submitted by June 23, but it will be a huge help if you get it to us earlier. You will get three times as many tickets in our outdoor gear raffle if you turn your forms in by June 1.
- If you have questions or concerns, please contact Amy Morris (Amy.Morris@tpl.org) or Fred Gifford (Fred.Gifford@tpl.org).

Trail Maps and GeoPDF Files

Electronic versions of the field verification trail maps will be available here: <http://web.tplgis.org/taostrails>. If you have the PDF maps on your phone (or another mobile device) in the field you can see your location using the (free) Avenza PDF Maps app, which you can download here: <http://www.avenza.com/pdf-maps>. The easiest way to get the PDF map images on your phone is by emailing them to yourself, but you can also access <http://web.tplgis.org/taostrails> from your mobile device or access them through Dropbox or Google Drive if you save the maps there. If you would like hard copies of the field verification maps, they will be available to pick up from the Taos Land Trust office at 125 La Posta Road, Taos, NM 87571 (575-751-3138).

Photos and Geolocation

If you have a smart phone, please turn on your location services before you begin, and take a few photos as you are groundtruthing (so your photos will be geo-tagged). When you've finished groundtruthing a segment, send your three best photos to Amy.Morris@tpl.org. Please tell Amy the segment number for each photo.

Private Property

Please do not enter private property with “No Trespassing” signs or any tree markings that delineate private property with restricted access. If a landowner approaches you while you are groundtruthing and wants to know what you are doing please say: “I’m working with a community trail group on a region-wide conceptual trail plan. We are groundtruthing 150 potential trail segments; not all the segments will be part of the final plan. Any eventual trails would only be created with landowner consent.” If they want to talk to someone about the trail plan, you can refer them to Amy or Fred.

Returning Forms

Please submit your trail data by June 23 (or earlier). Ideally, we would like you to submit your data online here: <http://tinyurl.com/enchantedtrails>. You can also scan paper forms and email them to Amy (Amy.Morris@tpl.org) or mail them to Amy at The Trust for Public Land, 101 Montgomery Street Suite 900, San Francisco, CA 94104. *Thank you very much for your help with this crucial part of the trail planning process!*

**Enchanted Circle Trail Plan
Groundtruthing Volunteers (5-6-16)**

Segment ID	System Area	Volunteer	Description	Purpose
AF01	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike_Trail1_AngelFire	Connect AngelFire to USFS
AF02	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike_Trail2_AngelFire	Connect AngelFire to USFS
AF03	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike_Trail3_AngelFire	Connect AngelFire to USFS
AF04	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike_Trail4_AngelFire	Connect AngelFire to USFS
AF08	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	RoadBike_Trail5AngelFire	Connect Angel fire to Taos
AF09	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	RoadBike_Trail5AngelFire	Connect Angel fire to Taos
AF10	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike Trail 6Angel Fire	Connect Monte Verde lake to Eagle Nest Lake
AF12	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike Trail 7Angel Fire	Connect Monte Verde lake to Eagle Nest Lake
AF13	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike Trail8Angel Fire	Connect Monte Verde lake to Eagle Nest Lake
AF14	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike_Trail9AngelFire	ConnectgreenbeltoStateLands
AF15	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	ATV Lady Slipper Trail	Only Existing Access from angel Fire Resort
AF16	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike Single Track Ho Chi Min trail	Sustainable single track utilizing old logging rds
AF17	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike Trail 6Angel Fire	Angel Fire connector
AF18	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike Trail 6Angel Fire	Angel fire connector
AF19	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike Brazos Drive Access	Access to NF from brazos Drive using Utility Access Road
AF20	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike SouthBoundary and Elliot Barker Access from Brazos Roa	Trail to Access SouthBoundary and Elliot Barker, Eassy hike/bike
AF21	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	HikeBike 434 Frontage Road to blinking light	Frontage Road Offset Trail for biking hiking and dog walking
AF22	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	Community Center Tail	Access from Frontage Road to Community Center
AF25	Angel Fire	Brian Smith	Road Bike - Angel Fire to Bobcat Pass	Road biking from angel fire to Bobcat Pass
TOT24	Town of Taos	Cheryl Hedder	Bike_Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook	Dedicated bike lane from Ranchos de Taos to UNM and Taos Valley Overlook
TOT50	Town of Taos	Cheryl Hedder	Bike Lane: Co Rd 110	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT51	Town of Taos	Cheryl Hedder	Bike Lane: Co Rd 110	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
CNFN28	Carson National Forest North and TSV	Darien Fernandez	Hike Bike Long Canyon	Alteration and Improvement of Long Canyon
TOT08	Town of Taos	Darien Fernandez	HikeBike_Rio Fernando Pedestrian Path	Connector for Fred Baca Park
TOT84	Town of Taos	Darien Fernandez	Bike Route: Valverde St	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT85	Town of Taos	Darien Fernandez	Bike Route: Valverde St	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
CQ01	Questa Cerro	Jamie Fox	Questa Link 1	Hike and Bike
TOT21	Town of Taos	Jean Stevens	HikeBike_Rio Pueblo de Taos	Arroyo connecting Blueberry Hill rd to north side of town
TOT83	Town of Taos	Joel Serra	Bike Lane: US Hwy 64	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT88	Town of Taos	Joel Serra	Bike Route: US Hwy 64	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
AH23	Arroyo Hondo and Arroya Seco	Karlis Viceps	Bike_Lane to Taos Ski Valley	Dedicated bike lane from old blinking light to Taos Ski Valley
TOT29	Town of Taos	Karlis Viceps	Bike Lane: Millicent Rogers Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT57	Town of Taos	Karlis Viceps	Bike Lane: Carabajal Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
URR02	Upper Red River	Michael Calhoun	HikeBike_La Belle Histryoric StageCoachTrail	Creation Historic La Belle stagecoach Trail
RGS02	Rio Grande Corridor South	Randolph Pierce	Taos Box Access	Water
RGS06	Rio Grande Corridor South	Randolph Pierce	Access to RG	Water - Fishing access from West Rim Trail and Access to West Rim Trail
URR03	Upper Red River	Stuart Wilde? Eddie D	HikeBike_The Big Ditch	Big Ditch Trail
RGN04	Rio Grande Corridor North	Tami Torres	Hike Bike - BLM connecto from Tract A	Connector along east Rim
RGN05	Rio Grande Corridor North	Tami Torres	Hike and Bike BLM Connector East rim from John Dunn South towa	Connector East Rim from John Dunn Bridge
TOT22	Town of Taos	Tami Torres	HikeBike_Arroyo Seco	Arroyo Seco connecting Los Cordovas to Arroyo Seco
CNFN01	Carson National Forest North and TSV		HikeBike_BikePark	Taos Ski Valley Bike Park
CNFN26	Carson National Forest North and TSV		HikeBike_Taos Cone Extension from Sawmill Park	Connector from Big Ditch along existing trail (Sawmill Park) to Taos Cone
CNFN27	Carson National Forest North and TSV		HikeBike_Middle Fork Bavarian	connecto to Bavarian_up and Over
CQ06	Questa Cerro		Questa to Cerro Loop	Bike
CRD01	Camino Real District - CNF South		HikeBike_LaTalpa Traverse	Official establishment of La Talpa traverse - popular mountin biking trail
CRD02	Camino Real District - CNF South		HikeBike_North Boundary Trail Yellow Route	Create a Loop for North Boundary area in CNF - Camino Real District
CRD03	Camino Real District - CNF South		HikeBike_McGaffey Ridge Loop	Pot Creek Connector
CRD04	Camino Real District - CNF South		HikeBike_McGaffey Loop	McGaffey 440 Connector
CRD05	Camino Real District - CNF South		HikeBike_McGaffey Loop	Shoulder connector along 476
CRD06	Camino Real District - CNF South		HikeBike_McGaffey Loop	Connector between cattlguard on trail north toward Vallecitos

**Enchanted Circle Trail Plan
Groundtruthing Volunteers (5-6-16)**

CRD07	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_Ojitos connector	Ojitos southBoundary 64 connector
CRD08	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_South Boundary, Mondrago, Ojitos 660 Loop	Mondrago connector
CRD09	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_LRock Garden Road	Road 153, Trail 121, South Boundary Loop
CRD10	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_121Alt	Road 153, Trail 121, South Boundary Connector
CRD11	Camino Real District - CNF South	121 Alt	Road 153, Trail 121, South Boundary Loop
CRD12	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_153 shortcut	Road 153, Trail 121, South boundary Loops
CRD13	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_Quintana Pass	Road 153, Trail 121, South Boundary Trail Loops
CRD14	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_Trail 121 Loop	Road 153, Trail 121, South boundary Trail Loops
CRD15	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_Osha meadow Loop	Elliot Barker Loops extensions
CRD16	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_Apache Pass Extension	Elliot Barker Loops extensions
CRD17	Camino Real District - CNF South	70B Extension	Elliot Barker Loops
CRD18	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_Palo Flechado Pass Loop	Elliot Barker Loop Extensions
CRD19	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_Forest road 441, Bear Wallow Loop	Extension from Trail 18 to FR 441 for Loop
CRD20	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_ForestRoad441Bear Wallow Loop	Deer Park Extension
CRD21	Camino Real District - CNF South	HikeBike_437Bear Wallow Connector	Forest Road 441 and Bear Wallow trail Loop
RGN01	Rio Grande Corridor North	Rio Grande North Crossing	Hike and Bike
RGN02	Rio Grande Corridor North	East and West Rim connection	Hike and Bike
RGN06	Rio Grande Corridor North	Hike Bike	Connector in Questa
RGN07	Rio Grande Corridor North	Hike_Bike Fish hatchery Connector	Access from Fish hatchery
RGN08	Rio Grande Corridor North	Questa to visitor Center	Hike and Bike
RGN11	Rio Grande Corridor North	Questa to blm trails to wild rivers visitor Center	Hike and Bike
TOT01	Town of Taos	Bike_Lane to Rio Grande	Dedicated bike Lane from Olde Blinking Light to Rio Grande
TOT04	Town of Taos	Bike_BlueberryHill	Dedicated bike lane from old blinking light along bBlueberry Hill Rd into Town
TOT09	Town of Taos	HikeBike_ArroyoTrail	Connector to La Talpa Proposed Trail
TOT10	Town of Taos	HikeBike_ArroyoTrail	connector to La Talpa Proposed Trail
TOT11	Town of Taos	HikeBike_ArroyoTrail	connector to La Talpa Proposed Trail
TOT12	Town of Taos	HikeBike_EcoParkConnector	EcoPark connector to Arroyo Trail
TOT13	Town of Taos	HikeBike_Los Cordovas Eco Park connector	Arroyo Connector from Los Cordovas to EcoPark. Continues to La Talpa Propose
TOT14	Town of Taos	HikeBike_Los Cordovas Rio grande del Rancho Arroyo	Arroyo connecting Los Cordovas and Llan Quemado
TOT16	Town of Taos	HikeBike_Acequia Llano Quemado and Acequia de Avago la Loma	Acequia on Southside of Town connect to Enchanted Circle (518) and La Talpa tr
TOT18	Town of Taos	HikeBike_Acequia Madre del Prado	trail along acequia madre del prado
TOT19	Town of Taos	HikeBike_Rio Fernando de Taos Blueberry Hill to Fred Baca	Arroyo connecting Blueberry Hill Road to Fred Baca Park
TOT23	Town of Taos	Bike_Lane to Taos Ski Valley	Dedicated bike lane from old blinking light to Taos Ski Valley
TOT25	Town of Taos	HikeBike_Llano Quemado to Talp and USFS Aroyo	Arroyo connecting Llano Quemado to Tapla to USFS
TOT26	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Blueberry Hill Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT27	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Upper Ranchitos Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT28	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: la Morada Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT30	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Stiercoles Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT31	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT32	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT33	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT34	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Los Cordovas Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT35	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Los Cordovas Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT36	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Los Cordovas Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT37	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Rim View Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT38	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Rim View Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT39	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Las Tusas Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT40	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: State Hwy 68	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT41	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: State Hwy 585	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT42	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Espinoza Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT43	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Tafoya Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan

**Enchanted Circle Trail Plan
Groundtruthing Volunteers (5-6-16)**

TOT44	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Este Es Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT45	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Este Es Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT46	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Este Es Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT47	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Weimer Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT48	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Gusdorf Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT49	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Los Pandos Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT52	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Cuchilla Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT53	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Romero Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT54	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Cam del Medio	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT55	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Callejon	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT56	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT58	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: la Posta Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT59	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Cam de la Merced	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT60	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Paseo del Canon W	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT61	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Paseo del Canon W	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT62	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Paseo del Canon W	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT63	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Paseo del Canon W	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT64	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Paseo del Canon W	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT65	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Maestes Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT66	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Cruz Alta Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT67	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Cruz Alta Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT68	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Albright Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT69	Town of Taos	Bike Route: US Hwy 64	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT70	Town of Taos	Bike Route: US Hwy 64	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT71	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: US Hwy 64	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT72	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Upper Ranchitos Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT73	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Salazar Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT74	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Roy Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT75	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Espinoza Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT76	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Tafoya Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT77	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Este Es Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT78	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: Este Es Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT79	Town of Taos	Bike Route:	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT80	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Roy Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT81	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Morgan Rd	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT82	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: State Hwy 150	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT86	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: State Hwy 68	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT87	Town of Taos	Bike Lane: State Hwy 518	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TOT89	Town of Taos	Bike Route: Cam de la Placitas	Proposed Bike Rtes: Taos Bicycle Master Plan
TVO01	Taos Valley Overlook	Hike and Bike	Trail along 570 and Connection to County Road for Taos Loop
TVO02	Taos Valley Overlook	Bike	Safe Access along 68
TVO03	Taos Valley Overlook	Bike	Safe access along 68
TVO04	Taos Valley Overlook	HikeBike_Trail connection Staurolite Area and Miranda Canyon Acc	Access to Miranda Canyon
TVO06	Taos Valley Overlook	Hike_Bike_Connection to Lunds Prospect	Connection to Mine from Road
UMV01	Upper Moreno Valley	HikeBike_The Big Ditch	Upper Moreno Valley Portion of the Dig Ditch
URR01	Upper Red River	HikeBikeTrail1_UpperRedRiver	TrailExtension. Connect CabestroCanyonCreek Trail to Cabestro Road
URR04	Upper Red River	HikeBike_The Big Ditch	Big Ditch Trail
WM01	West Mesa Developments	Bike_Lane to Rio Grande	Dedicated bike Lane from Olde Blinking Light to Rio Grande

Meeting Summary

Enchanted Circle Conceptual Trail Plan

August 18, 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Council Chambers, Town Hall
400 Camino de la Placita, Taos, NM 87571

Meeting Goals

- (1) Review Headwaters survey results, vision and guiding principles
- (2) Introduce stakeholders to Trails Alliance and Rx trails effort
- (3) Review field verification results
- (4) Discuss trail criteria and begin determining how to prioritize trails

Participants

Amy Morris, The Trust for Public Land	Karlis Viceps
Andy Leonard, Upward Bound	Kip Price
Attila Bality, National Park Service	Kristina Ortez de Jones, Taos Land Trust
Becky Rob, Edward Jones Finance	Lara Miller, The Trust for Public Land
Brian Smith, Angel Fire Village Trails	Louis Fineberg, Town of Taos Planning
Carl Colonius, Trails Association	Matt Foster
Carolyn Smith, Angel Fire Village Trails	Nathan Sanchez, Taos County
Darien Fernandez, Town of Taos Council	Nina Anthony, Taos Land Trust
Duane DeRaad, Hot Yoga Taos	Pam MacArthur, Taos Saddle Club, SCHA
Fred Gifford, The Trust for Public Land	Paul Schilke, US Forest Service
Jake Caldwell, LOR Foundation	Peter Rich
Jenny Miranda	Rosezena Rothafel
John Miller, Town of Taos Planning	Steve Miranda
Johnny MacArthur, Back Country Horsemen	Teresa Pisaño, Taos Land Trust

1. Welcome

Kristina Ortez de Jones from Taos Land Trust welcomed participants and led introductions. Attendees shared their favorite trails.

2. Review of Trail Plan Vision and Guiding Principles

Amy briefly reviewed the updated versions of the trail plan vision, guiding principles, and objectives. These were revised by William McMullan, Barbara Dry, Mugzy (Jeff Mugleston), and the core team based on feedback at the last meeting.

Vision

Our vision is a vital and thriving Enchanted Circle region where an accessible and interconnected system of in-town and backcountry trails connects all residents and visitors to our unique landscapes, cultures, and recreational opportunities.

Guiding Principles

- Trails are central to improving quality of life in the Enchanted Circle Region.

- Trail planning should be an inclusive process; everyone should have opportunities to provide input and get involved.
- Trails provide opportunities to connect to the outdoors, to increase health and wellness, and use to active transportation.
- Trails for walking, cycling, and other forms of active transportation bring communities together by connecting neighborhoods, businesses, parks, and schools, and should be considered part of our overall transportation system.
- Trail planning and development should be done in collaboration with public agencies and private landowners and should be driven by community priorities.
- New trails should be designed to respect traditional agricultural use, cultural and historical places, sensitive habitats and wildlife, and conservation priorities.
- A coordinated, well-maintained, and well-marketed trail system can provide economic benefits to local communities by attracting tourists, businesses, and new residents.
- Stewardship of the trails system should be the shared responsibility of users, local communities, and land managers.

Objectives

- Develop a community-based trail plan that guides future trail development efforts and that facilitates cooperation among land managers, property owners, and diverse stakeholder groups.
- Engage diverse community involvement in planning for the development and maintenance of an interconnected trail system for the Enchanted Circle.
- Identify active transportation routes: in-town and backcountry trails that connect communities to each other and that provide access to unique local cultural, historical, natural, and recreational features.
- Identify new priority trails for a variety of user groups and skill levels, including trails that are accessible to all potential users including seniors, youth, and those with disabilities.
- Create an outreach strategy that promotes awareness of trails through publicly available maps and other marketing materials, and that establishes a trail “brand” to use on Enchanted Circle system trail signs and trailhead facilities.
- Identify local trail champions who will take on responsibility for developing and maintaining priority trails.
- Create guidance for developing trails, including a trail development checklist that includes all the steps necessary for local groups to champion trails from design and access rights to construction and maintenance.
- Engage community leaders and funders who can provide support, guidance, and resources for the long-term maintenance of public trails and pathways.

3. Review Headwaters Survey Results

Amy reviewed findings from a Headwaters Economics survey related to trails and community health in the Enchanted Circle area. There were 364 survey responses, which were weighted by age and ethnicity. Slightly over half of respondents were Hispano/Hispanic/Latino. Findings included that:

Trails are an essential part of daily life:

- Two out of three residents used trails in the last year;
- Residents use trails almost every day in the summer and almost every other day in the winter;
- More than half of residents’ weekly physical activity occurs on trails; and
- Three-quarters of residents support the development of an expanded and better connected trail system in the Enchanted Circle.

There are clear opportunities to increase trail use and satisfaction:

- There is a strong interest in separation of bikes and pedestrians from traffic. Half of residents say they would use trails more if **safety** features were implemented.
- There is a strong interest in **more trails in and around residential areas and improved accessibility**. One-third of residents say they would use trails more if they were closer to where they live.
- There is strong interest in **more broadly shared information** about trails. One-third of residents don't use trails because they are unsure where they are.

Key findings echoed in both Headwaters survey and the earlier Community survey for the Enchanted Circle Trail Plan and Taos County Community Conservation Plan include that:

- Dissatisfaction highest for road biking and paved path options (major concerns about safety);
- Desire for more accessible in-town trails; and
- Very broad support for trails.

4. Introduction to Trail Association

Carl Colonius introduced the group to the current plans for developing a local Trail Association to build support for local trails and to help implement the Trail Plan. The Trail Association would coordinate with local governments and land management agencies to promote trail use, development, and maintenance. It would be a forum for coordinating local user groups, non-profits, governments, agencies and other stakeholders in setting ongoing priorities and generating funding. The Trail Association would also build a pool of trail maintenance volunteers and promote education of and cooperation among user groups. Preliminary research reviewed 20+ other communities with successful trail systems and examined the governance structure, funding, membership, and relationships to agencies and user groups. Carl is proposing a single agency non-profit organization for the Enchanted Circle area. The organization would be contracted for services and could receive grants as well. First meeting to begin developing the Trails Association is Friday, August 26. Questions to Carl at ccolonius@gmail.com.

5. Introduction to Rx Trails Effort

Attila Bality from the National Park Service's (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program provided an overview of prescription parks and trails (ParksRx). One of the first prescription parks programs was in Albuquerque. Programs help doctors prescribe outdoor physical activity to patients. The NPS and Taos Land Trust are working on establishing a Parks and Trails Rx program for Taos in partnership with Holy Cross Hospital and other partners. See meeting slides attachment for ParksRx graphic. Questions to Attila attila_bality@nps.gov or Kristina kristina@taoslandtrust.org.

6. Field Verification Review

Amy thanked participants for the tremendous community effort that went into field verifying trail segments over the past few months. Currently there are 158 proposed segments. There were 128 field verification forms submitted for 104 segments. There were two raffle winners among the groundtruthing volunteers: Karlis Viceps (who turned in all his forms in May!) and Charles Clayton.

Of the segments that were field verified, 50 were verified by foot, 57 by bike, 50 by car, and 8 using Strava data (some were verified by a combination of these). Expected uses of the verified trails included walking/hiking (97), mountain biking (73), road biking (76), horseback riding (23), and ATV (11). The distribution of verified segments among trail system areas was uneven. Very few of the 22 segments proposed in the Camino Real District—Carson National Forest South were verified. There were no

segment groundtruthed in Eagle Nest, Taos Valley Overlook, Upper Moreno Valley, Upper Red River, or West Mesa Developments. (Though there is only one proposed trail in both the Upper Moreno Valley and West Mesa Developments.) Amy explained that segments that have not been verified can remain part of the overall list of potential trails, but cannot be prioritized. Field verification forms can still be submitted here <http://web.tplgis.org/taostrails/> under “Online Field Verification Form” until September 16, 2016.

On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest score, 30 segments received 5s, 33 received 4s, 47 received 3s, 13 received 2s, and 5 received 1s. The group was asked to describe the benefits and drawbacks of some of the highest and lowest rated segments. Brian Smith, Karlis Viceps, Matt Foster, Jennifer Miranda, and Kristina Ortez all discussed some of the segments that they groundtruthed. Benefits included location and accessibility and spectacular views. Drawbacks included major safety concerns.

Amy asked the group to vote on whether to remove segments rated as 1s and 2s from the prioritization process. Using key pads, 95% of participants agreed to set those segments aside during prioritization with the caveat that conditions and funding may change in the future and make those segments more desirable—especially if safety can be increased. Brian Smith brought up a concern about the need for coordination for effective implementation. Amy agreed that was critical and noted that implementation and coordination will be a major focus this fall. See attachments for full field verification report.

7. Trail Criteria Introduction and Discussion

Amy and Fred reviewed the proposed trail criteria for evaluating trails, and Fred demonstrated how we are using Strava data (a GPS-based phone app that tracks bike/run/hike routes). Strava data show how some active users are currently using trails. Fred mentioned that new research is looking at how to extrapolate from Strava data to larger community use. The proposed trail metrics introduced by Amy and Fred were:

- **Public preference** (priority connections, destinations, survey and open house, stakeholders)
- **Current use** as trail (Strava)
- **Proximity** to parks and schools and hospitals
- **Accessibility** (children, seniors, low income, total population within ½ mile)
- **Feasibility** (length, crossings, sensitive areas, # private parcels crossed, terrain roughness, slope) + trail viability rating from groundtruthing
- **User experience** – field verification scores
- **Community health benefits** – field verification scores, local health expert input

Participants were divided into three groups for discussions facilitated by Lara Miller, John Miller, and Kristina Ortez. Each group discussed ways to expand on currently proposed criteria and whether there are additional community priorities that should be developed into trail metrics. Each group included safety as a criteria component, and one group proposed incorporating a trail’s ability to increase safety as its own criteria. Results of these discussions are shown in Table 1. The highest priorities were accessibility and safety.

Table 1. Results of Trail Criteria Discussion and Prioritization

Criteria	Priority Votes	Areas of Concern
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Table 1. Results of Trail Criteria Discussion and Prioritization

Criteria	Priority Votes	Areas of Concern
Accessibility	15	Access to all trails; commuters; safety of connections; underserved communities; balance/spectrum of ease of use; signage; town/near town/mountains/wilderness; trailhead parking
Enhanced Safety	13	Pay attention to the current trails that are hazardous
User Experience	12	Need quality experience
Proximity to Parks, Schools, and Hospitals	11	Safety; proximity to hotels for tourism too; community significance - get hospital involved; walking and biking to school
Feasibility	11	Land management agency input/ownership/access; physical feasibility; maintenance vs. sustainability; opportunity + reality of funding; separate categories for in town use and near town; need money for easements; private lands a concern
Community Health	8	Combination of accessibility/proximity; safety; link neediest communities with trails
Public Preference	7	Support what is already there + link between town and adjacent trails; number of users, tourists vs. residents?
Current Use	1	Need to see where there are missing connections; look at return on investment for particular trails; improve existing trails; should not eliminate proposed trails just because they are not being used now

8. Wrap Up and Next Steps

Amy reviewed the project schedule and next steps (shown below). Amy and Kristina thanked everyone for coming and asked participants to fill out the forms listing their top five priority proposed trails before leaving. Those who were not able to attend the meeting can submit their top five priorities here <http://tinyurl.com/taostopfive> by September 16, 2016. Top five lists will be used as part of the “public preference” metric.

Trail Plan Schedule

- Outreach (speak-outs, survey) – Sept 2015 to Jan 2016
- Outreach (interviews, focus groups) – July 2015 and continuing
- Kick Off Meeting #1 – July 2015
- Trail Plan Meeting #2 – Identifying proposed trails, constraints – Sept 2015
- Trail Plan Meeting #3 – Trail workshop – Nov 2015
- Preparation of Draft Trail Maps – fall 2015 and continuing
- Trail Plan Meeting #4 - Groundtruthing training, identification of final proposed trails – April 2016
- Groundtruthing – April to July 2016
- **Trail Plan Meeting #5 – Reporting back from field verification, preliminary prioritization – August 2015**
- Trail Plan Open House – County Fair in August 2016
- Trail Plan Meeting #6 – Refinement of Trail Plan and implementation planning – October/November 2016
- Final Report and Messaging – late 2015/early 2016

Next Steps

- Submit any final field verification forms by September 16 here: <http://web.tplgis.org/taostrails/>

- Submit any final top five trail segment forms by September 16 here: <http://tinyurl.com/taostopfive>
- Technical Advisory Team (TAT) meetings in September and October
- Fred/Lara/The Trust for Public Land to finish trail revisions and proposed metrics (and review with TAT)
- Final Trail Plan meeting on Wednesday, November 9 to approve final trail plan and work on action planning
- The Trust for Public Land to finish the final report, action plan, and web tool in late 2016 and early 2017

Attachments

- Meeting presentation slides
- Field verification report

Enchanted Circle Trail Plan Field Verification Report (8/16/16)

There are 158 trail segments currently proposed. Core team members and community volunteers submitted 128 field verification forms (online and on paper). Twenty-four forms were submitted for the segments that were verified by more than one volunteer, so 104 unique trail segments have been groundtruthed. Six forms were submitted with unidentified segment IDs.

Field verification was conducted May through July 2016 by foot, bike, car, water, and desktop analysis. Often a combination of these approaches was used for a single segment. Table 1 shows the methods used for groundtruthing.

Foot	Bike	Car	Strava
50	57	50	8

Table 2 shows the breakdown of assessed segments by score. The most commonly assigned score was 3. Of the 128 forms submitted, 114 recommended their segments for inclusion in the trail plan (and 14 did not).

Score	Number
1	5
2	13
3	47
4	33
5	30

Table 3 shows the expected type of trail use for each field verified trail segment. Pedestrian use was the most common followed by road bike and mountain bike use.

Pedestrian	Mountain Bike	Road Bike	Equestrian	ATV
97	73	76	23	11

The majority of proposed segments are in the “Town of Taos and Surrounding Development” trail system area. Even taking this into account, the distribution of verified segments was very uneven. Table 4 shows the distribution of proposed and groundtruthed segments by trail system area. (* Means there were duplicates among verified segments.)

Table 4. Proposed and Field Verified Segments by Trail System Area

ID	Trail System Area Name	Proposed Segments	Groundtruthed Segments
AF	Angel Fire	21	29*
AH	Arroyo Hondo and Arroyo Seco	3	3*
CNFN	Carson National Forest North and Taos Ski Valley	6	6
CQ	Questa Cerro	3	1
CRD	Camino Real District – Carson National Forest South	22	4
EN	Eagle Nest	2	0
RGN	Rio Grande Corridor North	7	1
RGS	Rio Grande Corridor South	1	1
TOT	Town of Taos and Surrounding Development	77	77*
TVO	Taos Valley Overlook	9	0
UMV	Upper Moreno Valley	1	0
URR	Upper Red River	5	0
WM	West Mesa Developments	1	0

Table 5 shows the scores for the highest and lowest ranked segments (based on overall score). Segments with an overall score of 3 or 4 are not included in Table 5.

Table 5. Highest and Lowest Ranked Trail Segments

Name of Evaluator(s)	ID	Segment Description	Include?	Overall Score	Health/Equity	Viability	User Exp.	Trail Condition
Susie Soderquist	??		Yes	5	3	5	5	5
Jennifer Miranda	??		Yes	5	3	5	5	2
Kristina Ortez	TOT-#		Yes	5	5	5	4	4
Ben Thomas	TVO-#		Yes	5	4	5	5	5

Table 5. Highest and Lowest Ranked Trail Segments

Name of Evaluator(s)	ID	Segment Description	Include?	Overall Score	Health/Equity	Viability	User Exp.	Trail Condition
Brian T. Smith, Bill & Cheryl Mason	AF02	HikeBike_Trail2_AngelFire	Yes	5	3	4	5	4
Brian T. Smith	AF03	HikeBike_Trail3_AngelFire	Yes	5	4	4	4	5
Brian T. Smith	AF03	HikeBike_Trail3_AngelFire	Yes	5	4	4	4	5
Brian & Carolyn Smith, Bill & Cheryl Mason	AF19	HikeBike Brazos Drive Access	Yes	5	3	5	4	5
Brian and Carolyn Smith	AF20	HikeBike SouthBoundary and Elliot Barker Access from Brazos Road	Yes	5	3	5	5	4
Lara Miller	AF33		Yes	5	3	4	4	5
Karlis Viceps	AH23	Bike_Lane to Taos Ski Valley	Yes	5	4	5	5	3
Lara Miller	CNFN32		Yes	5	3	3	5	5
Lara Miller	CNFN33		Yes	5	3	3	5	5
Lara Miller	CQ03		Yes	5	3	3	5	5
Lara Miller	RGS08		Yes	5	3	3	5	5
Karlis Viceps	TOT29	Bike Lane: Millicent Rogers Rd	Yes	5	4	5	5	5
Foster	TOT41	Bike Lane: State Hwy 585	Yes	5	4	5	5	5
Jonathan Garcia	TOT41	Bike Lane: State Hwy 585	Yes	5	5	5	4	4
Cly (sp?) Dixon	TOT48	Bike Lane: Gusdorf Rd	Yes	5	5	4	4	4
Kristina Ortez	TOT77	Bike Lane: Este Es Rd	Yes	5	4	4	5	5
Kristina Ortez	TOT78	Bike Lane: Este Es Rd	Yes	5	4	4	5	5
Kristina Ortez	TOT80	Bike Route: Roy Rd	Yes	5	5	4	4	5
Kristina Ortez	TOT81	Bike Route: Morgan Rd	Yes	5	5	5	5	4
Karlis Viceps	TOT82		Yes	5	4	5	5	3
Joel Serra	TOT83	Bike Lane: US Hwy 64	Yes	5	5	2	5	2
Joel Serra	TOT88	Bike Route: US Hwy 64	Yes	5	5	4	3	4
Lara Miller	TOT93		Yes	5	5	5	3	3
Lara Miller	TOT94		Yes	5	5	4	3	3
Lara Miller	TOT95		Yes	5	5	4	3	3

Table 5. Highest and Lowest Ranked Trail Segments

Name of Evaluator(s)	ID	Segment Description	Include?	Overall Score	Health/Equity	Viability	User Exp.	Trail Condition
Lara Miller	TOT97		Yes	5	5	3	5	3
Lowest Ranked								
Brian T. Smith, Bill Mason	AF12	HikeBike Trail 7Angel Fire	No	2	3	1	3	2
Bill and Cheryl Mason	AF19	HikeBike Brazos Drive Access	No	2	2	2	2	2
Dixon and Anthony	TOT18	HikeBike_Acequia Madre del Prado	No	2	2	2	3	1
Foster	TOT28	Bike Lane: la Morada Rd	Yes	2	3	3	3	2
Foster	TOT30	Bike Lane: Stiercoles Rd	Yes	2	3	2	3	2
Foster	TOT40	Bike Lane: State Hwy 68	Yes	2	3	4	1	2
Esperanza Gonzales	TOT42	Bike Route: Espinoza Rd	No	2	4	4	2	1
Foster	TOT52	Bike Route: Cuchilla Rd	Yes	2	3	2	2	2
Peggy Nelson/Winston Montgomery	TOT56	Bike Lane: State Hwy 240	No	2	2	2	2	1
Foster	TOT58	Bike Lane: la Posta Rd	Yes	2	3	2	2	2
Peggy Nelson/Winston Montgomery	TOT58	Bike Lane: la Posta Rd	No	2	1	2	2	1
Esperanza Gonzales	TOT75	Bike Route: Espinoza Rd	No	2	3	1	3	1
Foster	TOT86	Bike Lane: State Hwy 68	Yes	2	3	5	2	1
Brian T. Smith	AF18	HikeBike Trail 6Angel Fire	No	1	4	1	4	3
Brian T. Smith and Bill Mason	AF29		No	1	1	1	1	1
Esperanza Gonzales (sp?)	TOT37	Bike Route: Rim View Rd	No	1	1	1	3	1
Esperanza Gonzales	TOT39	Bike Route: Las Tusas Rd	No	1	1	1	1	1
Zachary Benton	TOT55	Bike Lane: Callejon	No	1	2	1	3	1

Taos County Community Conservation Plan Enchanted Circle Trail Plan

November 15, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
The Mabel Dodge Luhan House
240 Morada Lane, Taos, NM 87571

Meeting Goals

- (1) Reach (near) consensus on final overall map for Community Conservation Plan
- (2) Discuss proposed Phase 1 priority trails for Trail Plan and recruit trail champions
- (3) Discuss and refine implementation plans for both the Community Conservation Plan and the Trail Plan
- (4) Celebrate all our work!

Participants

Adriana Blake, Enchanted Circle Trail Association
Adrienne Anderson, Village of Taos Ski Valley
Amy Morris, The Trust for Public Land
Andy Leonard, Upward Bound
Angela Bates
Attila Bality, National Park Service
Barbara Dry, Red River
Barry Weinstock, BLM
Ben Soderquist
Ben Thomas, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Beth Robinson
Bill Adkinson, Trout Unlimited
Caitlin Legere
Carl Colonius, Enchanted Circle Trail Association
Cindy Brown
Craig Saum, Carson National Forest
Chris Ellis
Darien Fernandez, Town of Taos Council
David West
Eddie Dry, Red River
Eric Garner, Carson National Forest
Fred Gifford, The Trust for Public Land
Gary Jones
Gillian Joyce, Rio Chiquito
Hal Margolis
Jean Stevens, Environmental Film Festival
Jeff Muggleston, Carson National Forest
Jim May
Joe Wells
Joe Riter
Joe Zupan
Joel Serra
John MacArthur, Taos Saddle Club
Karlis Viceps
Kerrie Pattison
Kip Price

Kristina Ortez de Jones, Taos Land Trust
Lara Miller, The Trust for Public Land
Linda Hodapp
Linda Yardley, Taos Land Trust, Taos Pueblo
Lindsay Mapes, Zia Rides
Loren Bell
Louis Fineberg, Town of Taos
Lynn Aldrich, Taos Land Trust
Mark White, Taos County Community Distillery
Martha Moran, Taos Saddle Club
Matt Foster
Meg Peterson
Michael Ritterhouse
Nancy Montoya
Nathan Sanchez, Taos County
Pam MacArthur, Taos Saddle Club
Paul Schilke, US Forest Service
Peter Rich, Carson National Forest
Polly Raye, RFNA
Randolph Pierce
Rich Montoya
Roger Pattison
Rudy Perea, Taos County
Sonny Robinson
Stephen Mabrey
Stephanie Schilling
Susan Margolis
Susie Fiore, Field Institute of Taos
Teresa Pisaño, Taos Land Trust
Tim Corner, Taos County
Tim Rivera
Tim Rogers, Santa Fe Conservation Trust
Tom Romero, NRG NHA
Vince Rozzi
Will Clem

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

Kristina Ortez de Jones from Taos Land Trust welcomed participants and thanked everyone for coming. She led introductions for the entire group, including asking for everyone's favorite place to spend time outdoors.

2. Review of Meeting Goals and Agenda

Amy Morris from The Trust for Public Land asked how many attendees had never come to a previous meeting for the Community Conservation Plan or the Trail Plan; approximately 1/3 of participants raised their hands. Amy provided a brief overview of the planning efforts for newcomers. The overall reasons for developing these two plans are to:

- Set priorities for trails and voluntary conservation in Taos County and the Enchanted Circle
- Tell the story of local conservation values based on local voices, perspectives, and knowledge
- Help protect unique local cultural heritage and natural and recreational resources
- Expand opportunities for locals and visitors to use trails for recreation, fitness, transportation, and connecting to the outdoors

The goals being mapped for the Community Conservation Plan are related to water, wildlife habitat, recreation access, and cultural/historical resources. During the trail planning, 158 trails were proposed. There is broad support for trails and a great deal of concern about lack of paved pathways and safe routes for road biking. Amy also reviewed the meeting goals (see above).

Here's where we are in the overall planning process:

1. Outreach (speak-outs, survey) – Sept 2015 to Jan 2016
2. Outreach (interviews, focus groups) – July 2015 and continuing
3. Kick Off Meeting #1 – July 2015
4. Trail Plan Meeting #2 – Sept 2015
5. Trail Plan Meeting #3, CCP Meeting #2 – Nov 2015
6. Trail Plan Meeting #4, CCP Meeting #3 – April 2016
7. Groundtruthing – April to July 2016
8. Trail Plan Meeting #5, CCP Meeting #4 – August 2016
9. Trail Plan Open House – August 2016
10. Preparing final maps, prioritizing trails
- 11. Final Meetings – November 2016**
12. Final Report, Web Tools, and Messaging – late 2016/early 2017
13. NEW: Finance workshop in Spring 2017

3. Community Outreach and What's Next

There has been enormous community engagement in these plans. Over 650 people participated in the online community survey; 736 people were contacted during speak outs and 300 participated in poster activities; and many other community members participated in focus groups, trail workshops, interviews, and field verifying proposed trails.

Kristina talked about the importance of these community plans in giving the land trust a blueprint for what's next. The plans will help Taos Land Trust work with the town and county and the Enchanted Circle Trail Association to be more pro-active. Kristina also introduced Carl Colonius from the Trail Association, and Carl

introduced two board members in attendance. The Trail Association will support implementation of the trail priorities, and will work with any and all champions to move forward.

The land trust is now working on a ParkRx program with local community health experts and practitioners. The land trust is also working on a plan for a community park (Rio Fernando Park) on 20 acres acquired by the land trust next to Fred Baca Park. The land includes habitat, wetlands, and irrigated acres for farming—but a lot of work needs to be done. The Rio Fernando Park will represent all the priorities that have come out of this community planning process. Kristina said that through future community-based efforts, we will “bring our river back to life.”

4. Review of Community Conservation Plan Goal Maps

Amy explained that one of the final steps in the Community Conservation Plan is creating a map that overlays all four goals to see where priorities are stacked—where conservation could meet the most goals simultaneously. Creating a priority map is important for targeting implementation and for building community support. Fred Gifford from The Trust for Public Land noted that the maps have been in development for the past year. The GIS team interpreted community input and worked to represent that input through creating GIS models using the best available data. The technical advisory team (TAT) has been deeply involved in helping to gather and interpret data. Lara Miller from the Trust for Public reviewed how criteria feed into how each goal is visualized. For protecting water quality and quantity, criteria include: protecting riparian areas, protecting erodible soils, reducing wildlife risk, and protecting wetlands, acequias, and headwater streams.

Next Lara described the potential scenarios for the overall map based on prior community feedback, including the community survey. The scenarios are: (1) Scenario 1: all four goals equally weighted; (2) Scenario 2: water quality/quantity weighted 40% and the other three goals each weighted 20%; and (3) Scenario 3: weights based on survey results: water quality 40%, cultural and historical resources (including agriculture) 33%, and access to recreation and protecting wildlife habitat each weighted 14%. (See attached scenario maps.) The main differences among the three versions of the overall map are how important the priorities are (red vs. orange). Areas that have already been protected either through conservation easements or public land are masked (see ownership legend on scenario maps). The Trust for Public Land recommended adopting Scenario 3 based on the community survey results and other community engagement. This scenario was the clear preference of attendees at the August 2016 Community Conservation Plan meeting.

Participants were given key pads to vote on overall scenarios. First participants did a practice vote in which 85% of attendees said they planned to go to the ski valley this winter. Lara and Fred asked attendees to vote yes or no to adopt Scenario 3. Only 52% of attendees voted to adopt it. Several participants asked for clarifications on the mapping approach. Then participants were given an up/down vote on Scenario 2 (water quality 40% and other goals 20%). This time, 56% of attendees voted to adopt. There was no vote on the equally weighted scenario (Scenario 1) because that scenario (equally weighted) was considered too artificial. Several participants, particularly those who had not been able to attend previous meetings, expressed some confusion about the goal weighting and what they were being asked to vote on. Other participants strongly suggested just using the weights from the survey feedback since hundreds of people contributed to those results. Since Scenario 3 was the consensus preference at the last community meeting and is based on the widest community input, Amy and Fred said that they would likely use Scenario 3 since that scenario is the most defensible.

5. Review of Preliminary Priority Trails

Amy noted that the 158 trails proposed by participants are far too many for the community to tackle. We need to strategize in order to put limited resources to the best use, focus public outreach, and have a relatively narrow target to build support. Fred described how most trails were identified through participants drawing on

maps of our 13 designated trail system areas (developed with input from community meetings and TAT). The trail TAT reviewed trails and over 120 trails were field verified by volunteers who analyzed trail corridors for constraints and opportunities and looked at potential safety issues, feasibility, and user experience (for example: Is there access to a particularly unique and beautiful view?). Fred noted that prioritization is critical because “if everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority.” Initial list of priority trails includes 31 in the top tier. There is a separate list for long road biking trails that includes 7 top tier routes. Road biking routes were treated separately because they are so long that they skew some of the metrics (listed below).

Trails were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Public preference** (overall score from field verification, stakeholder input)
- **Current use** as trail (Strava)
- **Proximity** to parks, schools, hospitals, libraries
- **Accessibility** (children, seniors, low income)
- **Feasibility** (length, stream crossings, # private parcels crossed, slope) + trail viability rating from groundtruthing
- **User experience** – field verification scores
- **Community health benefits** – field verification scores, local health expert input
- **Tourism** (new criteria)
- **Safety** (new criteria) – inconsistent data (traffic volume, speed, etc.) used as overlay information

Two new criteria were added since the August 2016 meeting: tourism and safety. The tourism metric is based on gross receipts tax and indicates where communities may benefit particularly from tourist use of trails (for example: Red River). The tourism metric helps trails outside the town of Taos rise in the priority rankings. Safety data are not consistently available across the study area, so this information will be part of the web tool, but not explicitly part of a metric used in prioritizing trails.

See meeting slides attachment for the lists of priority trails.

6. Action Planning

Participants received copies of the draft action plans for the Community Conservation Plan (based on writing exercise from August meeting) and the Trail Plan (based on recent online survey questions). (See attached drafts.) The group was divided into four small groups each of which worked with a facilitator (Kristina, Fred, Lara, and Amy) in a separate corner of the room. First, the groups were asked to brainstorm additions to the Community Conservation Plan action steps with a particular focus on implementation strategies outside of land acquisition (things that the larger community could participate in). Second, the groups were asked to discuss action steps for the Trail Plan with a focus on designating “trail champions” who will take the lead in getting priority trails implemented. The ideas and assignments generated by the small groups are listed below.

Community Conservation Plan: photo contest; use of plan by town and county planning departments (workshop); work with HOAs; school library presentations; one on one outreach to commissioners; work with VA association; site tours for priority areas to build community support; education (including about traditional uses) for general public, landowners, elected officials, tourists, kids; promoting the plan through signage and Taos.org; create programming around traditional uses, ParkRx, trash cleanup, River Keepers, nature interpretation, community farming, signage; need continued planning: firewise, ID development threats, county comprehensive plan, forest planning needs to take traditional uses into account; address fracking on BLM land; address dropping groundwater; make comments on Rio Grande National Monument Plan; highlight water and impacts; address farms that are not being farmed through providing wildlife tax benefits and designations instead; rezoning; bio blitz/Christmas bird count and educate about migratory birds (especially early May); organize volunteer days to work on restoration projects; host engaging events; create sense of place education—

promote connection with the natural world; work to address farm economy and markets; develop farm to flask program; create community gardens; partner with Audubon for fieldtrips; provide and promote public access; work with acequia easements; strengthen the Regional Water Plan; eat locally and support the food co-op.

Trail Plan Implementation Ideas: focus on bike commuting and sidewalks; environmental education; Youth Corps and service learning; work with scouting groups; work with local businesses on “adopt-a-trail” programs; need close coordination with all public agencies—including federal; make sure that towns and county play lead roles in implementation; utilize AmeriCorps/NCCC volunteers; work with the Pueblo; remove fence on Rubydoo Street; need to complete Adobe Street work to improve safety for youth and families; need to be cautious possible future conflicts between bike events and wildlife.

Trail Champions

The following community members volunteered to champion particular trails/trail segments at the November 15 meeting. We will continue to recruit additional champions. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps expressed interest in supporting trail development throughout the study area. Cat Legere, Matt Foster, and Adriana Blake also volunteered to champion trails. Participants noted that FIT Taos, the ski area, and Taos Ski Valley may also want to champion particular trails.

Volunteer	Trail
Joel Serra	68 to Old Blinking Light; Old Blinking Light to Seco
Louis Fineberg and Kristina Ortez de Jones	Town of Taos trails—beginning with Baca to Kit Carson
Eddie Dry and Ben Thomas	Middle Fork to Bavarian
Rich Montoya and Craig Saum	Talpa Traverse
Barbara Dry	Flagge Mountain
Chris Ellis	Area: Arroyo Hondo/Seco
Joe Riter	Salazar/Town of Taos/Ranchitos
Suzie Soderquist	Nequeia Trail
Mugzy (Jeff Muggleston)	Talpa Traverse and Bull of the Wools
Barbara Dry	Nature Trail and RR, Mid Fork Lake to Wheeler
Darian Fernandez	Kit Carson to Fred Baca Park
Karlis Viceps	Rio Fernando

7. Wrap Up and Closing

Kristina and Amy thanked everyone for coming—especially those who have contributed many, many hours to these plans over the past 18 months. There is a lot to celebrate, including:

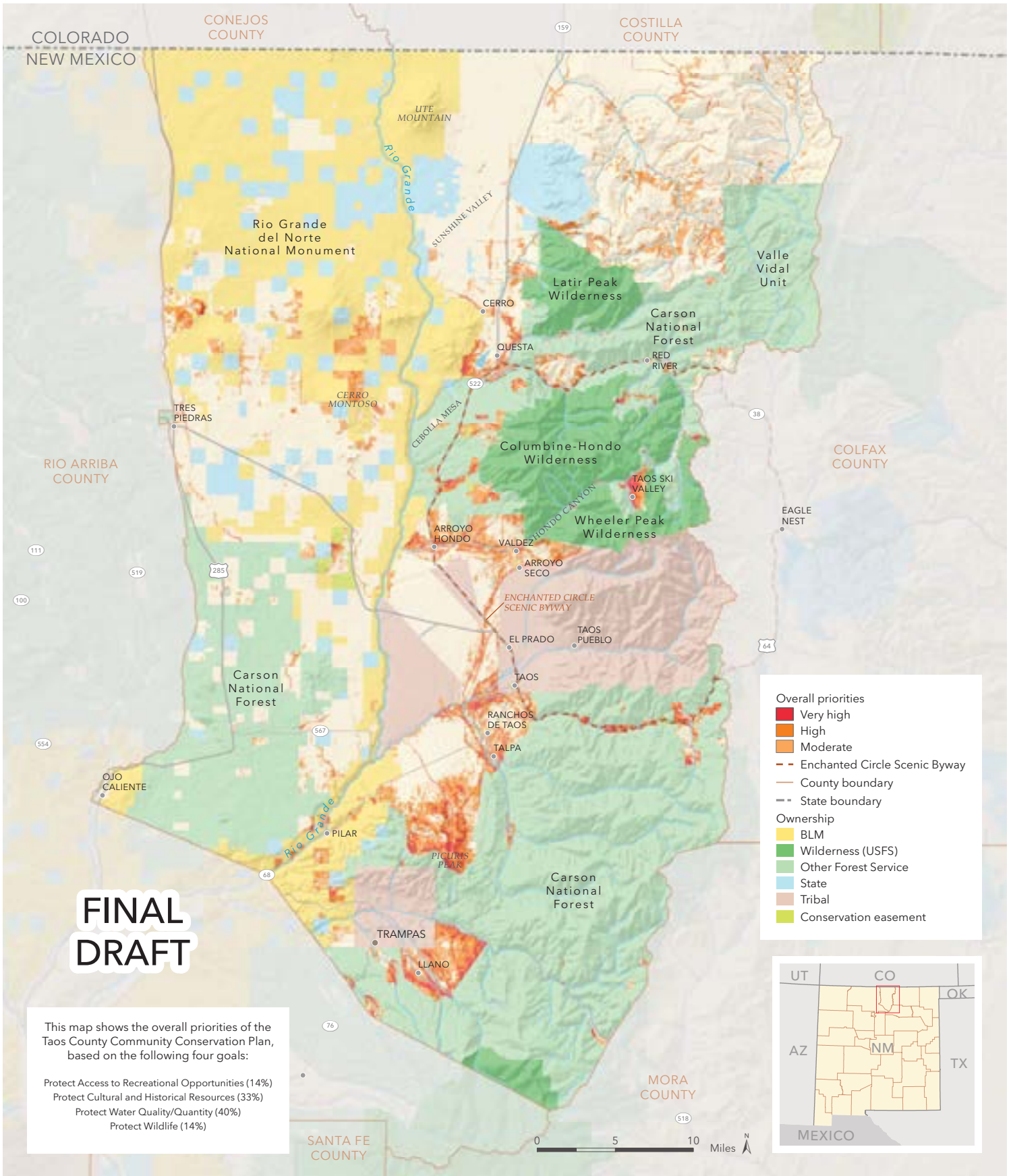
- Huge community involvement in both plans
- Major local support for protecting water and land and for expanding opportunities to access trails/pathways for health, transit, and connecting to the outdoors
- Taos Land Trust, Enchanted Circle Trails Association, and town and county governments are well-positioned to implement key parts of both plans.
- Momentum is building! There is a lot of opportunity to continue working with the land trust and trails association to: champion and build trails, develop Taos’s Parks and Trails Rx program, and create Rio Fernando Community Park.

8. Next Steps

- Core team and Enchanted Circle Trail Association to continue refining action plans; email amy.morris@tpl.org if you'd like to help with this.
- TPL to write draft report for Taos County Community Conservation Plan
- TPL to write draft report for Enchanted Circle Trail Plan
- TPL to create web tools for the Community Conservation Plan and the Trail Plan. Trail Plan web tool will be available to the public.
- Core team to launch reports and tools and generate support for the plans.
- Core team to work to have the plans adopted by the county and towns.
- Participants can stay involved by volunteering with the Taos Land Trust or the Enchanted Circle Trail Association.

9. Attachments

- Scenario maps
- Action plan drafts
- Meeting slides



**FINAL
DRAFT**

This map shows the overall priorities of the Taos County Community Conservation Plan, based on the following four goals:

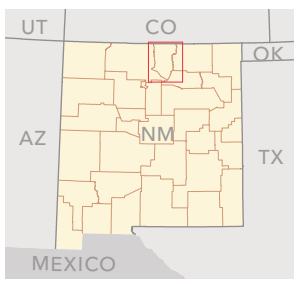
- Protect Access to Recreational Opportunities (14%)
- Protect Cultural and Historical Resources (33%)
- Protect Water Quality/Quantity (40%)
- Protect Wildlife (14%)

Overall priorities

- Very high
- High
- Moderate
- Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway
- County boundary
- State boundary

Ownership

- BLM
- Wilderness (USFS)
- Other Forest Service
- State
- Tribal
- Conservation easement

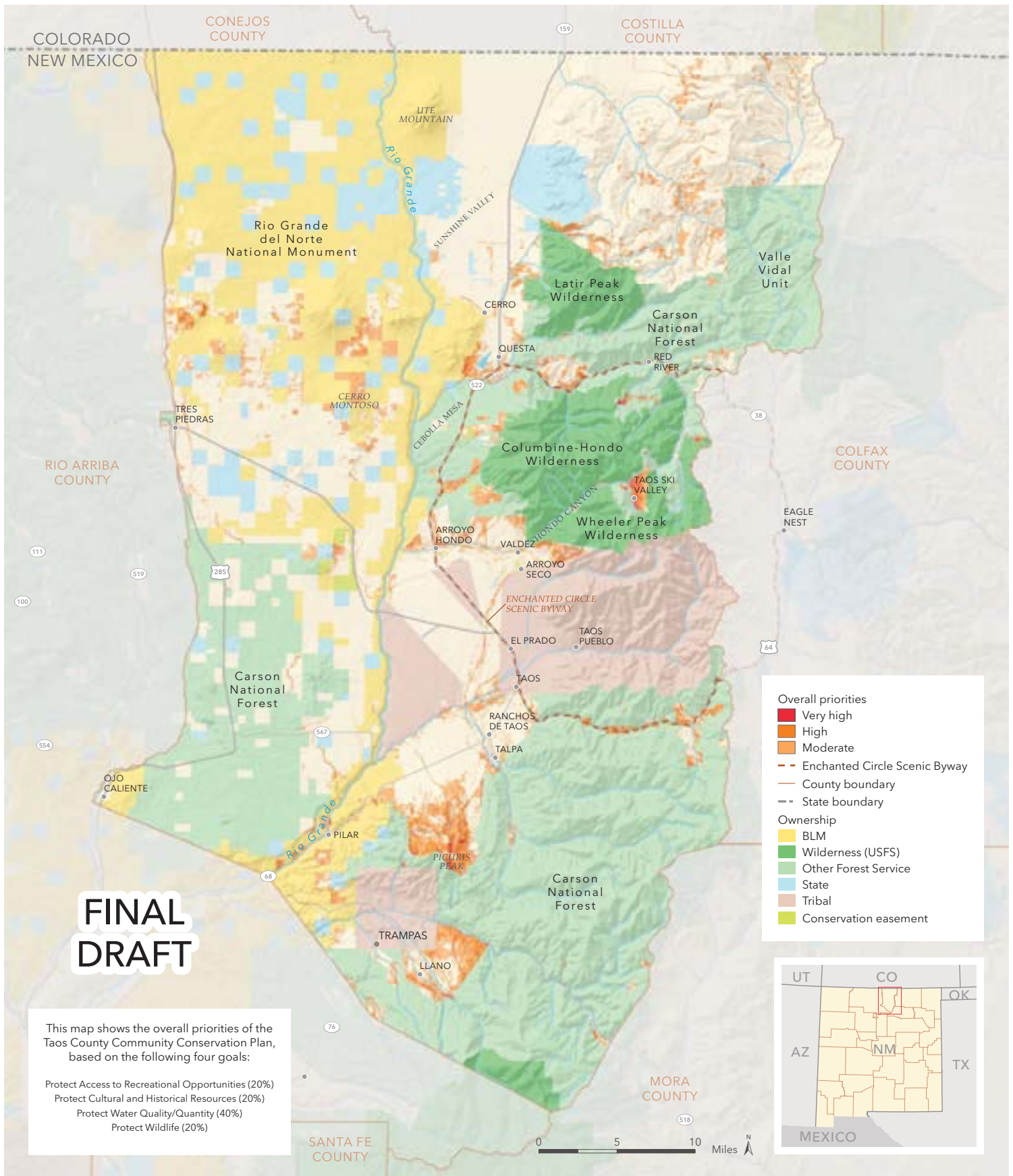


Overall Priorities

TAOS COUNTY COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN

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**FINAL
DRAFT**

This map shows the overall priorities of the Taos County Community Conservation Plan, based on the following four goals:

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- Protect Cultural and Historical Resources (20%)
- Protect Water Quality/Quantity (40%)
- Protect Wildlife (20%)

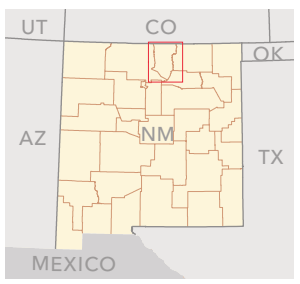
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 --- County boundary
 --- State boundary

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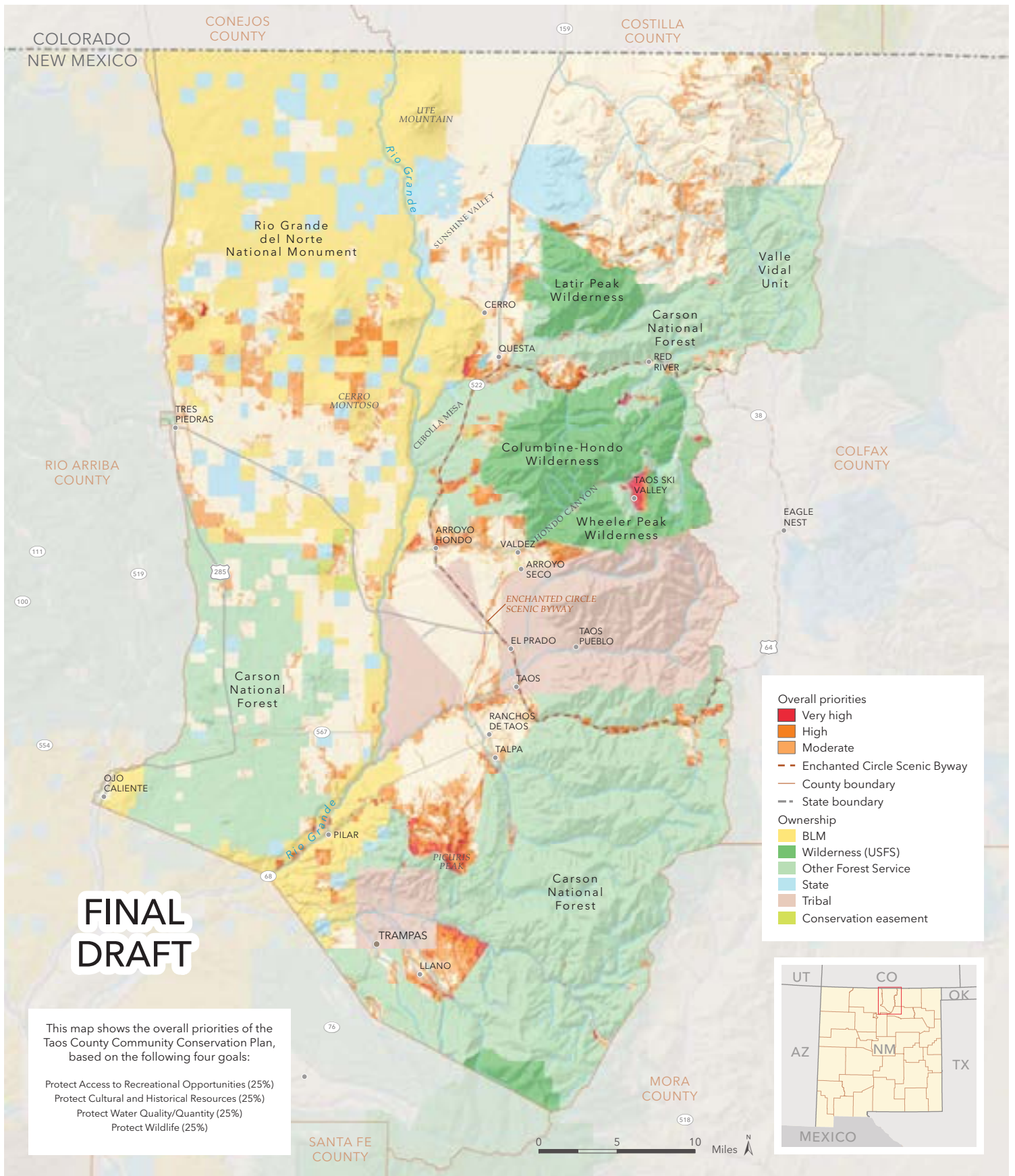


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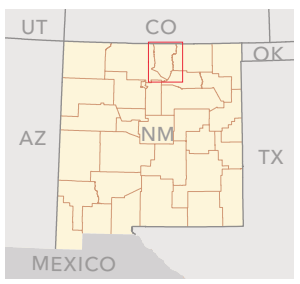
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Overall Priorities

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Taos County Community Conservation Plan: Action Plan Summary

What and How	Who
A. Protect highest priority local lands and resources	
A.1 Create maps of the high-priority areas for conservation based on best scientific data and community input (+ web tool for partners) → Maps and web tool should be used in strategic planning by Taos Land Trust and local governments—identify new voluntary conservation opportunities → Prioritize acquisition where development pressure is strongest → Coordinate closely with Taos County Comprehensive Plan → Create brochure and report	The Trust for Public Land and core team
A.2 Explore non-acquisition strategies for protecting land and promoting community health → Use plan as a starting point to work with landowners and land managers on best management practices → Use plan to discourage developers from developing priority lands → Promote Low Impact Development (LID) in areas where development is appropriate → Develop Rio Fernando Park as example of the power of community conservation → Develop parks Rx program	Taos Land Trust, Amigos Bravos, Soil and Water Conservation District, Town of Taos, County
A.3 Promote policies that will help protect priority lands, including traditional working lands → Work with local and regional groups to advocate for strong local water rights for traditional agriculture and acequia systems → Advocate for agricultural designation of all farmland → Promote additional tax incentive policies to protect traditional agricultural lands	Taos Land Trust, Agriculture Resolution Team (new name)
A.4 Develop education programs to promote appreciation and stewardship of close-to-home nature → Work to connect all locals to the outdoors; focus outreach on Hispano and Pueblo communities → Develop signage about good stewardship in outdoor areas that people are already visiting → Develop an outreach program to discourage illegal dumping in open space areas → Assemble materials and train volunteers to do outreach at local schools—include training for conducting interviews with elders	

What and How	Who
<p>A.5 Incorporate Community Conservation Plan into town and county plans → Coordinate closely with Taos County Comprehensive plan update → Create targeted materials and outreach for elected officials</p>	<p>Town and County staff and elected officials</p>
B. Develop a strong communications strategy for the Community Conservation Plan	
<p>B. 1. Build a communications strategy and outreach plan to showcase the benefits of the Community Conservation Plan. → Communications plan should include: website, social media, newspaper, radio, and public open houses for diverse audiences. → Information should be distributed in Spanish as well as English. → Target key partners such as landowners and developers with strategic communications</p>	<p>Core team (with help from UNM communications students?)</p>
<p>B.2. Select, engage, and train champions to drive policy and objectives of the Conservation Plan. In addition to core team, potential champions include: → Rocky Mountain Youth Corps → Local NGOs and civic groups → Hiking clubs → Chamber of Commerce → Soil and Water Conservation District → UNM</p>	<p>The Trust for Public Land, Taos Land Trust</p>
C. Develop a long-term strategy for using, updating, and adapting the Community Conservation Plan	
<p>C.1 Coordinate Conservation Plan updates → Determine where the online interactive version of the Conservation Plan will be housed in the long term → Create a mechanism through which the Conservation Plan and its corresponding communications strategy can be updated; ensure that updates happen annually (or more often) → Ensure that information about data sources is thorough and easily available in order to facilitate updates</p>	<p>The Trust for Public Land, Taos Land Trust</p>
<p>C.2 Evaluate the Conservation Plan annually, including 12 months after implementation for 5-10 years</p>	<p>The Trust for Public Land, Taos Land Trust</p>
<p>C.3 Convene core team twice per year to assess progress and adapt to changes as necessary</p>	<p>The Trust for Public Land, Taos Land Trust, County of Taos</p>
D. Identify and pursue traditional and non-traditional funding sources or actions to implement the Conservation Plan	

What and How	Who
D.1 Use Conservation Finance report from The Trust for Public Land as a starting point for assessing funding options → Coordinate with local and federal agencies to seek grant funding	
D.2. Identify potential incentives to assist landowners with voluntary conservation	Core team, local governments, land trusts, NRCS
D.3 Work with local groups to develop a local ballot initiative that would support conservation and trails → Convene conservation finance workshop for core team and stakeholders → Conduct additional polling to gauge support and/or possible ballot language	

DRAFT

Enchanted Circle Trail Plan—Implementation Planning

1. What group or groups will be best able to lead the implementation of the trail plan?

- contractors and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
- Taos Land Trust, US Forest Service, BLM, City and County of Taos
- Good question, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Forest Service, BLM, Taos County,
- Town of Taos, NM DOT, interested local clubs and groups.
- Trust for Public Lands, US Forest Service, Taos Land Trust, BLM
- Grassroots groups with support from municipalities and agencies
- Enchanted Trail Advisory Committee and Board of Directors
- Taos Land Trust; Community Foundation; and is there an organized group promoting bike paths?

2. What is necessary to ensure that there is a strong communications and outreach strategy for the trail plan?

- Buy in from community and funding
- A central organization that coordinates emails, newspaper releases, etc.
- A spearhead and good funding source.
- good website, Facebook presence, continued e-mail network
- professional maps, a good web presence, local school outreach, maybe utilize an SCA conservation intern model to provide staffing, community presence at functions,
- Money
- It would help to have a map of the proposed trails . . . a nice big drawing so people can place the trails and surrounding terrain in their visual memories. So many of us in Taos are visual. Then perhaps a one-full-page article in the Taos News with the image of the trails and a simple outline of the advantages of it and reasons for it . . . not too much description, just key points to remember.

3. How can we ensure that the plan is useful to (and will be used by) local jurisdictions and public agencies?

- Broken out by land ownership
- Educate lawmakers (city and county) and heads of agencies (USFS, BLM, etc)
- They are going to know who is picking up the cost. If we can't answer that they will not really listen.
- involve all sectors of the community
- ask, talk, listen, communicate, provide feedback,
- That it is in-line with the local agency's plan, whoever that is.
- How do we want them to use it? Are you asking about how to get it implemented?
- If so there needs to be a core group of interested citizens that develops an implementation plan (including maps; meetings with neighborhood associations to hear their concerns and get their support,; proposals for funding purchases of rights of way if that is necessary; proposals for getting the support of those whose land is affected; trail builders, etc.). Public support for the plan will need to be demonstrated to Town and County governments through petitions, a big event, letters from neighborhood associations, letters from individuals

4. Are there local individuals or groups who are likely to champion particular trails?

- Del Norte Mountain Bike Assoc.
- The mountain biking community, hikers, fitness enthusiasts
- Yes, trail users and volunteers.
- bicycle riding groups, horseback trail riding group, hiking groups, birdwatcher groups
- FNA, DNMA - Talpa Traverse
- Absolutely, however they are restricted by resources like us all.

→ Impacted neighbors and neighborhood associations; parents and families (trails that allow children to ride bikes to school); bike-trail-supporters.

5. How can we overcome funding constraints to implementing the trail plan?

- Seek outside funding
- Get a grant writer who is familiar with rural development grants, Safe Routes to Schools, Bike Friendly Community funds, etc. (I've given Carl Colonius the name of a woman I know in Alaska who has been very successful in this work.) Have a team of "lobbyists" working with the Town and County commissions.
- Grants from Federal Transportation funding, NM Tourism/parks dept and private and corporate sources.
- grants - corporate, government, private foundations
- Volunteers need to show up!
- Grants and community money that is set aside for these projects.
- First define them

6. How can we overcome coordination challenges and make sure the trail plan is implemented?

- Organize plan by land ownership - agency jurisdiction so they can determine how their objectives match
- Have one central agency responsible ... maybe Taos Land Trust?
- Government officials need to be given a solid reason to make this a priority.
- have a strong organization and be willing to compromise
- Prioritize, create five-year priority plans
- Having a huge volunteer group and or advocates that are willing to help with the muscle.
- Identify those most passionate about the plan and organize them into the Core Implementation Group. Be sure it includes parents who want safe bike routes to school; bike riders; "walkers".

7. How can we best approach private landowners about potential trail easements on their property?

- Education about the value of trails ... economics, health, property values, etc.
- As good neighbors, if we can find people who know these land owners that would be a good start.
- property tax relief via transfer to public land trust
- for every easement or controversial trail that is won, demonstrate a commitment to managing each of those relationships successfully with integrity.
- Personally and in person. Education is huge in having the private party agree.
- Start with the neighborhood associations and help them identify the best routes through their neighborhoods.

8. What other steps will be most important in ensuring that the trail plan is successfully implemented? (Where possible, please identify who/what/when/where/how.)

- Start small with easily funded projects to build success and momentum.
- Carl Colonius to spearhead, the plan is rather diverse so it will require a team to work with Land Managers, Government agencies, etc. a grant writer, community volunteers, and time.
- support from all county and municipal governments
- Let the experts make room to lead and listen and learn collaboratively. Leadership is good but lets be open to new ideas. Safety first, wear the PPE, think before we act and speak, etc.
- Needs clear strong leadership, one or two key leaders and a core group, and a time line.