



2024 CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION ANNUAL REPORT



About the Annual Report

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) connects landscapes, communities, and cultures, offering a place for all people to come together and discuss how to care for the important natural, cultural, and historic resources along the trail. With this report, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition hopes to showcase the impact of the cooperative stewardship of the CDT, what we accomplished in 2024, and what we are looking forward to in 2025.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear CDTC Supporters,

We are proud to share the 2024 Annual Report with you and showcase the work you made possible through your continued support and engagement in our work! As so many of you know, we see the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) as a connector of communities, cultures, and landscapes that span 3,100 miles along the Continental Divide. For many, the Continental Divide is part of their spiritual connection to the land, and it is known as a place where life emerges. These connections inform our work and strengthen our commitment to ensuring the CDT remains an icon of the American West. We hope the CDT continues to provide everyone the opportunity for inspiration, play, and to experience the world around us, positively affecting our hearts, bodies, minds, and souls. Looking back at 2024, we wish to share a snapshot of the amazing work that demonstrates our commitment to elevating the stories of people and their connections to this landscape and trail. We hope this inspires your continued investment in our work, inspires your own deepening love of the CDT, and inspires you to help us accomplish even more great work in 2025 and beyond!

2025-2029 CDTC Strategic Vision

CDTC finalized our 2025-2029 Strategic Vision and created a framework that will guide our work to learn from the land and its spirit. While we released the finalized Strategic Vision in early 2025, the work we did to get there helped all of us build a greater understanding amongst all those who are connected to, and love, the CDT and its surrounding landscapes.

Maintaining our Foundations

CDTC continued to deepen our shared stewardship efforts with federal land management agencies in the cooperative stewardship of the CDT. In 2024, of the \$1.59 million allocated by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for CDT work, CDTC and partners received \$335,000—\$295,000 of which came directly to CDTC. We leveraged this into an additional \$1.44 million, plus 17,305 volunteer hours (valued at \$580,000), bringing total support to nearly \$2 million. That's a 7:1 return on investment for every federal dollar invested. Thank you for helping us showcase the strength of the shared stewardship partnership supporting the CDT!

Preparing for the Trail Ahead

The Continental Divide remains a place of unbridled adventure and demands constant adaptability

and perseverance. We are humbled by all the collaborations, new and long-standing, that have produced new trail miles, new approaches to trail gaps, invitations for new volunteers and stewards, and all the amazing work completed along the CDT in 2024. It truly felt like the CDTC and all of our partners, friends, and supporters began to thrive in 2024, and in our shared stewardship, our accomplishments are worth celebrating! We wish to thank everyone who continues to support our work and helps us achieve our big dreams and visions for the CDT. We are constantly reminded of what our community is capable of and we couldn't be more excited for the years to come. On behalf of the CDTC Board of Directors, and CDTC's amazing team, we once again thank you for all of your investments in our work, whether through sweat equity or your financial contributions, and for trusting us to accomplish the work we do.



Teresa Ana Martinez
Executive Director
Continental Divide Trail Coalition

THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL

Designated by Congress as a National Scenic Trail in 1978, the CDT follows the Continental Divide for 3,100 miles through New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. The CDT traverses nationally significant scenic terrain and areas rich in the heritage and life of the Rocky Mountain West. Traveling through the biodiverse landscapes and unique communities located along America’s backbone, the CDT provides opportunities for both solitude and community, challenge and respite, and a step into both the past and the future of the West.

Holistic Benefits of the CDT



Connection & Community Identity



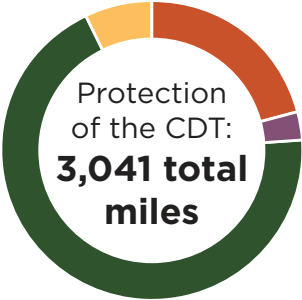
Sustainable Rural Economic Development



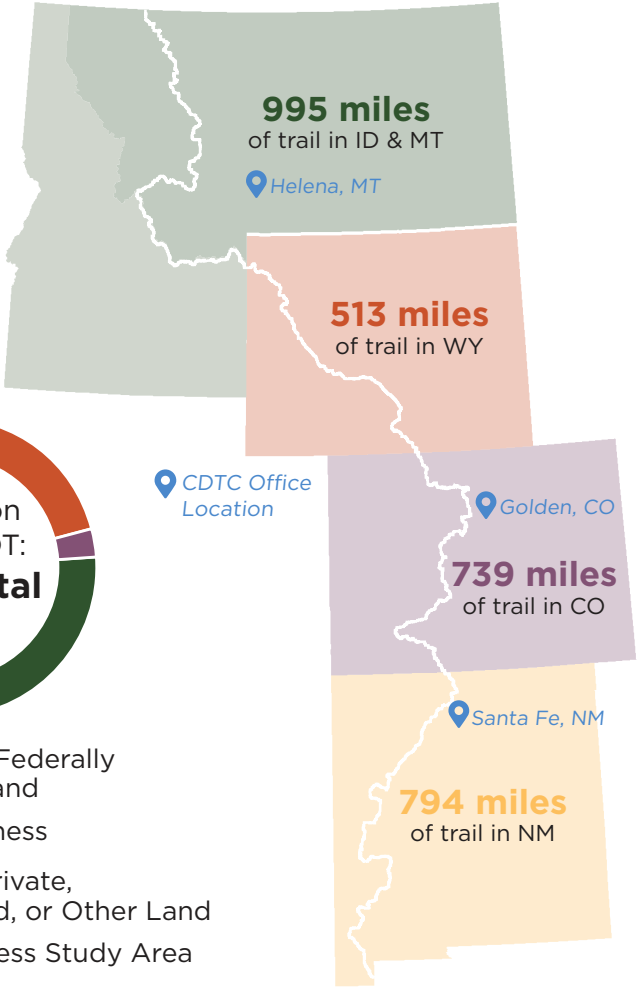
Public Health



Access to Public Lands



- 69% Other Federally Managed Land
- 21% Wilderness
- 7% State, Private, Unprotected, or Other Land
- 3% Wilderness Study Area



2025 - 2029 STRATEGIC VISION

2024 was a transformative year as we finalized and released our updated 2025-2029 Strategic Vision for the Continental Divide Trail Coalition’s “Next Decade of Stewardship.”

Our Vision

A completed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail establishes a fully protected corridor that ignites love and passion for the breathtaking landscapes of the Continental Divide and unites people from all cultures, communities, and trail experiences.

Our Mission

CDTC’s mission is to complete, protect, and elevate the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail while engaging in and inspiring stewardship of the trail and its surrounding landscapes.

A Commitment to Trail Completion & Connection

CDTC remains committed to CDT completion as our highest priority. We also commit to trail connectivity as a means of realizing the potential of the trail as a connector of landscapes, cultures, and communities along its path from Mexico to Canada. CDTC will prioritize trail completion and trail connection in our work.

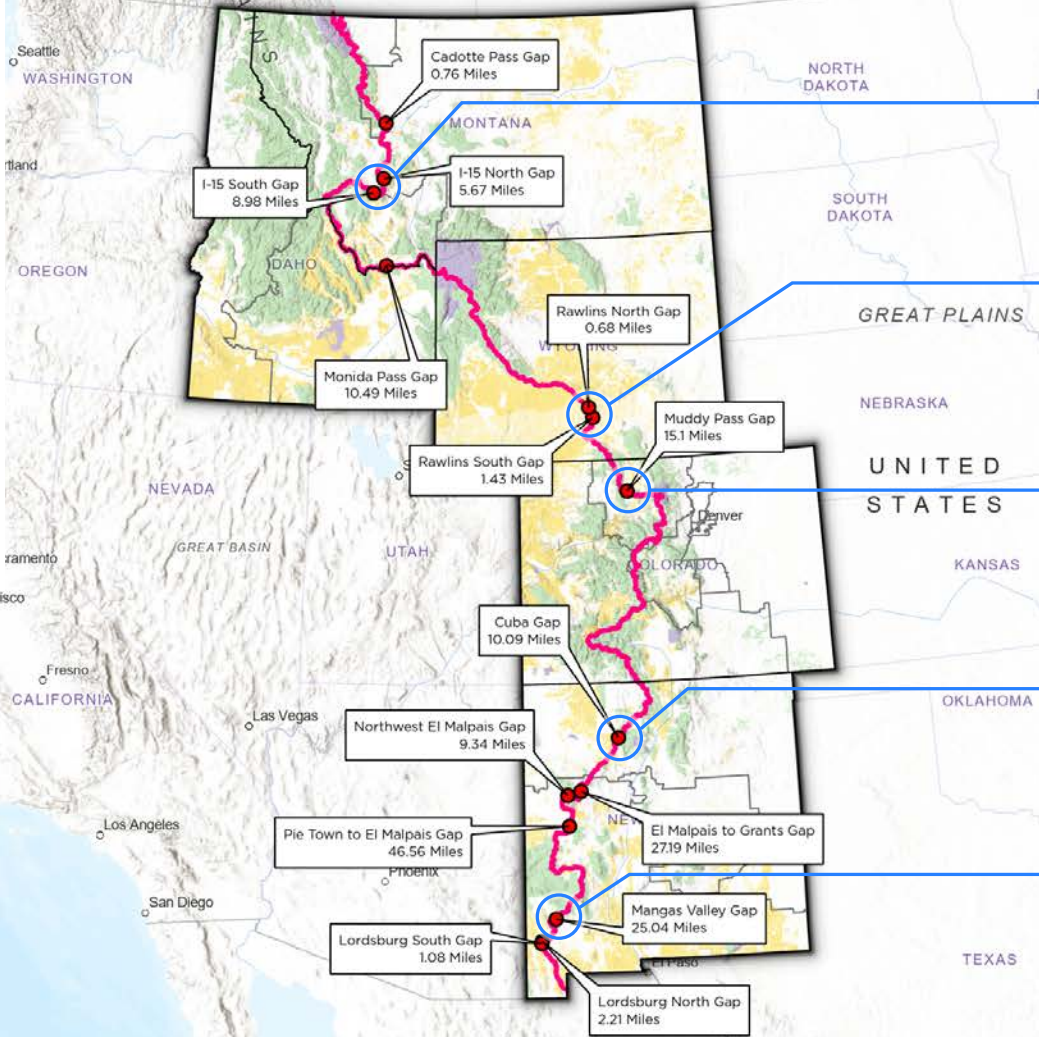
CDTC’s Organizational Pillars

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition is grounded in four organizational pillars to generate a broader culture of stewardship and belonging within and amongst the trail community. The pillars are:

-  Stewardship of the CDT
-  Trail Information, Education, & Awareness
-  Building an Engaged Trail Community
-  Organizational Governance

TRAIL COMPLETION & CONNECTIVITY

Now is the time to complete the CDT. Over the past four decades, federal agencies, nonprofit partners, volunteers, and other members of the trail community have diligently worked to complete the CDT. Currently, there are more than 160 miles of the CDT where those seeking a continuous footpath are diverted onto busy roadways and highways, making for a journey that is not only less safe, but not aligned with the characteristics for which the trail was designated.



I-15 North & South Gaps (14.7 miles)

North and south of Butte, Montana, the CDT crosses Interstate 15. A parcel ownership analysis and Optimal Location Review completed by CDTC in partnership with local agency staff have provided promising routes for relocating this portion of the CDT off of busy roadways and private lands.

Rawlins North & South Gaps (3.6 miles)

The section of the CDT through Rawlins, Wyoming is unique, following sidewalks through the downtown area and passing a BLM office, where hikers are welcomed with water. North and south of Rawlins, the CDT traverses easements through private lands, busy highways, and motorized routes. The area surrounding Rawlins epitomizes a checkerboarded land ownership pattern, creating challenges for CDT completion.

Muddy Pass Gap (15.1 miles)

The Muddy Pass Gap is the last remaining CDT Gap in the state of Colorado. The Muddy Pass Gap Working Group works with landowners and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to ensure that each stakeholder's concerns are addressed, including preserving sensitive wildlife areas and easing land management in areas with checkerboarded ownership patterns.

Cuba Gap (10.1 miles)

The Cuba Gap Working Group used the CDT Optimal Location Review process to identify a route that will close the Cuba Gap. In 2023, the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps constructed four miles of the reroute. Planning for the remainder of the trail realignment will begin in 2025, funded by USFS Trails Capital Improvement and Maintenance Funding.

Mangas Valley Gap (25.0 miles)

The Mangas Valley Gap includes an unsafe 14-mile road walk along U.S. Highway 180. Significant progress has been made to close the gap, through construction of a trail on USFS land, creation of a multi-use connector trail from Silver City, and securing a right-of-way by the BLM across New Mexico state lands. CDTC and partners continue to collaborate with a key private landowner to find a solution that is compatible with their business and management goals.

The CDT Completion Act

- 1 Directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to create The Trail Completion Team to prioritize completion of the CDT by the trail's 50th anniversary in 2028. The Team will be made up of USFS and BLM staff, in coordination with the CDT Administrator, to maximize conservation and enjoyment of the Trail corridor.
- 2 Recognizes the value of cooperative stewardship between federal land managers, states, Tribal governments, towns, Indigenous communities, volunteers, and others in building and managing the trail.
- 3 Explicitly states that eminent domain will not be used to complete the CDT.



Sign-up for Advocacy Alerts
to learn the latest on the CDT Completion Act and how you can help!



COOPERATIVE STEWARDSHIP

2024 Partnership Accomplishments

The CDT has thrived with almost 45 years of stewardship administered by the U.S. Forest Service and partners, including a decade of partnership with CDTC. Of lands managed by federal agencies, the CDT travels through 20 National Forests, 4 National Park Units, and 13 Bureau of Land Management Resource Areas. CDTC works with agencies and other partners to build on successes of this shared stewardship model across all the lands and waters the CDT traverses.



National Park Service

The Green Mountain Trail reroute project, part of the 6-mile CDT connection through Rocky Mountain National Park, now nears completion.



CDTC and NPS staff celebrate National Public Lands Day with volunteers working on the Green Mountain Trail project.

Glacier National Park Permit Office served as the northernmost distribution center for CDTC's new hiker hang tag program, which promotes Leave No Trace practices and collects important trail-use information.



U.S. Forest Service

CDTC and US Forest Service collaborated to provide Trail Adopter and General Maintenance Training in the White River National Forest with Friends of the Dillon Ranger District.

CDTC worked with Pike-San Isabel National Forest, the Salida Ranger District, and numerous partners to support a successful reroute process of the Monarch Mountain Crest Trail.



Bureau of Land Management

CDTC and partners continue efforts to address the 14-mile CDT gap near Muddy Pass, including an EcoFlight tour for stakeholders and meetings with BLM leadership to advance collaboration.

CDTC continues to collaborate with the Pueblo of Acoma and the Bureau of Land Management on the Acoma Exchange, which will help complete the El Malpais CDT gap.

IN 2024...

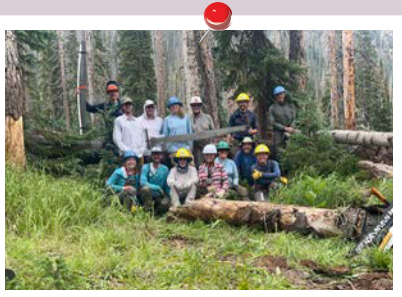
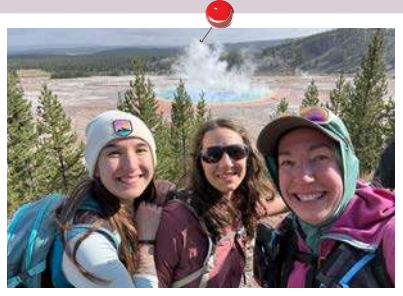
211 of 611
through-hikers that
registered their hike with
CDTC started their journey
in Glacier National Park

Over 250
hiker hang tags were
distributed in Glacier
National Park

259
GNP permits were
issued to CDT hikers

VOLUNTEER & FIELD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With a growing trail community, including 21 CDT Gateway Communities and over 70,000 supporters, CDTC supports protection of, connection to, and access for Continental Divide landscapes, preserving a way of life for the communities, wildlife, and plants that call the Rocky Mountain West home. CDTC is committed to ensuring communities and individuals are a central part of the work to protect and maintain the CDT, and we consistently provide education and skills-based training to hundreds of individuals along the trail each year. We are immensely grateful and thank our volunteers for all you do on behalf of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.



Return on Investment

>22,490
Volunteer Hours
in 2024

\$753K
Volunteer Hours Value
in 2024

6.7 : 1
Match total Federal Allocation
by CDTC & partners in 2024

2024 Cooperative Stewardship by the Numbers

6,000 Total Hours of Volunteer Stewardship Valued at \$200,940	34 Drains Installed (including one 60 foot French drain)
102 Signs, Markers, or Cairns Placed	33,301 Feet of Tread Maintained
3,800 Pounds of Rock Removed	1,425 Downed Trees Removed
2 Double Stringer Bridges Installed	71,000 Feet Scouted

Trail Adopter Highlights

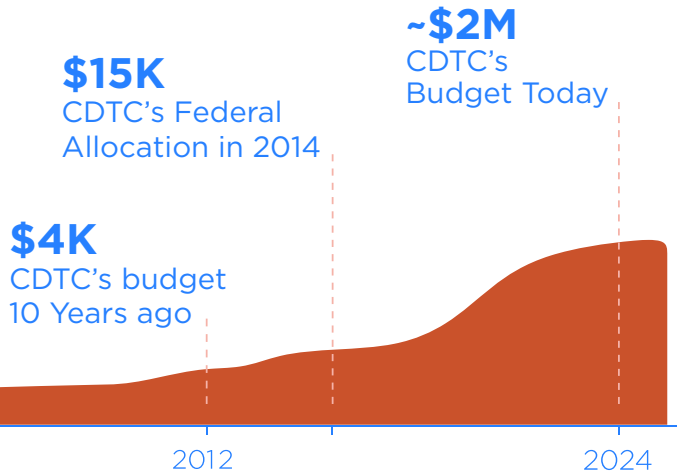
 338 Trail adopters 11 new in 2024!	 272 Miles of adopted trail work in 2024	 1,552 Hours of adopter work in 2024 valued at \$51,976
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2024 Adopter Trainings

- Helena**
Montana
- Breckenridge**
Colorado
- Silver City**
New Mexico

Budget Growth

In 12 years, CDTC and partners have grown to match **1 to 1 in CASH** the entire USFS allocation to the CDT.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Butte, MT
Community members gathered for the 8th annual Pete Sorini Day community stewardship project, with this year's focus being logging out trees from the CDT.

Lincoln, MT
CDT Gateway Community Ambassadors hosted a new hike series with the local school's outdoors club. Students learned about the flora, fauna, and natural history of their area during guided interpretive hikes.



Salmon, ID
The town of Salmon, Idaho (part of the Lemhi County CDT Gateway Community) hosted a Gateway Community celebration, including free food, storytelling, and connections with local businesses, to welcome 20 CDT hikers passing through the area.

Rawlins, WY
Community members gathered at the Rawlins Adventure Fest, an event spearheaded by members of Rawlins' CDT Gateway Community Advisory Committee, which included a guided group hike on the CDT.



Yellowstone National Park, WY
Eight volunteers joined CDTC staff for a field project in Yellowstone National Park, which laid the first round of dirt on a 120 foot turnpike and closed 250 feet of social trail to protect sensitive ecosystems. Volunteers enjoyed a visit from the park's Vice Superintendent!



Georgetown, CO
Youth volunteers from Denver's Environmental Learning for Kids joined CDTC for a trail maintenance project, which also included informational presentations about career opportunities in conservation and land management.



Chama, NM
Eight community members joined CDTC and Hike for Mental Health for a group hike focused on the value of the outdoors for mental health and wellbeing.

Hidalgo County, NM
Hidalgo County was officially designated as the 21st CDT Gateway Community! Designation was marked with a ceremony at the 2nd annual Explore Hidalgo County Outdoors Festival and a community hike with the Bootheel Youth Association on the CDT.



Silver City, NM
This year's annual CDT Trail Days festival celebrated the tenth anniversary of Silver City as a CDT Gateway Community, and included a vendor festival, a speaker series, and a kickoff party.



Breckenridge, CO
CDTC partnered with Friends of the Dillon Ranger District and the US Forest Service to host a Trail Adopter Training on a portion of the CDT that is co-located with the Colorado Trail.



Gateway Communities

Community	Population
Silver City, NM	9,386
Grants, NM	8,968
Cuba, NM	755
Chama, NM	995
Hidalgo County, NM	4,178
Pagosa Springs, CO	2,147
South Fork, CO	349
Lake City, CO	391
Salida, CO	6,373
Leadville/Twin Lakes, CO	10,586
Grand Lake, CO	516
Steamboat Springs, CO	13,764
Encampment & Riverside, WY	462
Rawlins, WY	8,122
Pinedale, WY	1,788
Lemhi County, ID	8,027
Butte, MT	33,964
Anaconda, MT	7,632
Helena, MT	33,124
Lincoln, MT	898
Lander-South Pass City, WY	7,581

CONNECTING AND ELEVATING COMMUNITIES, CULTURES, AND LANDSCAPES

CDT Tribal Fellowship Program

The program recruited five Tribal Scholars and three faculty advisors representing three Native serving institutions: Blackfeet Community College (BCC), Salish Kootenai College (SKC) and UNM Taos' Digital and Media Arts Program. Students were from Salish Kootenai Confederated Tribal Nation, Taos Pueblo and the Bishop Paiute Tribal Nation. In September 2024, the program began with a float along the Chama River in Northern New Mexico, involved bi-weekly virtual seminars with existing Native professionals in Conservation including our own New Mexico Regional Representative, Corey Torivio, a trip to explore Northern Montana with students from SKC and BBC, and ended with a trip to Washington DC to learn advocacy skills. CDTC has produced a documentary about the Pilot program and will be premiering the film in 2025!



Tribal Fellows on the bridge over the Chama River

Expanding in Montana

With initial support from the High Stakes Foundation, we hosted Montana-based small business roundtables and community focus groups to identify local needs. This helped shape a successful three-year funding request from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, allowing us to hire a Montana Regional Representative in 2025. This new role will strengthen our grassroots engagement and regional capacity across the state.



Dark Skies & New Partnerships

This year CDTC began exploring the skies above the CDT through exciting work with new partners from the National Religious Partnership for the Environment and Dark Sky Land, New Mexico. In 2025, CDTC will be hosting several star gatherings along the Trail in New Mexico to help build awareness and find new ways to connect with new types of Trail supporters!



Photo Credit: Steven Shattuck

FISCAL SUMMARY

Building Upon Our Strong Foundations

In 2024, CDTC put into motion our long term strategy for stabilizing our organization’s finances ensuring CDTC would remain completely flexible in the face of increasingly dynamic federal funding challenges and uncertainty. This included inviting financial support from supporters who were ready to make larger investments into CDTC. With the help of our supporters we were able to raise our capital growth to build resiliency in our cash position, resulting in a healthy reserve balance for CDTC operating costs.

Return on Investment

7 : 1
Match by CDTC

7.5 : 1
Match by Partners & CDTC

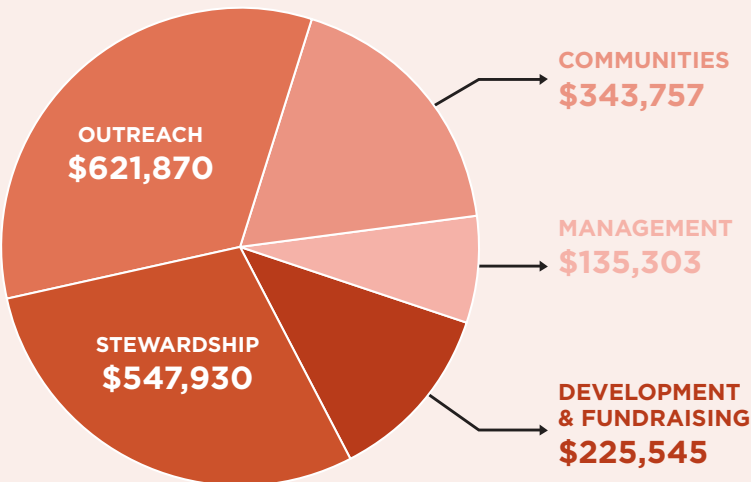
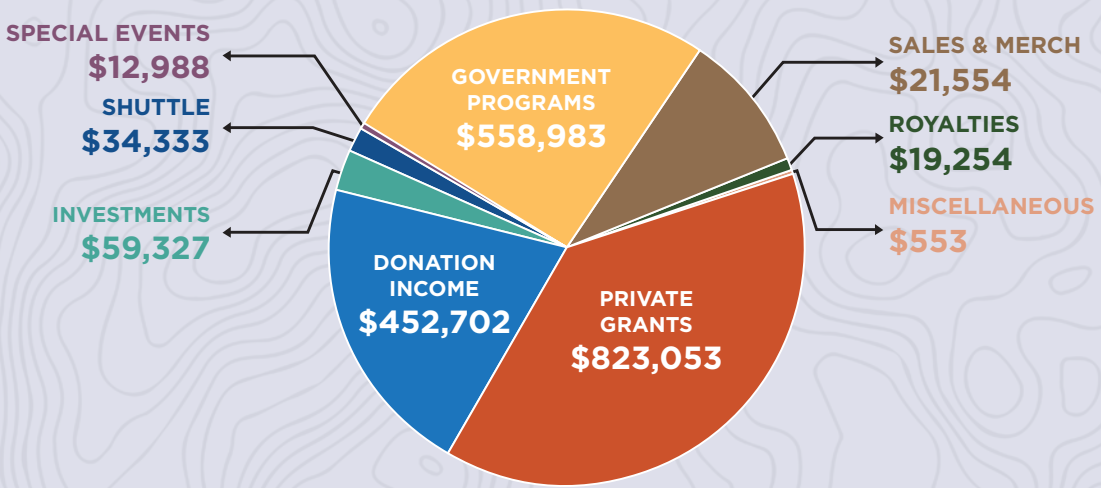
1.25 : 1
Match total Federal Allocation
by CDTC & partners since 2014

Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024

Total assets	\$1,540,972
Liabilities	\$369,132
Net assets	\$1,171,840
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$968,015
Restricted Net Assets	\$203,825
Investments	\$203,825
Total Income	\$1,982,749
Total Expenses	\$1,875,254

2024 Income

TOTAL INCOME
\$1,982,749



2024 Expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,875,254
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES
81%

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS IN 2024

Thank you to all our supporters! With your help, CDTC’s work to complete, protect, and elevate the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail has never been stronger. Thank you so much to all of our members and partners who make the CDT community vibrant and resilient!

Corporate Partners

- AllTrails
Backpacker’s Pantry
Bear Vault
Big Agnes
Buff USA
Darn Tough
Deuter
Eagles Nest Outfitters
FarOut Guides
Fidelity
Gossamer Gear
Hike for Mental Health Inc
Hyperlite Mountain Gear
Katabatic Gear
Levi Strauss
- Microsoft
Mountainsmith
Oboz
Osprey Packs, Inc
PACT Outdoors
ReadyWise, Inc
Sawyer Products, Inc.
Six Moon Designs
Speedland
Toaks Outdoor
ULA Equipment
Vanguard Charitable

Foundations

- Amalgamated Foundation
American Indian College Fund
American Trails - Legacy Trail Program
Athletic Brewing: Two for the Trails
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Cabela’s and Bass Pro Shops
Great Outdoors Colorado
Green Latinos
High Stakes Foundation
Hispanic Access Foundation
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division
Partnership for the National Trails System
REI Cooperative Action Fund
Roundup Riders of the Rockies
The Schmidt Family Foundation - 11th Hour Project
Yampa Valley Community Foundation

Individuals

\$1000+

- Laura Alpert
Fred Arsneault
Christopher Bouck
Kaysen Brennan
Roger Carpenter
Aristide Chakeres
Clancy Clark
Paul Corbeil
Bob Doyle
Jean Ella
Sarah Elliott
Arthur And Denise Foley
Frenzel Family Charitable Foundation
Evan Gartley
Trina Gibbs
David Gwinn
Josephine Hazelett
James Hlavaty
Jeremy Howes
Kim Kanas
Anitra Kass
Christine and Thomas Kirk
Mollybeth Lombard
Rebecca Loudon
Barney And Sandy Mann

- Terry Marbach
Carol Martin
Mike McClure
Amy McCormick
Kirk Mcwethy
William Murphy
Dean Myerson
Timothy O’Rourke
Christina Osmon
Karen & Pete Peterson
Tom Phillips
Greg Pierce
Melissa Prager
Nona And Peter Rowat
Doug Shaw
Francis Siracusa
Jim Skelding
Julie And Tim Smith
Mark Swanson
Charles Sweeney
James The Eagleton Family Fund
DC & Buttons Ward
Donald Wellmann
John West
Eric White
Vivian Wilson

\$5000+

- Robert Walker & Cristy Godwin
John and Suzanne Rohde
Douglas Rosenow
Robert & Victoria Schuler

\$10,000+

- Chris and Mary Alonso
Jay Bush
Lon Cooper
David & Nancy Rolsten
Greg and Jan Winchester

\$25,000+

- Anonymous
Mitchell H. Lasky & Cecilia M. Barajas
Daniel Collins
Robert J Weggel



Scan to view
all of our 2024
supporters



Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

Photo Credit Mike Cassidy

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Sierra LaBonte

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Community & Outreach Coordinator

Claire Cutler

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Dan Carter

Trails & Lands Conservation Manager

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Development Specialist

Jill Yoder

Development Manager

Jordan Williams

Colorado Regional Representative

Corey Torivio

New Mexico Regional Representative

Haley Gamertsfelder

Field Operations Manager

Zack Bumgarner

GIS Specialist

Michael McDaniel

Technical Field Specialist

Kinsey Warnock

Field Crew Leader