



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION

STRATEGIC VISION

FINAL DRAFT

Throughout 2023 and into 2024, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) staff and Board of Directors worked collaboratively to assess the success of previous strategic planning efforts and CDTC's current opportunities and challenges. During the summer of 2023, more than 800 members of the public, organizational, and agency partners provided their feedback about CDTC's programs, priorities, and direction. CDTC staff worked with Ruby Mountain Consulting to perform more in-depth interviews with CDTC's staff, Board, and key partners.

The review of feedback culminated in a strategic vision retreat held in Leadville, CO in September 2023. CDTC's Board, Staff, and key partners reviewed the information gathered from survey and interview responses and began to lay out a map for the future of CDTC to effectively carry out its mission. The review identified areas where CDTC needed to update existing language in its Mission, Vision, and Values statements, and Organizational Pillars and to address gaps in direction to support implementation of CDTC's Mission. This Strategic Vision aims to provide CDTC's staff with meaningful, achievable overarching goals and objectives for prioritizing their work, while still allowing room for creativity and innovation as the trail and the world around it inevitably change over the next five years.

CDTC's mission is to complete, protect, and elevate the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) while engaging and inspiring a diverse community dedicated to the stewardship of the trail and its surrounding landscapes

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 all people across cultures, communities, and trail experiences.

Values: CDTC conducts all relationships, transactions, and dealings with integrity and honesty and promotes working relationships with board members, staff, volunteers, partners, and program beneficiaries based on mutual respect, fairness, and openness inspired by the power and grandeur of the CDNST.

A commitment to Trail Completion and Trail Connection: CDTC remains committed to CDT completion as our highest priority. We also commit to trail connectivity as a means of realizing the trail's full potential 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.

Pillars and Strategic Goals for 2024-2029

CDTC remains grounded in its four organizational pillars: stewardship of the trail; building an engaged trail community; trail information, education, and awareness; and organizational governance. Each Pillar has related strategic goals that are the prioritized actions to be taken during the term of this Strategic Vision to uphold each Pillar.

Pillar 1 | Stewardship of the CDT

Cooperative Management: CDTC ensures high-quality stewardship of the CDT and its surrounding landscapes through mutually respectful and community-centered relationships with land managers, Indigenous people and Tribal Nations, trail communities, existing partners, and new groups, especially communities that have been historically under-represented.

CDT Connectivity: The CDT is 100% located on a high-quality optimal trail route(s) that maximizes corridor connection, the CDT Experience, and increased access for all.

Trail Condition: The CDT is well maintained and employs the highest quality trail design, construction, and maintenance standards to ensure a sustainable trail resource.

Landscape-Scale Conservation: CDT stewardship enhances the values of the nationally significant natural, cultural, and historical resources of the Continental Divide landscape.

Pillar 2 | Building an Engaged Trail Community

Community-Led Stewardship: CDTC supports the expansion of on-the-ground stewardship activities led by volunteers, Tribal Nations, recreationists, partners, organizations, communities, and youth with a diverse range of perspectives and life experiences.

Trail Identity: All people who love the CDT feel connected in their trail stewardship efforts and contribute to the resilience of the trail and the communities and landscapes it connects.

Diversity of Voices: CDTC prioritizes justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in all programs, fostering an expansive and inclusive community.

Community-Centered Relationships: CDTC builds relationships with communities along the CDT to ensure their voices are reflected in the decisions affecting the CDT

Pillar 3 | Trail Information, Education, and Awareness

Trail Information: Information and educational resources encourage safe, sustainable, and enjoyable access to the CDT through signed trailhead kiosks, trail markers, hiking guides, interactive maps, and other media.

Community Voices: CDTC amplifies community stories to reflect the diversity of interests and experiences that exist along the Continental Divide landscape.

Awareness of the CDT: CDT access and awareness increases, diversifies, and welcomes all CDT travelers, especially new, under-represented, and first-time visitor groups and local community members to explore the CDT.



Pillar 4 | Organizational Governance

Adaptive Management: CDTC remains flexible and adaptive to changing conditions in today's society to ensure that it has the resources, tools, capacity, and technologies to accomplish its mission.

CDTC Sustainable Growth: CDTC strengthens our presence along the trail, continues to regionalize operations, and invests in growth that responds to the needs of agency and organizational partners, CDT communities, and trail visitors.

CDTC Resilience: CDTC benefits from a diversity of funding sources, partners, and points of contact with communities and user groups to ensure pathways for future CDT stewardship and enjoyment of the experience.

Strategies

Strategies: CDTC will employ four strategies to accomplish our strategic vision:

Regionalize: Regionalize activities, programs, and staff to effectively respond, connect, and engage state, regional, and local community-centered efforts.

Storytell: Share stories to elevate and amplify voices that raise awareness about the CDT and the communities it connects.

Convene: Serve as a convener to ensure communities, partners, and agencies maintain connection and understanding while creating opportunities for collaboration.

Sustain: Develop sustainable resources, systems, and relationships that support and allow for stability, resilience, and adaptability for all of CDTC's efforts.

Strategic Vision Outcomes

Development and Approval of Restorative Justice Statement (2024)

Development of 18-month operational work plans developed by programmatic staff to implement CDTC Strategic Vision (2024)

Development of periodic review of the success of CDTC Strategic Vision implementation (2025)

Development of a Business Operation plan to guide CDTC's growth and development over the next 5-10 years. (2025)

Development and completion of a Cooperative Stewardship Handbook (2028)

LET'S CONTINUE THE VISION TOGETHER.

SEND YOUR FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS ON THIS

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