

DOÑA ANA TRAIL SUMMIT

A PROJECT BY SNMTA, PARTNERS, STAKEHOLDERS, AND THE
COMMUNITY TO MAKE TRAILS GREAT IN DONA ANA COUNTY

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM

PRESENTED BY



Rivers, Trails, and
Conservation
Assistance Program

Photo by Greg Penn at Tortugas Mountain

from Plans to Trails

Who is the Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance?

SNMTA connects communities to trails

Mission: Coordinating user groups to preserve and enhance trail and outdoor recreation opportunities in Southern New Mexico, West Texas, and Borderland Region.

Advocacy through Action!

Through trail stewardship, education, and advocacy SNMTA inspires community involvement for the sustainable use and enhancement of trails, and conservation of the landscapes where trails exist.



Founded in 2014 in Las Cruces, NM by trail enthusiasts, SNMTA is an all volunteer, 501c3 organization. 1000's of volunteer hours for trail work, planning, and advocacy, 2 trail building workshops, Sierra Vista Trail Runs, part of Rio Grande Trail Commission and planning process.

Why trails?

On average, the **3 million out-of-state visitors** who participate in outdoor recreation annually spend approximately **\$1,000 per trip, or \$290 per day.**

Quality of life

Active transportation

Economic driver

- According to Viva New Mexico Strategic Plan: \$6.1 Billion in consumer spending, 68,000 jobs, \$1.7 Billion in wages and salaries, \$458 million in tax revenue
- *New Mexico Outdoor Economics Conference in Spring, 2018*
- *City of Las Cruces Resolution to prioritize Outdoor Recreation*

Health benefits

- “Outdoor recreation provides a means to help improve New Mexico citizens, which in turn enhances the quality of life and the economic vitality of the state.” - Viva New Mexico Strategic Plan
- Plan 4 Las Cruces “Designing Healthy Communities” presentations and workshops
- DACU Health Assessment

Fun!

- Walking, hiking, and running are the top favorite/common outdoor activities in New Mexico and non-motorized activities combined make up over 50 percent (Viva New Mexico). All are very popular on trails.



Trail reroute, Eagle Scout Project with Boy Scouts

Overview and Timeline

Summit Vision : Hold a summit where agencies, non-profits, and the public can see the progress from previous trail planning efforts and discuss future trail connections among various public entities. By the end of the summit, the participants will determine ways to focus efforts on future trail planning, implementation, maintenance, and education.

Timeline:

2014 – SNMTA founded

Fall 2017 – Awarded NPS Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance (technical assistance not funding) for developing a Dona Ana County Master Trail Planning Initiative

Fall 2017 – Fall 2018 – Contact and meet with stakeholders to develop vision for planning process, resulting in the Dona Ana Trail Summit

Summit Goal and Objectives: Develop and generate inter-jurisdictional discussion and implementation of trails in Dona Ana County

Supporters of the Trail Summit so far:



Doña Ana
Communities
United



City of Las Cruces
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



Trail Summit: A Path Forward

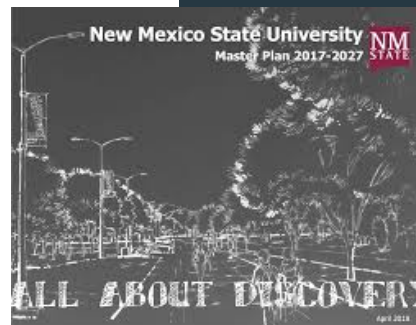
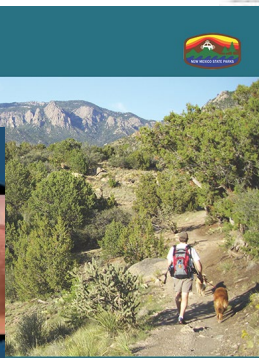
- Build on strong planning foundation
- Inter-jurisdictional collaboration
- Inclusive to all trail users and communities
- Connect communities to trails and the benefits they provide
- Create a vibrant, connected trail network and community



Photo by Organ Mountain Outfitters at the 2017 Sierra Vista Trail Runs

*Fact: The Sierra Vista Trail is a 30 mile trail connecting Las Cruces to the Franklin Mountains State Park in El Paso, TX

Current planning situation



Today:

- REVIEW FOUNDATION
- GIS
- PARTNERSHIPS – EDUCATION – HEALTH – UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES
- NON-MOTORIZED AND MECHANIZED RECREATION – MAINTENANCE-COMMUTING
- **3 Short term and 3 Long term** projects/goals for trails from each break out group
- Collaboratively discuss next steps

Dona Ana County

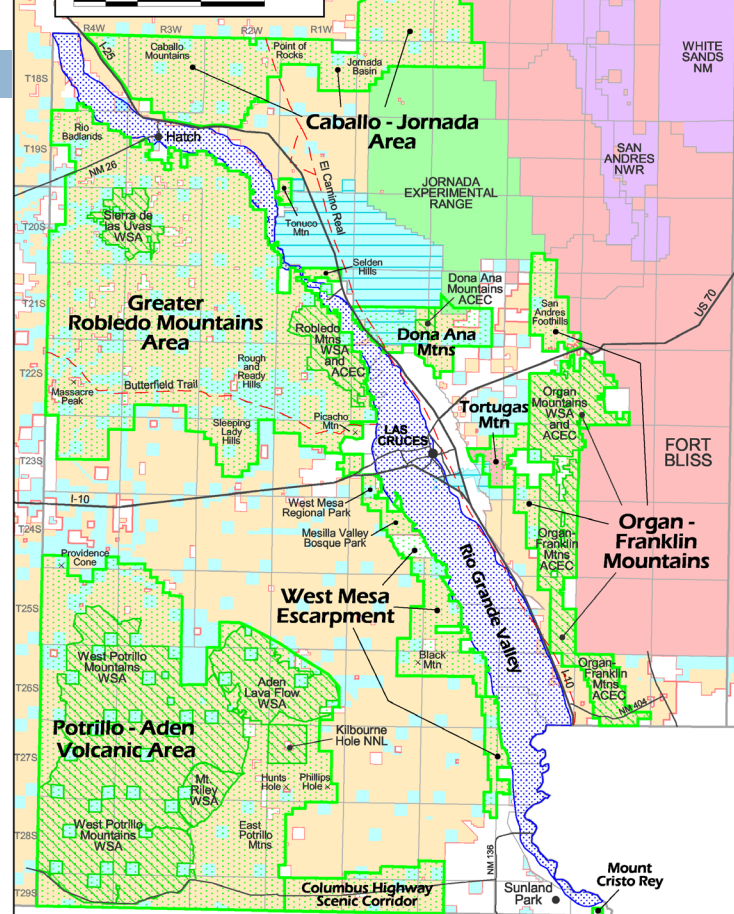
Date: 2/3/05

No warranty is made as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards.
Projection: UTM, Datum NAD 27, Zone 13
Cartography by Greg Magee



Proposed Open Space and Trail Areas - Detail

Scale: 5 0 5 10 Miles



LEGEND

- Existing BLM Special Management Areas
- Proposed Open Space and Trail Areas
- Rio Grande Valley *

LAND STATUS

- Private Land **
- Bureau of Land Management
- State Trust Land

- NMSU Land
- US Dept. of Interior
- US Dept. of Defense
- US Dept. of Agriculture

NOTES

* The river valley denotes the floodplain of the Rio Grande. It is identified to recognize areas with special significance where site-specific development and/or conservation guidelines may be appropriate.

** Private landowner participation is voluntary. This map does not imply any proprietorship over private lands.

*Fact: 2018 is the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System which includes many NM trails

Thank You and Enjoy the Summit

Photo by Greg Penn on the Sierra Vista Trail

