

DOÑA ANA COUNTY TRAIL SUMMIT SUMMARY

DECEMBER 2018



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| PARTNERS | 4 |
| OVERVIEW | 5 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 8 |
| PAST PLANNING | 9 |
| PRESENTATIONS | 12 |
| BREAKOUT GROUPS | 13 |
| Geographical Information Systems | 14 |
| Partnerships, Education, and Underrepresented | 16 |
| Recreation, Commuting, and Trail Maintenance | 18 |
| PRIORITIES | 20 |
| SUGGESTED TRAIL CONNECTIONS | 22 |
| GENERAL COMMENTS | 26 |
| CONCLUSION | 27 |

SUMMIT TRAIL PARTNERS

The following partners helped provide input and planning for the 2018 Doña Ana County Trail Summit:





IDENTITY

Doña Ana County population size is 214,000 or about 10% of the entire population of New Mexico. Demographics: 68% hispanic, 51% speak a non-english language, and 19% rural (2016 census est).

INSPIRATION

Trails create community cohesion, provide economic revenue, build relationships with nature, and offer opportunities for physical activity and mental serenity.

OVERVIEW

On November 8, 2018, the Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance in cooperation with the Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks hosted a trail summit at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. The goal of holding this summit was to allow “agencies, non-profits, and the public to see the progress from previous trail planning efforts and discuss future trail connections among various public entities.” With more than 70 people in attendance, the Summit was an engaging event that brought together leaders from local and national governmental agencies, non-profits, trail user groups, and engaged citizens to help shape the future of outdoor recreation and trails in Doña Ana County.

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

Determine what each stakeholder can contribute to a planning and implementing trails.

Produce a map that shows completed trails, trailheads, and access points that partners can embrace and highlight on their web sites.

If trails exist and are not used then define the barriers and reason why they are not being used.

Identify trail alignments to create better connectivity throughout the county.

The summit was facilitated by the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and the Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance (SNMTA). The SNMTA's mission is coordinating user groups and preserving and enhancing trails and outdoor recreation opportunities. Presentations were provided by Dan Carter, the president of SNMTA; Jeff Steinborn, NM State Senator (D) District 36; John Canella, NPS Historic Trails Office Deputy Superintendent; Kari Bachman, Doña Ana Communities United Coordinator; Mara Weisenberger, BLM Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks Acting Monument Manager; Michael McAdams, Transportation Planner for Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization; and Patrick Nolan, from Friends of the Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks. Presenters provided information on plans within the County from each agency's unique point of view.

The keynote speaker was Jeff Steinborn, a member of the New Mexico State Senate (District 36). He spoke about the growing billion dollar outdoor recreation industry and of the opportunity for capturing portions of this revenue in Doña Ana County by continuing to enhance the County as a well-known destination for outdoor activities. He also addressed the existing state efforts and funding mechanisms for trails and outdoor recreation, including: Rio Grande Trail, Outdoor Recreation Office, DOT trails funding, and Land and Water Conservation Fund. Senator Steinborn also stressed the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor recreation in addition to these economic gains.

Summit attendees participated in three breakout sessions that addressed (1) Geographic Information Systems; (2) Partnerships, Education, Health, and Underrepresented Communities; and (3) Non-motorized and Mechanized Recreation, Commuting, and Trail Maintenance.



The summit provided a prioritization of short term and long term goals coupled with potential action steps providing guidance to future collaborative efforts regarding the development of trails in Doña Ana County. Bringing together many different members from the community and decision makers from governmental agencies, the summit helped strengthen the relationships among trail stewards laying the groundwork for a cohesive voice on the future of trails.

This report provides a summary of the 2018 Doña Ana County Trail Summit proceedings. More information about the Summit is available at <https://snmta.org>. Summit organizers and supporters included: Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance, Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cruces District, Mesilla Valley Transportation Planning Organization, City of Las Cruces, County of Doña Ana, Doña Ana Communities United, and NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Association.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Doña Ana County Trail Summit Summary is the result of a collaborative effort between the Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance (SNMTA) and many agencies and entities.

The SNMTA applied to the the National Park Service River, Trails, Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program for assistance involving County trail planning. SNMTA members, including: Peter Livingstone and Dan Carter were instrumental to this planning effort and will be relied on to carry forth the ideas captured in this document. Michael McAdams and Brian Byrd provided support in coordinating with the City of Las Cruces. Kari Bachman representing Dona Aña Communities United helped to facilitate a portion of the Summit. Samuel Paz and Ruben Reyes from Doña Ana County provided input on the summit agenda and data from the assessor's office. Mara Weisenberger, Mckinney Briske, and Ray Hewitt provided Bureau of Land Management GIS data and past planning information and policies related to the National Monuments.

Other local, state, and federal agency representatives, along with interested citizens and business owners were also a part of this planning process and participated in meetings. NPS RTCA was the lead agency for facilitating partnership meetings which largely took place by conference call and at times included 20 participants. They were responsible for facilitation of the summit, and researching, writing, and creating trail maps based on agency GIS data provided to them. NPS RTCA employees that worked on this plan included Marcy DeMillion and Beth Elise Forman.

PAST PLANNING

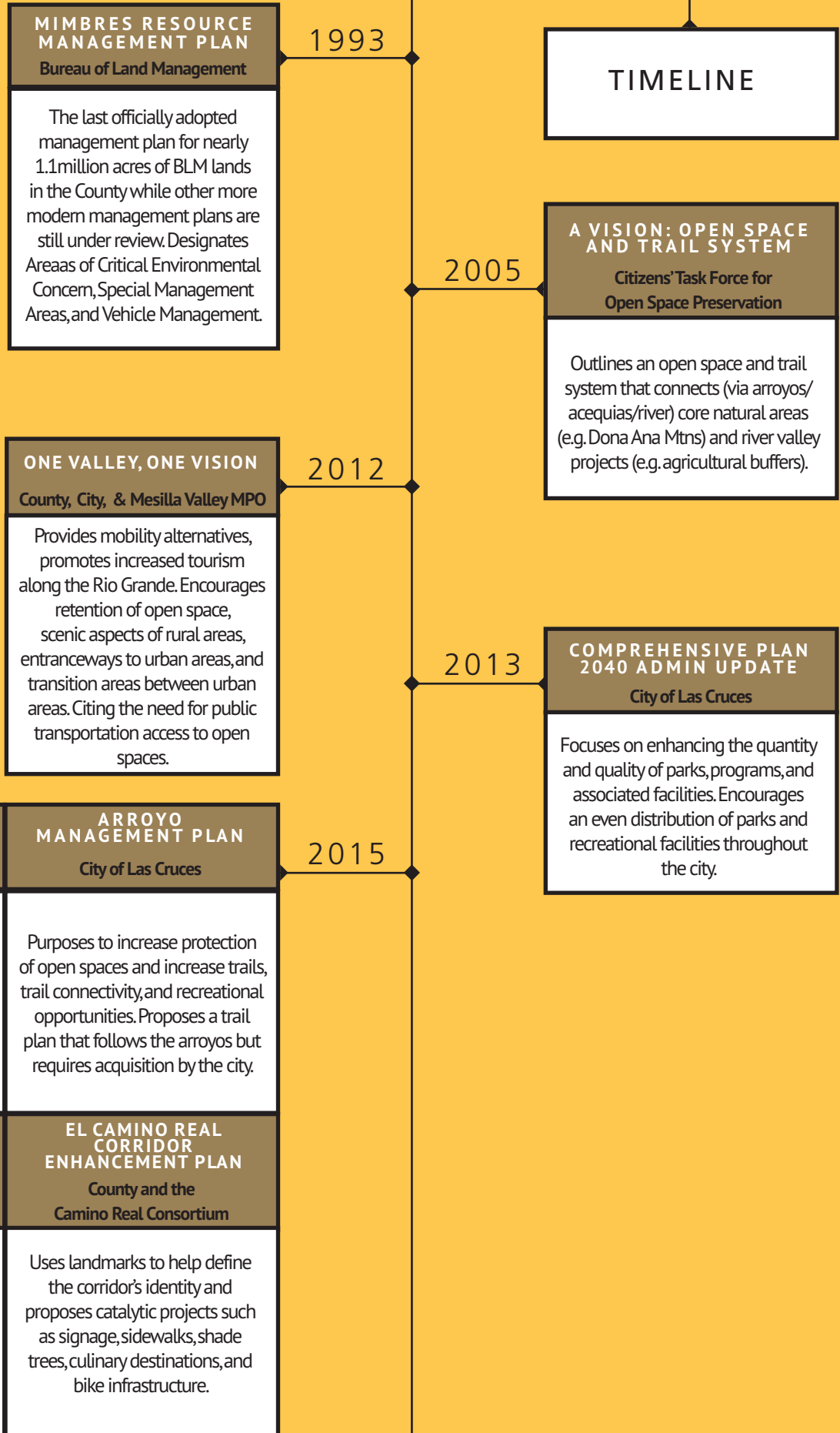
Various planning documents have been completed that address the topic of trails and recreation within Dona Ana County. For example, there are nine land use plans for BLM administered lands. Besides the 1993 Mimbres Resource Management Plan (RMP), which is the most recent officially adopted Land Use Plan, other plans adopted by the BLM include the:

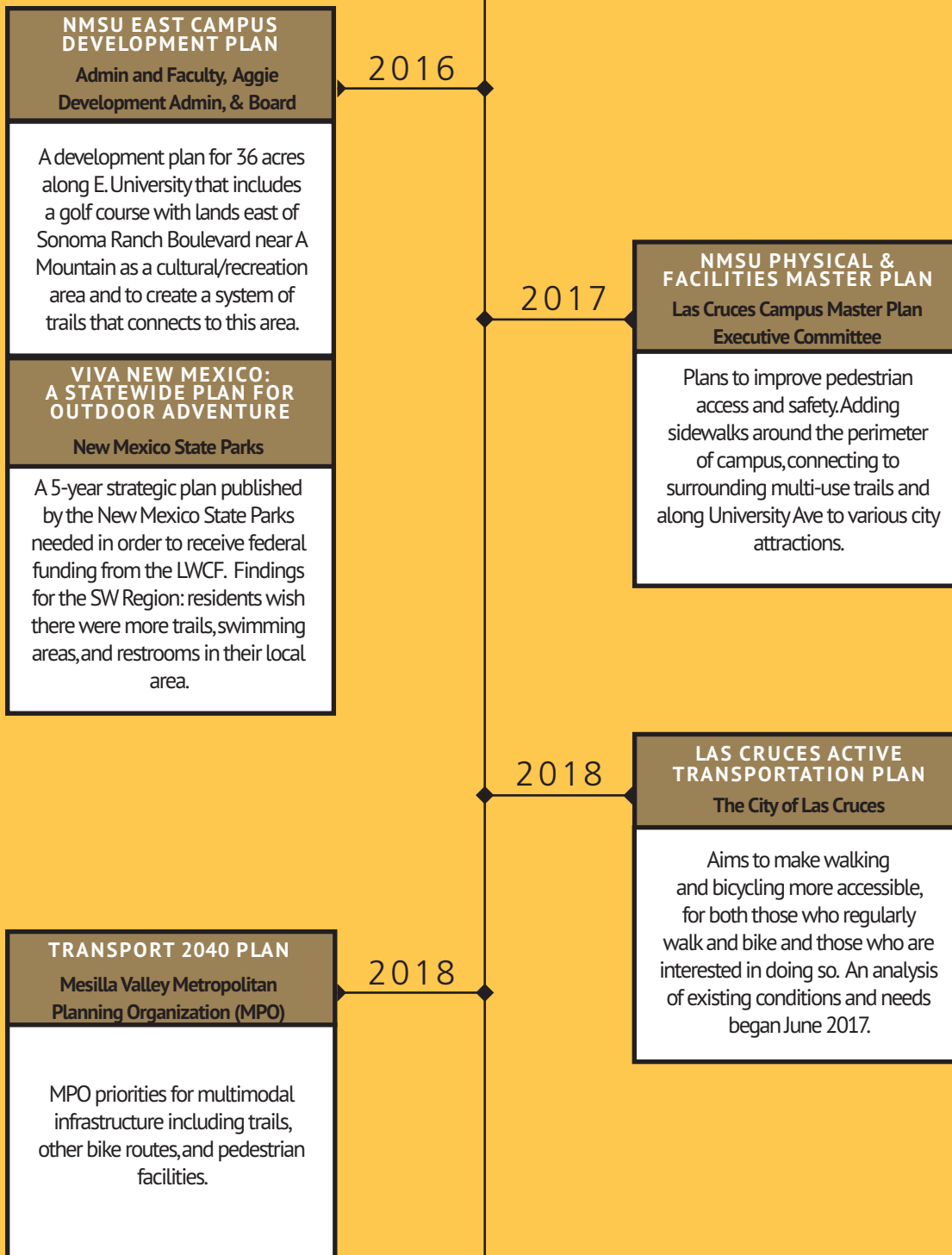
- 1986 White Sands Resources Area RMP;
 - 1999 Mimbres RMP Amendment;
 - 2000 Environmental Impact Statement for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Las Cruces Field Office;
- 2004 El Camino Real Comprehensive Management Plan and RMPA;
 - 2006 McGregor Range RMPA;
 - 2006 Tri-County RMP;
 - 2008 Mimbres RMPA; and the
 - 2015 Prehistoric Trackways National Monument RMP.

The outdoor recreation industry in New Mexico generates \$9.9 billion annually in consumer spending. To more effectively manage this industry, the incoming state administration plans to create an Office of Outdoor Recreation like exists in other western states such as Utah, Montana, Colorado, and Wyoming. Currently the decisions about outdoor recreation fall upon the State Parks Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department. Key findings and proposed actions for the southwest region, as listed in the New Mexico State Parks Strategic Plan, *Viva New Mexico: A Statewide Plan for Outdoor Adventure* (2016), are listed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>KEY FINDINGS: Residents suppress activities due to lack of facilities, and they are most likely to say current facilities and amenities do not meet their needs.</p> <p>Lowest level of satisfaction with general recreation opportunities and opportunities for youth.</p> | <p>ACTIONS: To better meet needs, balance improving and maintaining existing hiking, cycling, camping, and swimming facilities with building new facilities.</p> <p>Along with the Southeast region, prioritize this area for in-flow of funds, new construction, and improvement.</p> |
|---|---|

TIMELINE





PRESENTATIONS



DAN CARTER

President of Southern NM Trail Alliance

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. Dan spoke about how trails increase quality of life through active transportation, as an economic driver, by way of health benefits, and as places to have fun and enjoy.



JEFF STEINBORN

NM State Senator (D) District 36

Helped establish the Rio Grande Trail Commission and plans to help establish a NM Office of Outdoor Recreation. Discussed trails as an important economic driver and the significant opportunity for this in Doña Ana County. Senator Steinborn provided information about how trails offer mental and physical health benefits to the community and particularly to underrepresented communities.



JOHN CANELLA

National Park Service Deputy Superintendent

Heads the National Historic Trails (NHT) office. NHT's are federally designated trails which follow as close as possible the original travel corridors. John spoke about opportunities for trail planning and retracement trails along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro with existing partnerships at Ft. Selden, Antonio Store, and Barncastle House.



KARI BACHMAN

Doña Ana Communities United Coordinator

DACU mission is to advance health equity in full partnership with community members at greatest risk for suffering health disparities. Kari spoke about reaching out to new trail partners and gave a discussion about the walking experience in Chaparral - a colonias community in southern Doña Ana County. Emphasizing process, not just product.



MARA WEISENBERGER

BLM Acting Monument Manager

Monument Manager at the Bureau of Management Las Cruces District Office (LCDO) overseeing Organ Mountains Desert Peaks (496k-acres) and Prehistoric Trackways (5k-acres) National Monuments. Mara provided background information on the 1.1mil-acres of BLM administered lands. Within LCDO are off-highway vehicle areas, historic trails, and the Organ, Doña Ana, Robledo, Uvas, and Potrillo Mountains.



MICHAEL MCADAMS

Transportation Planner for Mesilla Valley MPO

The Metropolitan Planning Organization is working on their Transport 2045 Plan. This plan is updated every 5-years and seeks solutions to transportation challenges. Michael cited the importance for all projects seeking Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration funding as needing to be included in this plan.



Patrick, Executive Director of Friends of Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks, spoke about the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). He explained how LWCF funds come from oil and gas revenues and are then used to protect our parks and open spaces such as Soledad Canyon and 1,200 other sites in New Mexico that have benefited from these funds.

PATRICK NOLAN

Executive Director Friends of Organ Mountains

BREAKOUT GROUPS



After past trail planning and trail accomplishments were discussed by the seven presenters, participants were asked to select by interest and separate into one of three breakout groups: Geographical Information Systems; Partnerships/Education/Health/Underrepresented Communities; or Non-Motorized and Mechanized Recreation/Commuting/Trail Maintenance. Groups worked together to try to identify three short-term goals, measurable outcomes and targets to complete in the next six months to one year, and three long-term goals, along with identifying important action steps that might be taken to help reach these goals. Some groups also helped to identify barriers to reaching these goals and questions that still needed to be answered.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Michael McAdams from the Mesilla Valley MPO facilitated the breakout session for Geographical Information Systems (GIS). The discussions revolved around data collection related to trails and other non-motorized facilities.



Goals were identified as follows:

3 SHORT-TERM GOALS

1 Determine the correct sources for GIS trail data in the county.

Since land within the county falls under multiple jurisdictions and ownership each agency has their own official source of GIS data.

2 Establish a standardized GIS data format for trails within Doña Ana County.

A review committee is needed to finalize standards and to keep these standards up-to-date.

3 Identify an existing crowd-sourcing app to standardize or utilize for gathering feedback from the public on trails.

An internet application that is safe, accessible, and reliable is needed to allow public trail users a forum for providing on-the-ground feedback.

3 LONG-TERM GOALS

1 Develop a maintenance plan for county-wide GIS trail data.

A central repository is needed to help keep data standardized and up-to-date.

2 Conduct ground-truthing of trail alignments annually.

On-the-ground trail data verification is needed to maintain accurate and up-to-date records for land managers.

3 Standardize a procedure for gathering public input when considering new trails.

A better method for gathering input from the public when considering the development of new trails is needed.



ACTION STEPS

GIS Breakout Group

The MPO will create a mailing list identifying the key contacts for correct data sources from various entities including participants from the breakout group. Participant's email addresses will be used to begin a discussion on developing data standards and to form a review committee. SNMTA will collaborate with the MPO to attempt to select an appropriate app for gaining public feedback on trails and then promote the use of this app. SNMTA will also help to develop a process for conducting ground-truthing and maintenance of this data.

PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES



Kari Bachman from Doña Ana Communities United, and Patrick Nolan from Friends of Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks facilitated this breakout session. The group discussed ways to build stronger partnerships with underserved communities who are often left out of the conversation. Participants discussions focused on cultural messages, power dynamics, and ways to communicate to all populations.

Goals were identified as follows:

2 SHORT-TERM GOALS

1 LONG-TERM GOAL

- 1 Identify trailheads in under-represented/rural communities and have a special event day at them.**

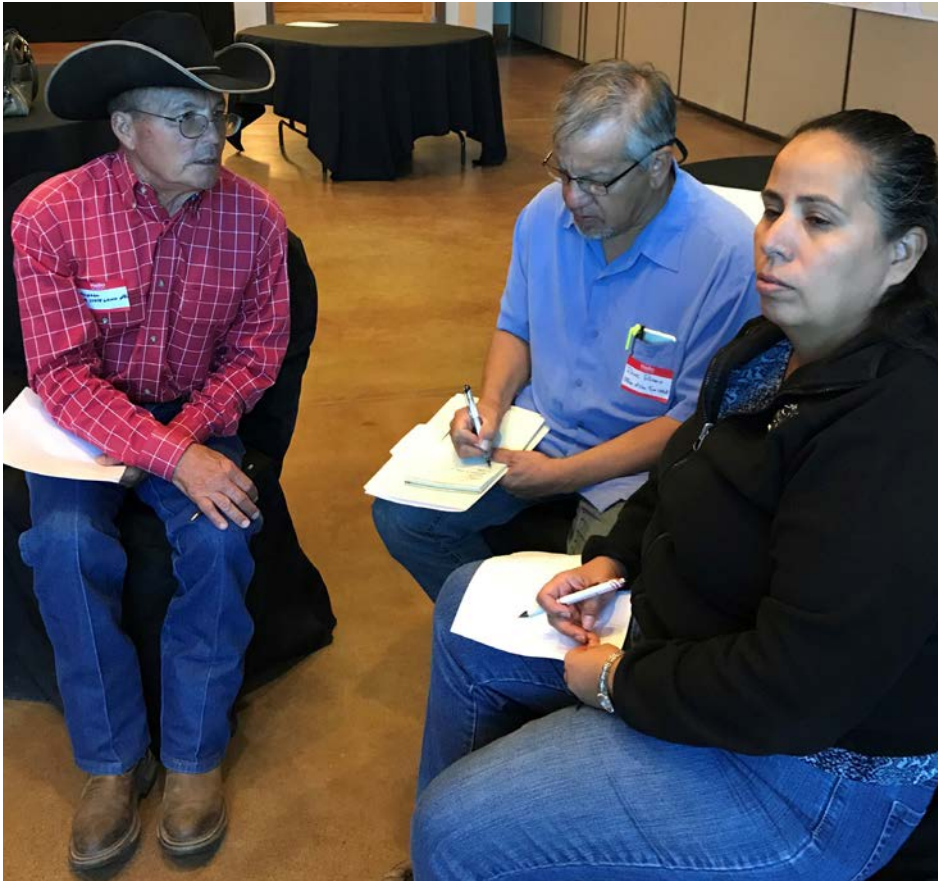
Incentives are needed to encourage the engagement of local community members to use trails, remembering that there are many different ways to use trails.

- 2 Utilize AskLasCruces.gov to report trail issues, and needed maintenance for areas inside & outside the city-limits.**

AskLasCruces.org is the current reporting system for problems within city limits but could be used regionally and include a section for trails.

- 1 Develop a recreation marketing campaign to reframe how we think about trails.**

A diversity of trail users is lacking and new ways of reaching out to different groups is needed.



ACTION STEPS

Partnerships,
Education, Health,
and
Underrepresented
Communities

Participants agreed to call their councilors to ask about grant funding for trails and to expand the Askklascruces.gov app to cover the County. Participants will volunteer to help organize a community trails day that will include family events such as a picnic and scavenger hunt at trailheads. An active group such as SNMTA, Communities United, or Big Brothers Big Sisters will be identified and asked to become the lead agency for these events and will collaborate on a marketing campaign.

NON-MOTORIZED AND MECHANIZED RECREATION, COMMUTING, AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE



Dan Carter from SNMTA facilitated this breakout session. The group discussed trail barriers, trail opportunities, and collaboration. Developing use specific trails, ways of reporting trail maintenance, resources for volunteers, issues related to land ownership, and a clear process for collaboration.

Goals were identified as follows:

3 SHORT-TERM GOALS

- 1 Identify areas and alignments for new trails focusing on key connector points and areas where trail development is allowed.**

A list of areas for new trail development is needed and should be shared and maintained by partners.

- 2 Continue today's work as a collaborative trail group/task force.**

Continued efforts are needed for new projects and to finish trails such as the city loop trail to NMSU.

- 3 Identify an existing crowd-sourcing app to standardize or utilize for gathering feedback from the public on trails.**

A reporting system that is shared among agencies with a list of priorities and new trail projects is needed.

3 LONG-TERM GOALS

- 1 Formalize agreements including Memorandum of Understandings .**

Dirt roads (aka ditches), owned by the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), are often used locally as trails but an MOU is needed between EBID and a government entity (likely the City, County, or Village of Mesilla) willing to manage them for recreation.

- 2 Identify and seek grant funding.**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, the NM Department of Transportation, and other funding sources need to be explored.

- 3 Standardize a procedure for gathering public input when considering new trails.**

Early engagement is needed and should be continued throughout the planning process.



ACTION STEPS

Non-motorized and Mechanized Recreation, Commuting, and Trail Maintenance

SNMTA will create a forum for receiving input on trail areas and new alignments either by utilizing their website or by holding additional meetings with maps available. SNMTA will continue the work from the summit by holding regular meetings and developing a flow chart that establishes and tracks the progress for working with key stakeholders and multiple jurisdictions. Advocates agree to continue talking with their elected officials and planning staff about the benefits of trails, helping to identify among which partners Memorandums of Understanding and agreements are most needed and for what purposes.

PRIORITIES

Participants from the breakout groups reconvened and prioritized the goals and action steps which had been identified by the breakout groups. This post-meeting gave all the participants an opportunity to share ideas from the breakout topics discussed and to provide input on next steps.

Notes from this shared discussion of priorities are provided as follows:



Participants agreed that the goals or next steps for GIS are:

- A procedure is needed for collecting public input to identify suggestions for new trail development.
- An existing crowdsourcing application such as AskLascruces.gov could be built upon for collecting user information and gathering trail data.

Additional ideas for GIS included:

- Holding another public meeting to evaluate existing trails.
- Targeting areas where health concerns exist and looking within a half-mile of these areas for lacking facilities.
- Sending out surveys to ask about what & where outdoor facilities and amenities are needed.
- Visiting popular locations such as: schools, laundromats, and stores on payday to collect information from communities in places that lack trails.
- Creating a diverse platform for collecting data about trails, such as: collaborating with the MPO to share data and promote an application like AllTrails, or a tour guide application that leads users on a tour of historic sites and other points of interest.
- Identifying an application that best fits users, is easy to use, and easy to access. This application should provide users with trail information (e.g. what to expect) and allow users to share information about themselves.

PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

Participants agreed that for Partnerships, Education, Health and Underrepresented Communities the goals or next steps are:

- Developing a marketing campaign to help: define the under-engaged user groups; and meet with these targeted groups in the communities, neighborhoods, and schools where they live.
- Promoting the existence of trails through a school trail awareness program and reframing the term 'recreation' to 'outdoor activities.' Using different lenses to talk about trails, such as: history, community, and health.
- Using incentives to encourage participation, such as: food; activities for children; and other entertainment such as a scavenger hunt for the whole family.
- Contacting NMSU about creating something for trail maintenance that is similar to the 'No Throw' app for illegal dumping. This app could be used to help maintain consistency and responsiveness across jurisdictions. This app could also help grow the pool of volunteers working on trails.
- Establishing a lead agency who will put on and sponsor events, partner with other active user groups such as bikers and hikers, and engage community members by holding trail day events.

RECREATION

Participants agreed that for Recreation the goals or next steps are:

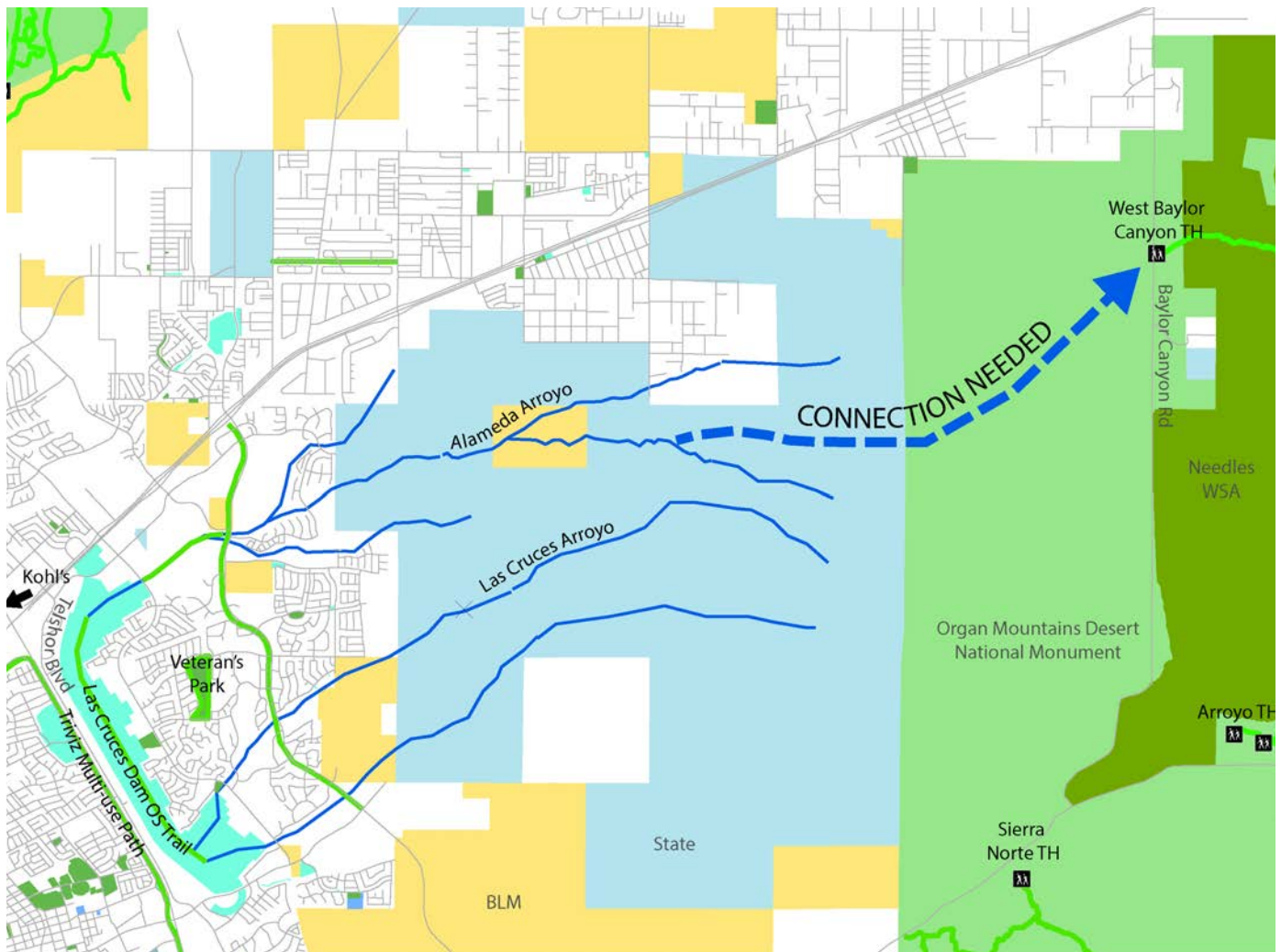
- Ensure that advocates are regularly talking with elected officials and planning staff about the benefits of trails and public feedback, provide these officials with data regarding economic and social benefits of trails.
- Revisit the Mesilla Valley MPO Transport 2040 plan.
- Identify a reliable convener and create a trail alliance and a taskforce to help with reporting trail work and identifying trail needs. Formalize an agreement to complete all needed trail work via the SNMTA. Create a flow chart to track the process and the progress made by these groups.
- Utilize an email list for: interagency collaboration; information sharing; and for setting meetings and holding conferences.
- Contact the local mountain biking and hiking groups to work collaboratively and create alliances so that work is not duplicated.
- Provide some type of forum for the public to be able to give input on trail areas and trail alignments and ensure that this forum is posted publicly. Use this forum to collaborate with land managers and other agencies.

SUGGESTED TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The suggested trail connections were provided at the summit or submitted to the SNMTA within a week following the summit.

- NMDOT is planning to build an underpass for the Triviz Path under University Ave when they rework the I-25/University interchange.
- A bike lane is planned along Soledad Canyon Rd connecting to the Sierra Vista Trail.
- A trail proposal was submitted to BLM connecting Tortugas Mtn Loop Trail and two-track to the Talavera Fire Station and Soledad Canyon Rd via a new single-track trail.



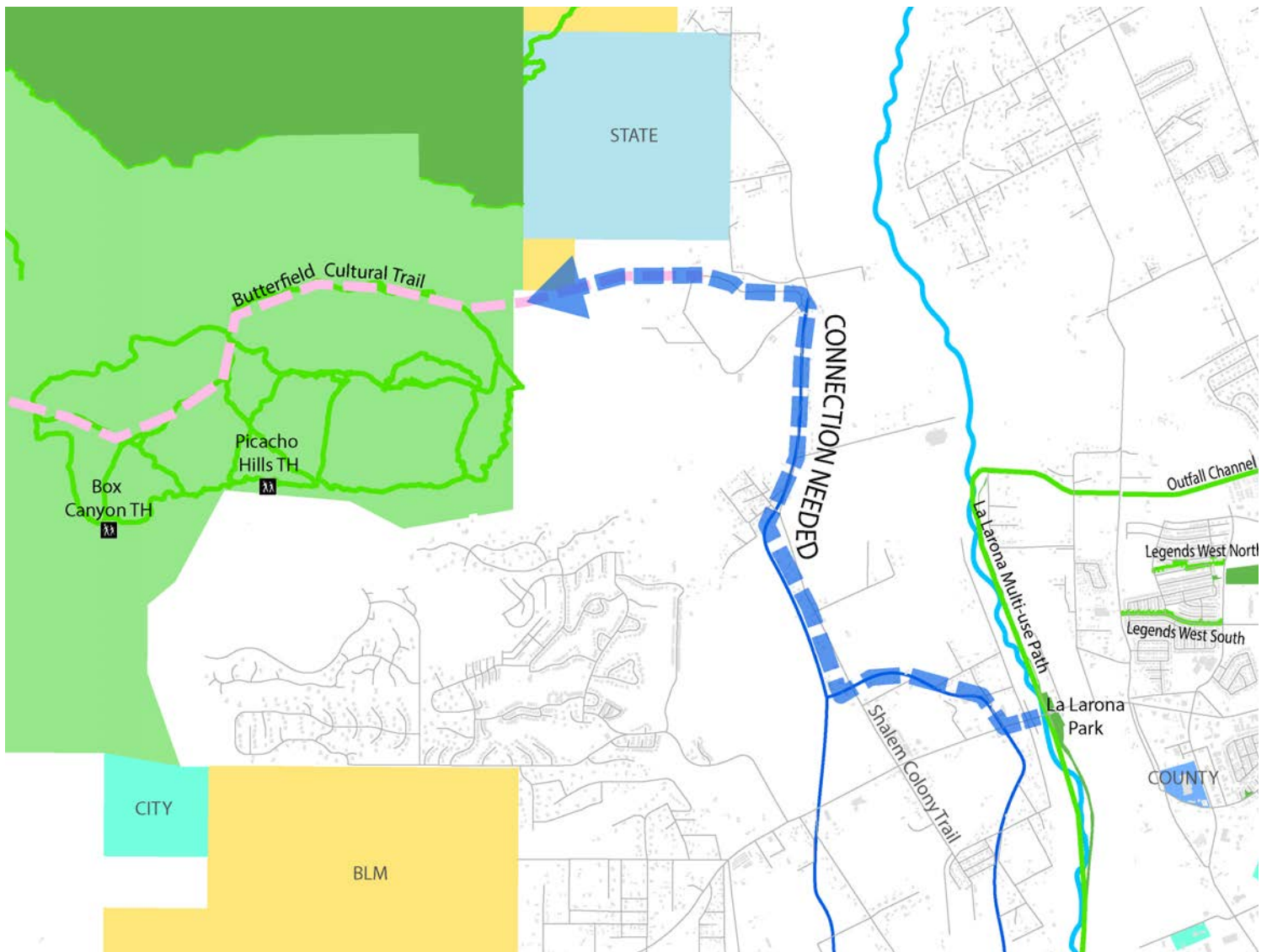


SUGGESTED TRAIL CONNECTIONS

- A connection is needed from a route that starts at the Triviz Path, passing through the tunnel at Kohl's to Telshor Blvd, and up to the Las Cruces Dam Trail. From the dam one can go to Veteran's Park.
- Starting from Veteran's park a new trail is needed and could be built through the neighborhoods, by working with new developments to include trails.
- A connection is needed along the Alameda and Las Cruces Arroyos, through NM State Trust Land, and connecting to Baylor Canyon Rd. There are two-track roads and unofficial trails currently along this section.

SUGGESTED TRAIL CONNECTIONS

- A connection is needed from La Larona Park across the river and up to the Picacho Peak Trails. This trail could follow an irrigation ditch to Shalem Colony Trail, then head north along Shalem Colony to the Apache Canyon Dam. Two track roads exist from the dam along the proposed Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail. This route would likely require the cooperation of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, BLM, and private land owners.



SUGGESTED TRAIL CONNECTIONS

- Develop connector trails between South DA trails and North DA trails. Work with NMSU College Ranch to make North DA trails official and protect access.
- Pave/improve rock/gravel ramps from La Llorona Trail to the levee trail.
- Many more hiking and mountain bike trails. I think Sierra Vista, La Maria, A-Mountain, Dona Ana, and SST trails are a tremendous asset to the area. More areas would be nice maybe something on the East Mesa with connectors between the areas would be great. Expanding the DA trails to circumnavigate the DAs would be awesome. Also the DAs could use better access without driving through the neighborhoods. I worry how much the mountain bike commuter traffic bothers the residents.
- I would love to see an expansion of the trail system in the Organ Mountains proper. Formalizing the climbing/hiking trails would be a start. Make the Sugarloaf Trail an official trail, have it go over the mountains to La Cueva with an offshoot to Organ Needle would be just awesome. Another offshoot from Sugarloaf to the Pine Tree Trail would be good too. Have Rabbits Ears Canyon Trail go all the way to the Rabbit Ears and down to Aguirre Springs or perhaps out Windy Canyon to Baylor Canyon Road would be useful. Rerouting and clean up of Southern Comfort Trail would be great, building in access to Bastion Wall and Orp. Adoption of the Tooth Trail and reroute La Cueva would be good too.
- Work with BLM and Dona Ana County to create a “Gravel Trails Network” using existing gravel roads and two track/jeep trails.
- Survey, plan, and build trails along West Mesa, south of I-10 and around Tonuco Mountain in the north part of the county.
- Build connector trails from Chaparral to the Sierra Vista Trail.
- Work with Asombro Institue to build trails in the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park and connect to BLM trails in the South DA's.
- Reroute the Sierra Vista Trail from the powerline road between Vado TH and Webb Gap.
- Consider new trails connecting Picacho Peak and the SST trail/Prehistoric Trackways in the Robledo Mountains.
- Approve and build the proposed trail between Tortugas Mountain and Soledad Canyon Road. A project proposal was submitted by SNMTA to the BLM.
- Secure trail access from Ladera Canyon Road to Achenbach Canyon Trail and the Sierra Vista Trail.
- Complete a trails plan for Tortugas Mountain. Improve existing trails, close unsustainable trails, and build/approve new trails. Connect to NMSU campus and planned development along Geothermal and Dripping Springs Roads.
- Build a connector trail from Missouri Ave to Centennial High School.
- Secure access to the Rough and Readies Trail. Consider building new trails in the Rough and Ready hills, Sleeping Lady Hills, Las Uvas, and Corralitos area.
- Proposals from map comments:
 - » Magdalena Park access to the Las Uvas Moutains WSA
 - » A Lucero wash trail system in the NMSU restricted area north of town
 - » A loop route around the DA's
 - » Rebuild-reroute the Figure Eight/Cathedral Trail
 - » A north DAs trail system at 'The Ranch'
 - » SLO property access east of 'The Ranch'
 - » Potential for a skills park below the Rabbit Run Trail
 - » Expand/improve the parking area trailhead at Desert Wind Way

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Mountain bike skills park/section (pump track, features, etc.) in the Southern Dona Ana Mountains, south of Rabbit Run Trail. (Within the OMDP National Monument).
- Another area to consider for a skills park and new trails is the BLM land north of Dripping Springs Road and Tortugas Mountain and east of Sonoma Ranch Road, across Sonoma Ranch from Centennial High School. This area is BLM and not in the monument. Or to the west and north of the southern DA's trail network. This land is managed by NMSU College Ranch and already has some unofficial trails and jeep roads.
- Convenient trails, accessible to all ages and ability levels.
- Signage and safety education for drivers and cyclists. Specifically University Ave. between South Main and Telshor, Motel Blvd. between Picacho Ave. and Avenida de Mesilla.
- I would love to see long term focus by the city of Las Cruces on a much more walkable and rideable city.
- Usable public transportation. By usable I think it should take no longer than 50% more time to travel by public transport than by personal vehicle, including waiting for the transport to show up. Not really a trails issue.
- Officially incorporate the EBID ditches as City-managed trails. Make improvements to these trails, add signage, wayfinding, benches, shade structures, vehicle barriers, kiosks, surface improvements, railroad crossings, etc.
- Work with Dona Ana County and the Village of Mesilla to incorporate EBID ditches as official trails in the same manner as Las Cruces.
- Create trail adoption program for all stakeholders within the County. See the City of Las Cruces trail adoption program and those in other BLM and USFS districts. This could be managed through SNMTA.
- Build proposed trails in Prehistoric Trackways National Monument.
- Use historic trail (Butterfield and Camino Real) designations and alignments to build trails and improve city street infrastructure for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Discuss access to trails and roads on land managed by the Department of Defense in the Organ Mountains.
- Designate the Monumental Loop as an official biking route, sign as needed.
- Improve and designate existing, unofficial climbing trails in the Pena Blanca area.
- Contact the Jornada Hiking Meetup Group for their input.
- Add some of the highest summits to all the maps and use the Doña Ana Arches as a landmark.
- More connectivity of trails county-wide.
- Build advanced mountain bike trails.
- The City Parks & Rec could purchase and build a skills park north of Farney Lane and east of El Paseo Rd. at an empty lot adjacent to Frenger Park.



CONCLUSION

The 2018 Doña Ana County Trail Summit brought together over 70 community members, entities or agencies. This event offered a platform for agencies to share information about their existing trail projects and efforts, some offered their support and investment in continuing to grow trails within Doña Ana County. The event offered a platform for entities and community members to share their ideas about the future of trails.

This summit was further evidence of the growing interest in outdoor recreation within the County and of the possibilities of further developing or maintaining trails. Trails were discussed as a way to increase public health, stimulate the economy, bridge stronger partnerships, offer places to hold educational activities, and create places to have fun.

The success of this event will depend on the sustained efforts of participants, leaders, and agencies to work collaboratively. Short and long-term goals and next steps have been prioritized and now must be executed.

The Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance has worked diligently through their on-the-ground trail efforts and in organizing this trail summit, and now they will look to a broader group of partners to continue trail planning.