

**File Code:** 2350**Date:** SEP 03 2015**Route To:****Subject:** Fiscal Year 2016 Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Projects - Preliminary Selection**To:** Forest Supervisors: Arapaho-Roosevelt; Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison; Medicine Bow and Routt; Pike and San Isabel; Rio Grande; San Juan; Shoshone; and White River National Forests, Northern Region, Regional Forester, Forest Supervisors: Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Bitterroot, Custer-Gallatin, Flathead, Lewis and Clark, and Helena National Forests; Southwest Region, Regional Forester, Forest Supervisors: Carson, Cibola, Gila and Santa Fe National Forests; Intermountain Region, Regional Forester, Forest Supervisors: Salmon-Challis, Bridger-Teton, and Caribou-Targhee National Forests

Thanks to all who submitted project proposals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) funding earlier this year! This letter serves as the official notification to those Forest Service units whose projects are preliminarily selected for FY 2016 CDT earmark funding. Please see the table below. An overview of the CDT budget allocation process and list of this year's evaluation team members is included at the end of this letter.

We received \$2.6 million in requests from 18 National Forests, one Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field office and one National Park Service (NPS) unit along the trail, and anticipate \$1.2 million available for project funding in FY 2016. The evaluation team prioritized new trail construction projects that would result in completion of the CDT and heavy maintenance projects to address health and safety issues, like beetle kill and fire damage. Other factors, such as urgency of the project need, use of volunteers, partners, and youth crews, capacity of the unit to implement the project, and the likelihood of a unit finding other sources of funding for a project, were also taken into consideration. Units are encouraged to continue to find creative ways to engage partners and volunteers to help leverage the CDT earmark and other funding to accomplish high priority work. Please let Brenda Yankoviak, CDT Program Manager, know if she can be of any assistance in this regard.

Important notes about the table:

1. Project selections are based on a projected \$1.67 million FY 2016 CDT budget (same as FY 2015). Final project funding will be adjusted accordingly, if the final FY 2016 budget comes in higher or lower.
2. Several projects in the table are identified for partial funding in order to spread funds further across the highest priority projects. These projects are denoted with an (*) in the table. Please let Brenda Yankoviak, the CDT Program Manager, know immediately if this partial funding will make the project nonviable.



Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Projects for FY 2016 - Preliminary Selection:

Unit and Project Name	Preliminary Amount Awarded
Northern Region General Admin and Maintenance Funds- to be distributed by Northern Region Trails Program Manager	\$50,000
Northern Region Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest	
CDT Reconstruction/ Heavy Maintenance	\$40,000*
Project Completion and Contract Modifications	\$30,000
Northern Region Helena National Forest	
Divide Travel Plan implementation	\$55,000
Northern Region Lewis and Clark National Forest	
Elbow Creek Trail 145	\$12,000*
Northern Region Flathead National Forest	
Spotted Bear Ranger District Bowl Creek Trail and Watershed Improvements	\$36,000
Rocky Mountain Region Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest	
General Administrative and Maintenance	\$5,000
Rocky Mountain Region Grand Mesa Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forest	
Prospector Gulch (Segments 16-17 of Environmental Assessment)	\$155,000
General Administrative and Maintenance	\$5,000
Rocky Mountain Region Medicine Bow Routt National Forest	
CDT Connector - Muddy Pass/Rabbit Ears Pass	\$15,000*
Mount Zirkel Wilderness and Huston Park Wilderness Colorado Wyoming Connection	\$15,000*
General Administrative and Maintenance	\$5,000
Rocky Mountain Region Pike and San Isabel National Forest	
Boss Lake, #26 on Proposed Action Map B-6, 2005	\$3,000*
Hancock, # 24 on Proposed Action, Map B-6, 2005	\$75,000*
Middle Fork, # 25 on Proposed Action Map B-6, 2005	\$20,000
General Administrative and Maintenance	\$5,000
Rocky Mountain Region Rio Grande National Forest	
La Garita Wilderness to Lujan Pass Trail Construction	\$25,000*
East Trout/Little Goose - Heavy Maintenance	\$50,000*
The CDT Beetle Kill Clearing Project	\$28,800
General Administrative and Maintenance	\$5,000
Rocky Mountain Region San Juan National Forest	
La Vaca Trail – (Segment 3)	\$75,750
Trail Rehabilitation and Improvements: Wolf Creek Pass to Silver Pass.	\$45,000
General Administrative and Maintenance	\$5,000
Rocky Mountain Region Shoshone National Forest	
General Administrative and Maintenance	\$5,000
Rocky Mountain Region White River National Forest	
Gold Hill Heavy Maintenance	\$20,000
General Administrative and Maintenance	\$5,000

Southwestern Region General Administrative and Maintenance Funds- to be distributed by Southwestern Region National Scenic Historic Trail Program Manager	\$35,000
Southwestern Region -Carson National Forest	
Canjilon	\$50,400*
Mesa de Las Viejas	\$26,000
Southwestern Region -Gila National Forest	
New Construction: Remove route from motorized roads in Southern Burro Mountain area.	\$60,000*
Reserve Ranger District CDT Realignment Project	\$60,000
Trailhead Development - Little Walnut CDT Trailhead	\$25,000
Wilderness Ranger District. Eastern ascent of Aspen Mountain. CDT Reconstruction	\$50,000*
Southwestern Region -Santa Fe National Forest	
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Reroute (Connector Trail)	\$25,000*
Intermountain Region General Administrative and Maintenance Funds- to be distributed by Intermountain Region Regional Office Trails Program Manager	\$40,000
Intermountain Region Bridger-Teton National Forest	
Bridger Wilderness CDT Reconstruction - Sandpoint Lake to Pipestone Lake	\$45,000
Teton Wilderness CDT Improvement 2016	\$20,000*
Intermountain Region - Caribou-Targhee National Forest	
Black Canyon	\$50,000
Intermountain Region Salmon-Challis National Forest	
Head of Fourth of July to Bradley Gulch Erosion Control Project	\$28,500
BLM Idaho	
Salmon CDT New Trail	\$20,000*
NPS Glacier	
Major Tread Repairs: Featherplume Falls to Piegan Pass	\$30,000*
Grand Total	\$1,190,460

*These projects are awarded partial funding.

Overview of the CDT Budget Allocation Process:

The CDT program is funded annually from a Washington Office earmark. Each spring, the CDT Program Manager prepares a draft budget for the following fiscal year, which is largely based on an assumed flat budget. The CDT Program Manager identifies estimated salary and travel costs, as well as some partnership and special project funding, to be reserved in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office budget. The remainder of the estimated funding is then identified for distribution based on a competitive call for projects process initiated each spring. The CDT Program Manager initiates a call for project proposals for CDT funding from all units along the Trail: 20 National Forests in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4, four National Park Service units and eight BLM resource areas across Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico.

An evaluation team, typically comprised of the CDT Program Manager, Northern Region and Intermountain Region Trail Program Managers, the Southwestern Region National Scenic and Historic Trails Program Manager, one NPS representative, and two BLM representatives, evaluates the project proposals and selects priority projects for funding the next fiscal year. The Continental Divide Trail Coalition Director participates on the evaluation team as a technical advisor. Once priority projects are identified, the CDT Program Manager totals up the priority projects for each Forest Service region to determine preliminary regional allocations for the CDT program (pending the final budget). Funding for priority projects on BLM and NPS units is made available through interagency agreements. If the final budget comes in higher or lower than projected, the CDT Program Manager works with local units and the evaluation team as necessary to adjust project funding as necessary to match the final budget.

The following individuals served on this year's evaluation team:

- Northern Region Trails Program Manager: Roy Barkley (Acting)
- Southwestern Region National Scenic & Historic Trails Program Manager: Laura White
- Intermountain Region Trails Program Manager: Sean Harwood
- National Park Service: Mitzi Frank, El Malpais National Monument Superintendent
- Director, Continental Divide Trail Coalition: Teresa Martinez (as technical advisor)
- CDT Program Manager: Brenda Yankoviak

Thank you again for all of the time and thought you put into crafting your project proposals, and for your dedication to completing and maintaining the CDT. Please contact Brenda Yankoviak, CDT Program Manager at 303-275-5322 or byankoviak@fs.fed.us, if you see any errors or have questions about the process or the selected projects.

for 

DANIEL J. JIRÓN
Regional Forester

cc: Erich Roeber, Jim Cuthbertson, Scott Rogers, Neal Weierbach, Nancy Taylor, Brian White, Mike LaFrentz, Kay Hopkins, Jim Bedwell, Jason Robertson, Brenda Yankoviak, Noelle Meier, Deb Gale, Elizabeth McFarland, Becky Smith-Powell, Catherine Pinegar, Amy Simms, Cynthia Piirto, Christa Osborn, Anne Apodaca, Trish Callaghan, Shannon Connolly, Kaye Orme, George Bain, Josh Jurgensen, Chris Hartman, Sean Harwood, Francisco Valenzuela, Laura White