



New Mexico News



Views from Cuba Mesa



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Aztec Ruins Trail
City of Aztec
2. Zuni Mountains Trail Network
McKinley County
3. Las Ventanas Ridge Trail
Pueblo of Acoma
4. Jal Walking Trail
City of Jal
5. Raton Recreation & Nature Trails
Grow Raton Taskforce
6. Tortugas Mountain Trail System Improvement
Project/Groundworks Dona Ana
Las Cruces

Find out more about each project starting on page 3.

Recent Successes

The New Fisher Trail Provides Access to Santa Fe National Forest

The Step Into Cuba Alliance recently completed construction of a one-mile trail providing direct access from the Village of Cuba to Cuba Mesa on the Santa Fe National Forest. People can now easily hike to the top of Cuba Mesa and are rewarded with outstanding views of the Nacimiento Mountain Range to the East.

From start to finish, the Fisher Trail project involved a 60 acre land donation, trail layout and design, archeological survey work, evaluation of trail user impacts to threatened and endangered species, trail construction training, and construction of a back country trail by community volunteers.



Learning to use a clinometer at Cuba Trails Workshop.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

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2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,251 Miles of Trail Developed

1,694 Miles of River Conserved

25,370 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

Without the land donation by the Fisher family and countless volunteer hours of construction the trail wouldn't have been possible. The NPS Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance program first provided technical guidance in trail layout and design, followed by a two day on-site trail construction training. After learning about sustainable trail design principles, volunteers spent 12 hours honing their trail construction skills.

The Step Into Cuba Alliance was formed to transform the Village of Cuba into a walkable, healthy community. In addition to the Fisher Trail, the Alliance has created walking clubs and a successful farmers market, installed new sidewalks on Main Street and has obtained over two-million dollars in support through state and federal grants, in-kind donations and equipment.

With support from RTCA, graduate students initiated a civic engagement process to collect information on the park. The process included interviewing village residents, a one-day workshop, outreach to high school youth in the school lunch line, and presentations to the Village Council. The final concept plan took shape as a graduate level professional project for one student. RTCA also facilitated the planning and construction of a trail surface demonstration path to help residents better understand trail surface terminology.

Aztec Ruins Trail selected as America's Great Outdoors Priority Project

The one-mile Aztec Ruins Trail connects Aztec's Main Street National Historic District to Aztec Ruins National Monument. Hikers and bicyclists can travel back in time from Aztec's vibrant historic past, along the route of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail to Aztec Ruins, the site of an Ancestral Pueblo with over 500 masonry rooms.

The Aztec Ruins Trail project meets many of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative goals to re-connect American's to the outdoors. Key goals are increasing and improving recreational access and opportunities; cultivating stewardship and appreciation of America's natural, cultural, and historic resources; creating and enhancing a new generation of safe, clean, accessible great urban parks and community green spaces and; empowering communities to connect with America's great outdoors through their rivers and waterways.



Clearing the corridor for the Aztec Ruins Trail.

Current Projects

1. Aztec Ruins Trail Project

Partner: City of Aztec, Aztec Trails & Open Space Committee, Aztec Ruins National Monument

RTCA Contact: Attila Bality

Location: Aztec

Project Goal

Development of a one-mile gateway trail linkage from downtown Aztec's National Historic District to the Aztec Ruins National Monument Visitor Center. Interpret the Old Spanish National Historic Trail along the pathway route.

RTCA Role

RTCA will support the Aztec Trails & Open Space Committee (ATOS) with a public consensus building process for extending the Animas River Trail to Aztec Ruins National Monument. RTCA will also provide technical assistance on trail design issues and accessing rights of way for public use. Identify funding sources for trail construction.

2. Zuni Mountain Trails

Project Partners: U.S. Forest Service, Future Family Foundation, Gallup Trails 2010, Zuni Mountain Trails Partnership

Contact: Attila Bality

Location: Grants & Gallup, NM

Project Goal:

The development of 200 miles of new trails connecting gateway trailheads into the Zuni Mountains of New Mexico. A regional trails, health and tourism partnership will coordinate trails planning and development with the US Forest Service for mountain bicycling, hiking and winter sports activities and forest restoration in three priority areas. Youth Corps will perform forest health restoration at three priority areas.

RTCA Role

RTCA will support the Zuni Mountains Trail Partnership in developing a final

trails system concept plan. RTCA will also devote staff resources to begin implementation of close to home trail recreation near Grants, NM and assist local leaders in strengthening a local mountain bicycling organization.

3. Las Ventanas Ridge Trail

Project Partner: Pueblo of Acoma, Continental Divide Trail Alliance, El Malpais National Monument

RTCA Contact: Attila Bality

Location: Acoma, NM

Project Goal

Routing and construction of 13 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail through Pueblo of Acoma lands pending the environmental feasibility and community interest. The route will provide visitor safety and improve the visitor experience by removing hikers from a state highway right-of-way, which is the current Continental Divide Trail route.

RTCA Role:

Acoma Pueblo has requested RTCA to support Pueblo staff in the development and execution of a civic engagement process to determine tribal interests in locating



Mule deer in Climax Canyon.

“It’s amazing what partnerships can accomplish... we’ve got support for this trail project from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, our Village officials and our county government.”

- Dr. Richard Kozoll, a physician and trails champion in the Village of Cuba



The rugged beauty of Climax Canyon in Colfax County.

Current Projects cont.



Fisher Trail volunteers cut new trail tread.

the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail on Pueblo lands. RTCA will identify additional resources to support the project and coordinate other land managers and organizations supporting the Las Ventanas Ridge Trail. Pending a tribal resolution of support for the trail development, RTCA will help develop a trail management plan for Pueblo officials.

4. Jal Walking Trail

Project Partner: City of Jal
RTCA Contact: Attila Bality
Location: Jal

Project Goal

Development of a one-mile walking path connecting the municipal golf course to Jal Lake Park.

RTCA Role

RTCA will provide assistance for trail construction for a mile-long walking path and develop a civic engagement strategy to solicit additional community ideas. Identify strategies to fully engage Jal Public Schools and Jal Health Clinic in trail planning and programming.

5. Raton Recreation & Nature Trails

Project Partner: Grow Raton Taskforce
RTCA Contact: Hugh Osborne and Kathy Faz
Location: City of Raton

Project Goal

The completion of a non-motorized trail system in the Climax Canyon city park that is adjacent to Raton to provide a convenient site for active outdoor recreation and education.

RTCA Role

Provide trail design and alignment assistance for the proposed trails, engaging the community in the planning process, and identifying funding sources to get trails and other facilities on the ground.

"I feel the partnership with the National Park Service RTCA program is critical to the growth and sustainability for Groundwork Dona Ana and the work we do because of the technical expertise, knowledge, know-how and support we have."

- Denise Hardy,
Executive Director Groundwork Dona Ana.

6. Tortugas Mountain Trail

Project Partner: Groundworks Dona Ana
RTCA Contact: Cate Bradley
Location: Las Cruces

Project Goal

To improve the local trail systems on public lands through strong working partnerships with the BLM, Doña Ana County and the City of Las Cruces as supporters and funders of trail projects that will be planned and implemented by the GWDA Green Team, a local youth team recruited to learn about trail planning, design and maintenance and other natural resource stewardship concepts.

RTCA Role

To assist GWDA with a strategic planning process to build strong local partnerships with public land managers and to provide technical assistance and knowledge during the orientation and training of Green Team members.