

# Charter – Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

This charter addresses the roles and responsibilities of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) Interagency Leadership Council. This charter is consistent with and provides for the implementation of the direction found in the "Memorandum of Understanding for the Administration and Management of National Historic and National Scenic Trails" as adopted in 2001.



## Mission

The Council provides leadership and oversight to complete and sustain the CDNST.

## Goals and Strategies

The Council, through its members, will work to ensure consistent, coordinated, and effective programs for all elements of the CDNST program. This will be accomplished through, in part, the following strategies:

- Expounding a shared vision of the "nature and purposes" of the CDNST.
- Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each organizational level in each agency;
- Instituting and maintaining effective and efficient integrated planning processes for the trail;
- Establishing priorities for locating the trail;
- Developing common trail specification, facility, and signing standards.
- Utilizing common interagency performance measures;
- Utilizing common data elements and reporting systems;
- Providing coordinated and consistent direction and monitoring of field unit performance;
- Promoting strong partnerships with volunteers and private nonprofit trail groups; and
- Communicating the status of completing the CDNST and successes of the CDNST program through coordinated visitor information approaches.

## Organization and Operations

The Council consists of three levels of organization:

- The Leadership Council is comprised of the (a) Regional Foresters for Regions 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Forest Service, (b) State Directors for Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico of the Bureau of Land Management, and (c) the Director of the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service. States along the trail will be added subject to the approval of state government cooperative agreements that address the CDNST. Leadership Council membership may be delegated to another official within each organization.
- Senior Staff for the Leadership Council are the Regional Directors for Recreation of the Forest Service, Deputy State Directors for Resources of the Bureau of Land Management, and Associate Regional Director for Park Operational Support of the National Park Service. They are responsible for advising the Leadership Council and guiding the Core Team. Provide human and financial resources, and other individuals and teams as necessary.
- The Core Team, assigned by Leadership Council members, includes regional and state level staff from the participating agencies, as appropriate. The Core Team develops recommendations for implementing programs and other business matters for approval by the Leadership Council, and implements the decisions of the Leadership Council.

## **Leadership Council Charter – Continental Divide National Scenic Trail**

The Leadership Council and Core Team will each have a Chair:

- The Chair of the Leadership Council will be the Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service. The primary duties of the Leadership Council Chair will be to conduct meetings and assure the Core Team is proceeding as directed.
- The Chair of the Core Team will be the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Program Specialist for the Forest Service. Duties of the Core Team Chair will include scheduling and organizing meetings of the Leadership Council and Core Team, maintaining and distributing a record of all meetings, maintaining a list of named Leadership Council and Core Team members, and monitoring and reporting on the progress of the Core Team towards accomplishing the work directed by the Leadership Council. Will maintain the official CDNST location decisions, route maps, and other records.

### **Volunteers and Private Nonprofit Trail Groups**

The Council will recognize the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit groups have made to the development and maintenance of the trail; and will continue to encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, improvement, maintenance, and management of the trail, as appropriate.

The Continental Divide Trail Alliance, other private nonprofit groups, and volunteers will be invited to participate in the Leadership Council and Core Team activities, as appropriate.

### **Support**

Member agencies will support Council activities with appropriate staff. The Forest Service will be responsible for minor costs of holding meetings, maintaining records, and similar functions.

### **Meetings**

The Leadership Council will meet at least annually to review CDNST issues, goals, and strategies for the completing and sustaining the trail. The Chair will determine the locations for the meetings after seeking advice from other Leadership Council members.

The Core Team will meet as frequently as it deems necessary to complete the work assignments of the Leadership Council. The Core Team Chair will determine locations for meetings after seeking advice from other Core Team members.

### **Date of Termination**

This Charter will remain in effect until its members rescind it. Any member may terminate their involvement by notifying the other members of their intent to leave the Council.

Charter Signatures

*Abigail R. Kimball*  
Abigail R. Kimball  
Regional Forester  
Northern Region  
USDA - Forest Service  
8/19/04  
Date

*Marty C. Ott*  
Marty C. Ott  
Montana State Director  
USDI – Bureau of Land  
Management  
08/19/04  
Date

*Steve P. Martin*  
Steve P. Martin  
Regional Director,  
Intermountain Region  
USDI - National Park Service  
8/19/04  
Date

*Rick D. Cables*  
Rick D. Cables  
Regional Forester  
Rocky Mountain Region  
USDA - Forest Service  
19 Aug 04  
Date

*Kurt Kötter*  
K. Lynn Bennett  
Idaho State Director  
USDI – Bureau of Land  
Management  
8/19/2004  
Date

*Jack G. Troyer*  
Jack G. Troyer  
Regional Forester  
Intermountain Region  
USDA - Forest Service  
8/19/04  
Date

*Robert A. Bennett*  
Robert A. Bennett  
Wyoming State Director  
USDI – Bureau of Land  
Management  
8/19/04  
Date

*Harv Forsgren*  
Harv Forsgren  
Regional Forester  
Southwest Region  
USDA - Forest Service  
8/19/04  
Date

*Ron Wenker*  
Ron Wenker  
Colorado State Director  
USDI – Bureau of Land  
Management  
8/19/04  
Date

*Linda S. C. Rundell for*  
Linda S. C. Rundell  
New Mexico State Director  
USDI – Bureau of Land  
Management  
8/19/04  
Date

