

Initial Forest Plan Components  
Santa Fe National Forest  
Comments Requested by February 15, 2017

The following are recommendations for CDNST plan component desired conditions, objectives, and standards to be applied to a described Management Area for either the NEPA proposed action or for an alternative to be considered in detail. Additional CDNST plan component recommendations are found in the accompanying CDNST Planning Handbook on pages 28-31. Insertions are in black text.

## 16.6 Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

### Desired Conditions

1. The CDT is a well-defined trail in a highly scenic setting along the Continental Divide that provides for high-quality primitive hiking, horseback riding opportunities, and other compatible non-motorized trail activities. Significant scenic, natural, historic, and cultural resources along the CDT's corridor are conserved.
2. Viewsheds from the CDT have high scenic values. The CDT provides visitors with expansive views of the natural landscapes along the Continental Divide. ~~The foreground of the CDT landscape (up to 0.5 mile on either side)~~ appears natural and generally unaltered by human activities. The potential to view wildlife is high, and evidence of ecological processes such as fire as well as insects and disease exist. The linear landscape along the CDNST travel route is found in established Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS settings.
3. The CDT has access points that provide various opportunities to select the type of terrain, scenery, and trail length (e.g., ranging from long-distance to day use) that best provide for compatible outdoor recreation experiences.
  - ~~a. Wild and remote backcountry segments of the CDT provide opportunities for solitude, immersion in natural landscapes, and primitive outdoor recreation.~~
  - ~~b. Front country and easily accessible trail segments complement local community interests and needs and help contribute to their sense of place.~~
4. Use conflicts among trail users are infrequent.
5. The CDT is well maintained, signed, and passable. Alternate routes are made available in the case of temporary closures resulting from natural events (e.g., fire or flood) or land management activities.

## Objectives

1. Unconnected segments (five miles on NFS lands and approximately seven miles within San Pedro Parks Wilderness) of the CDT on the Cuba Ranger District will be connected in the life of this Plan.
2. Complete the CDNST unit plan (FSM 2353.44(b)(2)) within three years.

## Standards

### 1. Management of the CDT shall comply with the most recent version of the CDT Comprehensive Plan.

- X. Manage the CDNST travelway as a concern level 1 travel route. Resource management actions must meet a Scenic Integrity Level of Very High or High (CDNST Comprehensive Plan, Chapter IV(B)(4)).
  - X. Resource management actions and allowed uses must be compatible with maintaining or achieving Primitive or Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS class settings, except motor vehicle use is allowed if such use is in accordance with the CDNST Comprehensive Plan, Chapter IV(B)(6) and FSM 2353.44b(11).
  - X. Motorized and mechanized use may only be allowed where such use is in accordance with CDNST Comprehensive Plan, Chapter IV(B)(5)&(6) and FSM 2353.44b(10) and (11).
  - X. Road construction and reconstruction is prohibited; excepted are motor vehicle use circumstances described in CDNST Comprehensive Plan Chapter IV(B)(6) and FSM 2353.44b(11).
  - X. The CDNST travel route may not be used for a livestock driveway.
2. No surface occupancy for geothermal energy leasing activities shall occur within the CDT corridor.
  3. No common variety mineral extraction (e.g. limestone, gravel, pumice) shall occur within the CDT corridor.
  4. Motorized events and motorized special use permits shall not be permitted or authorized on the CDT.
- X. Other uses that could conflict with the nature and purposes of the CDNST may be allowed only where there is a determination that the other use would not substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the CDNST (16 USC 1246(c)).
  - X. Where the CDNST corridor overlaps with Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River designations the most restrictive measures control.