



**File Code:** 1920; 2350  
**Route To:**

**Date:**

9/8/2016

**Subject:** Developing Forest Plan Direction for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

**To:** Rocky Mountain Region 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 Forest Supervisors: Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Bitterroot, Custer-Gallatin, Flathead, Helena and Lewis and Clark National Forests; Southwest Region Forest Supervisors: Carson, Cibola, Gila and Santa Fe National Forests; Intermountain Region Forest Supervisors: Salmon-Challis, Bridger-Teton, and Caribou-Targhee National Forests

The authority for broad-based policy and direction for the development and management of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) is found in the 2009 comprehensive plan. However, individual forest plan direction for the CDT varies greatly across Forests and is non-existent for some Forests. The CDT Federal Interagency Leadership Council,<sup>1</sup> which provides consistent leadership and coordinated management of CDT program activities, asked the agency to provide more consistent management direction for this 3,100-mile, congressionally-designated trail. With 15 of the 20 Forests through which the CDT occurs (CDT Forests) revising their forest plans over the next several years, it was determined that consistency could best be achieved through development of recommended CDT forest plan direction. Consequently, the Trail Administrator worked extensively with District, Forest and Regional Office staffs of Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4, to develop the enclosed CDT Recommended Forest Plan Components document (referred to here as "Template") to assist CDT Forests as they undergo revision.

As part of our responsibility to coordinate planning efforts among adjoining units and Regions, we are requiring all CDT Forests to use the Template as a basis for discussions with the public when developing the proposed plan. The document provides a common framework for developing CDT plan direction while allowing flexibility for CDT Forests to make adjustments based on their unique needs, conditions, and public input. Use of this Template will facilitate more seamless management of the CDT corridor, respond to concerns of our partners, and reduce duplication of effort to develop direction by each CDT Forest.

We also expect CDT Forests to designate the CDT corridor as a management area, or equivalent spatially identifiable area to provide a consistent approach for establishing management emphasis for the CDT across CDT Forests. The one-half mile foreground, viewed from either side of the CDT, must be a primary consideration in delineating the CDT corridor or management area boundary.

<sup>1</sup> The Council includes the Regional Foresters for Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4; BLM State Directors for MT, ID, WY, CO and NM; NPS Intermountain Region Director; WO NPS, FS, and BLM trail program leads; and Recreation Directors for Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 and their agency counterparts.



The above direction also applies to any plan amendment involving CDT plan direction.

The Template is a living document and will be updated based on lessons learned and changed circumstances. The CDT Administrator will work closely with the CDT Forests and Regional Planners in the coming years to refine the Template as we learn from public input and implementation under the resulting CDT plan direction. The most up-to-date version of the Template and a communication plan will be located here: [CDT Sharepoint Site](#).

For more information on this coordinated management direction, please contact Brenda Yankoviak, CDT Administrator (303)275-5322, [byankoviak@fs.fed.us](mailto:byankoviak@fs.fed.us), or the Regional Planner for your Region: Region 1, Timory Peel (406)329-3678, [tpeel@fs.fed.us](mailto:tpeel@fs.fed.us); Region 2, John Rupe (303)275-5148, [jrupe@fs.fed.us](mailto:jrupe@fs.fed.us); Region 3, Matt Turner (505)842-3214, [mturner@fs.fed.us](mailto:mturner@fs.fed.us); Region 4, Gina Lampman (801)625-5301, [glampman@fs.fed.us](mailto:glampman@fs.fed.us).



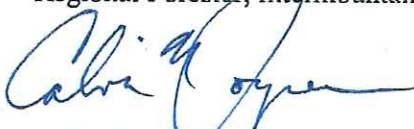
*JAC*  
JACQUELINE A. BUCHANAN  
Acting Regional Forester



LEANNE M. MARTEN  
Regional Forester, Northern Region



NORA B. RASURE  
Regional Forester, Intermountain Region



CALVIN N. JOYNER  
Regional Forester, Southwest Region

Enclosure

cc: George Bain, Karen Mollander, Jim Bedwell, Jason Robertson, Don Dressler, Jim Zornes, Chris Hartman, Mark Bethke, Francisco Valenzuela, Bob Davis, Timory Peel, John Rupe, Matt Turner, Gina Lampman, Brenda Yankoviak