



Rio Grande Trail Commission

Year in Review (2025)

Over the past year, the Rio Grande Trail Commission, along with its partners, made significant progress. During 2025, the team successfully designated six existing trail segments totaling nearly 40 miles. This milestone represents a major step forward in the continued development of the Rio Grande Trail.

Following its three-year hiatus, the Rio Grande Trail Commission formally reconvened on April 21, 2025, reengaging stakeholders and reinvigorating efforts to advance official trail designation. The Commission quickly organized four subcommittees to address the diverse facets of trail development and management. These subcommittees include Tribal, Legislative, Alignment, and Nonprofit. Each subcommittee played a critical role in strengthening relationships with local communities, identifying pathways to pursue official trail designation, and building partnerships with key stakeholders.

The Commission met three times during the year in Truth or Consequences, Santa Fe, and Taos. These meetings were instrumental in rebuilding cohesion and guiding decision-making around future trail development. Convenings included site visits to planned Rio Grande Trail segments, informal pre-meeting gatherings to exchange ideas and strategies, and official Commission meetings to review progress and identify next steps. Meetings were held throughout various parts of the state to better spread the message and engage with different communities.

The non-profit subcommittee led an effort to secure governmental support and initiate the planning process for a non-profit entity that will ultimately steward the trail once it is fully established and officially recognized statewide. This is a critical step towards the long-term sustainability of the trail.

As a core component of the broader Rio Grande Trail Project, the Commission has been vital to advancing trail designation efforts and fostering collaboration among partners across the state whose expertise contributes to the successful implementation of this regional trail system.

In 2025, trail segments were designated in Bernalillo County, Taos County, Socorro County, and Sierra County. In addition, as a result of the reconvening of the commission, many other communities have expressed strong interest, support, and enthusiasm for the continued development of the Rio Grande Trail system. The commission will continue pursuing additional designation opportunities in 2026, further enhancing quality of life by increasing access to outdoor recreation and strengthening connections to the Rio Grande.

This work is only possible due to the hard work and dedication of community partners and other key stakeholders. The future of the Rio Grande Trail is brighter than ever. The commission will continue to build on this momentum in the continued pursuit of a continuous through route for the Rio Grande Trail.