

MONTANA HIGH DIVIDE TRAILS

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The nature and purposes of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail are to provide for high quality, scenic, primitive hiking and horseback-riding non-motorized recreational experiences and to conserve natural, historic, and cultural resources along the Continental Divide.¹

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is America's longest quiet mountain trail. Designated in 1978 by Congress for hiking and horseback travel, the trail will stretch 3,100 miles along the backbone of the Rockies.

When completed, the Continental Divide Trail will also be Montana's longest trail, winding 820 miles through some of Montana's finest mountain wilderness and backcountry.

Montana bicyclists have also discovered the quiet beauty of this trail. *"I consider the Continental Divide the gem of mountain biking trails in the Butte area,"* says Mike Borduin, president of Highlands Cycling Club.

From the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness, the Continental Divide wraps Butte and skirts Helena before reaching north into the Scapegoat and Bob Marshall Wilderness Country. Approximately 240 miles of the Continental Divide Trail will link the Pintlers and Scapegoat Wilderness. **Key sections remain unfinished.**

A cooperative conservation plan for the Continental Divide Trail and surrounding wild lands was one reason Montana hikers, equestrians, conservationists, and bicyclists began meeting in July 2006.

The resulting agreement forges a hopeful new vision: The *Montana High Divide Trail System* will add permanent protection to some of Montana's most beautiful wildlands and offer quiet trail opportunities for everyone.

Hikers, equestrians and bicyclists will **work together**, along with land managers, to complete unfinished sections of the Continental Divide Trail. Of 240 trail miles be-

Creators of Montana High Divide Trails

Highlands Cycling Club
Mile-High Back Country Horsemen
Helena Bicycle Club
Wild Divide Chapter,
Montana Wilderness Association
Last Chance Back Country Horsemen
Prickly Pear Land Trust
Helena Trail Riders
Great Divide Cycling Team
Helena Outdoor Club
Continental Divide Trail Alliance

¹ *Purposes of the Continental Divide Trail*, Legislative History of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Feb. 28, 2007/ <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/trails/cdnst/>

tween the Pintlers and Scapegoat, 202 miles would be for bicycle, foot and equestrian use² with 38 miles managed for hiking and horseback travel.³

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

(Pintlers to Scapegoat)

202 miles—foot, equestrian, bicycles (84%)

38 miles—foot and equestrian (16%)

Trails such as Thunderbolt Mountain within proposed wilderness that displace mountain bike use will be replaced by trails offering great single-track riding.

This approach to resolving specific conflicts between bicyclists, hikers, equestrians and wilderness is similar to agreements in Virginia where a new bike trail will replace trails within the proposed Raccoon Branch Wilderness.⁴

As more and more people move to Montana, *High Divide Trails* will give residents new and old the peace of mind that comes with knowing our beautiful wildlands and quiet backcountry trail opportunities will be protected, now and for future generations.

By working together we accomplish more.

MONTANA HIGH DIVIDE TRAILS			
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail –proposed agreement			
A-Pintler Wilderness- Interstate 15	Beaverhead-Deerlodge MT Fish Wildlife Parks	41.3	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
Interstate 15-Pipestone Pass	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	21.3	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
Pipestone P-Homestake Pass	Thompson Park	6.7	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
Homestake Pass-Elk Park	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	29.2	Foot-equestrian, bicycle
Elk Park-Champion Pass	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	22.0	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
Champion Pass-Electric Peak	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	10.7	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
Electric Peak-Bison Mtn Trail	Beaverhead-Deerlodge/ Helena National Forest	11.5	Foot and equestrian
Bison Mtn –MacDonald Pass	Helena / BDL NF	21	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
MacDonald Pass-Meyers Hill	Helena NF	22.4	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
Meyers Hill- Cellar Gulch Trail CDT	Helena NF	12.9	Foot and equestrian
Cellar Gulch –Stemple Pass	Helena NF	5.1	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
Stemple Pass- Flesher Pass	Helena NF	11.3	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
Flesher Pass-Rogers Pass	Helena NF	11.1	Foot, equestrian, bicycle
Rogers Pass-Scapegoat Wilderness	Helena/ Lewis- Clark	14.2	Foot and equestrian

² The cooperation of key stakeholders will help public land managers determine which sections of the CDNST are suitable for bicycle, foot and equestrian travel.

³ The Wilderness Act prohibits all forms of “mechanical transport.” Section 4(c), 16 USC 1133

⁴ See: http://www.imba.com/news/action_alerts/05_07/05_24_virginia_wilderness.html

