



Deschutes Trails Coalition

April 21, 2025

Dear Deschutes County Commissioners,

I am pleased to share with you the accomplishments of the Deschutes Trails Coalition's Stewardship Grant, funded by Deschutes County TRT, thanks to your support. The positive impacts of the \$600,000 allocated to support trail sustainability in our region are outlined in the following report.

In brief, nine grants were awarded, ranging in value from \$13K to nearly \$120K, totaling \$540K. These funds supported a variety of projects across Deschutes County, benefiting multiple trail user groups of all ages and abilities. Additionally, these projects have created new stewardship opportunities for our community, contributing to the long-term sustainability of trail-based recreation, which is central to Central Oregon's identity and economy.

Due to the efficient use of funds by grantees, there is \$17,248 of unspent grant funds from two projects. The DTC is requesting that these funds be used to support DTC Trail Crew operations. As you may be aware, the Deschutes National Forest is facing unprecedented budget and staffing shortages and does not have a trail crew. The only professional, full-time trail crew in Central Oregon is the DTC's Trail Crew. This upcoming season will be our third year of a three-year pilot project funded by federal Great American Outdoors Act funding. The \$200K of federal funding intended to support this program, in combination with project grants, would have funded the Trail Crew through 2027. However, these funds are now unlikely, leaving the DTC with a significant and unanticipated funding gap to host this critical crew resource this year and in the following years.

This request to allow DTC to retain these remaining funds aligns with the original intent of reinvesting tourism dollars into the 2500+ miles of trails that many come here to enjoy. The DTC Trail Crew works across the entire Deschutes National Forest – from trails in southern Deschutes County near Crescent and La Pine, to the north and west near Sisters, as well as those trails in the Three Sisters Wilderness and west of Bend. Funding the DTC with these remaining funds would be a fitting capstone to this County funded effort, showcasing the work of our community, the support of County leadership, and the positive impacts we can collectively make when we work together.

Thank you again for your support of DTC and the trails community, and for the opportunity to work together for Central Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jana Johnson

Executive Director