

# COPMOBA

## WEST END CHAPTER



### 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

2016 has been a turning point for the West End Chapter and local trail activity. Our efforts to increase membership and interest in local trails have been rewarded with an increase in local COPMOBA memberships, currently at seven and also WETA memberships which is currently at forty members. WETA remains a broader based trail advocacy group including hikers and mountain bikers from multiple communities reflective of our smaller populations and large geographical area.

WETA has been successful in obtaining grant funding from the Telluride Foundation, the Town of Naturita and San Miguel Power Assn. to create a West End non-motorized trail map, due out in March 2017 and a [westendtrails.org](http://westendtrails.org) website due to become live before year's end. We are excited about the prospect of being able increase our trail inventory as new routes are discovered and mapped plus eventually increasing our revenue stream with map sales. All trails listed are existing and unmarked. It is planned that future projects will include signing of the more popular trails in cooperation with the BLM and Montrose County.

Trail construction activity has been robust with the completion of the Thunder Trails network south of Norwood last year and the continued construction of multi-use trails in the Burn Canyon Area west of Norwood. That project was initiated by the Norwood Parks and Recreation District with a \$200,000 CPW grant. The Paradox Trail Reroute project was awarded a \$33,600 CPW grant and construction got underway late this summer and continuing into November with 66 volunteer hours being performed to date. Sam Andrews of Norwood is the official trail designer/builder for the project which should see completion in the summer of 2017.

WETA hosted two events in 2016. The John Brown Canyon Hill Climb was held in Gateway on April 17th with a small but enthusiastic group of riders (and runners) plus the Bring the Thunder gathering on the new Thunder Trails system south of Norwood. That event saw over 30 people in attendance and provided enough volunteers that the USFS was able to create two maintenance crews for a mornings worth of work. Both events were not designed as fund raisers but more to introduce the locals to WETA and our local trails.

Montrose West Recreation (MWR) continues to act as the financial "umbrella" organization for WETA. Currently, WETA has \$9,452.80 in the account of which \$8,906.19 is committed to the mapping project and \$546.61 is in the general WETA fund.

Submitted by Paul Koski- West End Chapter Chairperson