



CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD COMMISSION
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PRESS RELEASE

American Heritage Railways, the Company that owns and operates the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad in southwest Colorado, and the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission have negotiated the major terms for management of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad next year. A final contract is being developed for review and approval at the next scheduled meeting of the C&TSRR Commission on November 17, 2011 in Antonito, CO. The move will bring back under one company the two surviving segments of the old Denver and Rio Grande Western narrow-gauge railroad network that ran through the mountains of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico in the 1880s.

“We’re extremely pleased to be working with American Heritage Railways,” said C&TSRR Commission Chairman Randy Randall of Santa Fe and Chama. “They bring a great deal of experience in operating tourist railroads and this experience and expertise will provide strong leadership for the future of the C&TSRR.”

The selection of American Heritage was made following a formal request-for-proposals process conducted by the C&TSRR Commission, governing body for the railroad. American Heritage will assume operation of the C&TSRR from the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Management Corp. on January 1, 2012.

“The C&TSRR Commission thanks the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Management Corp. for all the improvements that have been accomplished on the C&TSRR under their management and guidance. C&TSMC board members and employees have played a vital role in setting the stage for this next step in the growth of the C&TSRR.” Said Commission Chairman Randall.

“All of us at American Heritage Railways are truly excited about the opportunity to work on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad,” said Al Harper, American Heritage Railways chairman and CEO. “This is a historic day. The spirit of the Denver and Rio Grande Western rises again as the greatness of the C&TSRR and D&SNG share a future together once more.”

In addition to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge, American Heritage Railways is the parent company of the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad and operator of the Texas State Railroad.

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad was purchased by the states Colorado and New Mexico in 1970 and operates under an Interstate Compact granted by the U.S. Congress in 1974.

The final regularly scheduled trains of the 2011 season on the C&TSRR will run this Sunday, Oct. 16. Further information can be found at the railroad’s web site, www.cumbrestoltec.com.

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