

GUIDE TO VOLUNTEER PROJECTS 2018

absaroka | beartooth
WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

THE A-B WILDERNESS IS 40 YEARS OLD!



On March 27th, 1978, Congress passed, and President Jimmy Carter signed, PL-95-249, "An Act to designate the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Custer and Gallatin National Forests, in the state of Montana." It was a monumental achievement, nurtured and guided by Montana Senator Lee Metcalf whom some around him called the "Patron Saint" of Montana wilderness.

The fascinating story of Lee Metcalf and how the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness came into being has been recently documented in print and in film. **To celebrate this event the ABWF is promoting the 40th Anniversary in the following ways:**

Wild Resurrection:

The Untold Story of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness

A documentary film written, produced, and directed by Kris Prinzing, director of MusEco Media and Education Project, a Billings nonprofit.

May 10th (Thur) Film Premiere: The Shane Lalani Center, Livingston, 6:30-9:00.

May 31st (Thur) Film Premiere: The Roman Theatre, Red Lodge, 6:30-9:00.

Both events will have special guests featured in the film, live music, a cash bar, birthday cake and snacks, A-B Wilderness Art on display, and we encourage you to bring in any old photos from the Wilderness to share, especially pre-1978! Cost \$10.00, unless you're a member of one of the sponsoring organizations.

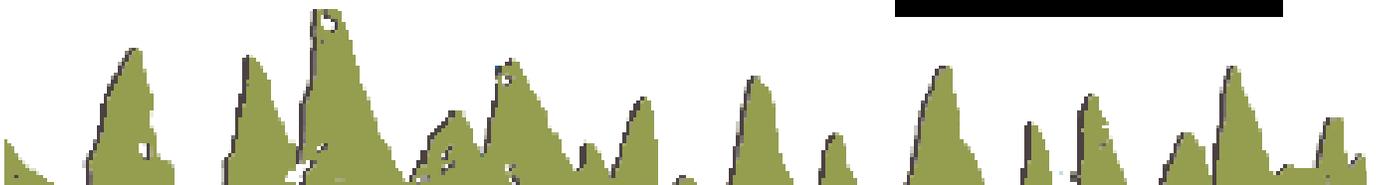
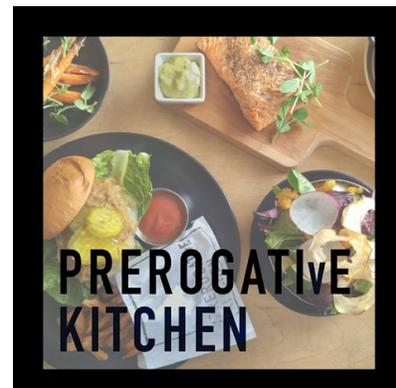
Article: 'Magnificent' AB Wilderness turns 40 this week

Featured story by Ed Kemmick in his online publication, the "Last Best News". This is an excellent, definitive 2-part story of the A-B Wilderness designation and the legacy of Lee Metcalf you can find at: <http://lastbestnews.com/site/2018/03/magnificent-ab-wilderness-turns-40-this-week/>

Food and Fundraising!

The Prerogative Kitchen

You're invited to discover and enjoy Red Lodge's new happening restaurant! It's Prerogative Kitchen, owned and operated by Gena Gale Burghoff & Chris Lockhart (Montana Jack's, The Ox Pasture). During the entire month of June, a portion of the proceeds will go to the A-B Wilderness Foundation! So eat and drink at PK's again and again. Their menu rotates regularly! And help the ABWF!





The 50th Annual Beartooth Run.

The 50th Annual Beartooth Run! July 14th (Saturday)

Yes, this is THAT race! Runners, this year, the ABWF is helping sponsor this long-running (pun-intended!) 5K and 10K race at 10,000 feet. What better way to celebrate the Anniversary of the A-B Wilderness than a famous road-race set against the spectacularly wild and rugged backdrop of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness? 100% of your tax-deductable donation will go to the ABWF! For more information and to register for the Beartooth Run, go to www.redlodgeevents.com. Use the code, "ABWF" when registering for \$10 off your registration, then apply the savings to the ABWF!

40th Anniversary Celebration of the A-B Wilderness! September 7th (Friday)

Location: Livingston, MT @ the Bandshell near the Civic Center. 4-7 p.m.

The ABWF, the Custer Gallatin National Forest and other partners are throwing an Anniversary Party for the A-B Wilderness! Booths, Food, Local Beer, Live music, activities, etc.! Along the Yellowstone River near Sacagawea Park.

Atlas of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is Online Now!

The A-B Wilderness Foundation is in the process of publishing a very special book specifically on the A-B Wilderness. A collection of essays, artwork, and maps will highlight features that are unique to this spectacular wilderness. For a sneak preview and to help support this publication, visit www.abatlas.org.

Today it's hard to imagine the effectiveness of a senator like Lee Metcalf, or congress's nearly unanimous passage of a bill that could create an enormous wilderness area like the A-B Wilderness. Indeed, no new wilderness has been established in Montana in the last 35 years, and currently our congressional leaders Steve Daines and Greg Gianforte are spearheading a move to eliminate important protections on our public lands, even doing away with wildlands in Montana already designated as 'Wilderness Study' areas. It's all the more reason we need to protect and care for places like the A-B Wilderness.

Please continue your support of the ABWF. Say Happy Birthday to the A-B by becoming a member online at www.abwilderness.org, or tear off the form on the back page of this booklet and mail it in with your check to P.O. Box 392, Red Lodge, MT, 59068.



MULTI-DAY PROJECTS

1 JUNE 25 – 28 WEST BOULDER TRAIL CLEARING "GIRLS ONLY"



Location: West Boulder Campground & TH

Meet at: The West Boulder Trailhead is 30 miles SW of Big Timber and McLeod at the end of a good paved and dirt road.

Camp: Backpacking camp, approximately 6 miles up the West Boulder River

Description: This is a fun trip we do with the Girl Scouts of MT/WY each summer. We backpack in about 5 miles, set up camp, and for three days work hard at clearing the popular

trail. After a fire a few years ago, the lodge poles have grown in by the thousands and are crowding the trail. We need help lopping them back and using crosscut saws to cut out any bigger trees that have fallen across the path.

Special Considerations: Moderate difficulty. The West Boulder Trail is relatively level all the way to the camp, making an easy backpack in. We typically have the Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen pack the food and heavy stuff in, too! The Girl Scouts welcome other girls, of high school age, to join us who would like to help and go on a great trip in a really pretty area! You don't have to be a Girl Scout to join!

What to Bring: See "Multi-Day Trip Packing List". Keep it light, as everything is packed in! All food is provided!

2 JULY 26 – 30 KERSEY LAKE/RUSSELL CREEK TURNPIKE CONSTRUCTION

Location: Cooke City

Meet at: Cooke City Chamber of Commerce @ 9 am

Camp: Historic Forest Service Cabin! (& Car Camping)—Up to 6 can sleep in the cabin; the rest can sleep in vehicles or hard-sided campers. This is truly the heart of grizzly country!

Description: The Cooke City to E. Rosebud Trail is easily the most popular overnight trail in the A-B Wilderness, so it gets the greatest impact and needs our love! In the vicinity of beautiful Kersey Lake, there's a lot of boggy trail that needs drainage features added and the installation of turnpike through the muddiest sections. Plenty of work to be done. This is our third year here!



Special Considerations: Strenuous to Very Strenuous. We will stay at the historic Forest Service cabin, 1 mile east of Cooke City, and hike to work each day (max. 3.5 miles RT). Altitude is 7500 ft. While we'd prefer if you came and helped for the entire 5 days, commitment to all five days is not required. You can join us for some, or all of the days, since we will be hiking in from the Chief Joseph trailhead each and every day. The cabin has electricity and a refrigerator.

What to Bring: See "Multi-Day Trip Packing List." Any of the extras you would bring car-camping—like a chair, a banjo, a real pillow, soft drinks and adult beverages. All food is provided.

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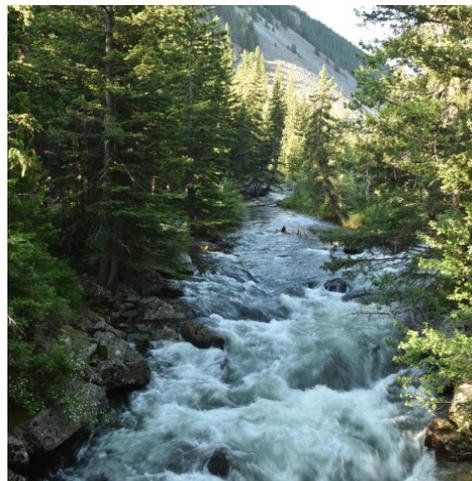
3 AUG 3 – 6 INITIAL CREEK BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Location: Nye/Absarokee, MT

Meet at: Old Nye Picnic Area/Fishing Access @ 9 am

Camp: Primitive campsite/Car Camping by the bridge near the trailhead; pitch a tent or bring camper.

Description: A new bridge is being installed over the W. Fork of the Stillwater River near Initial Creek Campground. A crew is needed to build the bridge abutments at the ends of the bridge. We'll also be working on improving an access trail that comes into the Initial Creek area. Once bridge and abutments are in place, wilderness users (especially horses) will be able to park in the large parking lot near the campground, and hike or horse ride into the W.



Stillwater Trailhead using the bridge and 1-mile trail we built a previous summer.

Special Considerations: The road from the Stillwater Mine up to Initial Creek Campground and the West Stillwater Trailhead is quite rough the last 2 miles, and best for high clearance vehicles only. We can carpool together from the Old Nye Picnic Area (~3 miles past Nye). We give preference to those who can work the entire 4 days, but if you can spare only a portion of that time, you can still join us at the campsite in time to go to work in the morning (by 8 a.m.).

What to Bring: See “Multi-Day Trip Packing List.” Anything you would bring car-camping. All food is provided.

4 AUG 9 – 15 LAKE PLATEAU TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION



Work Location: Between Wounded Man Lake & Jordan Pass on the Lake Plateau. We will be rebuilding trail that has eroded badly on the way up to Jordan Pass.

Camp: A backcountry campsite ~16 miles up the W. Stillwater Trail from Initial Creek Campground.

Description: This trip will be the most ambitious project the ABWF has taken on with the Forest Service! The pay-off is that camp and the work will be located in one of the most spectacular places in the entire A-B Wilderness—the Lake Plateau! It will combine a long

and difficult day hike in and out with strenuous trail-work at altitude for the five days in between. We'll be grading the trail, installing checks and filling in behind them, and installing drainage structures.

Special Considerations: Only for the strongest/most fit volunteers! It is a **16+ mile!** hike from the West Stillwater Trailhead (6600 ft.) into our backcountry camp near Wounded Man Lake (9200 ft.). Our food, tools and heavy camp gear will be packed in by the Backcountry Horsemen, but everyone will need to carry a daypack with their own personal items to camp. It's a good idea to think minimalistically and only bring what is essential to your backpacking needs. Elevation gain: 2650 ft. We'll be working regularly at roughly 9000 ft. in elevation.

What to Bring: See “Multi-Day Trip Packing List.” All food is provided.

CONTINUED...

5 AUGUST 22–28 -AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY- EAST FORK BOULDER RIVER TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Location: Box Canyon Guard Station/E. Fork Boulder River TH.

Meet at: Frosty Freeze in Big Timber, to caravan up the Boulder River Rd. together.

Camp: Backcountry Campsite up the E. Fork Trail, near Lake Kathleen (7550 ft.)

Description: The East Fork of the Boulder River Trail accesses both the Lake Plateau (via Rainbow Cr.) and the headwaters of Slough Creek in the remote center of the A-B Wilderness. We will be setting up camp for the week at tiny Lake Kathleen, five miles up the E. Fork Trail, and working our way up towards the Slough Creek divide. We will be clearing the trail, doing much-needed trail maintenance, and installing numerous water bars. The Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen will be packing in our heavy food, camping equipment, and tools, so you'll only need to carry a lighter pack into Lake Kathleen.

Special Considerations: Elevation Gain: 6600 – 8500 (1900 ft). The dirt road up the Main Boulder River from McLeod, MT to its end at the Box Canyon Guard Station is a long, slow, and very bumpy ride and certainly not appropriate for lower clearance cars. It's approximately 32 miles to the end from McLeod, but those 32 miles take 2+ hours to traverse. That's why we'll meet in Big Timber to caravan down together.

What to Bring: See "Multi-Day Trip Packing List." All Meals are provided.



Volunteers on the Suce Creek Trail on National Trails Day



SINGLE-DAY PROJECTS

1 SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH | NICHOLS CREEK -COMMUNITY TRAILS DAY-



Location: Red Lodge

Meet at: Lower Parking of Red Lodge Mtn @ 9am

Description: We think we can finish off the entire Nichols Creek Trail down to the West Fork Rd. by the end of September, 2018, but we're going to need a lot of help!

Special Considerations: Moderate to Moderately Strenuous in Difficulty. After work is done for the day, we will have our Annual Trails Day Picnic/Celebration in the Parking Lot of the Ski Area. Barbecue, Cold Beverages, Beer provided! Elevation is 7400 ft.

What to Bring: See "Day Trip Packing List"

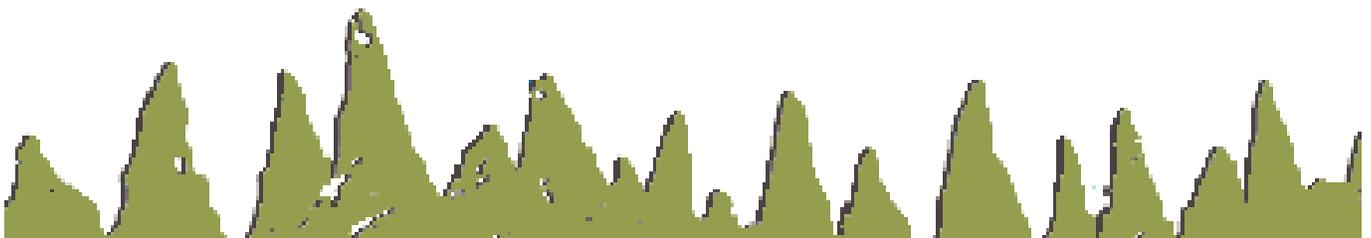
2 SATURDAY, JULY 14TH | EAST ROSEBUD -WEED PULL-

Location: Near wilderness sign on E. Rosebud Trail

Meet at: East Rosebud Trailhead @ 9 am

Description: Part of what makes Wilderness areas great is the character of land. Over the years we have been working to maintain the natural integrity of the A-B Wilderness by fighting against invasive species that threaten to push out the native species. Come join us pull and spray weeds to help rid one of our most popular trails of invasive species and maintain the natural ecology of the A-B Wilderness.

What to Bring: See "Day Trip Packing List." Please bring plenty of water, snacks and a lunch. Gloves and long sleeves/long pants a must! Cold drinks will be provided.



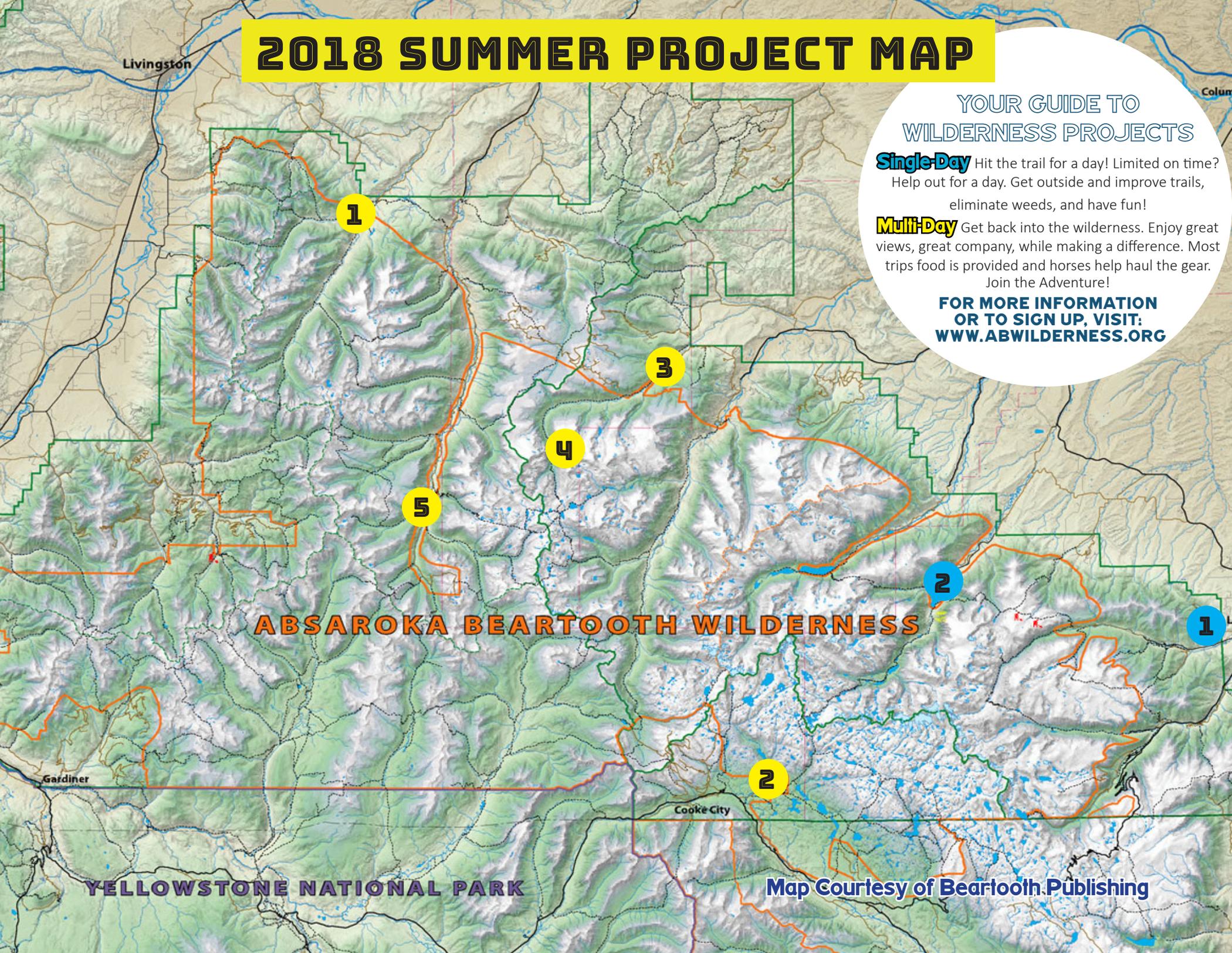
2018 SUMMER PROJECT MAP

YOUR GUIDE TO WILDERNESS PROJECTS

Single-Day Hit the trail for a day! Limited on time? Help out for a day. Get outside and improve trails, eliminate weeds, and have fun!

Multi-Day Get back into the wilderness. Enjoy great views, great company, while making a difference. Most trips food is provided and horses help haul the gear. Join the Adventure!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO SIGN UP, VISIT:
WWW.ABWILDERNESS.ORG**



ABSAROKA BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Map Courtesy of Beartooth Publishing

WHAT TO EXPECT



SO WHAT'S A TRAIL TRIP LIKE? That's hard to say because each trip is so distinct: the group, the type of work, the weather. Still, if you come prepared for your volunteer trip and know what to expect, we are confident you will have a safe and satisfying experience that supports stewardship in the A-B Wilderness!



WHO CAN VOLUNTEER? We try to accommodate anyone who wishes to volunteer. Groups and families are welcome, but typically 14+ is required for any backcountry trips. Our work tends to be on the more difficult side, but mostly because our work locations are generally inside the wilderness and require some effort to get there. For any given project, there are tasks that are easier by nature. Self-sufficiency around camping is necessary.

HOW DIFFICULT IS IT? The work can be quite strenuous, but we do the following things to make it easier on you: the Forest Service or the Backcountry Horsemen will horsepack in the heaviest items: food, tools, group camping equipment, and your tents, sleeping bags/pads. You carry only a lighter pack in and out of the backcountry, so even if you don't consider yourself a "backpacker" you can enjoy and be of great value to a project. You should enjoy hiking, working with your hands, and camping out! We provide the food and water filters for you; sometimes we are fortunate enough to have a camp cook! A skilled Forest Service trail crewmember or crew will be on hand to help with trail. Our leaders are trained as Wilderness First Responders.



WHAT SHOULD I BRING? For all projects, wear long pants and hiking boots, and bring work gloves if you have them. The ABWF will have gloves too. Sunglasses are appropriate eye protection. In addition, a lightweight day pack to carry 2-3 liters of water, your lunch and snacks (provided), good protective rain gear, sun protection (hat, sunscreen, bandana, etc.) and any extra layers you might need. You may bring your own bear spray, but we'll have some too. A more detailed gear list will be emailed to you prior to your project.

HOW DO I GET THERE? You will need to get yourself to the trailhead or rendezvous spot. We will try to coordinate carpools whenever possible.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS? WHERE TO BEGIN???

Spending time in the Wilderness. Physical activity in a healthy setting. Working with and getting to know other volunteers. The satisfaction of hard work, well done. Free food! The sense of accomplishment at the end of the day. And it's work for the worthiest of causes – our Wilderness.



TRAILWORK GLOSSARY

Many of you ask, "What kind of work will we be doing out there?" Here's some terminology that illuminates the world of trail-work for you.



CLEARING: Using hand saws to get rid of trees that have fallen across the trail. This is usually done with the amazing crosscut saw; chainsaws are not allowed in the Wilderness. Tool = Crosscut Saw

LOPPING: Clipping away branches, vegetation, and young trees that overgrow the trail and crowd it out. Usually done with long-handled loppers or small hand-saws. We want a trail to be wide enough and high enough that horses and their riders can get through unimpeded. Tool = Loppers



TURNPIKE: In places where the trail is not well drained and is chronically muddy and impassable, a turnpike can be installed. A turnpike is a raised section of trail bordered on either side by long narrow logs (like a lodgepole pine) set into the ground. The turnpike is then filled in with rock, sand and soil that can drain easily.

WEED ERADICATION: We try to locate, identify, and take coordinates anytime we find non-native and invasive weeds in the backcountry, or in the corridors/trails leading into Wilderness. We don't often carry herbicide or sprayers, but we will pull or dig up weeds where we find them. Tool = Backpack sprayer; shovel



PUNCHEONS AND BRIDGES: A puncheon is a low bridge or raised boardwalk over a swampy/muddy section of trail. Bridges are more intricate and raised further over a more significant waterway. ABWF crews have helped install puncheons and bridges. Tools = Loggers Tonges, hammers, spikes

REROUTE: Building a new section of trail in a new location that replaces trail that wasn't well engineered or thought out. Usually goes around an area that doesn't sustain a trail well and will typically be followed by "decommissioning" the old trail, meaning piling vegetation to signal to users that that section is no longer part of the trail system. Tool = Pulaski.



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE



CALLING ALL ARTISTS...

Once again, the ABWF is looking for 2-3 people to serve as 2018's Artists-in-Residence. If your artwork is chosen, we will put you up for a week in a Forest Service cabin on the edge of the A-B Wilderness and offer you undisturbed time to be creative. Hopefully the art piece you create will broaden the way the rest of us view the Absaroka-Beartooths! Inspire us with work samples exhibiting your passions.

Submissions due by May 15th, 2018

**Interested in Residency? Check out the Website
www.abwilderness.org**



TRAIL AMBASSADORS

JOIN US IN OUR NEWEST UNDERTAKING!



This coming summer, we want to expand the Trail Ambassadors program we started last year. Many people commented how glad they were to finally see a more official presence at the trailheads. We are therefore reaching out again for help from our volunteers.

Maybe your skills are not best utilized handling a Pulaski or cross-cut saw? If you love the A-B Wilderness, love its trails, love being outdoors and want to be of good service, become a **Trail Ambassador!**

Want to be a defender of our trails? Have good people skills? Are you knowledgeable about a favorite trail? Want others to treat the Wilderness with the same care and respect that you do? You can do so on your own schedule, as little or as often as you like! We will train you and show you how to do it effectively.

Here's what you will do: **Trail Ambassadors** will provide a presence (3-4 hours at a time) at popular trailheads, dispensing information and offering friendly reminders to visitors heading into the backcountry as to how they can each minimize their impacts on the Wilderness. You can even hand out free doggy bags, cord with which to hang food, and trowels to dig catholes.



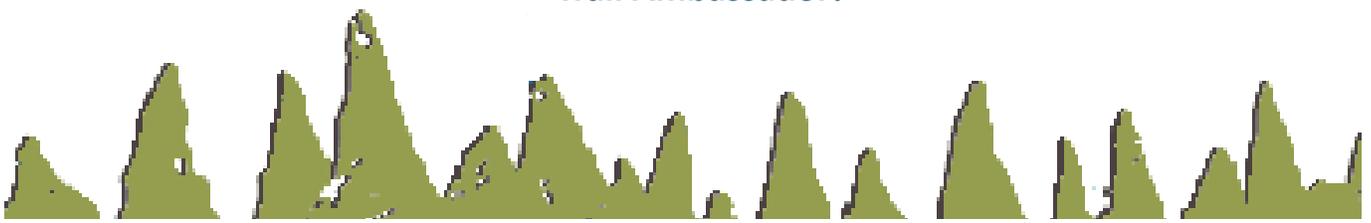
(You know what those impacts look like! Used toilet paper under trees. Unburied poop attracting flies. Campfire rings built up for unnecessary bonfires. Improperly secured food stashes broken into by animals. Habituated bears or other pesky animals. Camping spots too close to lakes with highly compacted soil. Garbage left behind).

Help protect the A-B's most beautiful and most popular destinations. When a Trail Ambassador greets someone at a trailhead, they will gather some basic data on how many are using the trails, for what activities, and where they are from. They will offer hikers, horsepackers, and fishermen useful information on Wilderness regulations and best practices.



Our goal is to post **Trail Ambassadors** at places like Pine Creek, the East Rosebud, Chief Joseph Trailhead (head of 'the Beaten Path'), and Mystic Lake. Our presence there sends the message to others that someone is actually around and paying attention, someone who actually cares enough to volunteer their time to make conditions in the backcountry better. With experience, Trail Ambassadors might additionally hike the first few miles of trails, picking up litter and reporting back on issues that degrade the backcountry.

Go to our website to find out how you can sign up and schedule yourself as a **Trail Ambassador!**



GET YOUR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN WILDERNESS

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation and the Custer Gallatin National Forest want to make it easier to get your kids outside and into the woods to take part in naturalist/science activities that reinforce your curriculum and promote the amazing resources our public wild lands have to offer. Best of all, it's FREE!

We have hired Sydney Arens as our winter education intern to help make this happen. Sydney recently graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, and has a considerable background in outdoor education. With some initial consultation, she can adapt outdoor lessons and activities to best fit your particular needs and grade levels. We offer lessons in Snow Science, Winter Biology/Ecology, Leave No Trace Ethics, Why Wilderness is Important, Stream Biology, Winter Animal Adaptations, etc.

We invite your group to join us in the wilderness, or in the classroom. Sydney will be available through the end of the school year, so we hope you will join us! For more information, check t the information below. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Us To Get Started
abwfeducation@gmail.com
406-425-1944

So far, Sydney has done lessons for the following groups:

- Luther School ski day at the Nordic Center with BRTA
- Mountain View Elementary Red Lodge, 1st & 4th graders
- Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, K-8th graders
- Bozeman Homeschool group, K-6th graders
- Red Lodge Boys and Girls Club, 1st-5th graders
- Red Lodge Library, Pre-K
- Roberts Public School, 5-6th graders
- Arrowhead School, K-8th
- Winans School, Livingston, 1st & 2nd graders
- Billings YMCA, kindergarten
- Canyon Creek Elementary School, 2nd graders





These attractive panels/signs have welcomed visitors to the A-B Wilderness for almost twenty years. Many of them have faded in the intense sun, been shot up (particularly the panel about Grizzlies), or are broken/missing.

There are over 60 of these informative panels at trailheads all over the A-B Wilderness. This summer and fall the Custer Gallatin National Forest will be replacing the worst of these aging, beat-up signs.

These signs were paid for by a \$24,000 federal grant received by the A-B Wilderness Foundation.

JOIN ABWF

Become a Member!

By donating to the ABWF you will help support the vital trail work we do and inspire people to help protect and preserve the wilderness.

Yes! I want to Join ABWF!

(Select your Member Level)

Fossil Lake Level-	\$25	Lake Plateau Level-	\$250
Boulder River Level-	\$50	Mt. Cowen Level-	\$500
Sundance Pass Level-	\$100	Granite Peak Level-	\$1000

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Send Name and Email Address to: PO Box 392, Red Lodge, MT 59068





**"Changing Wildreness
Users,
into Wilderness
Stewards"**



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