



We have a new address and contact information:
 P.O. Box 392
 Red Lodge, MT 59068
 Office: 406-446-4582
 Cell: 406-425-1944
 info@abwilderness.org

OUR BOARD MEMBERS!

- Lynda Moss, President (Billings)
- Steve Caldwell, Vice President (Livingston)
- Bob Quam, Secretary/Treasurer (Billings)
- Dan Aadland (Absarokee)
- Jesse Logan (Emigrant)
- Jennifer Lyman (Billings)
- Kristen Prinzing (Billings)
- Barry Reiswig (Cody)
- Farwell Smith (Big Timber)
- Kent Young (Red Lodge)

Upcoming Events:

Join us for a **Community Pint Night at Sam's Taproom** in Red Lodge. On selected Tuesday nights throughout the year, Sam Hoffman, renowned proprietor of Red Lodge Ales, donates \$0.50 on every beer sold to local non-profits like ours. The ABWF has two nights scheduled: **Tuesday, November 6th** (Election Day) and **Tuesday, December 4th**. We'll provide some beer-worthy snacks, share some ABWF project successes, and swap stories about the A-B Wilderness. ABWF will also be planning a similar type gathering at the Elks Club in Livingston, mid-January.

BE SURE TO "FRIEND" US ON FACEBOOK. YOU'LL GET UPDATES ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AND SPREAD THE WORD AS WELL.

Visit our website, updated regularly:

www.ABWilderness.org

Please contact us by website, email, or phone:

- To donate or become a member
- To volunteer for projects
- About upcoming programs and events
- With ideas and comments
- With photos or anecdotes about the A-B Wilderness

Within your newsletter is an envelope to send in to renew your membership or donation. Please also use it to update our records with your email address, even if you choose not to contribute financially at this time. If you do not wish to receive a newsletter by mail, would prefer emails only, or want to be removed from our mailing list entirely, please indicate that in some way on the envelope. Thanks.



Endorse container - SeqNo
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Red Lodge, MT, 59068

PO Box 392

absaroka | beartooth
 WILDERNESS FOUNDATION



Absaroka Beartooth Wilder News

"It is the mission of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation to support stewardship of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness and to foster appreciation of wild lands."

PROJECT SEASON A SUCCESS!

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation leaped into action in 2012 by significantly ramping up our conservation projects that assist the Forest Service with the stewardship of the A-B Wilderness. We are happy to report that this summer's projects went so well. We hope you'll spend a few moments reviewing our successes. You'll see how we utilized our financial resources and where we devoted our time and energies.

FACE OF THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL – RED LODGE HIKING CLUB

In celebration of National Trails Day, June 2nd, the ABWF paired up with members of the Red Lodge Hiking Club for a full, sunny day of "brushing and limbing" on the new Face of the Mountain trail just outside Red Lodge. As part of our wonderful hike, ten of us managed to dramatically widen and improve the path by cutting away bushes, scrub-brush, and limbs that had grown over the 3-mile long trail. We walked away from the day having further established a trail that skirts around the shoulder of Mount Maurice from the Meteetse Trail, four miles from Red Lodge. **Thanks go out to the members of the Hiking Club: Marge Strum, Marian Collar, Jack Exley, Michelle Fredericksen, Donna Hight, Lucille Olds, Cynthia Rozamus, Cat Stevens, and Marlene Tetrault.**

KEEPING IN TOUCH — EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!

It's an exciting period of growth for the ABWF, so we want to reach out to you to renew your membership and appeal to those of you who are not members to consider a contribution. Can you also help us build a better record of email addresses and phone numbers? We'll continue to send out periodic newsletters, but seek a more immediate way of getting in touch with you regarding events, programs, and volunteer opportunities. Take a few moments and fill out the envelope included, even if it is only to update our records. Indicate on there if you would rather receive notices by email only or want to be removed from our mailing list. We promise not to clutter your inbox unnecessarily. Thank you!

SCA VOLUNTEER, ARON SMETHURST

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a highly respected national organization that recruits and places college students into volunteer conservation jobs around the country. This summer, the ABWF dedicated some of its funds to hire Aron, a senior in Natural Resources management at Washington State University. Aron spent the summer in the field assisting in a wide range of Forest Service conservation efforts—effectively adding another person to the seasonal staff. Here's a sample of Aron's work: hiking miles and miles of trail as part of the Backcountry Rangers' patrols in order to clear and improve trails; making and recording contacts with backcountry users, answering questions, and helping them comply with wilderness regulations; creating drains and clearing out water bars to prevent erosion of trails; and breaking down visually impactful and ill-placed campsites. He spent 8 days in the Absarokas as part of a dedicated trail crew, upgrading the trail system there. Aron assisted me in coordinating the logistics and co-leading the week-long trail-building project highlighted below. He also helped the Forest Service get a better handle on monitoring visitor numbers and use of the A-B Wilderness. Fortunately Aron, a rugby enthusiast, was perfectly suited to the very physical nature of the work, and showed himself to be a welcome hand. And by the way, Aron helped us fulfill another of the ABWF's major goals, undoubtedly fostering in him an appreciation of wildlands, but also helping develop future conservation leaders—advocates for Wilderness and wilderness ethics. **Thanks, Aron, for all your varied efforts!**



ABWF Wilderness Intern Aron Smethurst enjoys a moment at the summit of Iceberg Pk. as part of the team monitoring the Grasshopper Glacier northeast of Cooke City.

2012 TRAIL CAMP – RED LODGE CREEK PLATEAU

The Senia Creek/Crow Lake trail is a popular trail that connects the E. Rosebud drainage to the West Fork of Rock Creek and goes up and over the panoramic Red Lodge Creek Plateau. One section of trail at the crest of the plateau, identified by the Forest Service as needing major improvements, is ill-defined and eroded in many places and dives steeply down into a gulch from which trail-users must again climb out. The ABWF took on the project this August—contouring the new section of trail around the head of the drainage instead of losing elevation to the gulch. In the week-long trail-building project, 17 people (7 women and 10 men) ranging in ages from 15-53, used pulaskis, rakes, and shovels at the oxygen-deprived elevation of 10,000 feet to carve a beautiful new section of trail across the tundra. Some volunteers gave a few days, while others toiled the entire week. Certainly hard but satisfying work! We had a great time camping out each night near the work site. Our tools, supplies, food, and personal gear were packed in by horse, courtesy of the Forest Service. For an all-amateur group, we got an amazing amount of work done. And while it will take another couple of weeks to connect the two ends of our new trail and bypass the old section, we now have a ready-made project for next summer! **So special thanks to: Jay Barton, Jennifer Coutts, Lori Elliott, Ben Gleason, David Kallenbach, Hanna Kohley, Tom Kohley, Rebecca Polansky, Christy Quinn, Neil Rodenbeck, Will Sari, Mike Schoenike, Aron Smethurst, Jane Taylor, Dustin Timmons, and Kris Thomas—who comprised the work force that completed nearly a mile of new trail and had a ton of fun doing it! Also thanks to Ben Clark, Allie Wood, and Nolan Melin from the USFS Beartooth Ranger District in Red Lodge for their efforts on the trail—working on the line, laying out the new trail, and horse-packing in all the tools, food, and equipment.**



Ben Gleason of Billings makes the first cut as other members of the volunteer trail crew follow, widening the new trail.

FUN RUN FUNDRAISER A BIG SUCCESS!

In our first year being part of the annual Fun Run for Charities, held in Red Lodge the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, ABWF was able to be not only part of a grand event, but also recipients of over \$1200 in donations and matching funds to our organization! This was a record year in terms of the numbers of runners and walkers participating in the event (over 1200), as well as the amount of money generated by the overall event, nearly \$195,000! Fifty-two non-profits benefitted from the event, which is sponsored each year by the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation. It has grown into one of the outstanding 5K and 10 K races/walks in the region. The ABWF sends its whole-hearted thanks to those who made the event possible, sponsors and matching donors. And to all of you who singled us out for your financial gifts through the Fun Run. **Thank you!**



Board members Linda Moss and Kris Prinzing join David Kallenbach at the ABWF table at the Sept. 1st Fun Run.

WEED DAY ON THE EAST ROSEBUD

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation hosted a weed day, August 18th at East Rosebud Lake. Sean Monahan, Lead Weed Technician from the Forest Service, came out to the East Rosebud and did a clinic on noxious weeds that are a problem in the area. Five of us then hiked the trail towards Elk Lake and located, pulled, and sprayed the Canada Thistle and Spotted Knapweed found in abundance along the popular “Beaten Path” trail. Thanks to the members of the E. Rosebud Lake Association for mobilizing to make this day successful. According to Sean, our efforts over the past two years have resulted in a noticeably diminished weed crop, but we have to keep at it. If you are a member of a group or organization that would like to get your group outdoors and do some volunteer service on behalf of our wilderness lands, please contact the A-B Wilderness Foundation for various opportunities to help on trails, with invasive weeds, and engaging in citizen-assisted research projects. We’ll find you a great project! **Thanks to weed warriors, Pam Barnett, Jennifer & Tom Dolese, David Kallenbach, and Sean Monahan, for volunteering a glorious Saturday whacking weeds!**

GLACIER MONITORING PROJECTS:

The A-B Wilderness is one of just a small handful of places remaining in the U.S. Rocky Mountains that still hangs onto its once mighty glaciers. Scientists are very keen on monitoring the climatic effects on these remnant glaciers. For the past two years, ABWF has secured grant funding from the Cinnabar Foundation that allows a research team to visit two of the A-B’s notable glaciers—the Rearguard and Grasshopper Glaciers—in order to measure the extent of the ice. Drs. Tom and Jennifer Lyman and Dr. Lucas Ward of Rocky Mountain College have spearheaded this effort to verify on the ground what aerial imagery has shown. Students from local colleges and volunteers from the ABWF served as assistants on the logistically challenging missions that involved significant backcountry travel and hauling of equipment. John Simmons & Raymond Lien of the Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen played a crucial role, volunteering their expertise and horses to haul all the equipment and supplies into the Grasshopper Glacier site. The project is part of a long-term study by the U.S. Forest Service, managed by geologist Dan Seifert of the Custer National Forest.



Matt DeWitt looks on as Drs. Tom Lyman and Luke Ward prepare to send the sled down the Rearguard Glacier.

Traveling into the crest of the Beartooths where these glaciers are found, the team lowered sensitive GPS equipment via a specially designed (children’s!) sled attached to 800 feet of rope down each glacier. Volunteers then hauled the sled back up. Precise elevation data was captured at one-second intervals for hundreds of feet down the center of the glacier. In this manner, baseline data will be gathered that indicates the overall mass of ice (in essence, the ice’s depth) existing in the glacier. Future missions will show what changes in mass have occurred due to melting. The two missions to each of the glaciers could not have gone better. The ABWF was pleased to help sponsor and lend assistance to this project as a way of contributing to the greater scientific understanding of the A-B Wilderness. An article in the Billings Gazette recently highlighted the project. **Thanks to volunteers Aron Smethurst of WSU Pullman, Taylor Westheusen of MSU Bozeman, Zach Farrand, Bo Walker, and Matt DeWitt of Rocky Mountain College, and Sean Kenyon, of Boulder, CO for their assistance on the two projects.**



Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Fingerlings

YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT REINTRODUCTION PROJECT:

The Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*) is Montana’s only native trout species, found historically only in the Yellowstone River drainage. It’s an iconic fish in the Absaroka-Beartooths and Yellowstone National Park, having first been identified by William Clark in 1806, and is also Montana’s state fish. All other trout species have been introduced, including the Rainbow Trout. Lakes in the Absarokas and Beartooths have been stocked since the early 1900s, but intermingling of trout species has led to a decline in this native trout. The YCT is now considered “a species of special concern,” since it is found in only about 27% of its historic range.

Officials from Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and the Yellowstone District of the Gallatin National Forest are working to reintroduce the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout back to its historic drainages throughout the A-B Wilderness. This past September they focused their reintroduction efforts on the Meatrack and Fourmile drainages west of the Boulder River in the heart of the A-B Wilderness. The YCTs have been taken over almost exclusively by Rainbow trout that out-compete the native Cutthroats. Before reintroduction could occur however, the fish biologists had to eliminate the Rainbows using rotenone, a short-lived, plant-based toxin of fish. After doing its job, the rotenone is neutralized with permanganate so it won’t spread into the Boulder River. This temporarily turned the streams deep red—red enough to make wilderness users in the area turn their heads! The ABWF had volunteers on hand to provide information for any fishermen, hikers, or passersby looking to know more about the project. **Thanks to volunteers: Beau Fredlund, Laura Tode, and David Kallenbach for their efforts informing the public on this 3-day project.**