

Working Together  
for the Wild



absaroka | beartooth  
WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

# Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness 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."*

## WE'VE HIRED AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

In February 2012, the Board of Directors of ABWF selected David Kallenbach to serve as the Executive Director of the A-B Wilderness Foundation. Long a resident of Red Lodge, David is happy to run the organization from the edge of the Wilderness he knows and loves so well. David came to Montana in 1996 as an outdoor educator and field instructor for the Voyageur Outward Bound School, based in Red Lodge. For 13 years, he led trips for Outward Bound in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and the mountains around Dillon, Montana—an experience he says secured his deep admiration for the vast wild places of the Greater Yellowstone. He headed the Montana Program for Outward Bound from 2002-2008. David sees his work for the ABWF as a natural extension of the work he started with Outward Bound. "Students coming here for Outward Bound courses were profoundly struck by the effects the wilderness had upon them." The ABWF similarly seeks to build peoples' relationships and involvement with this Wilderness. "I want to raise people's awareness as to just how special this place is, what's valuable and essential. There are so many people who know very little about what's here and how incredible this Wilderness in their backyard is. Ultimately, I'd like to get more people out and involved in their Wilderness."

The ABWF connects people with volunteer projects that directly benefit the wilderness. David shares his own personal example: "Once, I was set on climbing all of Colorado's 14,000 ft. peaks. But I saw this activity get so popular that the impacts on those big mountains were impossible to ignore. The 14'ers were getting hammered and it was hard not to see that my own climbing passion was part of the problem." So David started volunteering on week-long trail projects sponsored by the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative and the Forest Service. "We worked hard establishing trails on those peaks, but it never seemed like hard work because we kept it fun, got to know people who shared our passion for the outdoors, and we saw the fruits of our labors at the end of each day...trail crews were a real blast." The A-B Wilderness is not immune to these kinds of impacts. This summer, the ABWF is sponsoring a handful of trail projects, weed projects, and science projects that each need volunteers' help. Check out our website at, [www.ABWilderness.org](http://www.ABWilderness.org).

David grew up hiking, camping, and mountain climbing in the mountains of Colorado. His family took every opportunity to appreciate and utilize the Parks, Forests, and Wilderness Areas across the country. Motivated to share the natural world with others, he completed his B.A. in Environmental Biology and M.A. in Science Education at the University of Colorado-Boulder, and taught high school science for eight years in Denver, Boulder, and in the Peace Corps in Papua New Guinea. He has also worked as a ranger/naturalist for the National Park Service, most recently in Denali National Park, Alaska.

For his own part, David's earliest forays into the A-B left a big impression. "One can travel for weeks without seeing another soul," he says. "Of all the superlatives in the A-B, the solitude affects me the most...I go on solo trips for just that reason—the quiet, the intimate connection with nature,

the heightening of awareness...You funnel all your social energies into what is directly around you, and see things you wouldn't normally see...The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is like no other place I've been, in its magnitude, its pristineness, its solitude, and its remote, rugged terrain."



David Kallenbach & Mancha

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS!

### Trail Projects:

- August 2-7, Wed-Mon,-Upper Red Lodge Creek Trail Camp-Join our work crew as we reroute and create a new section of trail on the Red Lodge Creek Plateau. We'll camp near the trailhead and work on the plateau over a multi-day span. Meals are provided.

### Weed Projects:

- July 27 and 28, Fri & Sat-Mill Creek to Passage Creek. Help eradicate noxious weeds! From the Paradise Valley, we need 2-3 hikers for a couple days documenting and treating Dalmatian Toadflax along heavily-used Mill Creek.
- August 18, Sat: ABWF will be teaming with the E. Rosebud Homeowner's Association to knock out invasive weeds along Spread Cr. or up to Elk Lake.

### Science and Education Projects:

- September 4-7, Tues-Fri, Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout project: We need 2-3 volunteers to provide public information about the reintroduction of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout along the Boulder River south of Big Timber.
- Glacier Monitoring: Scientists, students, and volunteers will head into the backcountry to precisely measure and document the A-B's endangered high alpine glaciers. Two short (3-4 day) expeditions are planned for late summer. Watch our website for dates.
- Whitebark Pine Survey: ABWF is helping initiate a project with the USFS to examine the effects of pine beetle & blister rust on the iconic Whitebark Pine in the Wilderness. Dates in late July & August are being planned, and we'll need a number of hiker/volunteers.

To Volunteer, log on to our website, or call us to get signed up! are being planned in the A-B, and we'll need a number of hiker/volunteers.



## FUN RUN FOR CHARITIES

Help us raise money for the ABWF! We are taking part in the 9th annual Fun Run for Charities being held Saturday, September 1st, 2012 in Red Lodge. The Fun Run, sponsored by the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation (RLACF), has grown into a very popular 5K & 10K race for runners and walkers throughout the region. It is also an outstanding fund-raiser for local non-profit organizations such as ABWF. All money brought in by the race and its sponsors gets divided out to participating non-profits. With your help we can receive a portion of the nearly \$200,000 generated. Go to [www.RLACF.org](http://www.RLACF.org) for more information.

Consider making your donation through this event. By pledging via the Fun Run you help multiply the benefit of your contribution through matching funds raised by the RLACF. Be sure to indicate the ABWF as the recipient of your gift. It can be done through the RLACF website, so please check it out.

**Thanks for supporting the A-B Wilderness in this way! Visit us at our booth Saturday, September 1st!**



P.O. Box 958  
Billings, MT 59103

First Last  
Company1  
Company2  
Address1  
Address2  
City, State Zip

*Help us keep you better informed! We are updating our records and need your email address so we can minimize our paper mailings and come to you directly through email. Please send us a message, through the website at [info@abwilderness.org](mailto:info@abwilderness.org), or directly to me: [dkallenbach@abwilderness.org](mailto:dkallenbach@abwilderness.org).*

**Visit our website, updated regularly:**  
[www.ABWilderness.org](http://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

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

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WILDERNESS FOUNDATION



## OUR BOARD MEMBERS!

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

## Notable Volunteers:

See more of the work of these talented photographers. Thanks for lending us your spectacular images!

• Merv Coleman of Red Lodge:

[www.mervcoleman.com](http://www.mervcoleman.com)

• Doug Roane of Billings:

[www.dougronanephotography.com](http://www.dougronanephotography.com)

• Terry Jones, USFS, of Red Lodge

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**what's happening at ABWF and**

**spread the word as well.**