

**Departure of David Kallenbach from Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation
*Board Initiates Search for New Executive Director***

David Kallenbach, the founding executive director of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation (ABWF), is resigning his position as of June 30, 2020. Kallenbach notes “My eight-plus years shepherding this organization to care for this special place has been a deeply rewarding and remarkable experience.”

Based in Red Lodge, Kallenbach started work in February 2012 and during his tenure the ABWF has marshaled more than 65,000 volunteer hours in support of the Wilderness. Many of those hours have been in trail work, across 80+ single- and multi-day projects involving more than 1,200 volunteers building and maintaining trails. The ABWF drew on Kallenbach’s previous backcountry leadership experience with Outward Bound to provide volunteers with a challenging and educational experience, that complemented their appreciation of the wonders of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and the modern challenges it faces.

At the same time, ABWF has done guided hikes, history talks, slideshows, Leave No Trace clinics, and campground programs, as well as starting Trail Ambassadors and Artists in Residence programs. These diverse programs had a single goal, Kallenbach says. “We wanted to make better stewards out of everyone who encountered the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.”

David leaves the ABWF with a solid foundation of programs, partners, and funding – as well as staff support with the recently hired Program Director, Ben Daley. Said Board Chair Richard Lyon, “Each member of the Board expresses deep appreciation and sincere thanks for David's tireless commitment and dedication to this organization and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness during his eight years as Executive Director. He leaves us with a solid platform for continued stewardship and future growth. We all wish him well in his life's next chapter.”

Alumni of ABWF projects or other well-wishers can reach Kallenbach at davidkallenbach@gmail.com.

The Board of ABWF will immediately begin the process to hire a new Executive Director. See position description at the link below.