



absaroka | beartooth  
WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

The Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation regrettably announces that Patrick Cross will be stepping down as Executive Director this fall after completion of organization's summer field season. While we are sad to see him go, we are very appreciative of all he has accomplished during his three years with the ABWF. He is leaving the organization with a solid foundation for continued fulfillment of its mission. That mission is to support stewardship of the A-B Wilderness and to foster appreciation of all wildlands.

Patrick has succeeded in growing our various programs, including boots-on-the-ground trail maintenance projects, trail ambassadors, summer interns, school wilderness education events, citizen science efforts, artist-in-residence and fighting invasive weeds on public lands. Educational hikes, workshops and webinars have been added under Patrick's guidance. Despite the highly disruptive 500-year flood in June, the ABWF completed 22 projects last summer with 92 volunteers, covering 196 miles of trails in the ABW and 1,600 educational contacts. All this work has instilled a lifelong appreciation of wilderness in the many participating volunteers.

Patrick's skills as an ecologist, journalist and researcher have been invaluable in his management of ABWF programs and staff. He authored a pair of fascinating articles for the ABWF's award-winning atlas of the A-B Wilderness, "Voices of Yellowstone's Capstone." He also initiated the A-B Wilderness Gateway Community Visitor Guide, on the ABWF website, highlighting local businesses ably catering to visitors to towns surrounding the ABW.

He has cultivated strong relationships with organizations who have partnered with the ABWF, including the Custer-Gallatin National Forest, Beartooth Back Country Horsemen, Red Lodge Community Foundation, Park County Environmental Council, public schools across the region and others. He has strengthened relationships with several philanthropic foundations who generously support the ABWF.

The Board of the ABWF will be launching a search to hire a new Executive Director this summer with this person hopefully hired and starting in late 2023. Please help spread the news on this exciting job opportunity and please join us in wishing Patrick continued success as he moves on to new pursuits.

