



absaroka | beartooth
WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

PO BOX 392
RED LODGE MT 59068





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2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Looking back with pride, looking forward with ambition

ABWF is bringing back our newsletters with this Annual Report. Why is it coming out in the Spring rather than year end? For one, this way we can celebrate the A-B's 44th birthday on March 27th. We can also share news and upcoming opportunities — 2022 projects, progress on our first Strategic Plan, and more — along with 2021's accomplishments. And while tallying those up, we realized last summer marked ABWF's 10th year of on-the-ground work in the A-B, yet another cause for celebration. Doesn't leave much room to thank our supporters of the last year and decade though... we're gonna need a bigger newsletter... ~ Patrick Cross, executive director



These are exciting times for the ABWF! Under the able leadership of our staff we posted impressive milestones in 2021. Beyond the numbers in this Report there's renewed spirit and enthusiasm as we completed the ABWF's tenth season in the field. We have a reconstituted and engaged board, new stewardship partners, new fields of endeavor, and new horizons. 2022 will bring our first Strategic Plan, new challenges, and — pandemic or no — new achievements. I hope each of you will join us. ~ Richard Lyon, board president

Executive Director — Patrick Cross — pcross@abwilderness.org

Program Director — Ben Daley — bdaley@abwilderness.org

Administrative Coordinator — Pamela Carter — pcarter@abwilderness.org

Board of Directors — Richard Lyon (president), Kimberly Schlenker (vice president), Bernard Quetchenbach (secretary), Peter Aengst, Aubrey Bertram, Carol Endicott, Bill Hopkins, Francine Spang-Willis

Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation

PO Box 392, Red Lodge MT 59068

www.abwilderness.org

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photos by ABWF staff and volunteers during 2021 projects

A decade of stewardship

Between 2012 and 2021, ABWF provided more than **50,000 volunteer hours** of stewardship work in the A-B — pretty impressive considering our first year saw just 1 intern and 3 projects for a little over 1,000 service hours! At \$28.54/hour (the federal rate for valuing in-kind volunteer labor) this work was **worth nearly \$1.5 million!** It included:

88 stewardship projects

WITH MORE THAN

1,125 volunteers

FOR OVER

30,000 hours



30 interns

CONTRIBUTING OVER

14,000 hours

154 educational events

REACHING MORE THAN

5,000 participants



15 citizen science projects

ENGAGING MORE THAN

60 volunteers

A. PAVKOVICH



P. STREILEIN



96 trail ambassador events

EDUCATING NEARLY

1,500 wilderness visitors

6 AmeriCorps interns based in Livingston, plus dedicated volunteers around the A-B, helped drive a **435% increase** in Trail Ambassador hours (!)



Beartooth Back Country Horsemen added **20 volunteers, 44 horses and mules, and 423 hours** to ABWF's **83 staff and volunteers** and **1,760 hours** building and maintaining nearly **58 miles** of trail over **9 projects** in 2021



Elijah Traywick (left), our Gardiner intern, worked on **101 miles** of trail, clearing **517 water bars** and **868 logs**








Staff and volunteers led **7 educational hikes and workshops** last summer, such as YNP Botanist Heidi Anderson's botany tour shown here, plus our **4 Winter Webinars** in 2021

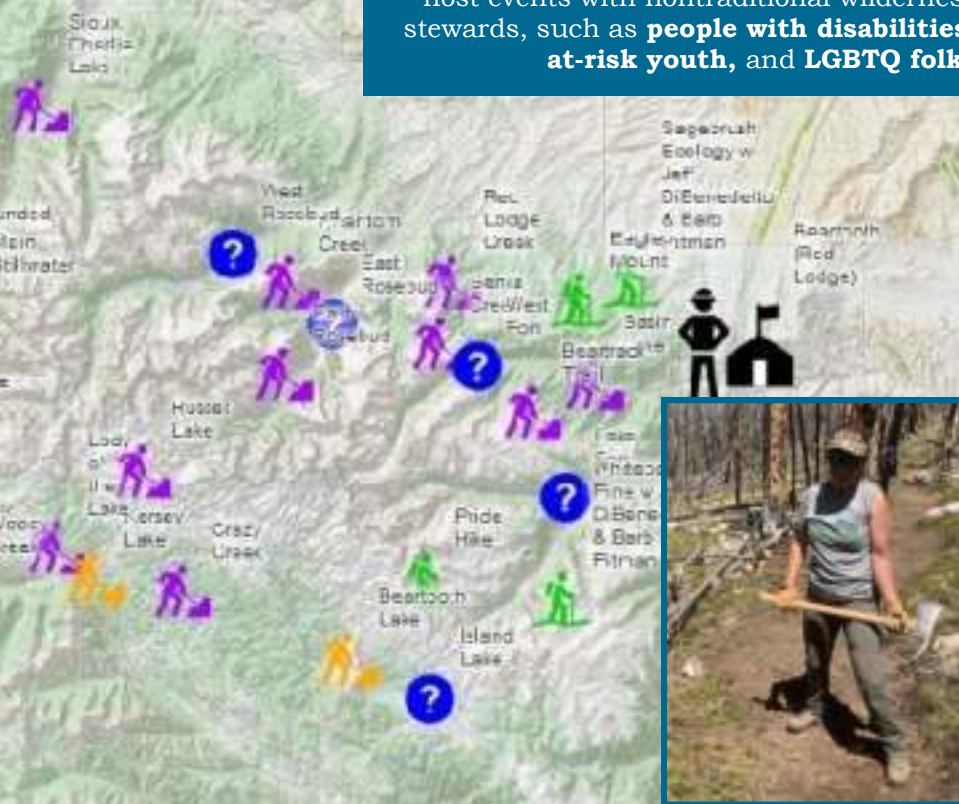


THANK YOU!
2021
volunteers
&
supporters!

2021 Accomplishments

-  ABWF volunteer stewardship project
-  ABWF intern project
-  ABWF educational event
-  ABWF volunteer Trail Ambassador
-  USFS ranger station

We worked with a variety of local partners to host events with nontraditional wilderness stewards, such as **people with disabilities, at-risk youth, and LGBTQ folks**

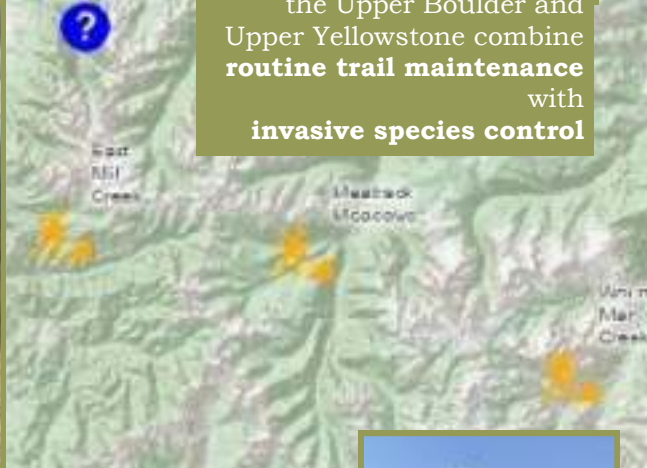


Claire Randazzo, our Red Lodge intern, worked on **84 miles** of trail and cleared **149 water bars** and **456 logs**

ABWF, with our partners at the **Park County Environmental Council** and **Red Lodge Area Community Foundation**, will co-host another **AmeriCorps** crew in 2022








New long term projects in the Upper Boulder and Upper Yellowstone combine routine trail maintenance with **invasive species control**



We are adding 3 **weekend weed pulls** in response to feedback from our USFS partners and volunteers looking for more opportunities. We are also developing a new program combining **native habitat restoration**, **ethnobotany education**, and **stewardship opportunities for Indigenous students**

One of 2021's volunteers is coming back to join ABWF and the Gardiner District trail crew as a **2022 intern**

2022 Upcoming Projects

-  ABWF volunteer stewardship project
-  ABWF intern project
-  ABWF volunteer Trail Ambassador
-  ABWF weekend weed pull
-  USFS ranger station

Visit abwilderness.org to sign up for email updates, and to learn more about and register for these opportunities as well as TBD **volunteer-led educational hikes** and other ABWF events



Welcome back returning **Trail Ambassadors!** Now recruiting new volunteers for heavy use trails like **The Beaten Path**

Volunteers will clear nearly **50 miles (!)** of trail near Cooke City MT and build 1 mile of **new trail** near Clark WY



Strategic Planning

We're on track to finish ABWF's **first** 5-year Strategic Plan this spring. The deliberative process involved the USFS, plus 113 respondents to our email list survey (66% from MT) who ranked their priority wilderness characteristics:

1. Natural Ecosystems
2. Solitude
3. Outdoor Recreation

We've since hired facilitators who've helped define our core values (see right), outline our 5-year goals, and develop a framework to translate those into annual work plan objectives. The Plan, set to be adopted

October 2022, will help guide ABWF's staff, board, and partners developing *meaningful* and *sustainable* programs and capacity in our next decade.

Thanks to our facilitators, **Lynda Moss** and **Karen Filipovich**, and our Strategic Planning Committee for keeping this important project moving forward — a major step for ABWF!

stewardship

Develop and maintain mission-focused programs that are responsive to the priorities of USFS managers, other stakeholders and partners, and the ABWF's core values

sustainability

Develop organizational capacity and best practice fundraising, administration, and governance systems to ensure quality stewardship and long term success

engagement

Develop a diversity of opportunities for a diversity of stakeholders to participate in wilderness stewardship

connection

Develop relationships that elevate ABWF's profile, improve its efficacy, and cultivate collaborative wilderness stewardship partnerships within local communities and beyond

inclusivity

Develop opportunities within the organization and its programming to specifically engage communities that are underrepresented in wilderness stewardship





ABWF License Plate

996 sponsored license plates have been registered since becoming available 8/2020. With \$25 from each renewal going straight to ABWF, it's an easy and effective fundraiser. The art by Livingston's Parks Reece has proven effective advertising too! Get one for your Montana vehicle from your county motor vehicle office, or a replica sample plate or *signed and framed* print for your wall from our online store at www.abwilderness.org

COURTESY QUAM FAMILY



A-B Atlas

Since our last newsletter, *Voices of Yellowstone's Capstone: A Narrative Atlas of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness* was a **High Plains Book Awards finalist** where it also won the **Big Sky Award**. Now available in hard cover for just \$60 or soft cover for \$45 at our online store and local bookstores.

Remembering Bob

Last March, we lost a friend who'd been with ABWF from the start. Pastor Bob Quam was the retired director of Christikon up the Boulder River, president of the Billings Symphony's foundation, and a founding board member, treasurer, secretary, bookkeeper, and recently made "advisor for life" at ABWF. Thanks for everything, Bob.

2021 Financials

balance sheet (12/31/21)

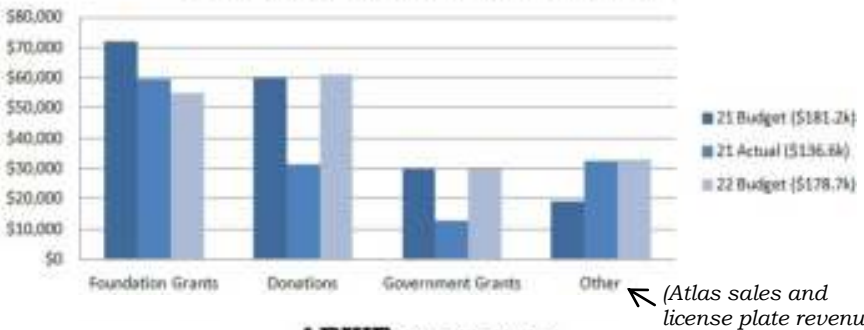
- **total assets:**
\$135,094.92
- total liabilities:
\$1,736.03
- total equity:
\$133,358.89
- **total liabilities and equity:**
\$135,094.92

profit-loss* (12/31/21)

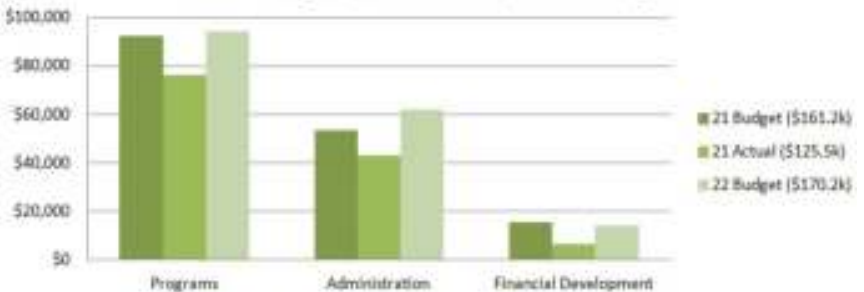
- total income:
\$136,598.59
- total expenses:
\$125,549.71
- **net income:**
\$11,048.88

* cash basis

ABWF income: 2021 budget, 2021 actual, 2022 budget



ABWF expenses: 2021 budget, 2021 actual, 2022 budget



2022 fundraising goals

- (1) Retain >70% of donors who contributed in the past 5 years
- (2) Recruit 50 new Sustaining Members* at \$10/month (or more)
- (3) Promote registration of 1,000 new sponsored license plates
- (4) Expand bookseller distribution for the AB Atlas
- (5) Diversify donors, business sponsorships, and other revenues

* **CHALLENGE PRIZE!** Cinnabar Foundation will award **\$5,000** if we meet our 2022 Sustaining Member goal!

Visit abwilderness.org/sustaining to see incentives and sign up!



B. GANAHL

We need your support today for ABWF to continue its stewardship success in the coming decade
 ABWF depends on individual donors for over 1/3 of our funding. Your tax-deductible donations are invested directly into wilderness stewardship and appreciation:

\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1000
1 water filter for a trail project	1 dinner for a volunteer trail crew	Mileage for 1 event in the 1mil acre AB	1 new Trail Ambassador supply bin	1 month intern stipend

Please mail a check to **PO Box 392, Red Lodge MT 59068** or donate online at **abwilderness.org**

