



BEAVERHEAD TRAILS COALITION INC

Annual Report
2018

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HISTORY AND MISSION

The Beaverhead Trails Coalition formed in 2009 as a group of community members that recognized the need for more recreation opportunities and improvement of health. The coalition they created has since developed a few projects like the High Trails System and the In-Town Trails and Routes System and support programs like the Walking School Bus and Bike Recycling, all under the same vision:



2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dan Downey – President
- Craig Simonsen – Vice President
- Joyce Connors – Treasurer
- Pat Carrick – Secretary
- Ed Mooney – Member
- Dan Pence – Member
- Pamela Laursen – Member

Celine Beaucamp-Stout – Executive director

Our Mission
A community with easy access to walking, bicycling, and horseback riding.

PROJECTS UPDATE

- **The High Trails System**

The High Trails Land Acquisition Project began in August of 2014 when the BTC entered a Buy/Sell agreement with a local, private landowner to purchase over 1,100 acres of land in three phases. As BTC obtains each stage, it turns the area into public access land, used for hiking, running, biking, horseback riding, education, and conservation of wildlife habitat.

As BTC has acquired land, it worked diligently to create a unique trail system, add proper signage and maps, educated users on the area, host trail-work and weed-pull days, and also host 5K/15K fundraising runs. In the four years since BTC has begun the project, the number of users has increased exponentially, and community members have welcomed and embraced the area with enthusiasm. Community members once had to drive 10-15 miles to reach such a space. Now they can walk or ride minutes from their home and community.

- Received \$50,000 from MFWCT toward phase III acquisition
- Acquired parcels G, H, I in Fall 2018
- New trails: Southern section of Tim's Ridge Trail offers a more natural grade for more relaxed walking, running and more
- Improved trail junctions with ceramic markers from Cathy Weber
- Backpacker Magazine featured the High Trails Project in their March 2018 issue
- Climb The M Fund Run 5k and 15k with the University of Montana Western Cross Country Team (April 2018)



In 2019, we hope to finalize the land acquisition (parcel J), approach landowner and BLM for a right-of-way on the Northwest corner of the property, continue our effort of maintaining the existing trails, and organize more fun events for our community.

- **The In-Town Trails Program**

The In-town Trails Program envisions a community where residents and visitors to Dillon can enjoy an interconnected system of safe and accessible walking and biking trails and routes, encouraging healthy lifestyles and reducing traffic. BTC has developed maps and concepts for a large number of connectivity projects within and around Dillon.



- Noble Avenue Trail

The 2,493-foot Noble Avenue Connector Trail is a critical segment in the envisioned town trails network. The proposed trail will provide a direct link to several existing trails for bicyclists and pedestrians, and a safe and enjoyable non-motorized connection between the north end of Dillon, the city center and the parks adjacent to Noble Avenue.

BTC received funding from the United Way of Beaverhead County, Union Pacific, and the LOR Foundation to hire WWC Engineering to help translate our vision for the Noble Avenue Connector into a conceptual design and develop cost estimates for the project. BTC also applied for a grant from Montana State Park - Recreation Trails Program (RTP). The trail will consist of three segments within the Noble Avenue right-of-way and on other land owned by the City of Dillon.

The project is currently being engineered and surveyed, so it will be shovel-ready when funds are secured.

- Selway Park

In summer 2018, BTC partnered with Montana Department Of Transportation and Fish Wildlife and Park to restore the pioneered fishing access on the corner of Laknar Ln and Selway Dr. With funding from LOR Foundation BTC hired R.E. Miller to set up designated parking spaces, a boat ramp, trails, picnic table, benches, footbridge, and to restore the river banks. BTC also installed native vegetation with the fantastic help of community members, who helped irrigate the park twice a day for the plants to grow.



- Downtown Bike Racks



Restoration and revival of the Downtown Dillon District have been a challenge undertaken by property owners, businesses, and the City of Dillon for many years. The Community and Downtown master plan identifies improving walking and biking infrastructure as one of the primary goals. The City has indicated that the most top priority for making the Downtown more bicycle-friendly is providing parking. BTC received the profits from a Great Harvest Bake Days in March, which raised over \$9,000 to buy the material. BTC and the City Of Dillon installed one on-street corral at the corner of Idaho and Glendale streets on June 2018.

The tentative plan is to install more on-street corrals along Idaho and Montana streets and off-street clusters in downtown parks such as Jaycee and Depot parks over the next two years.

- **Bike Recycling**

BTC passed over the Bike Recycling Program to Bike Walk Southwest Montana in 2018.

Bike Walk Southwest Montana is a partner of BTC and has recently begun to build a bike camp on Overland Road. Their abilities to work with bikes and bicyclists far surpasses BTC's. This passing over will significantly benefit the community and allow BTC to re-focus on the mission statement.

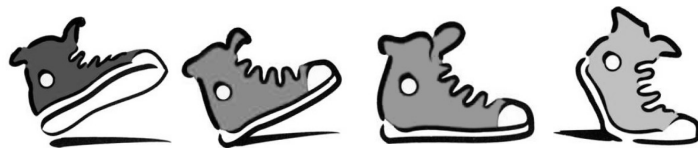


- **Walking Schoolbus**

BTC supports the Dillon Chapter of the Walking School Bus financially and in kind.

The Walking School Bus Program began in 2010, walking a single route on Wednesdays. Currently, the Walking School Bus Program has two walking routes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from September through October and April through May. In the Fall 2017 & Spring 2018, we walked 203.96 miles with 14 kids for route one only.

The program's mission is to ensure the safety of children on their walk to school and to lessen traffic congestion at the school. Along the way, students learn how to cross streets properly, have



fun, and become comfortable in their neighborhoods. A few days during each season, a "walk with celebrities" is scheduled.

2018 EVENTS

- January: Winter Family Fun Day at the Forest Service cabin above Elkhorn Hotsprings, with US Forest Service and Pioneer Mountain Education Foundation
- April: Earth Day, organized by Terra Verde and the City of Dillon
- April: Climb The M Fund Run 5k and 15k with the UMW Cross Country Team
- July: BBQ and Live music at Selway Park - Celebration of completion of restoration work
- October: BTC delegation to Boulder, CO for Trail building and economic development conference hosted by Headwaters Economics and LOR foundation
- October: Halloween party (Keltz arena) organized by Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Beaverhead County
- November: BTC received \$75 of donation as part of Giving Tuesday
- November: BTC Holidays Party at Aerial Wine Bar

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2018 through December 2018

- **Income**

Grants	\$122,250.00
Donations	\$10,948.00
Membership	\$2,460.00
Sales (Tee-shirts)	\$260.00
Sponsor an Acre	\$3,850.00
Events	\$215.00
Total	\$139,983.00

- **Expenses**

Contracted services (Selway Park construction)	\$48,864.88
Engineering Service (Noble Avenue)	\$14,500.00
Other contracted services	\$4,965.54
Payroll	\$13,156.98
Advertising	\$181.60
Operations supplies	\$7,029.65
Office and Online fees	\$1,188.58
Insurance	\$1,157.00
Total	\$91,044.23

Net Income \$48,938.77

***Notable other entries:**

Land acquisition \$110,230.00 High Trails parcels G,H,I – 200 acres

Membership

Membership fees were as follow:

- Students: \$10
- Single: \$20
- Family: \$30
- Membership + T-shirt: \$50
- Business membership: \$100
- T-shirt: \$20



- **Sponsor an acre**

Sponsor An Acre: Individuals can help with the funding of land acquisition in the High Trails project by sponsoring an acre for \$550. As per December 2018, seventeen acres have been sponsored.

- **Bench memorial**

Sponsor a memorial bench on one of our project location (upon availability). Contact us at beaverheadtrails@gmail.com for more information.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust
LOR Foundation
Great Harvest University
United Way of Beaverhead County
Union Pacific Foundation
Steele-Reese Foundation
Kendeda Foundation
Baltoro Trust
Montana Department of Commerce
City Of Dillon
Beaverhead County
Beaverhead Chamber Of Commerce
Beaverhead-Deerlodge US Forest Service
Montana Youth Challenge Academy
Patagonia
Pivot Plus
Bureau of Land Management - Dillon Field Office
Dillon Jaycees
The Erb Family
Beaverhead County High School
Beaverhead Brewing Company
Best of the West Properties
Montana Department Of Transportation
Montana Fish, Wildlife And Parks
Southwest Montana Arts Council
Dillon Liquor Store
Mammoth wool
Dillon's KOA
Beaverhead Lodge
Barrett Hospital
The Honeypot
Brit's Bake Shop and Cakery
Town and Country Foods
Beaverhead Marathon
1% For The Planet
University Of Montana Western
Bike Walk Southwest Montana
Southwestern Montana Family YMCA
Montana Rural Health Initiative
Safe Route To School
Amazon Smile



And to all our amazing members and sponsor an acre participants!