



BEAVERHEAD TRAILS COALITION INC

Annual Report
2019

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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. For the last ten years, the coalition they created has 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, under the same vision:



2019 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.



- In 2019, BTC acquired parcel J of the High Trails
- New trail: Northwest passage on parcels G, H, and I (acquired in 2018)
- New gates on property line, installed with BLM (Overlook Trail area)
- Improved trail junctions with ceramic markers from Cathy Weber
- Pronghorn Pursuit Trail Run 5K and 15K, with the Beaverhead County High School Cross Country Team, which received 80 registrations.

In 2020, we hope to develop new trails on the new land acquisition, retrofit the fences to make them more wildlife friendly, start planning for a second trailhead, work on a right-of-way to access BLM land on the northwest of our land, and organize the 2nd edition of the Pronghorn Pursuit Trail Run 5K/15K.

- **The Dillon Trail Connectivity Program**

The Trail Connectivity 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 and R.E. Miller to complete the 774 foot North section of the trail in August including a temporary sign and a bench.

BTC also received a grant from Montana State Parks Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to build the South section of the project. BTC worked on bid package in 2019, and construction is planned for 2020.

Completion of the 622 foot middle section by BTC and the City is planned for 2020 or 2021, depending on available materials and funding.

- **Selway Park**

Started in summer 2018 as a partnership between BTC, Montana Department Of Transportation and Fish Wildlife and Park, the Selway Park Project aimed 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.

In 2019, BTC added some infrastructures to the park: signs, benches, bike racks, and a picnic table.



- **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 plans identify improving walking and biking infrastructure as an important goal. The City has indicated that the highest priority for making the Downtown more bicycle-friendly is providing parking. BTC received proceeds from a Great Harvest Bake Days in March of more than \$9,000 to purchase and install bike racks.

BTC and the City Of Dillon installed one on-street corral at the corner of Idaho and Glendale streets on June 2018. In summer 2019, BTC and the City of Dillon installed 4 on-street corrals on several street corners: Montana and Bannack; Center and Idaho; Center and Montana; Glendale and Montana. Two off-street clusters were also installed at the Jaycee Park. Bike-walk SW Montana also obtained racks for the bike camp and BTC facilitated installation of racks for private entities at cost (Sweetwater coffee, Cross-fit).



To date a total of 32 racks have been purchased with six remaining to be installed next year. Plans include a cluster on the Depot Park at the corner of Montana and Idaho streets.

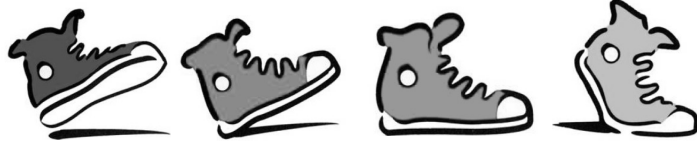
• Walking Schoolbus

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 2018-2019 school year, we walked close to 203.96 miles with 14 kids for route one.

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.

• 2019 EVENTS

- February: Winter Family Fun Day at the Forest Service cabin above Elkhorn Hotsprings, with US Forest Service and Pioneer Mountain Education Foundation
- March: Delegation at the Save The Snow Climate Summit at UMW
- April: Earth Day, organized by Terra Verde and the City of Dillon
- June: Spring Wildflowers Walk at the High Trails, with Catherine Cain from Southwest Montana Native Landscape, and Jessie Salix from the Montana Native Plant Society
- June: BTC hosted the plant identification activity from the 2019 Range Days at the High Trails
- August: Pronghorn Pursuit Trail Run 5K, 15K, co-organized with Beaverhead County High School Cross-Country Team. The event received a MT Tourism Grant.
- September: High Trails final land acquisition celebration at the Brewery
- October: Phase 1 of Noble Avenue Trail dedication ceremony with ribbon-cutting by the city officials
- October: Zombie Chase 5k and 1 mile fundraiser co-organized with the Dillon Library
- October: Participated in the Rural Homecoming organized by LOR and RCAP (Rural Community Assistance Partnership)
- December 3rd: Giving Tuesday – Fundraiser event at the Library

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2019 to December 2019

- Income

Grants	\$81,500.00
Donations	\$11,330.61
Membership	\$3,460.00
Sales (Tee-shirts)	\$60.00
Sponsor an Acre	\$15,725.00
Events	\$4,225.94
Total	\$116,301.55

- Expenses

Contracted services (Noble Av. Trail construction)	\$19,798.33
Payroll	\$11,784.98
Advertising	\$1,338.60
Operations supplies	\$11,688.40
Office and Admin	\$1,747.90
Insurance	\$1,444.00
Property Taxes	\$208.87
Total	\$48,011.08

Net Income \$68,290.47

***Notable other entries:**

Land acquisition \$70,218.00 High Trails parcel J– 127 acres

Membership

Membership fees were as follow:

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



As per December 2019, BTC counts:

- **100 memberships**
- **131 members ***

*Since January 2019, BTC reports memberships number (previously used as "members") VS members number, according to the following: A family membership counts for two members. In 2019, BTC also decided to grant a one-year membership to participants of the sponsor-an-acre program.

- **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 2019, forty-eight 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
Patagonia.com
Tim Speyer
Montana Department of Commerce
City Of Dillon
Beaverhead County
Beaverhead Chamber Of Commerce
Beaverhead-Deerlodge US Forest Service
Montana Youth Challenge Academy
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, sponsor an acre participants, and the community members for your support!

