



Annual Update 2020-2021

BRTA The Beartooth Recreational Trails Association (BRTA) was organized in 2002 to:

- 1) continue operations of the Red Lodge Nordic Center (RLNC);
- 2) promote non-motorized trails in Red Lodge and along the Beartooth Front.

This year, BRTA:

- Rolled out new logo and website, with a Grooming Report page and e-commerce for passes.
- Established an endowment—to which anyone can donate! Thanks to a generous gift from the estate of Ruth Sheller.
- Year-end financials were better than expected, despite the pandemic, and we budgeted a surplus for 2021-22.
- Received a \$5,000 grant from REI, project TBD.
- **Continue to support a stellar roster of volunteers, who make it all possible! Thank You!**

Winter Trails

- 1,700 skiers signed in at Nordic Center (RLNC) this past season, including over 120 folks who enjoyed the XCulinary event.
- 1,920 skiers signed in at West Fork this past season. Assuming $\frac{1}{3}$ of users signed in, that's 5,750 who enjoyed the West Fork, from 18 states plus Italy. One couple got engaged.
- We expanded RLNC to the west, with the Turtle Duck Trail, thanks to a new agreement with landowner Bill Garlow.
- Installed two new bridges on the RLNC Far West Side.
- Installed gravel in the parking area to help with parking.
- Opened RLNC overflow parking area; thank you Bill and Maggie Karas
- Worked with the Forest Service to move the West Fork gate to Wild Bill Lake providing more parking, public restrooms, and a safer space to turn around.
- Held Ski Swap and Kids Rentals despite pandemic conditions.
- Won another \$19,000 RTP grant for RLNC operations.
- Added five new members to Winter Trails Committee.
- Conducted Winter Trails Survey to better gauge pulse of our users.
- Special THANK YOU to our partners who make winter trails and nordic skiing possible: Andy Hart, Aspen Ridge Ranch; Bill Garlow and family, Far Out Side; Karas family, annex parking lot; Forest Service, West Fork trail; Aaron Baranko, West Fork Road plowing; Brian Langeliers, XCulinary.
- Special THANK YOU to the groomers: Rand, Eric, Ray, Tom, Jennifer, Terry, Bob M, Mary J, Bob J, Lee & Doug.
- A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Bob Johnson for all the years of working and managing the Nordic Center and West Fork. (New Nordic Center Management Team: Lee, Bob M, Bob J, and Doug.)

Summer Trails

- Negotiated agreement with Red Lodge Mountain to maintain and enhance bike trails at the ski area.
- Garnered \$48,222 MT Trails Stewardship Grant, and \$5,700 tourism grant, to expand and improve trails at Coal Miners Park.
- Worked with the Red Lodge Country Club Estates Property Owners Association (RLCCE) to extend the Hospital Wellness trail south atop the West Bench at Diamond C Links.
- Planned additional potential collaborations with private landowners.
- Executed a grant from America Walks to implement new signage and hire Montana Conservation Corps crews to improve Coal Miners Park.
- Paid for and installed initial safety signs for Highway 78 multi use path.
- Coordinated volunteer trail maintenance in the BRTA Adopt-a-Trail Program.
- Gave away another 29 free bikes (160 since the program began!)
- Trail signs placed on City trails throughout town.