

Trail Stewardship

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





2023 Trail Stewardship Overview

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Volunteers

209

Volunteer Hours

2,958

Volunteer Value

\$88,590

Miles Improved

66

Volunteer Trail Crew

Since 2012, Wild Montana has mobilized volunteers to maintain and construct trails across the state through our flagship stewardship program. In addition to working along the Continental Divide Trail, our Volunteer Trail Crew services trails on public lands that Wild Montana is working to protect. Projects are planned and facilitated by Wild Montana staff.

Chapter Stewardship

Wild Montana's volunteer-led chapters foster relationships with local land managers and spearhead initiatives in their local communities to maintain trails, protect Wilderness resources, and enhance recreation access. Projects are planned and led by volunteers with support from Wild Montana staff, who provide trail skills, safety training, and administrative support.



Powered by Volunteers

For 12 years and counting, Wild Montana has mobilized grassroots supporters to improve Montana's storied network of trails. Our Volunteer Trail Crew (VTC) began with an initiative to maintain and complete the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). Today, our VTC continues to steward the CDT, while also lending a hand on trails across the state. In addition, we have six vibrant chapter stewardship trail programs that have adopted trails of their own to maintain or launched backcountry clean-up projects.

Volunteers generously supply the time and energy required to power our stewardship program. Most of them hail from Montana, but some travel from different states and even continents to be a part of our spirited group of public land lovers. They leave behind the creature comforts of daily living to work through heat, rain, and even snow to dig new tread, saw dead trees, and build structures to improve travel in the backcountry.

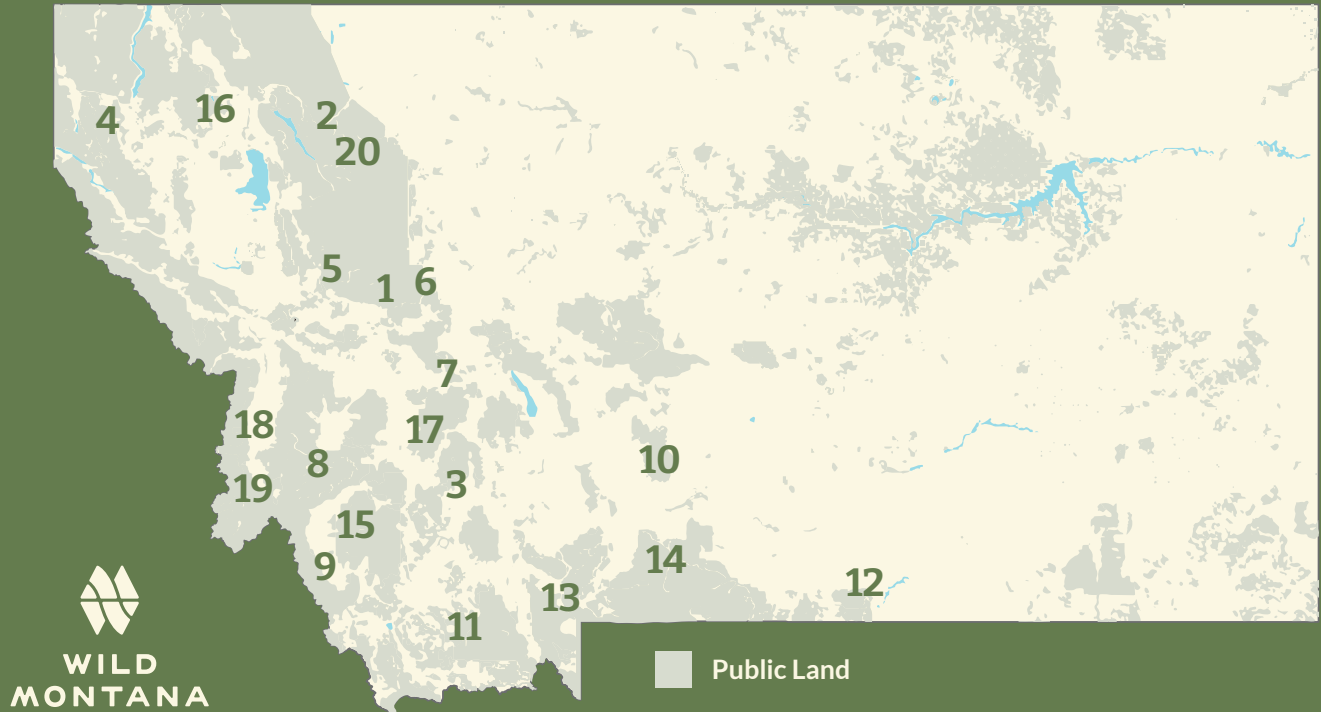
Their efforts preserve access to Montana's most beloved landscapes and prove to management agencies that Wild Montana can be a trusted ally. Assembled here are the 2023 achievements of our world-class volunteers. While the numbers are impressive, they simply can't fully illustrate our volunteers' hard work and what they've helped us accomplish over the years. To all our volunteers, we give a heartfelt thank you and promise to keep the spirit of your initiative alive summer after summer.



Year-by-Year Volunteer Value

2012:	\$72,595
2013:	\$87,167
2014:	\$169,274
2015:	\$211,905
2016:	\$118,325
2017:	\$41,952
2018:	\$88,270
2019:	\$133,044
2020:	\$32,526
2021:	\$83,401
2022:	\$73,319
2023:	\$88,591
Total:	\$1,200,369

Project Locations



#	PROJECT	LANDSCAPE	PARTNERS/CHAPTERS
1	North Fork Blackfoot	Scapegoat Wilderness	Seeley Lake R.D.
2	Tunnel Creek (National Trails Day)	Great Bear Wilderness	Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation
3	Lewis & Clark Caverns	Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
4	Silver Dollar	Cabinet Mountains	Libby R.D.
5	SKC - Center Ridge Trail	Swan Mountains	Salish Kootenai College & Seely Lake R.D.
6	Indian Meadows	Scapegoat Wilderness	Seely Lake R.D.
7	Priest Pass	Continental Divide	Helena R.D. & CDTC
8	Cutaway Pass	Anaconda Pintler Wilderness	Bitterroot Backcountry Horsemen & Pintler R.D.
9	Twin Lakes	Beaverhead Mountains	Wisdom/Wise River R.D.
10	Big Timber Canyon	Crazy Mountains	Yellowstone R.D.
11	Snowcrest Trail	Snowcrest Mountains	Madison R.D.
12	Adopt-A-Trail (Billings)	Pryor Mountains	Eastern Wildlands Chapter
13	Adopt-A-Trail (Bozeman)	Lee Metcalf Wilderness	Madison Gallatin Chapter
14	Adopt-A-Trail (Bozeman)	Gallatin Range	Madison Gallatin Chapter
15	Adopt-A-Trail (Butte)	Anaconda & Highland Range	Southwest Wildlands Chapter
16	Adopt-A-Trail (Flathead)	Salish Mountains	Flathead Kootenai Chapter
17	Adopt-A-Trail (Helena)	Boulder Mountains	Wild Divide Chapter
18	Adopt-A-Trail (Missoula)	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness	Shining Mountains Chapter
19	Baker Lakes Stewardship	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness	Shining Mountains Chapter
20	Tunnel Creek (National Public Lands Day)	Great Bear Wilderness	Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation



Volunteer Trail Crew



Chapter Stewardship

R.D. = Ranger District



We Love Our Volunteers



Brooke Reynolds

Butte, MT

"Volunteering to do trail work is a great way to get out and enjoy public lands while also lending a helping hand to our state and federal agencies that manage these places. It's a win-win!"



Howard Beall

Missoula, MT

"Working on a Wild Montana VTC crew is special in many ways: meeting and working alongside people you have never met before, but now consider friends; doing meaningful work in a beautiful part of Montana that will help make it possible for others to visit and enjoy; and in my case, at least, accomplishing something that is physically challenging on a scale that most never experience. Great crew, great leader, great place, important work."



Megan Leach

Libby, MT

"Doing trail work helps me build a deeper relationship with the land around me because I'm there for a few days, sleeping, eating, working, instead of just passing through and I get to do it with a great sense of community and camaraderie since it's a bunch of strangers working toward a common goal!"



Rory Johnson

Helena, MT

"As a volunteer representing Shodair Children's Hospital, an organization that values public lands, I was impressed by our crew's dedication and passion for preserving wild space for all to enjoy. I am grateful for the opportunity to spend time in the Blackfoot drainage and learn from such thoughtful and diverse crew members who hold so much respect for all things living."



Sarah Aydlett

Helena, MT

"The opportunity to work in collaboration with a breadth of people — eager to contribute to keeping the land we love cared for — this makes it so enjoyable and personally rewarding."



Clockwise from top left: Snowcrest Mountains (photo by Kelly McDermott); mule kisses (photo by Sandra DeBruin); Upward Bound success (photo by Sandra DeBruin); North Fork Trail Crew group photo (photo by Andrea Alvarez)



2023 Trail Stewardship Accomplishments

BY THE NUMBERS

Thank You

to every volunteer, donor agency employee, partner, and Wild Montana staff member who made this season possible.

66

miles improved

11

VTC projects

20

chapter stewardship
service days

2,958

volunteer hours

523

trees logged out

12,560'

retread

175'

trail constructed

12

miles brushed

320

drains cleared/installed

38'

turnpike
constructed

10

signs
installed

13

fire rings cleaned
and naturalized

13

pounds of Oreos
consumed

Volunteer working on Deer Creek in Gallatin Gateway (photo by Andrea Alvarez)



Thank You!



RECREATION
TRAILS
PROGRAM
GRANT



CHREST
FOUNDATION



HELENA AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

