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We are changing peoples’ lives through transformative experiences on bikes.

We are working to protect the wild places through which we ride.

We are growing the bikepacking community.

We are Bikepacking Roots.
Our mission

Bikepacking Roots is dedicated to the support and advancement of bikepacking community and the conservation of the landscapes and public lands through which we ride by . . .

Developing high-quality routes and route guides

Advocating for access and public lands

Encouraging responsible backcountry ethics

Promoting the conservation of our wild places

Bikepacking Roots is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2017. To learn more, visit www.bikepackingroots.org
Major accomplishments in 2019

Releasing the 2,700-mile Wild West Route!

• 2,700 miles, 80% on public lands, 70% on dirt, and showcasing the wild expanses of the American West
• More than a dozen riders have already ridden 90+% of the route, and scores have ridden long sections
• Released with extensive rider resources - the WWR mobile app, digital resources, and a print guidebook
• Updates will be released as needed

Karen & Tracey Bartow on the Wild West Route in 2017 as part of a cohort of 40+ test riders
Major accomplishments in 2019, cont’d

Engagement in advocacy for access, public lands issues, and responsible use

• Provided distilled summaries and public commenting guidance for issues and submitted organizational comments and protest on a variety of issues that directly affect the bikepacking experience; examples include
  • Revised US Forest Service NEPA protocols
  • Mountain bike access challenges in Montana
  • Grand Staircase and Bears Ears National Monument management plan proposals

• Continued to work with Navajo Y.E.S. and Navajo Nation Department of Parks and Recreation on long-distance recreation route concepts, access, and permitting

• Launched a study of the economic impact of bikepackers

• Consulted with bikepackers across the United States regarding local issues affecting routes and route visions

A public lands scene along the Wild West Route painted by thru-rider Geert van Keulen of Australia
In development: 10 Routes! 10,000 Miles!

- **Grand Canal to Grand Canyon** (800+ mile MTB loop in AZ) to be released in mid 2020
- **Wild West Route/Great Divide MTB Route east-west connectors** to be released with guide materials, mobile app in late 2020
- **Northwoods Route** (600+ miles with gravel/singletrack options) development to be completed in MN, WI, MI in early 2021
- **Orogenesis Trail** (3,000+ mile singletrack-oriented route) reconnaissance continues in CA & WA; community and land manager outreach to begin in 2020
- **Pony Express Route** – supporting Jan Bennett’s development of this long route with our Route Scouts program
Ongoing advocacy projects

• **Who are bikepackers?**
  • Documenting basic demographics, commonly desired experiences, and outlooks of bikepackers

• **The role of public lands for bikepacking**
  • Cataloging all popular bikepacking routes across the U.S. and land ownership/management
  • Educating the bikepacking community about the history and role of public lands in our experiences
  • Empowering the community to engage in public land management issues that affect bikepackers

• **Assessing the economic impacts of bikepackers**
  • Ongoing surveying of spending habits of bikepackers
  • Route-specific data collection from Wild West Route riders

• **Leave No Trace/Positive Impact Bikepacking**
  • A collaborative educational campaign coming in 2020
2019 Budget Report

- Bikepacking Roots ended 2019 with a balanced budget and more than 60% of our budget going directly to advocacy, outreach, route development, and community-oriented programming.

- Member donations more than doubled compared to 2018, highlighting the community’s enthusiastic support of our mission.

- The organization increased compensation for the Director, but the organization’s efforts remain largely accomplished by volunteers. Hiring of support staff will begin in early 2020 as we broaden our reach and impact.

- Despite a growing emphasis on grant writing in 2019, the organization remains heavily reliant on member and business partner support.
Our vision for 2020 and beyond

- Continue to grow our Bikepacking Roots membership and its diversity and geographic representation so we have an increasingly powerful voice for advocacy engagement

- Revamp our Regional Advisors and Route Scouts programs to create additional volunteer opportunities to engage an even broader spectrum of the bikepacking community

- Increase organizational and member involvement in relevant access and conservation and access advocacy issues, including our broader public lands initiatives. As a young and growing user group, we need to be engaged in issues that affect our bikepacking experiences

- Develop and support opportunities to increase the diversity and size of the bikepacking community – the transformative power of bikepacking should be shared as widely as possible

- Begin implementing our new strategic plan to expand our capacity to be a positive force for the bikepacking community and the places through which we ride

Heather Rose & Amanda Demler on the Wild West Route (photo: Paul Kruger)
Who is Bikepacking Roots?

- **Executive Director:** Kurt Refsnider, Ph.D.
- **Program coordinator:** Kaitlyn Boyle, M.A.
- **Board of Directors:**
  - Andy Williamson (Swannanoa, NC): Outdoor Rec consultant & advocate; former IMBA Dir. of Programs
  - Molly Sugar (Portland, OR): Lead Designer at Ride with GPS; Co-organizer of WTF Bikexplorers
  - Nan Pugh (Driggs, ID): Outdoor educator; dedicated to community foundations & non-profits
  - Frank Maguire (State College, PA): Trails/Outdoor Rec Director, PA Environmental Council
  - Lizzy Scully (Mancos, CO): Four Corners Guides owner; former Alpacka Raft marketing director
  - Matt Nelson (Tucson, AZ): Director of the Arizona Trail Association
  - Jonathan Houck (Gunnison, CO): Gunnison County Commissioner
  - Gabriel Tiller (Portland, OR): Director of the Oregon Timber Trail Alliance
  - Tom Flynn (Anchorage, AK): Lawyer and conservation advocate
- **Regional Advisors:** Approximately 25 strong and growing
- **Membership:** Nearly 5,000 and growing
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Our 2019 Business Partners

We thank the great folks at these companies for their support and belief in our young organization, our mission, and for supporting the bikepacking community.

Gold Level

- Salsa
- Revelate Designs

Silver Level

- SRAM
- Binary Bicycles

Bronze Level

- Stans NoTubes
- A.Paks
- küat
- Rockgeist
- Club CR Ride