Volume 15

Spring 2005

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Newsletter

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Helena NF 5

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INVITATION!

Annual BMWC Public Meeting

When: Saturday, April 9, 2005

Time: 10 am - 3 pm (lunch will be on your own)

Where: Community Hall, Seeley Lake, MT

What:
Forest Plan Revision Updates
- New Planning Regs
- Process Changes/Timelines
- Collaborative Public Involvement - interest?
- Specific areas of interest - proposed wilderness existing Recreation Direction Plan and integrating into plan, Outfitter Allocation

2003 & 2004 BMWC Visitor Use Survey Results

Outfitter Guide Permit Reissuance

Unit Specific Updates

Montana Department Fish, Wildlife and Parks Updates

Grizzly Bear DNA study

Volunteer Opportunities - Bob Marshall Foundation

Forest Service Centennial Celebrations

Please contact Deb Mucklow 406-387-3851 or dmucklow@fs.fed.us for additional topics/ideas

2005—A Centennial Celebration for the Forest Service

Greetings!

As I think of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wildernesses), I am continually reminded how fortunate we are to be able to work in and around, enjoy, and be part of the future of these wilderness areas. For me, one of the key things that is so important about these areas are the people - to think that the Limits of Acceptable Change group (LAC) is still interested in what is occurring, makes the time to share opinions and observations, and is part of the larger volunteer workforce that is so critical to maintaining the quality that has made this wilderness complex a flagship and leader in wilderness management is tremendous. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Also in celebrating the centennial - we the agency, are especially appreciative of all the volunteer and partnership efforts that keep occurring. Without this energy and focus on education by so many people - I don't think we would have near the quality of conditions that exist today. I would encourage each of you join with the Forest Service in celebrating 100 years and in that keep telling us how we can do a better job! There is a film out "The Greater Good", that captures the history and traditions - our BMWC is an outstanding example of these traditions. If you have the opportunity to see this film, I recommend it! For those of you that could join us at Spotted Bear Ranger Station - Saturday August 6, 2005, we will be hosting a BBQ and potluck and celebrating with past employees, volunteers, partners, interested folks in the wilderness programs, permittees and current employees. All of you are invited to join us.

I would like to invite you to attend the annual spring public meeting, it will be help Saturday, April 9, 2005 in Seeley Lake, Montana, at the Community Hall. See the "Invitation" to the left or page 12 for more information. A major portion of the meeting will be devoted to Forest Plan Revision. Things are changing! There are new planning regulations out, that will likely be used. We should have some answers in place by the meeting. A key component of the new regulations is the collaborative public involvement. I believe participation from this group, or portions of this group, will be a great opportunity to use collaborative participation and it will result in a better plan. Stay tuned!

For those that are not able to attend - we plan to send out an update once some of the questions have been answered so that all have the chance to stay informed. We will also give specific updates related to the Outfitter Allocation issue.

If there is a specific topic you would like included - please contact me at 406-387-3851 or by email dmucklow@fs.fed.us.

I'm looking forward to visiting with you!

Deb Mucklow, Lead Complex Ranger

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Fire Year 2004

by Steve Wirt

Over **80,000** acres is what fire treated in the wilderness in 2003!! Over **5** acres is what was treated with fire in 2004. The stark comparison between these two years is not taken lightly. It goes without saying this is a forested ecosystem of great diversity, one where change is inevitable.There is virtually no predictability to what type of fire season will occur from one year to the next. The difference between these two years is an excellent representation of just that. The only thing for sure that is certain, is there will be some fire activity at a given point in time on a given piece of the landscape in the Bob from one year to the next. And even after saying that, I can point to one year when there were no fires in the wilderness. Remember 1993? What a difference ten years can make and what a difference each year can bring to this ecosystem.

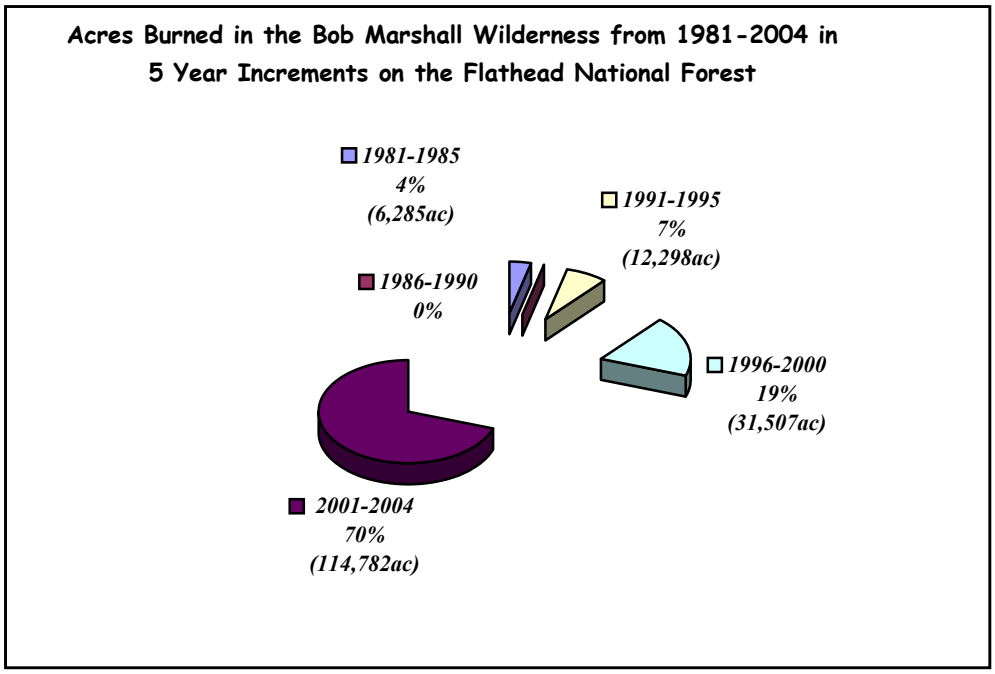
Though 2004 was a year of few fires the Forests in the Complex still managed five lightning ignited fires in this great wilderness. The five fires were Marshall Creek, Railley Mountain, Silvertip Creek, Vinegar Mountain, all on the Flathead National Forest and Galusha Peak on the Lolo National Forest. And only the Railley Mountain fire ever really saw any growth greater than one acre. The fire eventually grew to 3 acres. And the Galusha Peak fire, grew to one acre. All of these fires were natural ignitions and occurred at approximately the same time from a single storm that moved through the area on August 5th. And the three acre growth that occurred on the Railley Mountain fire occurred over a three week period.

This year there were three wildland fires that met the criteria for designation as wildland fire use fires (WFU). WFU fires are recognized for their benefits across the landscape as they are allowed to burn while being closely monitored. The other two, Vinegar Mountain and Silvertip Creek fires were suppression fires, of which only one of those was actually suppressed whereby personnel were placed on the ground. The Silvertip Creek fire was closely monitored after initially detection and eventually declared out after several rain events occurred in the area. Hazardous weather prevented the insertion of ground personnel on the Silvertip Creek fire.

Wilderness Fire Summary for 2004		
Flathead NF/Acres		**Wilderness**
Marshall Creek	0.1	Bob Marshall/Spotted Bear RD
Railley Mountain	3.0	Bob Marshall/Spotted Bear RD
Vinegar Mountain	1.5	Great Bear/Hungry Horse RD
Silvertip Creek	0.1	Bob Marshall/Spotted Bear RD
Lolo NF/Acres		**Wilderness**
Galusha Peak 1.0		Scapegoat (Seeley Lk. RD)

Although there were fire starts during the period of 1986-1990 they were less than 100 acres. It is well known some of the single largest wildland fires burned in 1988 during this period. The best example of this can be seen in the Canyon Creek fire which burned an estimated 160,000 acres in a single burning period on September 6, 1988 in the Scapegoat Wilderness.

The fire history of the wilderness provides a clear picture, one of significant disturbance over a large area of land on any given year. Yet, it is still so highly unpredictable. As just one of the many managers in this vast wilderness, I wouldn't have it any other way.



Wilderness Fire Summary of fires in the Bob Marshall Wilderness on the Flathead National Forest from 1981-2004.

Spotted Bear Ranger District 2004

Outfitter/Guide Fee Demo Activities

Funded 2 river rangers along the South Fork Flathead River—visitor contact and education, river terrain mapping, campsite inventory and rehabilitation, and river patrol. Completed all compartment monitoring for the River Corridor and initiated and update of LAC files.

Perry Brown, volunteering with his stock at the Meadow Creek airstrip work project.

Funded wilderness rangers for visitor contact and education, and LAC monitoring.

Funded a noxious weed control crew (with cooperating funds from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation)—accomplished application on all target sites in the South Fork, Danaher area and Middle Fork of the Flathead Rivers. Following the fires of 2003 many riparian areas along the South Fork Flathead River had been exposed. More intense monitoring and mapping occurred to assess any increase in weed populations. It appears significant expansion is occurring and will be a critical goal to manage in 05.

Continued collecting of native grass seeds for utilization in Wilderness native revegetation program for planting on severely impacted sites. Selected sites were further rehabilitated to reduce impacts in heavy use zones of concern. Support from the Bob Marshall Foundation and Montana Wilderness Association has significantly supported this effort.

Removal of the Beaver Creek Packers Roost at the trailhead on Spotted Bear River and relocation to a more hardened site and separate from general public activities.

"Support from the Bob Marshall Foundation and Montana Wilderness Association has significantly supported this effort."

Trail Maintenance

Over 600 miles of trails maintained. 4 resource crews performed this work. In addition, fire trail rehab crews accomplished over 90 miles of heavy reconstruction and maintenance of trails burned over in the 2003 season. This effort and techniques used initiated a nomination for the National Primitive Skills award. Also, 40 miles of Historic phone line maintained.

Heavy Maintenance/reconstruction:

MCC- Spotted Bear River Trail #83, reconstruction and building of new trailhead access for the Trail Creek connector to Big Bill and access into the Great Bear Wilderness.

Continental Divide- The 2004 season saw continued maintenance of the Continental Divide Trail. There were no major construction projects this past season but there were sections of puncheon boards replaced and all trail miles cleared of down fall.

Deferred Maintenance/trail inventory

Completed remainder of trail inventory, and initiated monitoring of trail system for out-year evaluation.

Facilities

Big Prairie Work Center foundation replacement completed and drainage installed; historic Pentagon Cabin, rebuild of foundation and porch structure, interior rehabilitated.

Volunteers

Over $150,000 of volunteered project activity was accomplished on the District. Over 200 individual volunteers participated in program activity ranging from trail work in both Wilderness and non-Wilderness settings (over 12,000 hours); facility rehab; stock care and stock tack repair; fencing; visitor contact; and snow survey endeavors. Special thanks go to the Bob Marshall Foundation, the Backcountry Horsemen, and Student Conservation Association and Landmark Volunteers.

DNA Research

The Northern Divide Grizzly Bear DNA 2004 field season was a big success for the Spotted Bear District. The DNA project saw 40 field going researchers cover the Spotted

SPOTTED BEAR, page 13

Bob Marshall Foundation
Trail Dedication

In early July of 2004, Bob Marshall Foundation crew leader Nick Cheney worked with a National Smokejumpers Association volunteer trail crew on the southern edge of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, just east of Seeley Lake. This project was planned to be a backcountry trip, with work on the Blackfoot Divide trail and Spruce Creek, a tributary to the massive S. Fork of the Flathead River drainage. Work was re-routed to the access trails just south of this area due to snow in the higher elevations, and the crew based most of their trip out of a front-country trailhead campsite. The following is Nick's experience with this hard-working and dedicated group.

On the 2nd of July, trail #401, known for both Cottonwood Creek and Dunham Ridge, was formally renamed in honor of Art Jukkula. I had the privilege to join a great group of trail dogs from the National Smokejumpers Association (NSA) as they shared vivid portraits of their friend. Led by the gracious Harold Hoem, our six person crew cleared the #401 and posted a new sign remembering Art at the trailhead.

Art Jukkula was a force in launching the NSA Trail Maintenance Volunteer Program and the partnership between the Bob Marshall Foundation and the retired smokejumpers grows stronger each year. Of roughly forty BMF projects this season, six were completed entirely by NSA member groups. It was obvious from the testimonials of Bill Werhane and Jim Phillips that Art's life spread inspiration throughout the community of jumpers. Friends shared memories of Art, who passed away on the #401 five years ago.

The Monture country was beautiful. We were graced with incredible weather in a landscape just beginning to hum with the vitality of summer. Despite an epidemic of flat tires and some almost over heated political discussions, a good time was had by each of us. Bill and Jim added stars to the night sky recounting good times from back when. Wendy Kamm, game warden out of Fort Benton, used the "Oregon" saw to muscle through deadfall while Phillips and Werhane persuaded a temperamental chainsaw to do our bidding. The days were luxurious thanks to Chuck Corrigan's pack team and his own hard work around the camp kitchen. Accustomed to my regular life as something of a pauper, my four days with the group were royal and famous (right Jim!) Harold presided over all with a calmness and good humor about which you just couldn't help but feel good.

In addition to clearing Art's trail, the crew spent a couple days clearing and brushing nearby Dunham Creek trail (#400). Late snow kept us from some of our original camping destinations but we accomplished the work we had come to complete.

Unfortunately for me, another project called from the east side home base and I had to leave before the week was over missing a Corrigan steak dinner finale. But it was the friends I made that I would miss most of all. Thanks again Wendy, Harold, Bill, Jim, and Chuck for a productive few days and a heck of a good time! And here's to more years of good hardworking partnership between the smokejumpers and our foundation.

Nick Cheney
East side crew leader
Bob Marshall Foundation

"Despite an epidemic of flat tires and some almost over heated political discussions, a good time was had by each of us."

Art Jukkala Trail No. 401

'Ranger Roundup' Lincoln Ranger's Journal

The following is a journal entry written by Lincoln District Ranger Amber Kamps during the summer of 2004 for the Blackfoot Valley Dispatch, the local weekly newspaper of the Upper Blackfoot Valley.

Last week I went into the Scapegoat Wilderness on a four day trip with three of my staff. I had hoped to get back in last year; however with the fires I was not able to make a trip. Our purpose was to patrol, make hunter contacts, and visit all four outfitter camps. Hunter patrols include ensuring visitors are complying with the food storage order and other regulations. Our visits to outfitter camps are to check compliance with permit.

Riding Brandy, a trustworthy old horse who hasn't lost his spunk or desire to lead, I began the journey from Indian Meadows to the Landers Fork trail #438. This trail meanders through the Snow Talon fire area, where like Copper Creek, burned with high intensity leaving very few patches unburned. The geology is interesting with highly erosive soils which look like they took a beating this summer and fall with some of those intense thunderstorms we experienced. It's clear to me after now seeing this area why and how the Landers Fork and the Blackfoot River turn color after a severe rain.

We stopped in at two outfitter camps – one next to Baking Powder Creek and the other just a mile north of Heart Lake. We didn't see any other hunter camps as we finished the day heading over to Heart Lake on trail #478 back to the mainline #481 to Webb Lake cabin where we spent the night.

After a restful night we began our day from Webb Lake along the mainline trail to another outfitter camp in Mineral Creek. We saw a nice brush-head bull and some cows just off the Mineral Creek trail #484. After a cup of coffee and a chance to warm our toes at the outfitter camp, we headed back to the mainline to the last outfitter camp at Meadow Creek on trail #480 to #483. We saw one other hunter camp on this route.

After visiting the outfitter camp on Meadow Creek, we headed further up Meadow Creek until we got a call on the radio that a hunter had killed an elk near the Red Mountain trail #423 junction with the mainline and a grizzly had moved in to feed on the elk. So we headed back to help, but when arrived the grizzly had moved on and the hunter was able to successfully dress out the elk and pack out the meat.

LINCOLN ROUNDUP, page 15

"Brandy, a trustworthy old horse who hasn't lost his spunk or desire to lead, I began the journey."

Lincoln Ranger District 2004

The 2003 Snow Talon fire added a work load to our trail program due to the damage the trails received during the fires. On the mainline trail #481, the first few miles of trail beginning at the Indian Meadows Trailhead received a tremendous amount of work. A total of 100 feet of puncheons (low bridges) were constructed and laid in as well as 60 feet of turnpike (raised constructed trail tread) over wet areas. Our four person trail crew also re-routed a good portion of the trail that was heavily damaged by the fire. This re-route effectively eliminated around 250 total feet of puncheons, which in the long run will reduce our maintenance needs and costs.

This year was also the worst year for blowdown across the trail in the old Canyon Creek fire since the fire in 1988. Much of the mainline trail is located in the old burn area and the clearing of this trail was quite a challenge this year with an average of 60 – 70 down trees/mile. This year it took 12

LINCOLN, page 12

'Rescue' in the Bob

by Jerry Dixon

The Bob Marshall Wilderness in NW Montana is a spectacular area of wild rivers and towering mountains. It is part of a two million acre tract that includes the Great Bear Wilderness and Scapegoat wilderness. This is all part of a six million acre complex that grizzly bear inhabit which stretches to the Canadian Wilderness just north of Missoula. I had come to hike here with Josh Burnim who is part of a rigorous USGS interagency grizzly bear DNA study.

Josh and I hiked up the SF Flathead river for several days as I learned about the study and looked at towering trees that had been wrapped in barb wire at the right height so that scientists could take hair follicles from these 'bear rub trees' and find out age, sex and condition of the bears. Josh hiked back to be a team leader of his study group and I continued on up the SF Flathead River through fields of flowers with elk and deer foraging above the crystal river.

On the 14th of June, my third day hiking up the river I saw three young women and one man, the only hikers I had seen. At first they appeared startled to see me. I smiled, waved and said, "I'm not a bear."

They run up to me with smiles on their faces. Never in my life had been greeted so enthusiastically by strangers, "Do you know where we are?"

My first thought was, "Is this a trick question." Then they asked, "Do you have a map."

I responded in the affirmative. It turns out there were 35 miles from where they wanted to be and didn't even know what drainage they were in. They had started almost two days earlier in the Flathead Lake Valley at Holland Lake on a day hike. They had crossed the snow covered divide, at times postholing into snow thigh deep. They had wanted to come back to Holland Lake by a different route but got lost and finally had to descend into the valley of the Big Salmon River which drains into the SF Flathead River.

They had no camping gear, no warm clothes and quickly exhausted their food. Fortunately they had a lighter so they built a fire and huddled around it. It rained during the night as it rained, hailed or snowed on the summits as it did for the six days I was out. They were eating Morel mushrooms which have the nutritional value of water. They were exhausted, very hungry and quite lost.

I fed them Cliff and Luna bars and what cheese I had. Then with my map I showed them where we were, the distance to the FS cabin, the trailhead and gave them info about who they could contact. Then I offered to cook them a meal right there.

"Won't you run out of food?" Was their question.

"I am a wilderness ultra-marathoner. When I train for the Alaska Wilderness Classic I plan to run out of food. Running out early won't matter."

Although I was considering hiking out with them I was sure that USFS personnel at Black Bear Cabin would help them. It turned out to be a correct assumption; they were fed, given a place to sleep and shown care with consideration.

They thanked me as though I as an EMT with a Doug load I had jumped into rescue them, landed between the cliffs, rappelled down to get gear and then made a difference of them getting out at all. That is what happened in 1982 when I jumped with Doug Abromeit, Jerry Ogawa and seven other McCall jumpers to rescue a lost hiker. A 65 year old man with just a shovel 'to look for gold' wandered down off the ramparts of Hell's Canyon and got stuck between cliffs 4000' feet above the Snake River. Then he started a fire that was burning up the steep breaks. When we arrived the Idaho Mountain Rescue team of six had just located him. So half the jumpers stayed to fight fire and five of us started down with the man in a litter. It was a difficult descent; in some places we lowered him with ropes. By the time we got to the river, five of the six IMR had injured backs, knees or shoulders so it was the jumpers that carried him to the ambulance. He had pills in his shirt for a heart condition but challenged us with questions like, "What took you so long to get here? Do you have

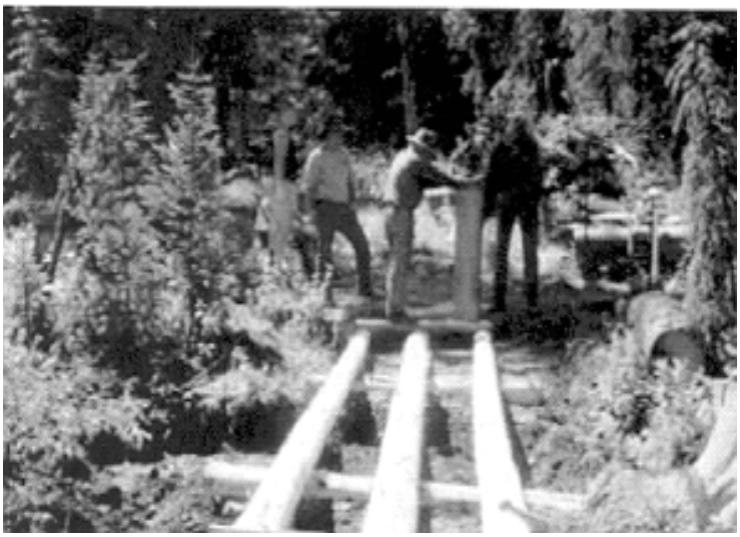
RESCUE, page 15

A key factor in an enjoyable wilderness experience is being prepared for an emergency. Plan ahead, have extra food and clothes and leave a detailed itinerary with someone.

Rocky mountain Ranger District 2004

During the field season with the help of the East Slope Backcountry Horseman, Missoula Backcountry Horseman, and the numerous groups affiliated with the Bob Marshall Foundation, including the Wilderness Treatment Center, Explorations Inc., National Smokejumpers Association, Salish Kootenai College Upward Bound, Wilderness Volunteers, American Hiking Society and many individual volunteers that contributed their time and energy. As a result the district was able to accomplish a wide array of projects that would not have been possible without volunteer support.

Wilderness volunteer group on Tubby-Blind Cr. Trail #171 in the Great Bear Wilderness.



The East Slope Backcountry Horsemen and the Missoula Backcountry Horsemen bridge replacement at Straight Creek Trail #212 in the Scapegoat Wilderness.

Projects ranged from bridge repair and replacement, trail clearing, tread repair, water bar installation and cleaning, brushing, rocking, culvert repair, building rock cairns, fence repair, and general administrative site work.

With more than one hundred volunteers the district was able to clear over 100 miles of trail, tread 2,500 yards of trail, clean 210 water bars, clear and cut over 1,000 trees from trail corridors and brush 33 miles of trail resulting in a contribution of over 80,000 dollars worth of labor on the district.

The American Hiking Society #2 on Cave Cr. Trail #217 in the Great Bear Wilderness.

Explorations Inc. #1 Youth at Risk Group doing tread work on Trail #202 in the Bob Marshall.

The Salish-Kootenia College Upward Bound program doing tread work on Trail #202 in the Bob Marshall.

Thank You Volunteers!

From the Seeley Lake Ranger Disitrct

Decreasing trail budgets and large wildfires are creating an extraordinary challenge for all of the District Trail Managers in the BMWC. The snags from the 1988 Canyon Creek Fires continue to fall and block trails just days after trail crews move through areas. The fires of 2000, 2001 and 2003 have created even more fire damaged trails and blow down problems. The Seeley Lake Ranger District would like to extend a special thank to the people who sawed---and sawed—and sawed with us to keep our trails relatively open for travel this past season.

Don Schusted, BackCountry Horsemen

Special thanks goes out to Jack Rich and crew for doing the Pyramid/ Youngs Creek/ Lodgepole loop again this past year.

Tom Ide and crew cut many logs out of the Monture trail from the Monture Spread Fire.

The Retired Smokejumpers from the Bob Marshall Foundation cut 100's of snags out of the Cabin Creek, Dunham Creek and Canyon Creek Trails in June.

Like in past years, Jack and Karen Hooker and crew cut out the trails up and down the North Fork Blackfoot and into the Danaher into hunting camp many times.

Last, but not least, we need to thank Keith Guschausky and the Missoula Backcountry Horsemen for maintaining the Monture Creek, Limestone Creek and Lodgepole Creek Trails. The following short story by Nancy Stevens shares some of the groups experiences while opening up the Monture Creek Trail last year.

Volunteers are crucial to the success of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex—thanks!

Burnt Cabin

by Nancy Stevens

The first weekend of June, Keith and I combined two work projects, the two of us working on the Northern Divide Grizzly Bear DNA project, then joining Dana and Scott Tuxbury on the upper portion of the Monture trail clearing project. Looking back, I am reminded of Beetle Bailey, a North Dakota joke and the Beverly Hillbillies. Let me explain…

On Friday, Keith and I made a combined hay run and bear bait run to Burnt Cabin. Sunflower, Smoke's mile, accepted her load of reeking blood lure (made up of putrid blood and guts and dead mackerel and maybe a few decathlete gym socks) without complaint. As I led her up the trail I kept looking over my shoulder, certain we were being stalked by forty or fifty hungry griz, but none materialized.

We stacked the hay by the Forest Service corral and stowed the bear bait in the storage room of Burnt Cabin. The lure was sealed in plastic containers, inside garbage bags inside a heavy duty bear resistant box. Nonetheless, these boxes attracted every prowling cat and dog in Keith's neighborhood the night he had to keep them in the back of his pickup. Mmm, yum, smells like mouse cadavers! Perhaps Friskies might consider this as a new flavor.

We deadheaded out, my only load a couple of empty pack boxes on my mule Mattie. About halfway out, one box was slipping and I called a halt to fix it. We were on a cliff 1000 feet above Monture Creek. I needed to pull the pack saddle straight, so I eased off Rocky…no where to tie up naturally, so I let him bump into Buster mule ahead, where he stood. I edged along Sunflower, then back to Mattie. I had about an inch of trail to stand on, but it was a simple adjustment so I risked it. I got a grip in the D's and was about to pull, when Rocky decided he needed to move up and rub his head on Buster's rump, thus pulling Sunflower forward, thus pulling

BURNT, page 11

SEELEY LAKE RANGER DISTRICT

Out-year program of work

TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SCHEDULE
2004-2009

Project Name	Work scheduled	Cost estimate
Monture Trail # 27	Heavy Mtnc.	$10M
Limestone Pass Trail # 402	Hvy Mtnc. And 2,000 foot reroute	$12M
District water bar replacement Project Phase I	Install 500+ waterbars that are failing	$25M
Flint Mtn. washout, Trail 32	3,000 foot reroute	$12M
Dwight Creek Reconstruction	1,000 foot reroute hvy. mtnc. for 9 miles	$15M
District water bar replacement Project Phase II	Install 500+ waterbars that are failing	$25M
Clearwater Lake Trail	Replace foot bridge	$7M
Morrell Creek Trail #383	Trail reconstruction 3 1/2 miles	$7M
Lake Creek Trail # 61	Trail reconstruction 8 miles	$14M
Spread Mtn Trail #166	Trail reroute 5,000 feet	$15M
Blackfoot Divide Trail #278	Trail reroutes 5,000 feet	$20M
Cooney Creek Trail #406	Trail reroute 5,000 feet	$20M

LAC RESOURCE MONITORING PLAN
2003-2007

Campsite inventory by Geographic Unit	Approximate number of sites	Range (Condition trend/utilization)
6-1-1 North Fork Cabin 6-2-3 Dwight Creek 6-2-4 Dry Fork	6 6 30	
6-2-2 Upper dry Fork	3	
6-1-3 Carmichael Tobacco Valley Dabrota 6-2-1 Cabin Creek	9 4 5 5	Allotment 076 (Cooney Creek) Allotment 085 (Tobacco Valley)
6-1-1 Lower NFk blackfoot	17	Allotment 083 (North fork) Allotment 079 (Dwight Creek) Allotment 139 (Dry Fork)
Re-inventory problem areas or areas not covered as planned		Allotment 138 (Dabrota) Allotment 137 (Cabin Creek)

DON'T INVITE A BEAR TO DINNER!

AVOID ENDANGERING YOURSELF AND OTHERS BY FOLLOWING A FEW SIMPLE RULES:

Don't leave food or garbage out and unattended **DAY OR NIGHT**. Secure food, trash, and game meat in a bear resistant container, hang 10 feet high or store out of site in a hard-sided vehicle at night or when unattended.

Human food-habituated bears become bold and are usually destroyed.

A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR!

BURNT, FROM PAGE 8

Mattie forward, thus knocking me in the breadbasket with the wooden box.

I was certain I would qualify for the Olympic cliff diving competition as I executed what I thought was a perfect backward somersault and came up on my feet, grasping a pencil thin mountain maple branch. The mules were far above, peering bug-eyed and stiff eared over the edge at the reluctant

Dan and Scott Tuxbury, Monture Creek

Olympian. They consulted quickly. It was unanimous. Nine point six, nine point six, nine point six. I clung to my scruffy branch, Olympic hopes dashed. I was a sorry Beetle Bailey, waiting for Sarge to come rescue me, but Keith was busy holding the string back with Shadow, so I collected my hat and crawled on hands and knees back up to the trail and the unrepentant mules. I discovered I'd lost my sunglasses, but voted not to take another plunge off the precipice to find them. They probably hit Monture Creek and are now floating in the Pacific somewhere.

On Saturday, we rode back to Burnt Cabin with Scott and Dan. The Forest Service had allowed us use of the cabin and corrals for the trail project, but Keith decided we wanted no part of sleeping in there with bear bait in the back room and pack rats in the front, so we set up a fly near the corral, leaving the Tuxburys to share the cozy cabin

I was camp cook. Since we had use of the cabin, we didn't pack any stoves or dishes in. I set to making dinner; nice big steaks, mushrooms and onions, strawberry shortcake, etc. I used one propane stove and one white gas stove. The big steaks required a big griddle that covered the white gas stove. The stoves were on a counter underneath a set of cupboards. The steaks were coming along nicely when a small grease fire flared up. I figured no big deal, probably just a splatter of grease from the steaks.

Foom! Now I had a big grease fire on the white gas stove, with flames shooting up as high as the cupboards above. I squeaked a bit and shut off the burners. The flames leapt on. Dan was also in the cabin and both of us went on fast forward, snatching paper towels, pot holders, etc off the counter but figuring the fire would die down in a second. I tried throwing a big kettle over the top to smother the flames, but no luck. Dan grabbed the white gas fuel unit and pulled it out of the stove. We were certain this would shut things down, but, no, it was a stove possessed. Whoosh, the flames surged higher, blackening the cupboards above.

Scott had appeared by then and grabbed a fire extinguisher. The Tuxbury brothers debated the advisability of foaming our delicious dinner. Burn down the cabin or ruin our steaks. No contest. I reached into the flames and snatched up the griddle full of sirloins. I don't remember using a pot holder. I almost dropped them on the floor, but made a brilliant recovery and supper was saved!

Scott then attempted to blast the flames, but the fire extinguisher failed. The apparently demon-possessed Coleman stove flared up even higher. Keith arrived at that point, wondering what all the screaming was about. Dan and I had managed to knock over both buckets of water on the floor and we were all slipping and sliding and scrambling for the back-up fire extinguisher. I announced the obvious. "If we don't get the stove outta here, we're going to burn down the cabin!"

The cupboards were blackening nicely. Keith hollered for pot holders. I fished a soggy one off the floor and Keith used that and a dishrag to pick up the whole works and heave it mightily, still shooting flames, out the cabin door. It hit the dirt and Scott blasted it vigorously with the functional fire extinguisher and the devil stove lay dead at our feet. I considered plugging it with a couple of silver bullets for good measure, but had forgotten to bring any. Keith had blistered a couple of his favorite fingers in the heroic grapple with the crazed Coleman, but otherwise, all was well.

Apparently, the ancient stove had so much grease built up inside from maybe

RESCUE, page 13

"The mules were far above, peering bug-eyed and stiffeared over the edge at the reluctant Olympian."

Annual BMWC Public Meeting

When: Saturday, April 9, 2005
Time: 10 am - 3 pm (lunch will be on your own)
Where: Community Hall, Seeley Lake, MT
What:
Forest Plan Revision Updates

- New Planning Regulations and Process Changes/Timelines
- Collaborative Public Involvement - interest?
- Specific areas of interest - proposed wilderness, existing Rec Direction Plan and integrating into plan, Outfitter Allocation

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Volunteer Opportunities - Bob Marshall Foundation
Forest Service Centennial Celebrations

Contact Deb Mucklow 406-387-3851 or dmucklow@fs.fed.us for additional topics.

Contact Deb Mucklow, lead Complex Ranger, for additional topics or questions about the annual BMWC public meeting.

LINCOLN, FROM PAGE 5

days to clear the length of the 16 mile mainline trail. An average year takes us 4 days. Casey Burns, Trail Crew Foreman and Bevin Feutrier, Wilderness Ranger led the efforts of the trail work and LAC monitoring in 2004.

We also had one trail contract that also cleared trails in the Scapegoat Wilderness on the Meadow Creek trail #483, around Heart Lake, and portion of Landers to Bighorn Creek #438. The contractor also cleared the trail to Silver King #438.

This year we received funding for trail inventory as well. Our two person inventory crew has inventoried over 100 miles of trail which includes GPS and mapping the trail and recording the condition of the trail. This inventory will help us determine what trails need work so we can better plan for work in our future trails program. This inventory also helps us better understand the use trails are receiving which will help us know how to manage these trails and maintenance levels they may need.

Several outstanding volunteer projects were completed in the Scapegoat by the Back Country Horsemen and Bob Marshall Foundation, without their efforts our program would not be as meaningful. The Helena National Forest also hosts a Youth Forest Monitoring Program (YFMP) and one of their projects is annual monitoring campsite use levels at Heart Lake. Heart Lake, a popular wilderness day use area three miles into the Scapegoat from the Indian Meadows trailhead, continues to see an increase in general public use during the summer season. The YFMP group spent three days of on the ground monitoring and came up with some solid management recommendations for the Forest Service to consider.

The summer of 2005 looks to be a challenging one, the top priorities will be clearing trails for the public, overseeing a construction contract in the Valley of the Moon and completing reconstruction work at Blacktail Pass on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. We're also planning to do a good deal of public education and interpretation and take advantage of the increase in visitors associated with Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

The Helena National Forest will also see leadership changes in 2005, Forest Supervisor Tom Clifford retired in December 2004. Jane Kollmeyer is Acting Forest Supervisor until mid 2005 and Robin Strathy is Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor.

Contacts for the Lincoln Ranger are: Amber Kamps, District Ranger; Mandy Alvino, Acting Resource Specialist and Wilderness Program Manager; and Ernie Lundberg, Outfitter and Guide Program Manager. They can all be reached at 406-362-4265.

Spotted Bear, from page 3

Bear District. DNA crews logged long hours and hundreds of miles to collect the grizzly bear hair from both rub trees and snag site locations. The hair collected by the field crews is being processed this winter (2005) and results should be published some time during December 2006.

2005 Outlook

The District is now preparing organization outlines for our activities this season. While our budget outlook is grim support through several grants, and from special funding line items will keep a healthy presence in the Wilderness and a strong cadre of personnel hired for 2005. Outfitter and Guide receipts, support from the Rocky Mountain Elk foundation, fire rehabilitation allocation, Centennial grant dollars, and support from the Bob Marshall Foundation will provide critical resources and a key foundation of our core program. Several trail crews will be stationed throughout the Wilderness, an increased noxious weed crew, River and Wilderness Rangers will be fulfilling LAC monitoring responsibilities, capital investment trail construction projects will occur in Spotted Bear River, Limestone Pass, Wall and Bartlett Creeks; with bridge replacement at the Little Salmon River crossing. Historic renovation of administrative facilities at Schafer Work Center and Danaher will continue our commitment to preserving the integrity of this Wilderness value. It will be another exciting, challenging and adventurous field season on the Spotted Bear Ranger District.

Burnt, from page 11

The trails were cleared without further incident and Burnt Cabin was still standing last time I checked.

thirty years of untidy trail crews, that it could have burned all night. Burnt Cabin is called Burnt Cabin because the original cabin burned down. I was a tad embarrassed to have almost burned down the replacement cabin as well. I finished dinner on the propane stove, the steaks were excellent! I spent the evening scrubbing the sooty cupboards.

Even the smokey singed smell wasn't enough to mask the bear bait odor wafting through the walls from the storage room. As Keith and I bedded down in out nice fresh-air shelter, we observed the brothers as they took up their beds and walked.

"What are they doing?" I asked.

"Looks like they're moving outside," Keith giggled.

Indeed, the Tuxbury's were moving their metal bed frames out into the yard. Later, a fly was added to shed the rain off their fancy sleeping bunks. The Clampetts would have been proud of the boys.

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Oh, yes, the North Dakota joke:

A parachutist jumps out of an airplane and pulls his ripcord. His chute won't open and he plummets through the air, desperately yanking at his cord. As he falls, he notices a North Dakotan whooshing straight up through the air toward him. As the skydiver drops level with the rocketing North Dakotan he hollers, "Do you know anything about parachutes?"

The North Dakotan hollers back, "No. Do you know anything about Coleman stoves?"

THE LIFE OF A RANGER

The life of a Ranger
It isn't so bad
Cause your always happy
You're never sad

You spend every day
On a horse or a boat
You see deer and elk
Or a mountain goat

When you're not camping out
Under the stars
You're with all your friends
In the town bars

You're seldom in your office
The paper work is small
And most of the time
There's no work at all

The public they love you
You're a hero to them
You're a woman among women
Or a man among men

Your budgets are big
Your targets are small
If you need more money
You just have to call

Let's have no complaining
We're treating you well
Or you're going to D.C.
Which is like going to hell

The life of a Ranger
The job is so good
I'd be a Ranger
If only I could!

RESCUE, FROM PAGE 6

any cigarettes?" He never thanked any of us.

Then there were the four McCall jumpers that parachuted in to a plane crash on the MF Salmon River and the first three of four were injured. One received a badly broken femur, only to find out all the passengers in the plane had died. Those were true jumper heroes.

The effusive thanks I received from the hikers was appreciated but it also brought back memories of 'incidents' that didn't go so well. Over a 17 year period I was involved in three different units that did rescues; as a smoke jumper/EMT, BLM FMO/chief rescue or upper Yukon and Rescue I-Mauneluk in the NW Arctic. One cold night during the winter of 1987-88 a distraught couple came to my wife Deborah's and my cabin on the Kobuk River with their six month daughter who had stopped breathing. I tried CPR but could not revive her, where perhaps a modern hospital with doctors might have. The mukluks the mother gave to thank me I still have and wore them in camps when I traversed the Alaska Range last winter.

But the one that still bothers me 24 years later was when I was for four years chief of rescue for the Upper Yukon stationed at Eagle. Every year it seemed we lost someone to the silt laden waters of the Yukon, these waters are so opaque that if you are one inch below the surface you are invisible. A 12 year boy was swimming at a favourite eddy in the river when the current changed or he got too close and he was pulled out. His friend that was there did not think to throw him his life preserver. None of the children in the village swam, where would they learn when the lakes are close to 0 C and the silty river flows past at 8 mph? I still believe I could have saved this youth if I had been called sooner, as I swam in the river daily and once swam half way across chasing an errant kayak. He used play at my homesite as I built my saddle-notched log cabin overlooking the Yukon. I have never stopped believing I could have made a difference by getting to the river earlier.

When the lost hikers in the Bob left me they were smiling, laughing actually. They invited me to dinner and "Do you need a place to stay?"

"Well actually there is a smokejumper reunion next week in Missoula."

We talked about what they should bring next time they go on even a day hike but I also emphasized what they did right, "You stayed together, hunkered down out of the snow and built a fire. No one got hurt, no one was left behind."

"Actually along with what you learned you should think of it as an adventure, one that you will tell your grandchildren."

For the very little I had done they thanked me again as they left. As I saw the sunlight dance on their hair, not knowing if I would ever see them again, I thought I how I should be thanking them for being part of a wonderful day in the Bob.

Jerry Dixon

"We talked about what they should bring next time...but I also emphasized what they did right."

LINCOLN ROUNDUP, FROM PAGE 5

The next day we headed into the Middle Fork trail #479 where we expected a fair number of hunter camps. We ended up stopping in and visiting five different camps. This trail was by far my favorite as the terrain and topography are quite varied and get you out of the stream bottom. It is also quite picturesque looking toward Pyramid and Olsen Peak as well as the backside of Red Mountain.

The trip was great and I enjoyed getting to see some country on the District that I hadn't seen before as well as visit all four of the outfitters that this District manages.

It was also good to see the use the Scapegoat gets in early rifle season. If there is one thing I love most about my job as Ranger here in Lincoln it's the diversity. Part of this diversity is being fortunate enough to manage the Scapegoat Wilderness, trails program, and outfitter & guide permits.

"IMPROVE" Air Monitoring in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

The Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Great Bear Wilderness's (BMWC) possess many stunning views of mountain peaks, rivers and valley bottoms, not to mention the various wildlife viewing opportunities available. As we experienced during the recent wildfires, the visibility of these treasures can be seriously diminished by haze and smoke.

Recognizing the importance of air quality, congress included provisions in the 1997 Clean Air Act to protect such areas as BMWC from man made air pollution. This act and subsequent amendments required EPA to issue regulations to assure "reasonable progress" toward meeting the national goal. At that time, EPA acknowledged that the regulations were only the first phase addressing visibility impairment and deferred regulations dealing with regional haze until improved monitoring and modeling techniques were developed, and EPA could improve its understanding of the pollutants causing impairment.

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To aid the implementation of the Clean Air Act, the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments Program (**IMPROVE)** was initiated in 1985. This program is a cooperative measurement effort governed by a steering committee composed of representatives from Federal and regional-state organizations.

In 1998 an IMPROVE monitoring station to serve the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Mission Mountain Wilderness Areas was installed at the Monture Guard Station on the Seeley Lake Ranger District. This sophisticated aerosol filtering system consists of 16 various filters and pumps that run throughout a 7 day period after which they are changed by District personnel and shipped off to the University of California for analysis. The 7 day monitoring cycle runs year round.

In 2000 an equally sophisticated automatic digital camera system was installed to monitor visibility of the same air shed being monitored by the aerosol filters. The camera takes 3 high quality pictures daily year-round. The memory card storing these images is periodically sent to the Rocky Mountain Research station in Fort Collins Colorado for integration with the aerosol filtering data.

To learn more about the IMPROVE air monitoring system and the Clean Air Act of 1997 visit the IMPROVE website @http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/.