

**BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS COMPLEX  
NEWSLETTER**

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- South Fork Sun River Prescribed Burn

## **DOLACK CAPTURES THE HUSH OF THE LAND**

By Debbie Anderson, Helena Forest Foundation

In celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Scapegoat Wildernessó the first citizen-initiated wilderness in the United States, the Helena Forest Foundation commissioned Montana artist Monte Dolack to produce a limited edition fine art print. Partnering with the Montana Wilderness Association on this project, the prints are being sold, with proceeds supporting outdoor education and resource preservation.

For this commission, after visits to the periphery of the Scapegoat Wilderness, Monte decided he needed to make a trip to the backcountry to capture the wildness he was seeking. With planning and logistics by representatives from the Helena National Forest, the Helena Forest Foundation and Montana Wilderness Association, and with moral support from his wife, artist Mary Beth Percival, a pack trip into backcountry was underway.

See DOLACK, back page



Used with permission from Helena Forest Foundation

Monte Dolack's "The Hush of the Land"



# NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE GRIZZLY BEAR DNA PROJECT

NCDE Communications Committee

The following is information concerning the Grizzly Bear DNA Project for the NCDE. The funding for preliminary work in 2003 has been secured. Read on for more information.

***A population estimate for grizzly bears is needed for the NCDE in order to effectively manage this important species:*** Experts recognize that there is no reliable information on population status for grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). A population estimate is available for a two million-acre area in and around Glacier National Park using DNA-based sampling methods. Similar techniques will be used to sample the entire NCDE. The major objectives of this project are to obtain an accurate estimate of the total number of bears and to gather information on the distribution and density of bears throughout the area. Other research needs include:

- Survival or population trend, addressed by a Montana FWP radio telemetry study;
- Linkage zones connecting habitat, addressed by a task force within the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee; and
- Human/Bear conflicts, addressed by local, state, tribal, and federal agency personnel.

***Completing the population estimate will be a huge undertaking and will require unprecedented cooperation:*** The goal of this project is to estimate the total number of grizzlies in 7.25 million acres of mostly mountainous, roadless lands. This will be a daunting task and will require the cooperation of all the private and public land managers, private landowners, scientists, and federal, state, and tribal agencies in the system. It will require hair snag stations in 1,174 5x5 km grids on private and public lands. With this method, grizzlies are drawn to a scent lure that offers no food reward and leave tufts of hair on barbed wire surrounding the lure. The second method is to collect hair samples from natural rub trees along trails. Hair samples from both collection methods are analyzed for DNA content and used to estimate the total population size. A major advantage of this method is that no handling of the bears is required and no interaction between people or bears occurs. These methods have been used in Glacier National Park and adjacent areas with no reported conflicts between people bears, and the hair collection stations.

The use of radio collars and associated capture of bears is a more expensive method for population size, takes years to get enough data for estimating population size, and is a greater impact on bears with the associated baiting, trapping, and handling by people. The DNA hair sample technique is the least expensive, quickest, and safest for people and bears.

***Information from this project is a key to evaluating recovery criteria for grizzlies in the NCDE:*** Rigorous numerical population criteria for the recovery of grizzly bears have been established by the USFWS. Because of dense vegetation, bears are difficult to count in the NCDE, compared to other areas where bears are more readily observed from the air. We need reliable population data to accurately evaluate how the population compares to these demographic recovery criteria, which are:

1. Ten females with cubs within Glacier National Park (GNP) and 12 females with cubs outside GNP over a 6-year average within 10 miles of the recovery zone excluding Canada;
2. Twenty-one of 23 Bear Management Units occupied by females with young from a running 6-year sum of observations with no two adjacent Bear Management Units unoccupied;
3. Known, human-caused mortality not to exceed 4% of the population estimates based on the most recent 3-year sum of females with cubs. No more than 30% of this 4% limit shall be females. This limit can't be exceeded during any two consecutive years.
4. Occupancy of the Mission Mountains

Of these criteria, number 1, 2, and 4 have been met over the last six years. Criteria number 3 has not been met every year based on the current method of estimation.

This project will deliver the population estimate needed to better evaluate criteria number 3. A related project, conducted by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, includes bears fitted with radio collars. It will run concurrently to gain the other information needed to completely evaluate criteria number 2.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Jan. 15**— Working session for Forest Plan Revision. Missoula
- **Mar. 27-28**— Spit and Whittle, Lincoln. PWOA representatives and Rangers.
- **Apr. 10-12**— Spring BMWC and Public Meeting, Kalispell. (10-fire, 11-managers, 12-public).
- **June 30-July 2**—Managers' ride. Forest Supervisors, Rangers and FP Revision members. RMRD to host. Short rides to key areas.
- **July 20-26**— Rangers Coord. Ride. Focus on Rangers and Wilderness Rangers attending. SBRD and SLRD to host. Long rides.

BMWC Managers will be busy again this next season. The schedule of events shows an updated list of working sessions and field meetings. Most of the events occur on an annual basis. However, this year we have added several additional field meetings to help address Forest Plan Revision across the complex.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **TBA**— Forest Plan Revision meeting. SBRD to host 3-day trip. Include mix of FS, Planners, Rangers, Wilderness Rangers and IDT members.
- **TBA**— Fire complex ride. Hosts TBA. Dates and hosts will be recommended and reaffirmed April 10-11 at Spring Complex meeting.
- **TBA**—WSR and Backcountry Airstrip field trip. SBRD and HHRD to set date for trip into Middle Fork Flathead. Address WSR and airstrip issues with Lee Kramer.

**BMWC Public Meeting  
April 12, 2003 10:00 a.m.  
Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office**

Introductions

Complex LAC Updates

Grizzly Bear DNA Project Update

1200-1300 LUNCH

General FWP Update

- \* Westslope Cutthroat
- \* Other information

Other Public Topics

Bob Marshall Foundation Update

Forest Plan Revisionó General Update

Outfitter/Guide Reissuance Process Update

## LINCOLN RANGER DISTRICT NAMES NEW RANGER

By District Staff

Amber Kamps is the new District Ranger on the Helena National Forest, Lincoln Ranger District. Amber most recently comes from the Bitterroot National Forest where she was the zone silviculturist for the Sula and West Fork Ranger Districts and lead silviculturist for the forest-wide Burned Area Recovery effort following the Fires of 2000.

Kamps, a Wyoming native, began her Forest Service career at the age of 16 working on the trail crew on the Bighorn National Forest in the Cloud Peak Wilderness area. She spent several more seasons on the Bighorn working in trails, recreation, and fire before taking a permanent job in Bonners Ferry, Idaho working in timber and silviculture. Amber has spent the last 12 years working in North Idaho and Western Montana in silviculture, timber, and as an interdisciplinary team leader. Amber has a Bachelor's degree in Forest Resource Management and a Master's degree in Eco-

system Management, both from the University of Montana.

Kamps will be residing in Lincoln along with her husband, Steve, a Forester for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation who will be working out of the Lincoln Field Office. Amber and Steve also have two young children, Bridger, age two and Sage, age 5 months.

One of the big draws for applying for the Lincoln Ranger position was the Scapegoat Wilderness and being part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. It is the diversity of the landscape and uses on the Lincoln District that is so appealing to me everything from managing for wilderness values to providing OHV opportunities outside the wilderness. Being a manager for a wilderness area also has special meaning to Amber, Working in the wilderness is where I began my career; it feels as if I'm going back to my roots or at least have come full circle.

*Working in the wilderness is where I began my career; it feels as if I'm going back to my roots or at least have come full circle.*

## HUNGRY HORSE RANGER DISTRICT HIRES PAULA PETERSON

By District Staff

Paula Peterson from the Arapaho NF in Colorado will be joining the Recreation Staff on the Hungry Horse RD, taking Fred's position. She has been in Colorado over 12 years in recreation, mainly focusing in special uses. She has administered all sorts of permits from Winter Park Ski Area to 5 marinas and everything in between. Paula has worked in our Arapaho National Recreation Area, a set of five reservoirs created by the BOR for water development for the Denver area and now used for recreation. She divides her time among trails, dispersed, general forest areas, concessions, wilderness etc. Her husband is a native of Great Falls, with family in the Whitefish area. Paula expresses excitement in moving home so and is anxious to work with the BMWC people.

# BMWC CAMPSITE REHAB PROJECTS 2002

By Beth Hodder

**Big Slide:** Three volunteers and one FS employee conducted a site evaluation for the Big Slide campsite above Big Salmon Lake. The site evaluation determined rehab needs for the area and made suggestions for managing the site for future use by hikers and stock users. The evaluation was given to Spotted Bear managers to develop a plan for the area.

Volunteer service days: 9

**Black Bear:** Two volunteers and three FS employees collected grass and forb seed for future campsite rehabilitation projects. We collected these plant materials from an area where we did rehab work last year, so this also gave us an opportunity to see how well the rehab worked and to develop future plans for more rehab.

Volunteer service days: 6

**Big River Meadows:** Three volunteers, two FS employees, and one Bob Marshall Foundation employee collected grass seed from two grass species (blue wild rye and mountain brome) for future campsite rehabilitation projects. We also began some initial campsite rehabilitation at Big River Meadows, such as removing and naturalizing 3 campfire rings; discouraging use at one site; discussing future site rehab; removing primitive furniture (logs for seats, etc.) at one site; and using icebergs to pull in edges around another site.

Volunteer service days: 12

Note: Before more rehab to this area can occur, a rehab plan needs to be developed. There are too many unknowns to do anything effective here.

**Shaw:** One volunteer, one FS employee, and one BMF employee collected grass seed from one grass species, yellow penstemon, arrowleaf groundsel, mountain ash, and fireweed for future campsite rehabilitation projects. We also removed a fire ring at Koessler Lake and two fire rings in a meadow at Shaw Cabin.

Volunteer service days: 5

Note: Last year a site evaluation was completed for Koessler Lake. However, this year an avalanche destroyed the camping site at the lake. Another site evaluation will need to be done if managers wish to keep this area on the rehab project list.

**Sunburst Lake:** Three volunteers, three FS employees, and one BMF employee collected arrowleaf groundsel, *Ribes*, and elderberry seed for future campsite rehabilitation projects at Sunburst Lake and one forb (fireweed) along Gorge Creek. We also performed a small amount of campsite rehabilitation at Sunburst Lake, such as placing rocks in one small tent site to discourage camping use (this site had rocks and plants placed there last year); discussing future site rehab; and removing primitive furniture (logs for seats, etc.).

Volunteer service days: 9

Rehab projects net 41 volunteer service days.



By Deb Mucklow



## OUTFITTER AND GUIDE PERMIT REISSUANCE

In August 2002, The Bob Marshall Wilderness Managers initiated public scoping on the reissuance of outfitter permits for the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex. We are still analyzing the comments received. The timeline for this project has been delayed due to other work priorities. To allow for adequate review of the comments and develop the appropriate analyses for this project we had to extend the timeline. As a result we have extended the existing outfitter and permits for one year. As described within the scoping letter, the permits did expire March 30, 2003.

We have received a wide range of feedback on the project – some of the comments are outside the scope of this analysis as described within the scoping letter. It is recognized that many of the items included within the comments are forest plan level items and may need to be addressed or at least considered with forest plan revision. We are working with the west-side forest plan revision team to make sure that these issues are understood. There has not been decisions at this time of what will be included with the forest plan revision process related to the wilderness complex manage-

ment. It is known that all components of forest plan revision must address the need for change factor.

If you did not participate in the scoping process for the permit reissuance, but would like to stay involved in the project, please contact Deb Mucklow, Spotted Bear District Ranger, Spotter Bear RD, POB 190340 Hungry Horse MT, 59919. If you did comment, you are already on the project mailing list and will be receiving additional information as it is available. Thanks for the continuing interest in this project.

## WILDERNESS AWARD WINNERS!

By Chris Ryan

Each year the Forest Service Chief recognizes a few of our most outstanding wilderness champions with National Wilderness Awards. At the Annual Winter Wilderness Meeting, held in January in Missoula, Regional Forester, Brad Powell presented two of those awards to very deserving organizations, the Spotted Bear Ranger District and the Big Sky Bible Camp.

The Spotted Bear District was awarded the Aldo Leopold Award for Overall Wilderness Management Program. This award recognizes a unit that has demonstrated sound wilderness management, where decisions reflect an understanding and appreciation of wil-

derness values and careful management of the wilderness resource.

Spotted Bear was recognized because of the leadership they have shown in the areas of education, fire, monitoring and practice of traditional skills, not just across the Northern Region but also across the Nation. Employees from Spotted Bear are highly valued as wilderness trainers and participants on regional and national teams charged with working on wilderness policy and guidance.

One really just needs to spend a little bit of time on the Spotted Bear compound to feel the magic of the district and the dedication of an entire team to protecting this precious resource for future generations.

And speaking of future generations, the Big Sky Bible Camp received the Wilderness Education Leadership Award for the very important

work they do each summer with 14-17 year olds. This group of dedicated volunteers, including but certainly not limited to Dave Owen, Dan Lubber and Hash Morrison,



U.S. Forest Service photo

**Wilderness Award Winners  
From SBRD**

*Spotted Bear Ranger  
District receives the  
Aldo Leopold  
Award for Overall  
Wilderness  
Management  
Program.*

# FIRE IN THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS: GUIDEBOOK

By Steven Wirt and  
Don Black

The wilderness fire management program rises to a new level this year with 23 years of fire management now for the Scapegoat-Danaher Plan and twenty years for the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Plan. After all of these years of fire management, we still recognize the ongoing need for improvement in our programs. This will never change nor should it, when given the risks and opportunities associated with managing fire across the landscape. There will always be change and the need for adjusting to the change.

This winter we have undertaken the task to reconstruct our fire plans into what will be called a Guidebook. The Guidebook will provide direction for fire management in the Bob Marshall Complex (*Bob Marshall, Scapegoat & the Great Bear Wilderness areas*), which by the way is also known as a *fire management unit*. The Guidebook serves as the linkage between the Land and Resource Management Plans and Fire Management Plans for each of the forests in the complex. The Guidebook will further provide specific criteria for decision makers for *fire management areas*; subdivisions of the

larger wilderness fire management unit that reflect similar physical characteristics and management objectives.

Although this introduction to our new Guidebook sounds like a mouthful, there is really not very much that is new. It is an updated publication, replacing previous versions of three separate documents that will provide fire managers with a single source of reference,

guidance, and direction for wildland fire decision making in the entire complex. This document will also introduce the most recent terminology as it pertains to the Federal Wildland Fire Policy. Fire managers in the complex now see this as a document that will meet the needs of the entire complex. The Bob Marshall Guidebook is currently being worked on and should be available by July 1, 2003.



## AWARDS

From page 6.

takes groups of teenagers into the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and accomplish a tremendous amount of work while teaching wilderness ethics

and traditional skills. This program has been ongoing for nearly ten years and has been very effective for building wilderness leaders through hands-on learning

while helping the Forest Service accomplish much needed work.

Congratulations!!



U.S. Forest Service photo

**Wilderness Award Winners  
From Big Sky Bible Camp**

*Big Sky Bible  
Camp receives the  
Wilderness  
Education  
Leadership Award*

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE TO NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REGIMES:

In 1981, David Cole examined 35 campsites within the Bob Marshall Wilderness area. In that study, Cole classified each campsite according to the predominate type of use. The classifications used include backpacker sites, horse use sites, and fall outfitter camps. Each campsite was evaluated for its camp area, barren core area, tree damage, as well as the number of felled trees. Percentages were also determined for bare mineral soil, vegetative cover, root and tree, and rock across the entire campsite. Floristic composition was examined and compared against an undisturbed control site of similar slope and aspect as that of the campsite.

In 2002, Dave Andrus and I conducted a study to identify any trends between 1981 and 2002. We chose 19 of the original 35 campsites to evaluate using the same methods as Cole (1981). All of these sites are located along the South Fork of the Flathead River and the Danaher River. Use of Cole's 1981 classifications allowed us to categorize each of the sites. Under Cole's classification, five of these sites are backpacker sites, two are fall outfitters camps and parties with stock use the remaining 12. For statistical analysis, we incorporated the two outfitter camps into the horse use category. This gave us two categories to examine, backpacker and horse use.

Of the nineteen sites chosen, we only analyzed fifteen of them. Measurement discrepancies forced us to pull two sites from the sample, and the other two were pulled because they had revegetated to a point where they were no longer identifiable as a campsite. Of the latter two, one was a horse use site along the Little Salmon River, and the other was a backpacker site just south of

Big Prairie. The backpacker site also reflects a trend uncovered in our results, and that is, backpacker sites, in general, appear to be decreasing in size.

A comparison of all fifteen sites revealed several trends. First, campsite areas are increasing, while the barren core area is decreasing. The mean campsite area for all 15 sites increased from 202 m<sup>2</sup> to 206 m<sup>2</sup>. The greatest decrease in camp area is 336.56 m<sup>2</sup> and the largest increase is 288.54 m<sup>2</sup>. The barren core decreased from 29 m<sup>2</sup> to 4 m<sup>2</sup>. All sites showed a decrease in barren core, but it ranged from 1.2 m<sup>2</sup> to 57.4 m<sup>2</sup> per site. Second, the amount of bare soil observed across the entire campsite decreased from an average of 17% to 9%. Lastly, the amount of exposed roots increased from an average of 7 incidents per site to an average of 17.

## Type of Use

We also analyzed the campsites according to their predetermined classification, either backpacker or horse, to determine the types of impacts associated with each type. In doing so, we found that sites used predominantly by parties with stock incur the most impacts. In 1981, backpacker sites on average were one-half the size of those used by stock parties. In 2002, that difference increased dramatically, with backpacker sites having, on average, one-fourth the size of sites used by parties with stock. Why is this? Results indicate that, of the sites examined, backpacker sites have decreased from 109.7 m<sup>2</sup> to 64 m<sup>2</sup>, a 42% decrease in size. Horse use sites have increased from 235.6 m<sup>2</sup> to 257.4 m<sup>2</sup>, resulting in a 9% increase in camp area.

This trend demonstrating backpacker

sites improving while, horse use sites deteriorating is true for other indicators as well, especially when it comes to tree damage. Tree damage is defined by the presence of nails in the trees, ax marks, carvings, exposed roots, scars incurred by humans, and other miscellaneous damage. Since 1981, average number of incidents of tree damage has increased by 23 on those sites used by stock, while on the backpacker sites, a decrease of 11 incidents per site was observed.

Another indicator that is more pronounced on horse sites than on backpacker sites is the number of exposed roots evident on the site. Although this is included in the previous tree damage category, the differences presented between the two use types truly separates backpacker sites from horse use sites. The number of exposed roots on horse use sites increased by 13 incidents per site, while backpacker sites increased by only 2 incidents per site.

The number of trees counted per site decreased for both use types. The backpacker sites saw a decline of 7.25 trees per site, going from an average of 15 in 1981 to 7.75 in 2002. Horse use sites indicated a decrease of 4.5 trees per site decrease, dropping from an average of 20.3 to 15.8 trees per site.

## Conclusions

It is apparent that horse use sites are incurring the brunt of the impacts, however, it is difficult to point to reasons without knowing more about visitor characteristics, as well as, the type and amount of use each site receives.

- Our categorization is based on a classification completed in 1981. Backpacker sites were generally classified as

See TWENTY..., page 9

## TWENTY YEARS OF VISITOR IMPACTS IN THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS

backpacker due to the absence of evidence of stock use or damage from stock to the site or surrounding area. Lack of horse manure is also an indication that stock parties do not use these sites. But there are no physical indicators that would reveal whether or not backpackers are using stock camps. So it is difficult to assess whether site impacts occurring at sites classified as stock camps are occurring from backpackers or stock users. The size of most horse sites could easily accommodate a modest backpacking party, without affecting the size of the camp area.

- One hypothesis we have, dealing with the decreasing

campsite size of backpacker campsites, is that fewer backpackers are using those sites. Although one cannot accurately gauge use levels based on impacts observed, the decrease in camp area, along with the on site revegetating, suggests to us that fewer backpackers are using these sites or even possibly this area. Backpackers may be using other sites, such as those classified as horse sites, or they may be traveling to a different part of the Bob Marshall altogether. However, this hypothesis cannot be tested without a thorough visitor study of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, such as was undertaken by Bob Lucas, (Lucas, 1985).

- A second hypothesis is that private stock users may be the cause of the increased impacts to the horse use campsites. While there is a moratorium on permits for outfitters, there are no limits to the numbers backpackers and private stock users who may enter the Bob Marshall, other than party size. Western Montana is attracting a large number of horse enthusiasts, who are settling in the area raising horses. The Bob Marshall with its millions of acres of wilderness provides an ample opportunity for these people to visit wilderness from the back of their horse. Again, this hypothesis cannot be tested until a visitor study is completed.

By Clint Cook and David Andrus

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## SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD WATERSHED WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

By Rick Stevens

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, in cooperation with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the U.S. Forest Service, is proposing to remove non-native trout from lakes within the South Fork Flathead River watershed. The goal of this project is the protection of westslope cutthroat trout populations within the watershed. The westslope is threatened by hybridization with introduced rainbow and Yellowstone cutthroat trout that were planted into the lakes prior to Montana's designation of the westslope as a species of special concern. The BPA will provide primary funding for the project as mitigation for the construction and operation of Hungry Horse Dam, as

recommended by the Northwest Power Planning Council. Eleven of the 21 lakes identified as currently hosting the introduced trout species are located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared by BPA in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NEPA process is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2003, with the publication in the Federal Register of a Notice of Intent to Prepare and EIS. A letter describing the proposed project will be sent to groups and individuals that have expressed interest in the issues associated with the project,

Including conservation of native species and wilderness management. The general public will also be contacted through the use of public media and invited to comment on the project. The comments received from agencies, organizations, and private citizens will be used to develop alternative approaches to the project that will then be presented and analyzed in a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

For further information on this project, contact Colleen Spiering, Bonneville Administration, (503) 230-5756; [caspiering@bpa.gov](mailto:caspiering@bpa.gov) or Rick Stevens, Flathead National Forest, (406) 387-3865; [rstevens@fs.fed.us](mailto:rstevens@fs.fed.us).

# SBRD ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2001

By Gordon Ash

*6 crews  
performed  
over 600  
miles of trail  
maintenance.*

## Outfitter/Guide Fee Demo

- \* Funded 2 river rangers along the South Fork Flathead Riveró visitor contact and education, campsite inventory and rehabilitation, and river patrol.
- \* Funded wilderness rangers for visitor contact and education.
- \* Funded a noxious weed control crew (with cooperating funds from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation)ó all sites in the South Fork, Danaher area and Middle Fork of the Flathead Rivers.
- \* Funded native reveg site surveys and implementation of rehab activities (matched with partnership funds)

## Trail Maintenance

- \* Over 600 miles of trails maintained. 6 crews performed this work.
- \* 40 miles of Historic phone line maintained

## Heavy Maintenance/ Reconstruction Projects

- \* Morrison Creek Trail #1546 recrown turnpikes and improve drainage.
- \* Continental Divide Trailó Heavy maintenance
- \* Little Salmon Creek #29 Reroutes and improve drainage. Contract completed
- \* Youngs Creek Trail #1416 Improve drainage and tread improvement. Turnpikes added and recrowned. Contract work completed.
- \* Rapid Creek Trail #1396 Contract completed
- \* Clack Creek Trail #1606 Contract completed.
- \* Wall Creek Trail #906 Completed NEPA, survey and design for 2003 planned contract.
- \* MCCó West Side Trail #2636 Tread and drainage improvement. Completed 2 miles.
- \* White River Trail # 112;

contract started at Larch Hill with completion to the Pagoda Junction.

- \* i In the Blackí heavy trail maintenance finished over 40 miles of trail rehab work from the fires of 2000-01. Includes S Fk East Side trail, Helen Cr, Hahn, Jenny, Cannon/Trickle and Chipmunk trail systems.

## Deferred Maintenance/ Trail Inventory

Inventoried 102 miles of trail inventory and accomplished about 80% of required inventory target.

## Facilities

- \* Pendant and Hahn Cabin historic refurbishment.
- \* Big Prairie Work Center foundation replacement started.

## Native Revegetation

- \* For heavily impacted sites. (See related article.)

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT NEW STAFF ORGANIZATION

By Mike MuÇoz

Efforts to reorganize positions on the RMRD were recently completed. District employees spearheaded the efforts to help create a more manageable workload between various positions and to promote increased knowledge and expertise of the individuals currently filling those positions, as well as to help promote and emphasize programs that we felt were in need of greater attention and/or exhibited exceptional potential for increased activity.

The result is a flatter organization on the district that consists of eight (8) staff positions reporting directly to the District Ranger, where four staff positions reported previously. Fortunately, the individuals filling each positions' roles and responsibilities are team players and realize that at any given time we'll all be conducting some multi-tasks to help out our co-workers across the District and Forest. For reasons regarding space in the newsletter, the entire district organization is

not mentioned. However, a detailed organizational chart for the district is available at the RMRD. Just ask for it. We'll be glad to share it so you know who to talk to about our programs on the RMRD...home of the "Bob", the "Front" and the "Griz".



## SOUTH FORK SUN RIVER PRESCRIBED BURN

By Bonnie Dearing, Lewis & Clark NF PAO



Lewis & Clark NF Photo

### Prescribed burn project area

*“The use of prescribed fire here will reduce the amount and arrangement of fuels and create an additional buffer so that future lightning-caused fires can play a more natural role within the wilderness.”*

Fire Management personnel of the Lewis and Clark National Forest are preparing to ignite a prescribed fire in a 16,500-acre project area within the Scapegoat Wilderness beginning this spring. The staff of the Rocky Mountain Ranger District has completed the required environmental analysis and developed a prescribed fire burn plan for the eastern edge of the Scapegoat Wilderness, a southern addition of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (BMWC) administered by Lewis and Clark, Helena, Lolo and Flathead National Forests.

The South Fork Sun River project area contains continuous fuels across wilderness and non-wilderness boundaries along the Rocky Mountain front, where an over-belt thrust of limestone reefs and previously burned

areas form significant buffers along a majority of the wilderness boundary. The use of prescribed fire here will reduce the amount and arrangement of fuels and create an additional buffer so that future lightning-caused fires can play a more natural role within the wilderness. However, it will take many years, and the reoccurrence of lightning-caused fires to restore balance in this fire-adapted landscape. The project may be completed in one year or implemented over a period of five years.

The planned burn will be done by aerial ignition with both plastic sphere dispensers and helitorch being used for the air operations portion of the prescribed fire. Hand ignition will be minimal

as the sheer size of the area, presence of multiple aspects, steepness of slopes, continuity of fuels and the amount of fire to be ignited during one time period make it unfeasible for hand crews to safely implement the project while the burn prescription parameters are present.

Lewis and Clark National Forest staff has worked extensively with local communities to involve the public in evaluating the use of prescribed fire in this area. Active support comes from front range residents who recall the destruction of the 1988 Canyon Creek fire and who recognize the need to reduce fuels to lessen the threat of wildfires escaping this portion of the BMWC.



RMRD

Volunteer and  
Partnership  
Hours  
Top  
10,000

## RMRD VOLUNTEER / PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

By District Staff

Volunteers and partners continue to contribute a significant amount of time and work in the maintenance and reconstruction of both trails, trailheads and facilities across the RMRD, from the Scapegoat and Bob

Marshal Wilderness areas to the entire Rocky Mountain Front. The amount of work accomplished, as shown in these tables, exceeded more than five (5) person years! That's like having five addi-

tional people working year round for our "outfit" in the back and front-country. Much thanks to all those groups and individuals that contributed outstanding work.

VOLUNTEERS LEGEND	HOURS	\$\$\$
Individual volunteersó wilderness trails	1620	15,260.40
EBHó Eastslope Backcountry Horsemen	1149	10,823.58
CDTAó Continental Divide Trail Alliance	262	2,468.04
MCCó Montana Conservation Corp.	195	1,836.90
<b>BMFó Bob Marshall Foundation</b>		
Packer support	152	1,431.81
AHSó American Hiking Society Explorations	160	1,507.20
MWSBó Montana Wilderness School of the Bible	896	8,440.32
NSAó National Smokejumper Association (672)	360	3,391.20
Strive	1344	12,660.48
WTCó Wilderness Treatment Center	576	5,425.92
	3640	34,288.80
<b>District Wilderness Trails Total Hours and \$\$\$</b>	<b>10,354</b>	<b>\$97,534.68</b>

DATE	PARTNERS	PROJECT
June 14-16	EBH	Cabin Cr., Eastside Trail #110, Moose Furman #261 **
June 17-27	BMFó WTC #1	Lodgepole #179, Woods Cr. #170, Two Med. #101 **
June 20-30	CDTA	Trail clearing Upper Wall
June 15-July 5	BMFó WTC #2	Blacktail #207, Welcome Pass, Halfmoon #216, S Fk. #202 **
June 18-27	BMFó Explorations	W Fork Sun River #203 **
July 5-25	BMFó WTC #3	Headquarters #165, Rock Cr. #111, Moose Ridge #125 **
July 13-19	BMFó NSA #2	Our Lake #184, Green Gulch #127, Slim/Rierdon #126 **
July 18-25	BMFó Strive	Whitetail #218, S Fk. Whitetail #235 **
July 21-27	BMFó NSA #4	Mount Wright #160, N Fk. Teton #107, Blackleaf #106 **
July 26-28	EBH	Gates Park, Gates Cr. #162, Gates/Lick Cr. #161 **
August 5-9	NRPT	Benchmark, Indian Point, Green Fork
August 10-17	BMFó AHS	Prairie Cr. #262, Goat Cr. #249 **
August 13-22	MCC	Straight Cr. #212 **
August 18-24	BMFó MWSB	Birch Cr. #121 **
August 31-Sept 2	BMF #6	Deer Cr. #276 **
August 31-Sept 2	EBH	Badger Cabin **
Sept 2-3	CDTA	Scapegoat trail signing
Sept 3-12	MCC	N Fk. Dupuyer #124 **
Sept 6-26	BMFó WTC #7	Moose Ridge #125 **
Sept 15-Oct 5	BMFó WTC #8	Moonlight #132, Nesbit #108 **
		** NRTó National Recreation Trail Grant Projects

# ARCTIC GRAYLING RESTORATION PROGRAM NORTH AND SOUTH FORKS SUN RIVER

By Jim Magee  
FWP, Dillon

A total of 14,000 and 21,000 yearling arctic grayling were planted in the South and North forks of the Sun River respectively from 1999-2001. These grayling were spawned from fluvial (stream-dwelling) Big Hole River brood stocks and raised at state fish hatcheries. The goal was to establish a new population of fluvial grayling in the upper Sun River, as part of Montana's Grayling Restoration Plan. Monitoring of the grayling plants has included voluntary creel surveys, snorkeling in the two forks, electrofishing at the confluence, and trapping and gill netting in Gibson Reservoir from 2000-2002. We also electrofished between Gibson and Diversion Reservoirs in 2002.

Results thus far indicate good survival of planted grayling with a strong tendency to move downstream into Gibson Reservoir. Creel surveys indicate some grayling have maintained a presence in the river into the

fall months. Snorkeling surveys from 2000-2002 in 53 miles of the South and North forks observed 6 grayling in the North Fork, one grayling in the South Fork and 42 grayling downstream of the falls on the South Fork.

Gibson Reservoir monitoring in 2000 captured 37 grayling comprising 10% of the total fish catch. In 2001 we captured 122 grayling (23% of total fish catch). In 2001, special tags implanted in all grayling stocked in the South Fork allowed us to determine that 49% of the grayling captured in Gibson were from the South Fork and 51% were from the North Fork. Thus it appears that survival and movement into Gibson Reservoir is not dominated by plants from either fork. In 2002 we captured 183 grayling in Gibson (21% of the total catch) and one grayling between Gibson and Diversion Reservoirs. No natural reproduction has been documented yet.

While results thus far indicate that the fish move downstream into Gibson Reservoir, survival of planted grayling has exceeded that of other ongoing restoration efforts in the state. Stream flow and temperatures have been much better than those of our other restoration sites in the upper Ruby, lower Beaverhead and Missouri River Headwaters.

In 2003 we plan to assess tributaries of the North and South forks for potential use of remote site incubators (RSIs). RSIs would allow us to hatch grayling eggs at the stream edge using on-site water so that the emerging fry would better imprint to their home stream. Hopefully, this would result in more grayling remaining in the river system rather than moving downstream to Gibson Reservoir. We will collect temperature and flow data to determine timing and possible locations for RSIs in 2004. We are also experimenting with the use of RSIs in the upper Ruby River in 2003.



MFWP Photo

Typical planting site

î The goal was to establish a new population of fluvial grayling in the upper Sun River...î



Lewis & Clark NF photo

Releasing grayling into N Fork Sun River



MFWP photo

Snorkeling survey

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Choteau, MT 59422

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### **Lincoln Ranger District**

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### **Rocky Mountain Ranger District**

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### **Seeley Lake Ranger District**

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### **Spotted Bear Ranger District**

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## **DOLACK**

From page 1.

The trip happened the first of September 2002, which can be a glorious time of year in Montana. The weather held for the ride in, but as luck would have it, the morning intended for hiking and experiencing the rugged beauty of the backcountry dawned with low clouds and a close sky. The frames of photos taken by the crew on this outing show misty, mysterious images spiked with an occasional shot showing a break in the clouds. A solid rain kept the crew in camp the following day with Monte sketching and participating in a lively discussion about the citizens who had fought for the wilderness. Too soon, it was time to pack up and head back to civilization. Again, the weather held for a dry ride and high spirits, even though the clouds never gave up.

This adventure inspired the ì hush of the land.î Even though the weather was challenging, the clouds and mist could not hide the spectacular beauty that surrounded the group every step of the way. Proceeds from the sale of this limited edition print will help with on-the-ground stewardship and education about wilderness and management issues that affect our public lands. We hope this limited edition print serves as a reminder to always Keep it Wild!