



# BMWC HIGHLIGHTS

Spring 2000

Issue No. 10

## DYNAMIC!

By Deb Manley

Thanks for taking the time to continue to support and be interested in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex! The wilderness and the experiences and values it offers are extremely important to all of us. One of the common issues we, as a managers group, heard this past year is related to communication. To help address this and because there has been significant change within the leadership of the BMWC managers it was decided to have me (Deb Manley) serve a second year as the lead complex ranger. In doing so we are striving to keep some continuity occurring with interested parties and get all of us up to speed on the interests and issues of the BMWC complex.

To help you in communication I have included a current list of the Forest Supervisors and Rangers and the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Supervisors. I encourage you to contact any of us if you have questions or issues.

As a complex we are continuing to deal with several issues, some of which have been on the platter a long time. Many of you continue to ask how and when are we going to deal with the allocation issue. Our recent answers have centered on forest plan revision efforts that are in progress. It would be only honest of me to let you know these efforts will be ongoing and that the current budgeting process may have some impact in how this issue is resolved. We plan to have more discussion on this at the annual spring LAC meeting. This leads me to **invite all of you** to attend the 2000 LAC meeting.

### *Spring LAC Meeting*

*Date: April 8, 2000*

*Time: 10am – 2pm*

*@Flathead Forest Supervisors Office*

*1935 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave East, Kalispell, MT*

I would like to ask that you submit agenda topics to me for the LAC meeting. Please contact me at **406-387-3851** with any request. In addition to allocation, we also plan to discuss the current LAC monitoring and what that might mean, how-when-where should the LAC group be part of the analysis and assessments for the allocation, ongoing research projects, wildland use fire program, trails, and weeds.

I wanted to thank the many individuals and groups that have been our partners and have continued to offer strong land ethics and caring for the wilderness. Without all of the help we receive we would not have the opportunities or the quality of experience that is available today. There is a lot of hall talk or rumors floating about, that may indicate we, the Forest Service or Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, do not want to be a partner – **nothing could be further from the truth!** We want to be able to utilize those willing to help and support this great resource. When that contribution is in the form of direct labor as a volunteer – we are committed to find the right opportunity for the skill and interest available. You may encounter some additional paperwork and processes than you are used to, but that is ok – it is for your protection and safety that we are taking these

steps.

I wanted to alert you that a major windstorm event happened October 31, 1999. As a result we have severe areas of blowdown on many trails. Those especially hard hit are within the 1988 wildfire areas. I encourage you to be contacting the local Ranger District for information in developing your trip plans this upcoming summer. We have requested some emergency funding to help us get mainline trail systems open. Please be advised there are changed conditions present.

We are continuing to enforce the "Weed Free Hay" and "Food Storage" orders. It is your responsibility to know what these mean – if you have questions, please ask!

It is with sorrow that we acknowledge the loss of a good friend to the BMWC. Art Jukala had a great fondness to the "Bob" – it is hoped we can continue the efforts that he initiated with the Smokejumpers Association. His passion for the "Bob" and all it represented will be greatly missed.



### **Who's Who 2000 - Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Managers**

The complex managers are a diverse group from three Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Regions and four National Forests and five Ranger Districts. This list is to assist you if you have questions or would like more contact with the managers please contact any of the following:

**MDFWP – Region One** (Kalispell, MT)  
Dan Vincent, Supervisor 406-751-4566  
John Fraley, Information Officer 406-751-4564

**MDFWP – Region Two** (Missoula, MT)  
Mack Long, Supervisor 406-542-5501 \*\*Lead  
MDFWP Supervisor

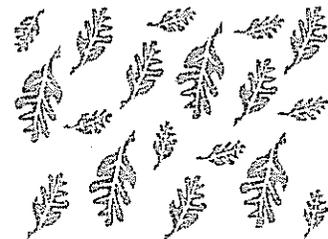
**MDFWP – Region Four** (Great Falls, MT)  
Mike Aderhold, Supervisor 406-454-5846

**Flathead National Forest** (Kalispell, MT)  
Cathy Barbouletos, Forest Supervisor 406-758-5251 \*\*Lead Forest Supervisor  
Jimmy Deherrera, Hungry Horse District Ranger 406-387-3801  
Debbie Manley, Spotted Bear District Ranger 406-387-3851 winter, 406-758-5376 summer \*\*  
Lead Complex Ranger

**Helena National Forest** (Helena, MT)  
Tom Clifford, Forest Supervisor 406-449-5201 ext 279  
Daina Bambe, Lincoln District Ranger 406-362-4265

**Lewis and Clark National Forest** (Great Falls, MT)  
Rick Prausa, Forest Supervisor 406-791-7720  
George Weldon, Deputy Forest Supervisor 406-791-7719  
Mike Munoz, Rocky Mountain District Ranger 406-466-5341

**Lolo National Forest** (Missoula, MT)  
Debbie Austin, Forest Supervisor 406-329-3797  
Tim Love, Seeley lake Ranger District 406-677-3905



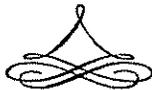
**NEW FOREST SUPERVISOR NAMED**

By Patti Johnston

Rick Prausa has been named the new Forest Supervisor of the Lewis and Clark National Forest based in Great Falls, Montana. Prausa has moved to Montana from Washington, D.C., where he served as the Acting Deputy Director of Forest Management within the National Forest System section of the Forest Service headquarters. He has served in the Forest Service Washington Office (WO) since 1989.

Prior to his WO assignment, Prausa worked for the Forest Service in New Mexico, Wisconsin and Idaho. He also worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon. Prausa earned a degree in Forest Resource Management from the University of Idaho in 1974.

When asked about the Lewis and Clark, Rick replied, "In my first year on the Lewis and Clark NF, I've found the BMWC and related Rocky Mountain Front issues to be some of the interesting and challenging on the forest. As the Forest Service works hard to resolve conflicts between programs through new approaches to stewardship, much of the focus is shifting to intra-program conflicts such as those between different recreation uses. Along with the challenge of finding balanced solutions to these issues, I look forward to enjoying some good times, stimulating discussions, spectacular scenery, and a few saddle sores with all the folks who manage the "Bob"."



### **DEPUTY FOREST SUPERVISOR SELECTED**

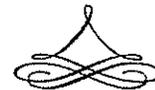
By Patti Johnston

George Weldon has been selected to be the new Deputy Forest Supervisor, Lewis and Clark National Forest. Weldon comes to the Lewis and Clark National Forest from the Townsend Ranger District, Helena National Forest, where he has served as District Ranger

for eight years. During his tenure on the Helena National Forest, Weldon briefly served as acting Natural Resources Team Leader. Weldon arrived in Great Falls in mid-January.

Prior to his stint on the Helena National Forest, Weldon worked as Assistant District Ranger on the Sheridan Ranger District, Beaverhead National Forest. He also worked as fire, timber and minerals assistant for the Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest, for nearly three years. Originally from northern California, Weldon attended Humboldt State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in forest management with a minor in forest resource conservation.

"I'm very excited to be coming to the Lewis and Clark; it's a beautiful part of the state. Also, I'm looking forward to working with the forest staff," said Weldon. His interests include hunting, fishing, camping and hiking - anything outdoors. Also, he participates in youth mentoring activities, community organizations and service groups. Weldon's wife, Lee, teaches second grade in Townsend and enjoys being involved in youth activities. The couple has two children.



### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT RANGER SELECTED**

By Patti Johnston

Michael A. Muñoz has been selected to be the new District Ranger for the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Lewis and Clark National Forest. Mike and his family arrived in Choteau in mid-June. Muñoz comes to the Lewis and Clark National Forest from the Ashland Ranger District, Custer National Forest, where he had served as Operations Leader for four years.

Prior to his stint on the Custer National Forest, Muñoz worked as Range Management

Specialist on two ranger districts of the Coconino National Forest based in Flagstaff, Arizona. He also worked as range management specialist for the Dillon Ranger District, Beaverhead National Forest, for seven years. Originally from southern California, Muñoz attended Humboldt State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in range management with a minor in soil science.

"I'm looking forward to working in grizzly country," said Muñoz. His interests include hunting waterfowl, upland game birds and white tail deer. Also, he participates in field hunter trials with his two yellow Labrador dogs. Muñoz's wife, Mary, enjoys being involved in community activities. The couple has two children - son, Brandin (6 years) and daughter, Nicole (5 years) - who enjoy family trips to the out-of-doors.

After only a mere seven months, I continue to strongly believe that it's an honor and privilege to serve as District Ranger on the Rocky Mountain District of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The opportunity to work in "Griz Country", have absolutely tremendous co-workers, enthusiastic partners, and live in a fine community such as Choteau have already made this Ranger position that much sweeter! And why not? If you were willing to accept the Rocky Mountains as the Jewel of the Continent, then I would have to consider the "Front Range" the sparkle in her eye!



## **My View**

By Cathy Barbouletos

In my time on the Flathead, I have had the privilege of taking several trips into the BMWC. Last year I was able to go into Schafer Meadows and float the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. It was a great experience. I have a long love for rafting and the opportunities this stretch of river offer is fantastic. I was pleased to see the high standard the users applied in the river corridor towards implementing "Leave No Trace" principles and low impact camping. I believe the efforts and partnerships for backcountry and river users are extremely important.

I also wanted to share that I was able to see more of the wilderness in attending the MOGA ride last summer. It was great to see areas outside the Flathead National Forest. I really enjoyed the conversations and issue discussions that occurred. I am challenging us all to keep an open dialog with each other and truly listen to each other. The passion and caring for this wilderness resource is truly phenomenal!

I think there is a great start in the education arena and hope we can add and build to this by all users. The BMWC plan and the LAC process continue to be a role model around the nation in how to have a pristine resource and experience. I think it is great to be able to have such diverse users coming together and maintaining this for the future. The available budget we have for the recreation and wilderness resource continues to offer us many challenges. I am looking forward to seeing you on April 8 at the Spring LAC meeting. With any luck, I may have the opportunity to see you on the trail!

**CHARLIE RUSSELL BACKCOUNTRY  
HORSEMAN**

**PUNCHEON RECONSTRUCTION**

By Ernie Lundberg

For many years the Charlie Russell Back Country Horsemen (BCH) have enjoyed camping and day riding in the Scapegoat Wilderness. The BCH have been helping to maintain trails on the Lincoln Ranger District for several years. Homer Shanholtz (known as Shan by his friends) called me last December as he has in previous years to discuss the upcoming season's projects, (he doesn't like to leave things until the last minute.) The project for 1999 we discussed was rebuilding a puncheon on the Mainline Trail. The puncheon was constructed on approximately a 15% grade; the planks had been overlapped to create 2-inch high steps. In 1997 the 2-inch steps had completely worn off and the trail crew installed temporary steps. The planks under the temporary steps were rotten and holes appeared. This puncheon was a safety hazard. Shan said when the snow melted enough so he could get to Indian Meadows trailhead, he would ride in and take a look at the puncheon. In late May Shan and a friend showed up at the ranger station and said they had ridden up and looked at the puncheon. The trail was a little wet but all else was to their satisfaction. The puncheon they agreed was a priority and definitely a project the BCH would like to take on.

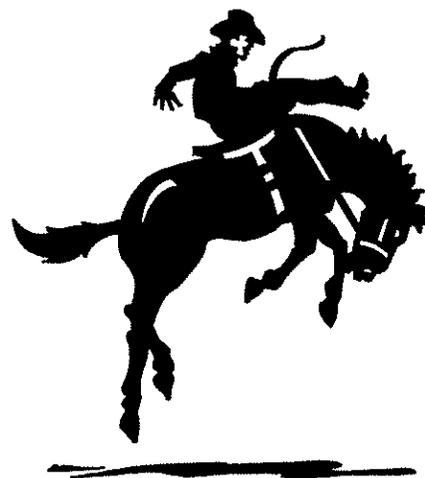
The Lincoln District trail crew packed the planks and nails to the project site. This gave the crew and the mules an early season chance to get broken in and ready for the upcoming season in the backcountry. On July 9<sup>th</sup> the BCH were to arrive at the trailhead and I would meet with them on Saturday the 10. I was going with the trail crew to clear trails. While the crew was packing and getting the horses ready to go, I headed to the Indian Meadows Public trailhead to meet with Shan and the rest of the BCH to go over safety items and make sure they had all the tools they needed. I was surprised to see 12 BCH ready to go to work. I told Shan that I would meet him at the project site with the trail crew. When

we arrived at the project site the BCH crew had already removed most of the decking. We cleared an alternate route around the puncheon. There were a lot of day riders camped at the trailhead and they would be coming through prior to finishing the puncheon. When we finished the re-route, the BCH had already begun to nail on the new decking on the puncheon and prepare the curb logs.

The BCH completed the puncheon and cleared the Lone Mountain Trail on the way back to the trailhead. With the help of the BCH the trail is safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

In 1997 the BCH adopted a section of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail between Rogers Pass and Flesher Pass. Each June they ride and clear the trail, the Continental Divide is almost always windy and or stormy. Shauna Abbenhaus went along on the ride in 1999 and as usual it was cold and windy. Shan had a nice hot cup of coffee for Shauna at the end of the ride, which was very much appreciated.

Many thanks to Shan and the rest of the Backcountry Horsemen for their help.



## **New Homes for Arctic Grayling**

*Fish ride horseback to new quarters in the Bob!*

By Michael Enk, fisheries biologist  
Lewis and Clark National Forest

From an easy life in the Lewistown hatchery to the rigors of survival on the Rocky Mountain Front, about 10,000 stream-dwelling ("fluvial") arctic grayling traveled over 200 miles--by truck, horseback, boat and backpack--to release sites in the headwaters of the Sun River this summer.

The introduction of this native Montana fish to new waters on the Lewis and Clark National Forest last June and July is part of a statewide restoration plan to establish five self-sustaining stream populations. Part of the goal, too, is to head off another endangered species listing.

Although grayling once flourished in the main Sun River, they were denied access to the upper drainage by impassible falls in Diversion Gorge. Instead, the Sun's upper basin (North and South Forks) was populated mostly with non-native trout stocked by humans. Now, grayling will finally get a chance to stake their claim in these streams too.

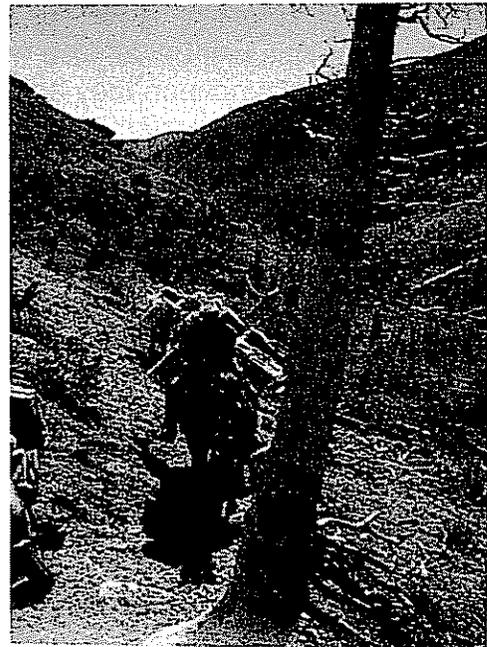
Although genetically distinct lake-dwelling grayling are common in Montana, fluvial grayling had declined to just one population in the Big Hole River in southwest Montana before the restoration plan began in 1995. Offspring from the Big Hole River fish provided the grayling for the Sun River project.

Getting one-year-old fish to backcountry sites in the South and North Forks of the Sun required a major coordinated effort from Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) personnel. The grayling had to be trucked from the hatchery to trailheads at Benchmark, Mortimer Gulch, and Cave Mountain on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District. There they were placed in bags of

water, pressurized with oxygen, packed in coolers, then loaded onto boats or pack strings for an upstream or downstream journey to release sites along both forks of the Sun.

The longest pack trip was the 18-mile trek from Cave Mountain to Monroe Creek on the North Fork of the Sun in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The Rocky Mountain Ranger District provided two pack strings to lead the effort, but a pack string from the Flathead's Hungry Horse Ranger District and pack strings from FWP were critical to stocking the North Fork. A support crew including biologists, law enforcement officers, riders, fish packers, and camp cooks from both agencies was essential to the mission's success.

By mid-July, fishermen were already reporting easy catches of grayling in the North Fork, although stream regulations require the fish be released. Plans call for repeated grayling stockings in the upper Sun River for three more years. After that, it will be up to the fish to make it on their own.



Kraig Lang, Hungry Horse RD, leads pack string with live grayling over Route Creek Pass, LCNF. Photo by Michael Enk

## Bob Marshall Foundation 1999

By Carla Cline

It proved to be a very busy summer in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex for volunteers coordinated through the Bob Marshall Foundation. We coordinated over 300 volunteers who participated in clearing 250 miles of trail contributing a total of 23,000 volunteer hours. Calculated at entry-level wages, over \$150,000 worth of labor was donated this summer. The results of these efforts are quite impressive with 2,200 trees cleared, 160 miles of trail brushed, and over 500 water bars cleaned. Volunteer groups also completed a total of 3,800 yards of trail reconstruction and performed restoration work on numerous facilities sites.

The BMF continued to build upon relationships with long-term volunteer groups in addition to developing new partnerships this summer. Three national organizations participating for the first time included the American Hiking Society, Wilderness Volunteers, and the National Smokejumper Association. Three projects were also developed for the "Wilderness Walks" Program sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Association. Two youth organizations, the Flagship Project and the Trapper Creek Job Corps, participated for the first time with goals of exposing high school youth to job skills training and service work. These groups not only developed trail maintenance skills, but also learned about noxious weed eradication techniques and campsite restoration.

In addition to volunteer project development, the Bob Marshall Foundation itself has experienced growth and expansion. The BMF developed an internship position with the University of Montana in which a student intern worked with the volunteer groups providing additional training and wilderness education in the field. Grants received in 1999 also allowed the BMF to purchase a significant

amount of tools for projects as well as support food costs for volunteer groups that otherwise would have been financially prohibited from participating. Additional foundation growth included the formation a membership program, production of a BMF newsletter, and the creation of Bob Marshall Foundation T-shirts.

The BMF has already begun initial planning for the summer of 2000. Numerous new groups, including the Continental Divide Trail Alliance and Landmark Volunteers, have been working to develop projects for the coming season. Additional goals for next year include expanding the board of directors and developing a trail conditions report for BMWC trails to be posted on the BMF web page and made available to USFS offices. Most of all, the BMF is excited to continue coordinating projects to preserve trails and provide opportunities for the public to give something back to wilderness and to society.



## **The “Backcountry” Concept Revisited and its Application to the Northern Region**

By Steve Morton, Wilderness Specialist,  
April, 1999

For a significant portion of the Forest Service history, the concept of allocating lands to the more primitive, dispersed, roadless end of the recreation spectrum has persisted. Early Forest Service voices such as Arthur Carhart, Aldo Leopold, and Bob Marshall, in the teens', 20's and 30's spoke eloquently for Primitive Areas, Wilderness, and Wild Areas. Through the creation of the L-20 Regulations in 1929 and the U Regulations in 1939, and the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Forest Service led the way in establishing the first components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Today, that system, involving also the National Park Service, the BLM, and the USFWS, totals over 104 million acres, far beyond what the early advocates envisioned.

During those early years, and certainly following the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, there were discussions of a land classification “something other than Wilderness”, or “the lands in-between” (i.e. between the front country and Wilderness). Throughout the National Forest System, emerging in several Regions, almost at the same time, were a variety of proposals for lands that would serve most of the purposes of Wilderness, but without some of the philosophical and practical ambiguities and constraints required by classified Wilderness.

Many terms for these proposed lands appeared, including...Backwoods Area, Backcountry Area, Frontier Area, Pioneer Area, Roughing Area, Outing Area, Hiking Area, etc.

Most were to be designated by Forest Service administrative action, in multiple use plans, unit plans, forest plans, special interest area plans, and so on. There was little agency interest in supporting their classification by Congressional action. When the citizens could opt for more

permanency by calling for Wilderness designation, they aggressively pursued that course of action. In reality, in my view, the result has been the creation of scores of Wildernesses, often small, often at urban backdoors, and often unable to function as Wilderness, at least in the manner that early wilderness champions expected.

But, as Wilderness, the public proponents accomplished legislatively what they primarily wanted from those lands, namely the prevention of permanent roads, planned timber harvest, and an appearance of naturalness. In the East, they were now assured that previously “used” land would be allowed to recover in due time, although most of the newly created Wilderness was hardly “pristine”.

It is my view that if the Forest Service had agreed to let many of these lands be classified by Congress as “something other than Wilderness”, the public would have received almost everything they sought, and in some cases more. There might be less contention over the management of Wilderness, where Wilderness would be allowed to truly function as a wild place. The end result would have been, in fact, good for Wilderness, public use, wildlife, watersheds, and perhaps other values as well.

In the Northern Region, and perhaps a few remaining other places in the National Forest System, I believe we can still achieve the same things.

My basic proposal is that the Northern Region take a close look at the remaining one-third of the Region's 25 million acres that are still roadless. That's about eight million acres, six in Montana and two in North Idaho. Proposed additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System should generally be limited to those areas that adjoin existing Wilderness, in order to not create a number of new, hard to manage, smaller units, not in keeping with the original intent of Wilderness classification.

Here are the features of "Backcountry Areas" that I see:

--They are essentially roadless, although old recovering or restored roads may be included, such as old grades, "tote" roads, railroad beds, etc.

--They provide roadless recreation, often near human settlement, ranging from primitive to semi primitive settings, managed under less restrictive regulations than Wilderness.

--No programmed timber harvest, but some salvage following catastrophic occurrences could be permitted, normally by aerial methods.

--They are equally valuable for wildlife habitat. Habitat improvements such as prescribed fire and food/cover manipulations may be appropriate.

--Both prescribed fire and management of natural fires would be appropriate.

--Treatment of exotic species and noxious weeds would be addressed.

--Some recreational structures may be permitted which would facilitate dispersed recreation opportunities, such as shelters, huts, yerts, etc. for cross-country skiing.

--Land uses such as transmission lines, pipelines, etc. would generally be avoided, unless no suitable alternative existed.

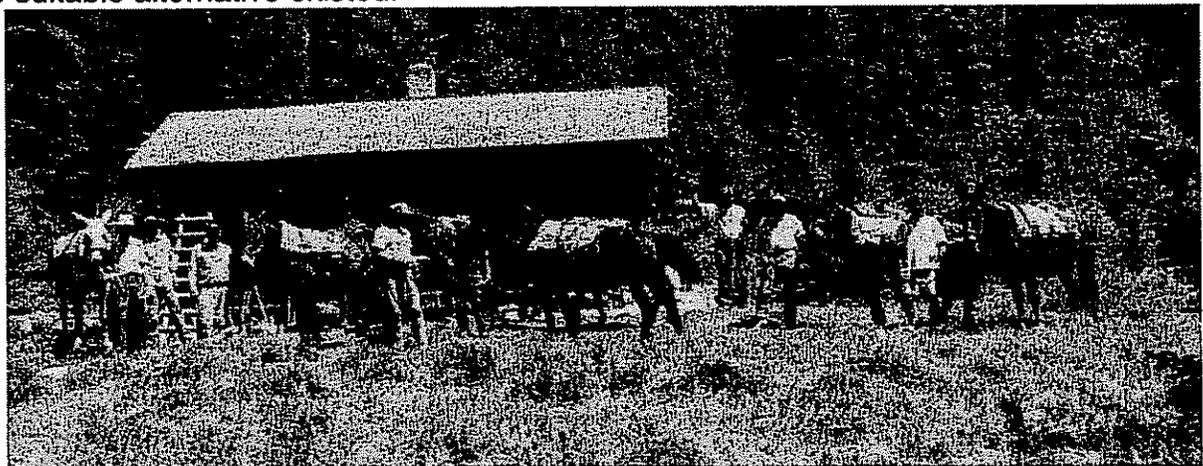
--Grazing would continue, with recognition of recreational and wildlife values.

--Watershed improvements could be installed as appropriate.

--Such areas, since they provide "de facto" wilderness experiences, would tend to relieve some pressure on Wilderness.

--Specific management direction would be prepared for each Backcountry Area, and specified in the Forest Plan.

--Since each of the areas would be somewhat unique, there could be opportunities for planning processes to determine if some types of motorized recreation could be permitted. Some areas would not have any, while some could handle some snowmobiling only. Others may have limited summer motorized trail use. Lastly, the Forest Service should support the classification of these areas by Congress in order to enlist public support. Without the force of law, the public will continue to opt for "nothing but Wilderness". which will not serve them or Wilderness well. Whether this proposal could help break the political logjam surrounding the roadless lands of Montana and Idaho I don't know, but I think it is worth some discussion by the Regional leadership team.



**Can anyone identify this cabin? The group?**

## **ROCKY MTN. RD INFORMATION**

### **Accomplishments Trails 1999**

- 1000 ft Gravel Turnpike on Route Creek Pass Trail #108
- Relocation/reconstruction of Sun River Pass Trail #110 (a segment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail) including bridges over 5 bogs and one 70 foot gravel turnpike (3 miles of reconstruction).
- 200 feet gravel turnpike South Fork Sun Trail #202 near West Fork Pack Bridge.
- Drainage improvement and water bars installed on Indian Creek Trail #211 and East Ahorn Trail #226.
- Maintained 800 miles of trail - 80 miles of trail cut out four and five times in the Canyon Creek and Gates Park burn areas.

### **To be accomplished 2000**

- Continue work on Elk Calf Mountain Trail #137 from Benson Creek North to Elk Calf Mountain Trail about 3 miles.
- Repair South Fork Sun Pack Bridge and North Fork Pack Bridge near Gated Park and in conjunction with the South Fork bridge repair, gravel turnpike from hiker trailhead to pack bridge about 750 feet.
- Survey and design mechanical rock removal and bin walls additions on Gibson Lake Trail #201.
- With assistance from Regional packstring and a District string, gravel about 600 to 650 feet of turnpike on East Side Sun Trail #109.
- Figure out a method, with declining trail budgets, to get 750 70 800 miles of trails

opened (including badly logged in fire damaged trails).

- Possibly work with a new partner Montana Conservation Corp Crew out of Great Falls. Project proposals include rebuilding rock cribbing, replacing 120 ft. rock retaining wall and clearing rock from Headquarters Pass Trail #165. Also clearing blowdown, removing loose rock from trail and replacing 60 waterbars, and re-establishing/repairing tread on the upper end of the East Fork Fall Creek Trail #219.
- Patti Johnston, Lisa Flowers Boone and Crockett Education Program Coordinator, and Bob Hoverson from the Ninemile Remount Center will present a LNT and Packing demonstration at the Montana Dept. Fish Wildlife and Parks Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop at the Lubrecht Experimental Forest in August.



### **Eastslope Back Country Horsemen 1999**

- Gravel turnpike 170 feet of bog between North Fork Pack bridge and Gates Park - and 750 feet reroute North of Gates Park around a very bad bog and moved pasture fence and gate to new trail location.
- Reconstructed a 24 ft. and 12 ft. bridge on North Fork Teton Trail #107 and Bruce Creek Trail #152.
- Repaired trailhead facilities at West Fork of Teton.
- Packed supplies for Bob Marshall Foundation trail crews.
- Cleanup and monitored trails in Birch Creek area.

### **Eastslope Back Country Horsemen 2000**

- Repair fence and open area trails at Wrong Creek.
- Puncheon bridge replacement Route Creek Trail #108.
- Birch Creek trail opening cleanup and monitoring.
- Repair fence at Gates Park and Cabin Creek.
- South Fork and Middle Fork Teton trailheads, feed bunk reconstruction Corral reconstruction at South Fork Trailhead.
- Fence repair at Badger Cabin.
- Pack support for other Bob Marshall Foundation crews.
- The Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Eastslope Backcountry Horsemen and Ninemile Pack string will jointly participate in Choteau's 4th of July Parade. After the parade, all three groups will jointly present a packing demonstration at the City Park during the Chamber of Commerce Annual Steak Fry.



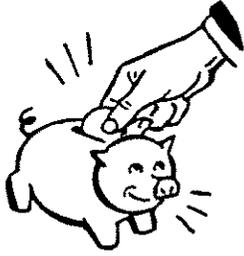
### **Bob Marshall Foundation 1999**

- Wilderness Treatment Center (WTC) started work on Moose Ridge Trail and North Wall Trail #175 opening up and switchbacks to reduce grade and erosion.

- Built a switchback and contoured trail around a very steep grade on Elk Calf Trail #137 north of Benson Creek. (WTC)
- Continued work on Kipp Creek Trail #142 and East Woods #170. (WTC)
- Other Foundation Crews - lopped second growth out of trails in Gates Creek fire area and on Dearborn River Trail #206 Canyon Creek fire area.
- Outfitters opened some trails and sprayed weeds and packed for Bob Marshall Foundation crews.

### **Bob Marshall Foundation 2000**

- Planned Bob Marshall Foundation projects include WTC continue and complete opening up Moose Ridge Trail.
- Complete switchback reconstruction on Wall Trail #175. (WTC)
- Finish water bars on Moonlight Peak Trail #132 and Kipp Creek Trail #142. (WTC)
- Continue on East Woods Trail.
- 1200 feet major trail reconstruction to reroute the trail around an undercut that is washing out. Wilderness Volunteers is planning to complete this project.
- Water bar and check dam work in Burnt Creek area of Wall Trail #175. Possible Partner with BMF - Mission Mountain School.
- 1 1/2 mi. clearing out blowdown and brushing out lodgepole regrowth. Partner Montana Wilderness School of the Bible.



### **Fee Demo 1999**

- Allowed removal of rockslide on Gibson Lake Trail #201 around Gibson Reservoir. Trail was impassable with stock from rockslide that occurred about May 1st.
- Improvements on Trail #201 in Arsenic area also.
- All known wilderness sites with noxious weeds were either sprayed or pulled, cooperative weed spraying was also conducted on the lower North Fork Sun.
- Hired one additional seasonal Wilderness Ranger.
- Outfitter administration.
- Toilet - Summit Trailhead bought and installed.
- Certified Weed Seed Free Feed signs ordered and installed at all entry roads to Forest.
- Hunter patrol and logging cut trails in the Gates Park and Canyon Creek burn area.

### **Fee demo 2000**

- With declining budgets fee demo will be utilized to fund trail crews and wilderness rangers on the ground. Funds will also be used to purchase chemical and fund wilderness rangers to conduct weed work in the wilderness and lower North Fork Sun River.

- Construct post and rail fence around Cave Mountain Campground to keep stock from adjacent packer allotment away from the developed site.

A "Thank You" goes out to all of our partners that contributed to the management of the Complex this last field season. These include:

Carla Cline, Bob Marshall Foundation, John Brecke, Steve Lamar, Wilderness Treatment Center, Montana Wilderness School of the Bible, Montana Wilderness Association, Building Bridges, American Hiking Society, Charlie Russell Backcountry Horsemen, Eastslope Backcountry Horsemen, Ron Mills Outfitting, Russ Mills, Tucker Mills, Irene Mills, Seven Lazy P Guest Ranch, K-L Ranch, Gordy and Anne Jolliffe, George Regan, Dan and Lee Huidekoper, Paul Evenson, Halvor Kamrud, Robert Macon, Annie Parsons, Joe Woodhead, Ken Howard, Francis VanVost and Jack Willard.

### **Wilderness Education**

Robert Macon, a seasonal wilderness ranger volunteered his time last winter and presented LNT programs in Maryland to inform elementary and high school students, scout groups, and civic organizations about the Bob Marshall Wilderness. He presented 41 programs and reached over 1400 students and 80 adults. Robert is helping us with the outreach to urban areas that are so difficult for us to accomplish here in sparsely populated Montana. Locally the district presented 5 LNT programs and reached over 200 students and 38 adults.

In addition to the Wilderness Box Curriculum, the Rocky Mountain Ranger District will have a Fireworks trunk and curriculum available to educators in the Choteau area by June 2000. The Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Boone and Crockett Club, Pine Butte Nature Conservancy, and Globe Program are

sponsoring a Fireworks Workshop at the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch on June 16 and 17th. Students using the Fireworks Curriculum for Grades 1-5 and 6-9 learn about plants, animals, and historic fire patterns in three different kinds of forests: creepy crawly fires in ponderosa pine, Douglas fir; roaring tree top fires in lodgepole pine subalpine fir; and roller coaster fires in whitebark pine subalpine fir forests. Any folks interested in attending this workshop please contact Patti Johnston or Jim Forrest on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District and they will send registration information. Classroom size is limited to 25 participants.



## LEAVE NO TRACE 2000

By Al Koss, R1 LNT Regional Coordinator

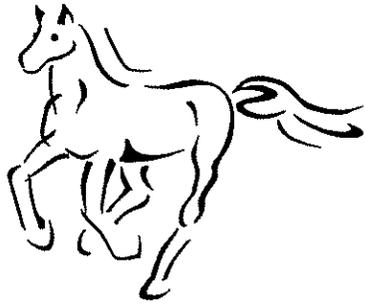
Increasing wilderness area visitation continues to threaten both the protection of natural resources and the quality of wilderness experiences. Leave No Trace educational efforts seek to minimize impacts to wilderness resources. In recent years there has been a concern that the 6 Leave No Trace principles do not provide enough focus to two relevant issues within wilderness management – visitor impacts to wildlife and visitor impacts to the experience to other visitors.

At the same time, it also became apparent that revision of the existing 6 principles should be undertaken to minimize future revisions. Through a review by the Leave No Trace educators throughout the country, 7 revised principles were adopted:

- 1) Plan Ahead and Prepare
- 2) Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- 3) Dispose of Waste Properly
- 4) Leave What You Find
- 5) Minimize Campfire Impacts
- 6) Respect Wildlife
- 7) Be Considerate of Other Visitors

These 7 principles are designed to meet current and future educational needs. Leave No Trace is the thread that is woven through all wilderness educator programs. It is the hope of all the wilderness managers in the "Bob" that you will embrace these new principles to help "Keep the Bob Wild".





## **Hungry Horse Ranger District Highlights**

By Kraig Lang

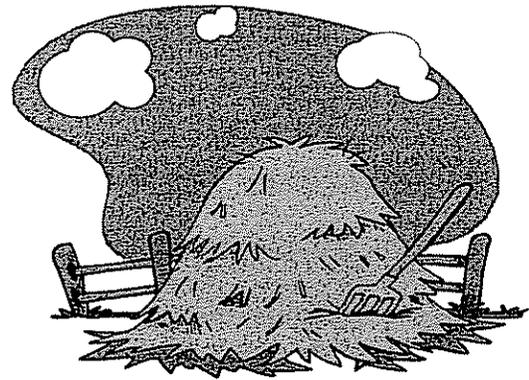
The 1999 field season was a busy one for the Trail Crew, Wilderness and River Rangers on the Hungry Horse Ranger District section of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Our summer staff this past year consisted of a four person Trail Crew, two Wilderness Rangers and two River Rangers.

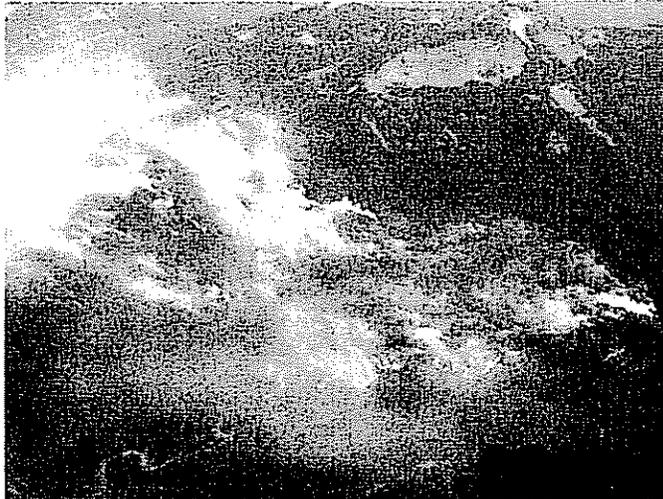
Four of these summer field positions were made possible through funding by the "Outfitter and Guide Fee Demonstration Program". This program directs eighty percent of the fees paid to the government by permitted Outfitters and Guides to be directly used to manage the natural resources of the area where the outfitting takes place. In the past these fees went directly back to the U.S. Treasury, the same place our federal taxes go.

The Trail Crew was scrambling all season with initial trail clearing, brushing and tread repair on mainline and secondary system trails. Wilderness Rangers spent the season patrolling high use areas, doing visitor contacts, campsite cleanup, site rehabilitation, and Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) visitor use monitoring. River Rangers completed three patrol floats of the Wilderness segment of the Upper Middle Fork of the Flathead River through the Great Bear Wilderness.

In closing, I would like to personally thank the many individuals who volunteered their time

and effort toward accomplishing backcountry work projects on the Hungry Horse Ranger District this past year. The Bob Marshall Foundation coordinated a number of beneficial projects on the District in 1999. This work included trail maintenance, campsite naturalization and patrol cabin restoration projects. The Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead completed a weekend trail clearing and brushing project as well as a gravel turnpike project in conjunction with our District Trail Crew. This volunteer work is sincerely appreciated and does make a difference in the challenge task of managing the resource of Wilderness.





Gordon Creek Fire 9/24/99

## **The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Fire Season 1999**

By Steve Wirt

During the 1999 fire season the BMWC experienced an active fire program. Forty-one fires burned in the complex this year. However, there were very few acres burned in comparison to the large number of starts. Approximately 1500 acres burned. The majority of the wilderness fires (thirty-three) were on the Spotted Bear Ranger District. There were two fires in the Great Bear Wilderness portion of the complex on the Hungry Horse Ranger District and six fires on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Our first lightning storm of the season occurred on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. This storm started seven new fires, all of which were confined to the South Fork of the Flathead River drainage. There were other fires started several days later in other parts of the wilderness by another storm.

Fires located along the boundary of the wilderness were immediately put into suppression status. This included three fires suppressed by smokejumpers dispatched out of Missoula, and three other fires suppressed by two small District crews. The District crews

hiked in, and actively suppressed those fires.

A total of sixteen fires were placed into what is now known as "wildland fire use" status. These are fires managed for wilderness resource benefits. Previously known as "prescribed natural fires". When the National Wildland Fire Policy was updated in 1999 it came with new terminology, while only a minor disruption it did require some adjustment. Our goal in managing wildland fires in the wilderness is still as always, allow them to burn after meeting certain criteria previously outlined in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Guide book.

These fires are closely managed throughout the remaining portion of the fire season. Fires of the past, like those of this summer continue to provide fire managers with more insights into how fires can be better managed in the future. It is also from these fires that both managers and the scientific community learn about the effects of fire on vegetation, wildlife, and ecological significance in the big picture. It is a never-ending effort where fire managers strive to strike the balance between wilderness users, safety, smoke management and wilderness resource benefits associated with our wilderness fire management program.

This year there were two fires that grew to any size; the White River Park Fire at 350 acres and the Gordon Creek Fire at 600 acres. Both of these fires kept managers busy in the air and on the ground. If you were a wilderness visitor during the month of August and or September and, were in the South Fork area you had the opportunity to view wilderness fire activity first hand. We hope this opportunity added to your wilderness experience in a positive way.

In addition to our lightning caused fires this year there was three person-caused fires. There was only one fire that appeared to have been left by a careless wilderness user and two prescribed fires ignited outside of the

wilderness that burned into the wilderness. Both of the prescribed burns were being conducted as fires to accomplish wildlife improvement projects.

We have received many comments over the years on the wildland fire use program, we hope to hear from you.

Please contact me, Steve Wirt (406-387-3832 winter, 406-758-5276 summer), if you have questions related to the updated National Wildland Fire Policy or how it applies to wildland fire management within the BMWC. Your comments, questions and concerns are very important to us as we go into the future with the *Wildland Fire Use* program.



### **Family Forestry Expo XI**

By Gordon Ash

The Flathead Valley's Family Forestry Expo XI will again have its annual appearance on May 1 – 7. Fifth graders will be attending daily May 1 – 5. The general public is invited for the weekend event May 6 & 7. It is exciting to offer this experience for the 11<sup>th</sup> year. The Expo reaches 1200 – 1500 students during the week. There are typically 400 – 500 interested publics on the weekend. The Expo is located off Hwy 40 north of the Blue Moon. You go past Stoltz mill and follow the signs. You are invited!

This event is important and related to the BMWC because one of the education stations that is presented focuses on a backcountry camp. The Forest Service, Back Country Horseman, Flathead Valley Llama Club and Montana Wilderness Association staff this education station. It is an integrated message on how to have low impact camping, Leave No Trace principals, and how to manage/utilize stock (horses, mules and llamas). As a lasting reminder all the students and stations visitors are given the Leave No Trace ethic cards. This tiers to the student workbook and teachers activities book that the Expo committee provides.

If you would like more information about the rest of Expo or are interested in helping out either in person or with a money contribution to support the Leave No trace Ethic cards, please

contact me, Gordon Ash (862-0015 home,  
387-3859 work).



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