



Weather-Resistant Message Holders for Bulletin Boards

Bob Beckley, Project Leader

Prolonged exposure to sun, wind, and rain can take its toll on campground and recreation-site bulletin boards. Metal clips that hold messages on bulletin boards quickly rust and have to be replaced.

The Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) conducted a market search to find a durable, low-cost, weather-resistant clip for outdoor bulletin boards.

Our market search found hundreds of clips. Unfortunately, few met our requirements. Most metal clips, including those that are coated with chrome or vinyl, will not withstand prolonged exposure. Plastic clips typically have metal springs or pins that rust.

Although inexpensive weather-resistant clips are not common, MTDC did find three products that met our requirements.

ACCO Brands, Inc., produces a stainless steel banker's clip (Figure 1) in 3¼- and 5¼-inch sizes. The clip is not designed for mounting purposes. Holes must be drilled in the clip so it can be mounted on a bulletin board (Figures 2 and 3). Three holes, two on either end of the back of the clip and one on the front, allow the clip



Figure 1—Two sizes of clips produced by ACCO Brands, Inc. The top clip is drilled for mounting.

to be secured to the bulletin board. The hole drilled on the front side of the clip allows easy access to the top mounting hole. It should be large enough for a screwdriver to pass through. Use stainless steel screws. ACCO stainless steel banker's clips cost about \$1. They may be available through a local office supply store. If not, they can be ordered directly from ACCO. The order number for the ACCO 3¼-inch banker's clip is 72013; the order number for the 5¼-inch clip is 72015.

The Circle M Ranch, Plains, MT, uses steel banding for a rustic mounting clip that is well suited for bulletin boards. The banding material is not stainless steel, but it is weather resistant. The shape of the clip is designed to shed water and snow (Figure 4). These clips cost \$1 each, plus shipping. They are available only through the manufacturer.

A final option, called a card label holder, is used by the U.S. Coast Guard to post information on ships.





Figure 2—Drilling mounting holes in the ACCO 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch banker's clip.

Card label holders are available from General Services Administration that have aluminum frames and Plexiglas covers. Messages are posted under the cover. Card label holders can be mounted with an adhesive backing or they can be drilled for mounting with screws. Be sure to use stainless steel screws.

The card label holder is better suited for posting campground regulations, rules, or other official information than it is for use by the general public. Card label holders can accommodate cards or memos up to 8 by 10 inches (Figure 5).

GSA's card label holders cost \$2.81 each. Their national stock number is 9905-00-866-0334.

Other weather-resistant clips may be available through local office supply stores. Be sure the internal mechanism is made of stainless steel before buying other clips.

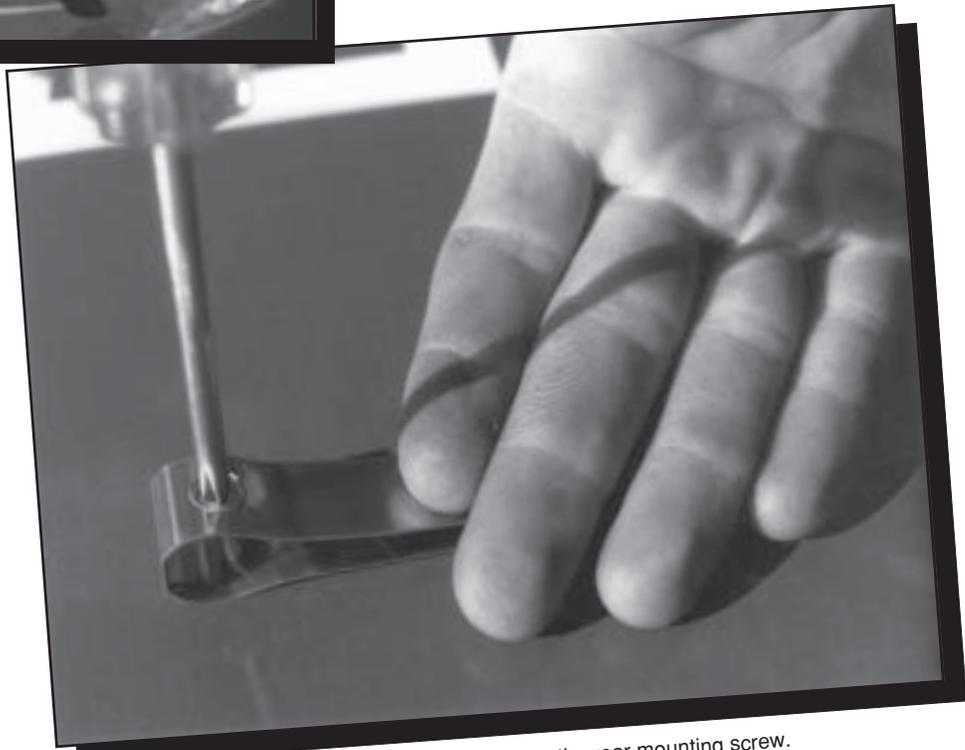


Figure 3—The large front hole allows easy access to the rear mounting screw.



Figure 4—The Circle M Ranch bulletin board clip.



Figure 5—A card label holder for bulletin boards is available through the General Services Administration.

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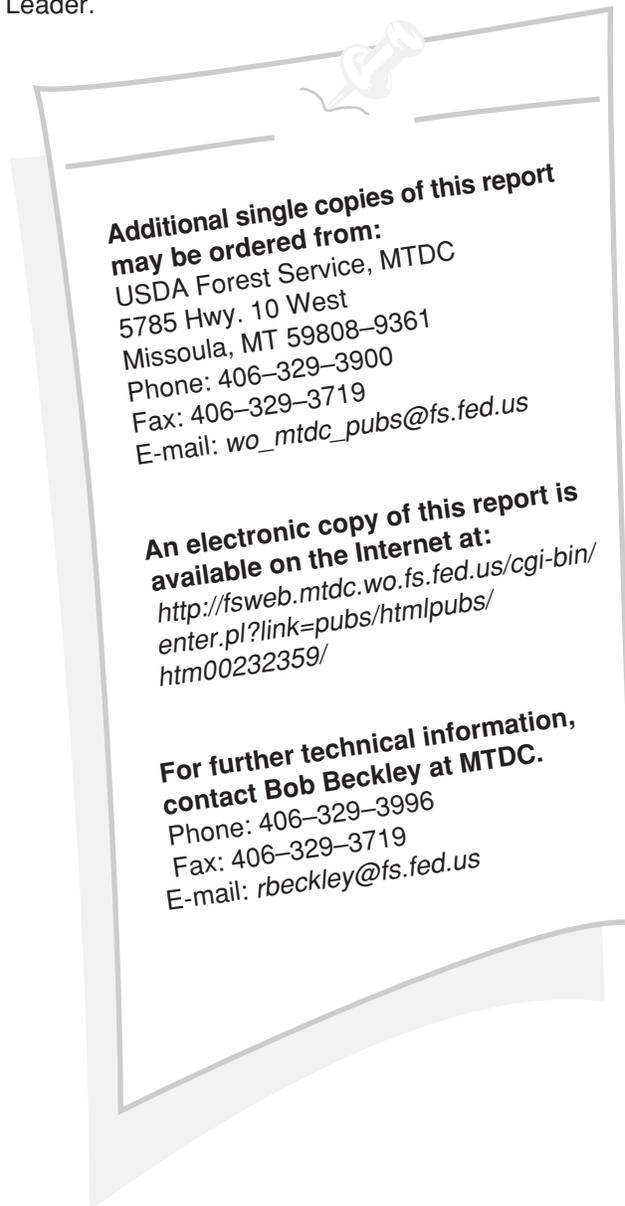
About the Author

Bob Beckley received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Montana in 1982. He began his Forest Service career as a timber technician on the Nez Perce National Forest. Bob was a smoke-jumper when he came to MTDC in 1990 to work as a videographer, photographer, and Project Leader.

Library Card

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