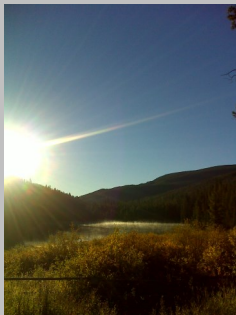
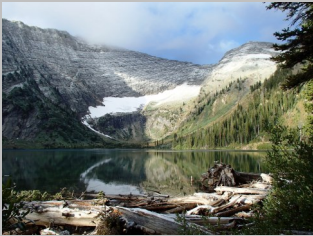




# Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

## 2015 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25



### You're Invited...

...to the annual public meeting for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Some may recognize this as the "LAC" (Limits of Acceptable Change) meeting or task force. Please come to share why you are engaged with this wilderness complex—input and suggestions are wanted and welcome!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11th**

**10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.**

### Choteau Public Library

The Choteau Public Library meeting room is located on 17 Main Ave N. To get to the conference room, you will park directly south of Rex's Grocery Store and enter at the back of the library, not on the Main Street side. Lunch is on your own.



**Deb Mucklow**  
at Schafer Meadows

### ... A FEW HIGHLIGHTS ...

- ◆ Meet New BMWC Staff, pg 4-6
- ◆ Fisheries in the Bob, pg 8 - 9 & 19
- ◆ Rocky Mtn Front Heritage Act, pg 10 - 11
- ◆ FNF Facilities on National Register, pg 12 - 13
- ◆ It's All About Lookouts!, pg 14 - 15
- ◆ Carmichael Cabin—A Piece of History, pg 16 - 17





## Looking Ahead at Wilderness:

### How do we as a group or an individual make a difference?

By Deb Mucklow, *Lead BMWC Ranger 2015*

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You are invited to the annual public meeting for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (see front page). This annual meeting is for all interested parties to talk about the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Great Bear Wilderness Areas. As wilderness stewards and managers, we need to hear about what you think is working, what you think is not, and any areas of concern. **Please contact me at** (406-387-3851) **or email** ([dmucklow@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmucklow@fs.fed.us)) to share any specific topics that you'd like addressed at the meeting. We do have a commitment from both Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks managers— both groups will be presenting at the meeting as well as being there to listen. I'm very proud to be involved with such a dedicated group that has come together and engaged for such a long period of time — over **thirty-five years!** While several folks may be joining us for the first or second time, many of us have been involved for ten or twenty years. This group is the best example that I have seen of a true collaborative group that stays engaged. No one seems to have a challenge sharing a concern, and while we may not have all the funds or resources needed for solutions, the brainstorming and commitment is the model I hope we'll continue to practice. For those that can't attend – your input and suggestions are still wanted and welcome!

That said, this will be the first meeting I've attended in twenty years (or as my memory allows) 😊 that Ken Ausk will not be joining us in person. His spirit, family, friends, and fellow BCH members will be there, and I will be thinking about all that he took the time to share — including his candid remarks and questions about historic trails, blowdown issues, or ongoing monitoring. I truly believe he is an example of how individuals and groups do make a difference and how they continue to help those of us in manager positions better understand the concerns and issues we are faced with. Happy trails to Ken – he will be watching over all of us.

The managers group is also changing and will have new faces joining! Please join me in welcoming new managers, a couple of whom are introduced in this newsletter, and in thanking Rangers Tim Love and Amber Kamps for the leadership and commitment they brought to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and to us all.

#### Topics we are preparing for include:

- The Rocky Mountain Heritage Act and additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness
- The Flathead Administrative Historic District
- What you can expect for conditions in 2015 – access, trails work, weeds, restoration, monitoring, and general info from around the complex
- Sharing specific project information and ongoing or concurrent scoping actions
- Forest Plan revision updates
- Info and conditions-to-date from winter snow surveys
- Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation opportunities for 2015
- Monitoring updates from LAC data – or answering of questions
- Wildlife and fish updates – including westslope cutthroat trout restoration projects
- Special Orders – are you prepared and know the changes that have occurred?
- Can we do more with less and less while keeping up to the standard of Wilderness within the BMWC that we, as a group, expect?

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**Please come to share** why you are engaged with this wilderness complex. My next challenge for you is to ask yourself, ***“How am I going to make a difference?”*** Allocated funds and available grants are declining or are becoming more competitive. No, I’m not complaining—just sharing the reality of the situation. It is important for us all to understand that along with the designation of “Wilderness” comes more responsibilities, and more involvement is needed to ensure we have these areas for current and future generations. One of the proposals out there is to do more with volunteers and partner groups. On Spotted Bear Ranger District in 2014, we accumulated 20,800 hours or 11.5 person-years of volunteer and partner help on the ground – over 95% of this was in the wilderness. This calculates to a value of \$469,000. I’ve seen a challenge to double what we as Forest Service managers have been doing, but add in requirements to provide adequate project oversight and safety, and I’m not sure how we can meet the challenge. Before jumping to conclusions, I am asking for your help and advice. Please know that all of the complex rangers are faced with a similar dilemma.

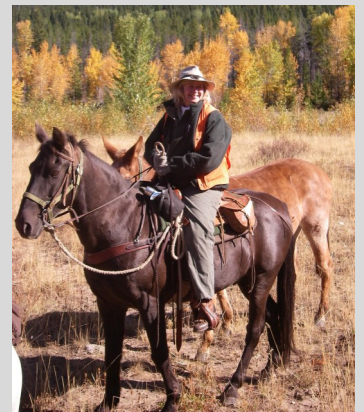
**My next challenge for you is to ask yourself,  
*“How am I going to make a difference?”***

I’m working on a new Jeopardy version to have at the meeting – we will have some updated Special Orders to allow for more consistency across the region. I hope you are preparing to learn and follow the changes, as well as following the Leave No trace Principals.

I’d like to close with a special **Thank You** to all the partners, volunteers, outfitters, employees, individuals and groups that continue to bring their own passion for wilderness and wilderness management into each experience they have in the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas (including both work projects and recreational visits). Your help in clearing downfall, trail rocking, brushing, campsite clean up, respecting other wilderness users, weed inventory, weed eradication, and other special projects (phone line, airstrip maintenance) —they all make a difference! **Thanks for the continued caring – I appreciate that we get to work hard and that we get to work with such dedicated individuals and enjoy the wilderness.**

I’m looking forward to seeing you in 2015! Please contact me or any of the District Rangers in the complex if we can help on an issue (see back page for contact information). Hope to see you at the annual public meeting April 11, 2015 in Choteau, Montana!

—Deb Mucklow, Lead BMWC Ranger 2015



# MEET YOUR NEW BMWC MANAGERS

## Seeley Lake District Ranger Retires

By Boyd Hartwig, *Lolo National Forest*

There have been big changes on the Seeley Lake Ranger District recently. **Tim Love** retired in November, departing a Forest Service career that began in 1975 on the Ninemile Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. Tim had been the Seeley Lake District Ranger since 1995, leading the district through many major events, including the Jocko Lakes Fire of 2007 that threatened the community of Seeley Lake and forced multiple evacuations of residents. Tim was also a critical partner in the pioneering collaborative efforts in the Blackfoot and Seeley area such as the Blackfoot Challenge and the Crown of the Continent collaborative group.

*“It has been an honor and privilege to serve as District Ranger on the Seeley Lake Ranger District.”*

Tim had this to say as he reflected on his career and time in Seeley Lake —

“It has been an honor and privilege to serve as District Ranger on the Seeley Lake Ranger District. I have thoroughly enjoyed my career with the Forest Service and will miss working with such a dedicated and talented group of employees.”

After his start on the Ninemile district Tim went on to serve in a variety of capacities on the Custer, Lewis and Clark and Lolo National Forests. Prior to entering the Forest Service Tim also served in the U.S. Air Force and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography and Forestry from the University of Montana in 1979.

He noted that in retirement he will continue to be an active member of the Society of American Foresters. He has been a member since 1992 and served as the Montana State Chairperson in 2006, as well as several other positions.

While most recognize Tim’s prominent role as the Seeley Lake District Ranger and his long track record of success in partnering with groups and individuals while also accomplishing the Seeley district land management mission, Tim remained humble about his role.

“I was just doing my job,” Love said. “I know the next District Ranger will do excellent work.”

“It has been a pleasure to work with someone as dedicated and passionate as Ranger Love,” shared Deb Mucklow, Spotted Bear District Ranger. “He set the bar high for all of us and we will be working hard to keep that bar in place”.

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**Rachel Feigley**

Seeley Lake District Ranger as of March 23rd

Tim is leaving the district in the capable hands of **Rachel Feigley**, who will report to her new job as Seeley District Ranger on March 23rd. Rachel's career with the Forest Service began as a temporary seasonal employee and has spanned twenty-eight years. Her first job was as a GS-2 biological aid on the Desert Range Experimental Station in Utah. Rachel is currently the Wildlife Biologist for the Absaroka-Beartooth Zone (Yellowstone, Gardiner, and Beartooth Ranger Districts) of the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

During and after college at the University of Nebraska where she received a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, Rachel worked as both a range and biological (wildlife) technician on the Manti-LaSal, Lewis and Clark, and Gallatin National Forests (now the Custer Gallatin).

After a permanent appointment in 1990, Rachel worked as a biological (wildlife technician) on the Gallatin and both a range management specialist and wildlife biologist on the Helena National Forest. Since her arrival to Livingston in 2003, she has served as a program manager for timber/watershed/range/weeds, and wildlife biologist. Her area of responsibility has evolved to a Zone wildlife biologist position as District and Forest consolidations have taken place.

Rachel is married to Pete Feigley, and both enjoy hiking, skiing, birding, camping, hunting, canoeing and kayaking. They both also play in a bluegrass band.

Rachel was born in Missoula and has strong connections to Montana.

"My family vacationed in the Seeley/ Swan area for many years, loading up the old Mercury station wagon to travel from Nebraska where I grew up," she said. "I have many fond memories of spending time in this truly outstanding landscape. It is a dream come true to be selected as District Ranger!"

Rachel said she is not only excited to be the next Seeley Lake District Ranger, but also eager to share and promote the vision of the Lolo National Forest, the Bob Marshall Complex and lead the Seeley Lake Ranger District team.

"I have a great passion for public lands. I believe in providing opportunities for dialogue, and having diverse voices at the table to resolve complex and controversial issues as we meet public demands for all resources."



# MEET YOUR NEW BMWC MANAGERS

## NEIL ANDERSON TAKES THE HELM AS WILDLIFE PROGRAM MANAGER FOR FWP IN NORTHWEST MONTANA

*By John Fraley — MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks*

**Neil Anderson** is the new wildlife program manager for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in Kalispell. Anderson, a 20-year veteran of FWP, will oversee wildlife management in FWP Region One, which includes Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Sanders, and part of Missoula counties. He will supervise more than a dozen wildlife biologists and technicians around the Region. Some of his major goals are to maintain the cohesiveness of the wildlife crew in the Region, and look to the future when making decisions that affect wildlife resources.

Anderson, 49, received his Bachelor's Degree in Fish and Wildlife Science at South Dakota State University, and his Masters Degree in Fish and Wildlife Management at Montana State University in Bozeman. For his M. S. research, he focused on grizzly bear food production in clear cuts and uncut areas in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

For the past decade, Anderson has supervised the FWP State Wildlife Lab in Bozeman. He has been involved in research and management of elk, bison, bighorn sheep, moose, bobcats, and many other species. He is considered an expert on wildlife diseases.

Anderson enjoys hunting, fishing, backpacking and running. He and his wife, Susan, have been married for 29 years. Their son, Trevor, is an attorney in Atlanta, Georgia.



*Photo: Neil Anderson takes health samples from a sheep captured on Wild Horse Island in February 2014, near Big Arm State Park.*

# Updates & Events from the **Lincoln Ranger District**

By Josh Lattin, Resource Specialist —*Lincoln Ranger District, Helena National Forest*

**2015** promises to be an active year on the Lincoln Ranger District as new personnel are brought on and the number of crews in the woods increases. Lincoln plans on partnering with...

- ◆ The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation
- ◆ The Montana Wilderness Association
- ◆ The Montana Conservation Corps
- ◆ The Back Country Horsemen

...as well as other volunteers, to help augment its Forest Service crews and accomplish an aggressive program of work.

## *Red Mountain from Upper Landers*



Trail, removing small saplings and brush along the Mineral Cr. Trail and addressing failing tread and safety issues throughout the District's trail system.

As the summer field season gets under way, the District expects to be welcoming both a new District Ranger and a new Wilderness and Trail Crew lead. The fact that Lincoln is positioned at the southernmost tip of the Crown of the Continent and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex will no doubt loom large in their future. The Wilderness Complex as a whole should expect a new sense of vigor from the Lincoln Ranger District as we transition to new personnel with fresh perspectives and ideas.

**National Trails Day  
@ Indian Meadows  
June 6th, 2015**



*Meadow Creek*

To kick the season off, the District will work with the **BMWF** to host a **National Trails Day** event at Indian Meadows on June 6<sup>th</sup>. This event will focus on improving the **3** trails that leave from the Trailhead and promises to be a fun and productive outing. Other projects this year include replacing and repairing failing puncheons on the Upper Landers Trail, replacing failing water-bars on the Switchback



*Sunrise at Webb Lake*



# Giving Back to the Bob—A Fisheries Perspective

By Matt Boyer, *Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks*

Our nation's wilderness areas are as diverse as the resources and values they protect. As examples, the Shenandoah Wilderness is known for being a globally recognized biodiversity 'hotspot', Carlsbad Caverns Wilderness preserves unique geologic features and subterranean life, and the Mesa Verde Wilderness protects rich cultural resources and archeological sites. Here locally, our own Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex represents many things to many people; however, one could make a strong argument that this incredible landscape exemplifies native trout angling at its finest. Anybody who has cast a dry fly for westslope cutthroat trout in the South Fork Flathead River knows what I mean.



*A backcountry angler casts for westslope cutthroat in The Bob.*

Within Montana, the South Fork Flathead watershed comprises more than half of the remaining interconnected populations of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout, a species that has declined to less than 10% of its historic range due to habitat degradation and hybridization and competition with introduced fishes. Yet, even within this cutthroat trout stronghold, historic stocking of headwater lakes and the downstream movement of nonnative rainbow and Yellowstone cutthroat trout has led to the spread of hybridization and the gradual loss of locally adapted gene pools in native westslope cut-

throat populations. To protect the evolutionary legacy of this native trout and the fishery it supports, biologists with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the US Forest Service implemented a landscape scale conservation strategy to preserve westslope cutthroat in the South Fork Flathead. The goal of this effort is to remove headwater sources of nonnative trout and reestablish native westslope cutthroat trout populations. To achieve this goal, biologists use the piscicide rotenone to eradicate the threat posed by nonnative trout and make way for native westslope cutthroat to be reintroduced.

Determining the appropriate source of westslope cutthroat to use for this conservation effort is no minor detail. The population genetic structure of this species is such that substantial genetic divergence exists between populations, even at small spatial scales. For example, large genetic differences exist between westslope cutthroat from tributaries such as Youngs, Danaher, Gordon, and Little Salmon. These genetic differences among populations result from many generations of adaptation to local environments and are important for long term preservation of the species. As a result, biologists are using local stocks of westslope cutthroat from within the Bob Marshall Wilderness for restoration efforts in the South Fork Flathead.



*MFWP fisheries biologists prepare wild fish for packstock transport.*



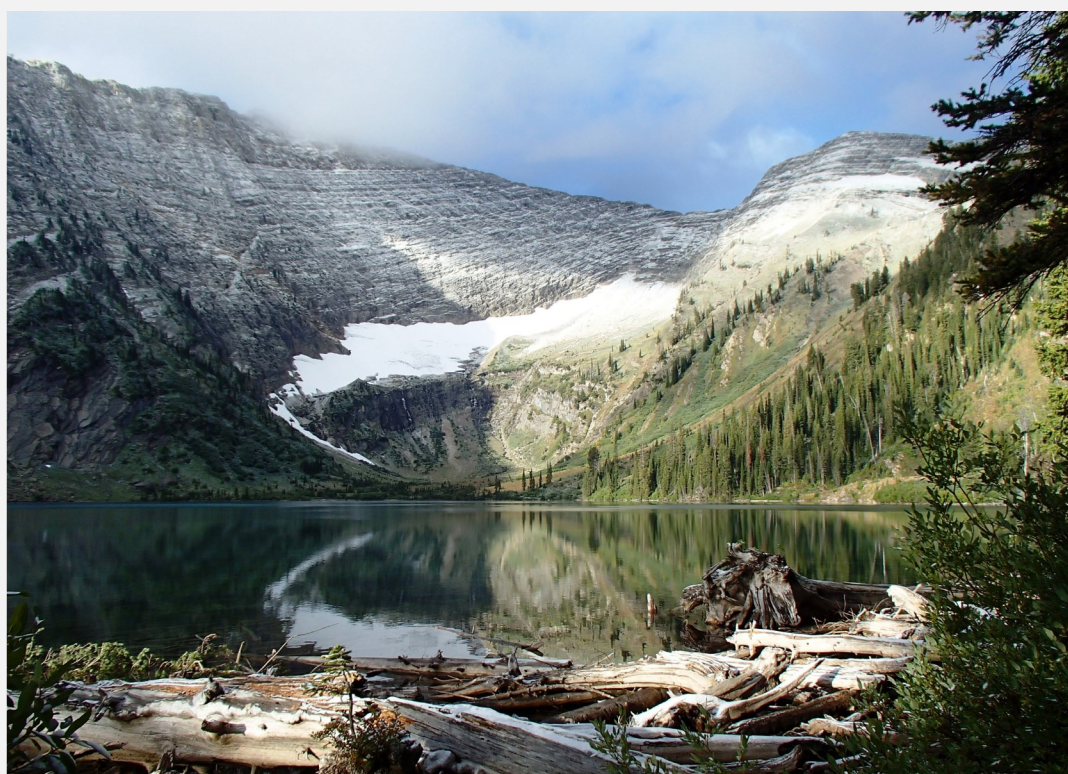
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Over the last several years wild juvenile westslope cutthroat have been captured from Danaher and Youngs creeks, transported live by packstock out of the backcountry, and taken to the Sekokini Springs Conservation Hatchery where they are raised to maturity and spawned to produce fry to reestablish populations of this native trout. The end result of this effort will be preservation of genetic variation within the South Fork Flathead above and beyond what would have been possible by simply using fish from a single brood source.

One may ask, 'why go through all this effort?' The reason goes beyond the intrinsic value of this native species and our obligation as conservation stewards to protect it. Scientific research has empirically demonstrated the biological and ecological benefits of using local wild sources of fish (across a diverse range of species) for restoration. From a fisheries conservation perspective, it's the right thing to do and a significant way for us to give back to The Bob and future generations of wilderness visitors.



*Westslope cutthroat will be restored to Koessler Lake in 2015*

For more information please visit the South Fork Flathead westslope cutthroat trout project website <http://fwp.mt.gov/regions/r1/wctproject/> or contact fisheries biologist Matt Boyer (phone: 751-4556, email: mboyer@mt.gov).



# Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act Comes of Age

By Michael Munoz, Ranger — *Rocky Mountain Ranger District,  
Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forests*

On December 19, 2014, with passage and signing of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by President Obama, the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act (RMFHA) was enacted. As a result, **new wilderness was designated** on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Lewis & Clark National Forest. **The five new wilderness additions, from north to south, are named as follows:**

- 1) **West Fork of the Teton**
- 2) **Our Lake**
- 3) **Deep Creek**
- 4) **Patrick's Basin**
- 5) **Silver King/Falls Creek**



*South Fork  
Teton Falls*

All of these areas, with the exception of Deep Creek, were recommended as wilderness in the current Lewis & Clark Land Management Plan of 1986. The Deep Creek area was not included due to its potential for oil and gas development. However, the legislative withdrawal of NFS lands from oil and mineral development on the Rocky Mountain Front in 2006 eliminated the potential for natural resource extraction in the drainage and opened the door to consideration of its outstanding wilderness characteristics. Depending on their location, the new wilderness lands will be managed either as part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness (originally designated in 1964), or as part of the Scapegoat Wilderness (originally designated in 1973).

Given there's not a Silver King area on the RMRD, do you wonder at the use of the term, 'Silver King' in the Silver King/Falls Creek Wilderness Addition? Well, the term derives from the Lewis & Clark and Helena National Forest Land Management Plans, which were both approved in the same year, 1986. Both LMPs had recommended wilderness on their respective Forests. Silver King referred to the recommended wilderness on the Lincoln Ranger District, while Falls Creek referred to recommended wilderness on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District. The two areas were contiguous, but separated by the Continental Divide. The combined name persisted, but only land on the east side of the Divide, in the Falls Creek drainage was added to the Scapegoat Wilderness by the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act.

Today's Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex—a common term used to refer to the collective Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Great Bear Wilderness areas—is the product of several Congressional Acts designating new wilderness and wilderness additions. The Rocky Mountain Ranger District previously experienced a wilderness addition, similar to the RMFHA, when in 1978 the Great Bear Wilderness was designated. Language in the 1978 legislation allowed the Birch Creek area as an addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. For those unfamiliar with the geography of the area, the Birch Creek wilderness addition sets west of Swift Dam Reservoir.

In addition to the designation of wilderness, the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act also designated what's now known as the Conservation Management Area (CMA). The CMA includes all non-wilderness lands on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, with the exception of the Badger – Two Medicine (BTM) area. Essentially, the Birch Creek South Travel Plan Decision, signed by Supervisor Lesley 'Spike' Thompson (retired), is now mandated by Congress and will remain unchanged in perpetuity. Imagine that. The Forest Service recommends wilderness in the 1986 L&C Land Management Plan, completes environmental analysis, with public involvement, and implements a travel plan on the southern two-thirds of the RMRD in 2007.

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# FNF BACKCOUNTRY FACILITIES ON NATIONAL REGISTER

By Rich Owens, *Spotted Bear Ranger District*

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015, the official word came from the State's capitol that the Flathead National Forest Backcountry Administrative Facilities had been added to the **National Register of Historic Places** as a historic site. The Backcountry Facilities are located on the Spotted Bear and Hungry Horse Ranger Districts and within both the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness Areas. The nomination was the result of 10 plus years of research, documentation and red tape hassles, but "well worth the effort," says Flathead National Forest Archeologist Tim Light. This is somewhat of a crowning achievement for Mr. Light who, when asked his feelings on the nomination, simply said, "It's something I'm very proud of."

The nomination to the Register includes 56 contributing buildings, 10 non-contributing buildings, 11 contributing structures, 1 non-contributing structure, the connecting trails and 45 miles of functioning ground-return phonline with 7 phones. The period of significance extends from 1906 — when the Forest Service first initiated construction of the South Fork Trail — to 1965, when the Forest built a new cabin at Silvertip Guard Station to replace

improvements lost during the massive floods that impacted both the Middle and South Fork drainages. Passage of the Federal Wilderness Act of 1964 ensured that the backcountry infrastructure is maintained in a manner consistent with the Wilderness principles first espoused by the Forest Service in the early 1920's.



**The original Schafer Meadows Guard Station continues to function today as a backcountry work station in the Middle Fork.**

As mentioned above, developments in what is now the Spotted Bear Ranger District began around 1906 with the start of the construction of the South Fork Trail. Trails had already penetrated what is now the Bob Marshall from the south and a Ranger Station had been established in the Big Prairie area. The site of the original station was later abandoned and two structures were built in 1910 and 1916 at the current site of the Big Prairie Station. By 1920, a road had been punched up the South Fork as far as Spot-

ted Bear River. It was about then that the first Ranger Station was built in this location near Spotted Bear Lake. In the Middle Fork, a Ranger Station was established at Three Forks (at the mouth of Morrison Cr).

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By the end of the twenties, the Spotted Bear station was re-established at its current location right at the mouth of Spotted Bear River, and the Middle Fork Station was relocated from Three Forks to its current site at Schafer Meadows. Throughout this time, numerous fire lookouts were constructed as well as small patrol cabins spaced from 12-15 miles apart. After the massive fires of 1910, construction of these type of outposts became a high priority as well as a communication system to link them all. Thus entered the ground-return phonline system. At one point, there were several hundred miles of phonline linking the patrol cabins and lookouts with the stations at Schafer, Big Prairie, Spotted Bear and beyond. Starting in 1931, a good portion of what is now the Spotted Bear Ranger District received its first protection from further development with the "South Fork Primitive Area Designation" in 1931 and the "Pentagon Primitive Area Designation" in 1933. From this point on, these areas of the district were protected, leading up to its Wilderness Designation in 1964. Up until 1965, Big Prairie was its own Ranger District, but then was dissolved into the Spotted Bear District to create the district boundary that exists today. The Middle Fork portion of the district became Wilderness in 1978.

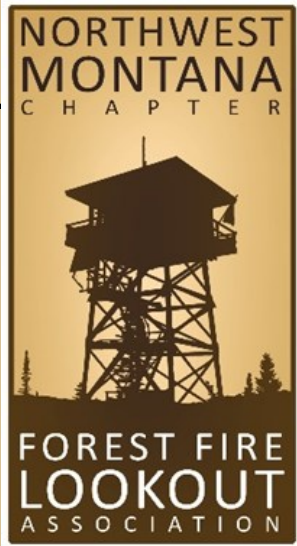
Before the war was a busy time for the Forest Service with trails, lookouts and cabins being

built and phonline being strung up alongside. Pack stock became the life blood for the operations, moving food, gear and supplies for the crews. Packers and cooks with great skills were highly sought after. All over the west, the Forest Service was building their infrastructure in this manner. But as we know, times change; in many places roads replaced trails, radios replaced no.9 wire and planes supplanted mules. Even places set aside as Wilderness areas, for one reason or another, have lost their history and culture.

However, Spotted Bear has retained a majority of that original system and still operates much in the same manner as was intended. The four original buildings at Spotted Bear are still there and intact and used in the operations. The two backcountry work stations at Schafer and Big Prairie are still manned and are functioning and thriving. All of the patrol cabins (with the exception of two that were destroyed by fire) are kept in pristine shape and are still functioning as patrol cabins. No less than 40 miles of the original phone line still connects all the cabins and Big Prairie along the South Fork. This is the only ground-return phonline system known to exist. And yes, the district retains about 80 head of stock to shuttle gear, food and supplies to the backcountry. So although the district is filled with great history, it is living history for the people that recreate in it and manage it.

**Hanging no. 9 wire phonline. Crews in the South Fork currently maintain approximately 40 miles of this original system.**





# It's All About Lookouts!

By Chuck Manning

**Northwest Montana Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association (NWMT-FFLA) has completed its first year of operation under the North Idaho/Montana Chapter of the FFLA.**

Through the dedication of Andy Huntsberger, AFMO for the Hungry Horse Ranger District, the NWMT-FFLA now has a Memorandum Of Understanding and Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Flathead National Forest (FNF). Under this umbrella, the NWMT-FFLA participated in two lookout projects during the summer of 2014, one on the Hungry Horse/Glacier View District and the other on the Spotted Bear Ranger District (SBRD). Both Districts have been very supportive and willingly include us in their fire lookout restoration and preservation efforts.

The **Moran Patrol Cabin** (a.k.a. **Coal Ridge Lookout Cabin**) now displays a new coat of armor. The NWMT-FFLA purchased siding and trim materials to further secure that structure from nature's decay. Forest Service crews transported and installed the materials through the supervision of Leif Haugan, lead lookout for the FNF. Packers Andy Breland (Trail Head Supply) and Chuck Allen, both members of the Back Country Horseman of the Flathead, helped pack some of the materials to the job site.



## Forest Service Crew support at Moran Patrol Cabin



The **Spotted Bear Lookout** project was primarily maintenance. A crew of four NWMT-FFLA volunteers together with Andy Nelson, Back Country Facilities Coordinator for SBRD, scraped, painted, pulled staples, repaired the screen door, painted shutters, installed some new stair tread, and coated the roof, among other general fix-up duties. This was all done under the guidance of two-month old Ember who spent her summer staffing the lookout with her parents Drew and Heidi.



## Volunteers Harry McAllister and Greg Evens at Spotted Bear Lookout

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The chapter also donated a picnic table to **Firefighter Lookout** for visitors to use while they enjoy the vista of its surroundings. **Baptiste Lookout** also will be receiving a new picnic table this next summer.

**2015** is shaping up to be a busy one with two projects scheduled in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (BMWC) and others in the works. One project in the BMWC is working on **Mud Lake Lookout** to help bring that facility back from hibernation. Tasks at Mud Lake will be focused on much needed cab maintenance and developing a water source to support the lookout when staffed. The other is **Jumbo Lookout** which needs some basic TLC. The wind and rain seem to find a way into the cab around most of the windows, so that must be addressed and a new outhouse hole needs to be picked out of the rock. Hanging the outhouse over the cliff would be a lot easier but for some reason that just doesn't seem right. Both of these projects will take a 10-day commitment from volunteers.



**Jumbo Lookout**



**Mud Lake Lookout**

For up-to-date information regarding NWMT-FFLA, please check out our website:

<http://www.nwmt-ffla.org/>

Follow us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/northwestmontanalogouts>

# A Piece of History

By Chad Mullman, *Seeley Lake Ranger District*

One of the great values in Wilderness is its ability to tell a story. Last summer we celebrated across the nation as the Wilderness Act of 1964 turned 50 years old and we ushered the concept of Wilderness well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We celebrated the preservation of mountains, rivers, lakes, deserts, grasslands, and expanses of invaluable wildlife habitat. We were celebrating the protection of the natural world. We largely think of humans as being outside or separate from this natural world. Academics refer to this concept as dualism. In fact, the Wilderness Act explicitly defines Wilderness as an area “where man himself is a visitor who does not remain”. It’s important to remember, however, that even though humans may be merely visitors to these wild places, we have a long and intertwined history with them. Our history and our culture are contained in these landscapes, and Wilderness preserves this story just as it preserves the landscapes themselves. One place where this story can be seen and experienced first-hand is Carmichael Cabin in the Scapegoat Wilderness.



**Sketch of Carmichael Cabin drawn by volunteer Laura Spinney**

Carmichael Cabin was originally constructed in 1921 by employees of the Carmichael Sheep company. Survey maps from 1920 don’t even include the section Carmichael sits on, but nearby sections

are shown to be under Forest Service ownership at that time and leased out under a special use permit to the Northern Pacific Railroad. The Carmichael Company was based over on the Rocky Mountain Front near Choteau. During the summer months herders employed by Carmichael would run massive flocks of sheep up the Dearborn River and over the continental divide into what is now the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex in search of good grazing. These flocks were massive and consisted of roughly 1100 sheep each. The company had 14 total flocks that were pushed into the mountains each spring, with 3 flocks working the areas surrounding Carmichael Cabin. Each flock was overseen by just a single herder, typically of Basque or Romanian decent, and only 2 or 3 dogs.

Carmichael Cabin was constructed as a supply depot and storage facility to support the flocks working in this area. Herders spent months at a time in the backcountry and required frequent resupply, just like we see today with our backcountry work crews. Packers ran supplies in throughout the season and used the cabin as a cache as well as a place to spend the night on the long round-trip. The location was chosen because of its proximity to some of the best graze in the area, primarily a place we call McDonnell Meadows today. Many of the drainages and other geographic features in the area are named after herders, including Broadus Creek, Theodore Creek, and Dobrota Creek.

Owner James Carmichael died in 1944 and his ranch was sold off, in turn discontinuing the sheep herding business. The company’s special use permits for grazing in the area and use of the cabin subsequently expired and the Forest Service found itself to be the new owner of Carmichael Cabin. Starting in the early 1950’s, Howard Copenhaver and Tom Edwards were issued a special use permit for the cabin to support their new outfitting business called White Tail Ranch Outfitters.

(Continued on next page...)

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Tom Edwards was widely known by the nickname “Hobnail Tom” and is the namesake to the main North Fork of the Blackfoot trail #32, which is officially named the Hobnail Tom trail today. White-tail Ranch operated out of the cabin all the way up to 1967 when Edwards and Copenhaver went their separate ways and lost the special use permit. During these years they guided hundreds of successful hunts, which are evidenced today on the inside of the front door to the cabin. A tradition started by the sheep herders each fall, hunters carved their initials, date, and kill into the inside of the front door of the cabin. The original door is still in place and contains hundreds of carvings dating back to 1931.

After 1967 the Forest Service never again reissued any permits for use of the cabin. Use of the cabin fell off and it was completely neglected over the years. By the late 1970’s the cabin was in utter disrepair. All of the windows had been broken out, the stove pipe was gone leaving an open hole in the roof, and the interior was completely infested with packrats. Sometime in the early 1980’s Jack Hooker, then owner of White Tail Ranch, got stranded by high water just below the cabin. He figured if he was going to be stuck, he might as well utilize the structure. He took the first steps in cleaning out the cabin and Forest Service officials took notice, seeing its incredible potential as an administrative site. In 1984 the Forest Service began restoration efforts on the cabin. They replaced the stove and windows, painted the floor, replaced daubing, and repaired the roof. This was the first time the cabin became useable once more. Since these restoration efforts Carmichael has been a crucial resource for the Wilderness and Trails programs at the Seeley Lake Ranger District, as well as for state and federal biologists.

It has been 31 years since the last restoration efforts took place at Carmichael Cabin and it is starting to show. For the 2015 summer season the Seeley Lake Ranger District will be performing one of the largest rehabilitation efforts on the cabin since

it was constructed. Crews will be replacing logs, repairing the foundation, leveling the cabin, replacing the entire floor and sub-floor structures, re-treating the cabin logs, re-glazing the windows, and painting the interior in an effort to restore the cabin to its former glory. This work will be done in conjunction with the Region 1 Historic Building Preservation team and the Missoula chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen.

This humble cabin only exists today because it is in Wilderness. While humans may be merely visitors to Wilderness, there is no debate in that our stories remain there. In addition to providing an outstanding resource to our backcountry crews, Carmichael Cabin tells the story of our connection to this incredible place.



**Carmichael Cabin is found within the Wilderness on Seeley Lake Ranger District**

*Special thanks for the outstanding historical information from Lucile Shumate, granddaughter of James Carmichael; Laura Spinney, who volunteered in the backcountry for the Seeley Lake Ranger District in the summer of 1995 and drew the sketch of the cabin; Jim Blackburn, retired Resource Assistant for the Seeley Lake Ranger District; and Jack Dupree of North Dakota who has hunted the area around Carmichael Cabin every year since 1962.*



# BMWFW Wilderness Conservation Corps

By Carol Treadwell, *Executive Director, Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation*

Coming this field season, BMWFW will expand its internship program. Formerly known as the “Weeds Internship” (yawn), the program will become the **Wilderness Conservation Corps**. The Corps is part of the 21st Century Service Corps which is a bold national effort to put thousands of America’s young people and veterans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America’s great outdoors. This program will provide paid internships for college and high school age youth and will forward their natural resource career aspirations by engaging them in hands-on projects that deliver meaningful conservation outcomes to benefit wilderness. The positions are intended to increase the intern’s field skills, understanding of invasive species control, and wilderness management knowledge.

Former BMWFW interns have advanced to USFS seasonal jobs while attending college to pursue de-



**Pete Metzmaker, BMWFW Board Member, recruits his friends and family to participate on a BMWFW project trip each year. The Metzmaker clan pictured here had a great East side experience in 2014.**

grees in natural science-related fields at the University of Alaska, Montana State, and Springfield College. Cody Rodriguez, Wilderness Stewardship Intern in 2015, reflected on his experience:

“Being a wilderness steward intern with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation was eye opening and a constant learning experience. **I grew as an outdoor leader** and learned about program planning, ethics, marketing/public relations, organization, different cultures, and risk management. I was able to test myself in spirit, mind, and body. From the day I left for my first trip to my journey back east, I was living more independently than ever before which gave me the opportunity for challenge and self-reflection.”

Work and learn in the outdoors this summer -



**Join the Flathead National Forest Lead Team on a week-long Bob trails excursion. The 2014 crew pictured here opened 5 miles of trail on 25 Mile Creek Trail and had a super team building experience!**

**Join the Corps!** Applications can be found at: <http://www.bmwf.org/staff.html>

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# South Fork Flathead River Bull Trout

By Leo Rosenthal, *Fisheries Biologist, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks*

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The South Fork Flathead River is home to one of the strongest populations of bull trout, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. While many other bull trout populations throughout the western United States have declined in recent history, the bull trout populations in Hungry Horse Reservoir and the interconnected South Fork Flathead River continue to thrive. Bull trout populations remain robust enough to provide anglers a catch and release fishery in the South Fork and actually allow anglers to harvest two bull trout annually from Hungry Horse Reservoir after obtaining a valid catch card. The opportunity to pursue these large fish in a remote wilderness setting is truly a priceless experience.

Adult bull trout numbers are monitored by counting redds (depressions left in the stream after bull trout have spawned) in direct tributaries to Hungry Horse Reservoir as well as in wilderness tributaries to the South Fork Flathead River. Because of the time and effort necessary to conduct these surveys are typically conducted every 3-5 years. The 2014 wilderness survey represents the 11<sup>th</sup> time it has been conducted since the survey began in 1993. Two crews of fisheries personnel covered many miles by boat and stream to complete this survey in late September 2014. Individual available spawning habitat in the Youngs, Gor-Little Salmon drainages, and Annual redd counts in reservoir tributaries were also conducted,



Adult bull trout in a South Fork Flathead River tributary.

though the survey in Sullivan Creek could not be completed in 2014 due to high flows associated with a fall rain storm. In addition to surveying the Hungry Horse/South Fork bull trout, a crew also surveyed Big Salmon Creek to monitor the Big Salmon Lake bull trout population. While the total number of redds in the 2014 survey was slightly lower than 2011, the number of redds was still within the range of historic values, and strong enough to support continuation of the recreational fishery that was re-opened in 2004 under a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The recreational bull trout fishery for the South Fork Flathead River and Hungry Horse Reservoir continues to provide anglers a unique experience. This fishery is closely monitored through the bull trout catch card and angler survey system established in 2004. This system requires bull trout anglers to acquire a catch card through Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and report their annual catch data through FWP's mail survey. The survey provides managers with annual bull trout catch and harvest data and allows for comparisons of angler use and potential impacts to this sensitive fish species. Results of the survey from 2004-2014 reveal that anglers are being conservative with their catch and harvest of bull trout. Estimated bull trout harvest from Hungry Horse Reservoir is typically less than 100 fish, and an estimated average of 350 bull trout are caught and released from the South Fork Flathead River. The bull trout populations will continue to be monitored in subsequent years to detect any trends related to overall numbers and any potential impacts of the recreational fishery.

## Northern Region Closure Order on National Forests in Montana Camping/ Stay Order Restrictions- Effective January 2015

Camping restrictions are in place for all National Forests in the state of Montana. These camping restrictions are enforced as described in **Regional Closure Order # R1-2015-01**, to ensure consistency for all persons and/or groups using National Forest lands in Montana. The following descriptors of the special order are for ease of understanding:

- ◆ A person or group may not occupy a single location for a period longer than 16 (sixteen) consecutive days.
  - ◇ An occupied day is considered any part of a calendar day.
  - ◇ Location means the occupied undeveloped or developed campsite and lands within a 5 (five) air mile radius.
- ◆ After leaving the location, **that was occupied for 16 consecutive days**, a minimum of 7 (seven) days is required before any group or persons from that group may reoccupy the original locations.
- ◆ A person/group may not leave camping equipment and/or related supplies at any location for more than 16 consecutive days.
  - ◇ Camping equipment and/or related supplies includes, **but not limited to**, tents, cook-stoves, electrical fence material, bear resistant containers and other personal effects; certified hay, cubes, and other supplies.

*All Forest Service employees, including Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Protection Officers, may use discretion in circumstances requiring enforcement of camping restrictions.*

### The 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge

By Colter Pence, *Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District*

Over the last 10 years, the BMWC has been a part of a national project to track wilderness stewardship work and to ensure all wilderness areas meet a minimum level of stewardship. This project was meant to come to closure in 2014 to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The stewardship challenge asked wilderness managers to track various elements of wilderness stewardship, including how well we do recreation site inventories and monitor opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. In this case, our Limits of Acceptable Change program served us well and we received good marks. Some other wilderness stewardship items we tracked were how fire managers considered a full range of responses with the goal of restoring natural fire and how effective our invasive weeds treatment program has been. In total, the BMWC received commendable scores over the last 10 years and was found to be managed well above the minimum level. The results of this national project were so successful that the Forest Service is now planning another round of such wilderness stewardship monitoring. If you want to learn more about the work already done with the BMWC for the 10-year challenge or want to learn about the future of wilderness stewardship monitoring, please check in with your local wilderness manager. A brochure can be found at: <http://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/documents/FS/10YWSC%20Brochure.pdf> (see next page....)



# 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Brochure

This brochure can be found at <http://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/documents/FS/10YWSC%20Brochure.pdf>

## What you can do

The 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge is more than the USDA Forest Service can accomplish alone. Join us for an opportunity to make a difference in the legacy we will give to future generations.

Partnerships are being developed with local and national groups concerned with the health of the wilderness resource. You can help support these partnerships in many ways.

- Join a trail restoration work project.
- Volunteer to survey and remove invasive species.
- Become part of a team educating others about wilderness.
- Learn new skills while inventorying recreation campsites.
- Contribute to wilderness stewardship by analyzing data about wilderness character.

Learn more about Wilderness Stewardship: Visit <http://www.wilderness.net>

Or contact your local Forest Service Ranger District Wilderness Program Manager.

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United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

## Wilderness Stewardship

### 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge



Photo by Tom Kogut

Are you up to the challenge?

## What is the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge?

The goal of the 10-Year Wilderness Challenge is to bring every one of the more than 400 wildernesses under the USDA Forest Service's care to a minimum stewardship level by 2014, the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge defines a new level of accountability for Forest Service Wilderness Stewardship.

Signed in 1964, the Wilderness Act was landmark legislation that set aside 9 million acres of wilderness for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Now more than 106 million acres of designated wilderness are managed by Federal land management agencies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for the management of about 35 million acres, or 33 percent of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

To ensure that these wildernesses stay wild forever, we have identified 10 key elements that help define successful wilderness stewardship. These 10 elements combine many essential qualities of wilderness character.

However, your help is needed with the task of wilderness stewardship. Today, only about 20 percent of all wildernesses managed by the USDA Forest Service meet even our minimum stewardship level—defined as achieving success in 6 out of these 10 elements. Yet, meeting all ten elements is our ultimate goal to assure the preservation of wilderness character.

Like any challenge, this won't be easy, but the rewards will be great. By working together, we can keep wilderness wild.

## A Healthy Wilderness has . . .

- Clean Air
- Clean Water
- Natural Fire
- Wildlife
- Native Plants
- Solitude and Primitive Recreation

### The Ten Key Elements

Success of the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge means:

- fire managers consider a full range of responses with the goal of restoring natural fire
- invasive plants are successfully treated
- air quality trends are measured
- priority actions identified in a wilderness education plan are implemented
- opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are protected
- recreation site inventory is completed
- outfitter/guides model wilderness practices and incorporate appreciation for wilderness values to clients
- adequate direction exists to protect wilderness character
- information needs are met
- baseline workforce is in place

## Legacy of Wilderness Stewardship

The Forest Service has long been in the forefront of wilderness stewardship. As early as 1919, wilderness leaders including Bob Marshall, Aldo Leopold, and Arthur Carhart, recognized a growing public sentiment that desired some portions of public land to remain in a natural state.



Arthur Carhart exploring the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, MN

## An Enduring Resource

" . . . to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

*The Wilderness Act of 1964*



Photo by Camille Meyer

"In Wildness is the preservation of the world."

— Henry David Thoreau



Photo by George Wuerthner

The value of wilderness depends on the degree to which it remains undeveloped and free—a contrast to the highly developed world in which most of us live.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 gave wilderness managers a difficult and challenging task. Wilderness areas are to be kept in a wild and natural state—relatively free of human influence and control while at the same time, providing for human use and enjoyment.

In the last 40 years, this has become even harder. Thousands of feet are trampling lakeshores. Campfire scars dot remote valleys. Funding allocated for wilderness education programs and rangers has declined.



Photo by Karri K. Brown

Huge expanses of wilderness have experienced profound changes because of fire suppression. When fire occurs naturally in wilderness, it gives rise to a colorful patchwork of plants and animals.

## What's at stake?

After 40 years, it may seem as if we will always have wilderness as part of the American landscape.

But what is a wilderness where native birds and animals no longer thrive because invasive species have crowded them out?

What is a wilderness where you can't escape the sights and sounds of other people?

What is a wilderness without the heart and soul of wildness? What happens when we lose the "wild" from wilderness?

Keeping wilderness wild contributes to the ecological, economic, and social health and well-being of our citizens, our country, and our world.

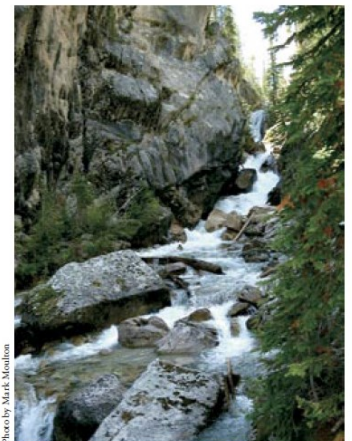


Photo by Mark Shefferson

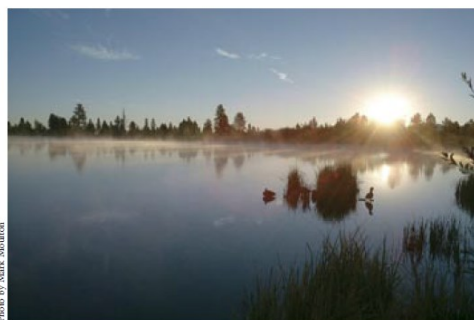


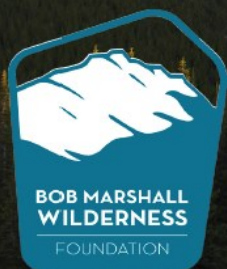
Photo by Mark Shefferson

Surveys show that Americans rank the protection of water and air quality as top priorities when describing wilderness values. Pollution originating from outside wilderness can dramatically change the ecosystems within. Preserving wilderness preserves clean air and clean water.



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Contact info for  
your BMWF  
Ranger Districts:



### **Rocky Mountain RD**

(406) 466-5341  
District Ranger: Mike Munoz  
mamunoz@fs.fed.us

### **Seeley Lake RD**

(406) 677-2233  
District Ranger: Rachel Feigley  
rfeigley@fs.fed.us

### **Hungry Horse RD**

(406) 387-3800  
District Ranger: Rob Davies  
rdavies@fs.fed.us

### **Lincoln RD**

(406) 362-7000  
Acting District Ranger:  
Erin Swiader  
jennifereswiader@fs.fed.us

### **Spotted Bear RD**

(406) 758-5376 / (406) 387-3800  
District Ranger: Deb Mucklow  
dmucklow@fs.fed.us

