



BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS COMPLEX

2007 NEWSLETTER

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Charting A Course

MESSAGE FROM THE COMPLEX CHAIR

Amber Kamps
BMWC Chair, Lincoln Ranger District

“ It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters in the end.”

—Ursula K. LeGuin

I used to believe success, achievement, and happiness could only be found after arriving at the destination. Explorers call it true north. As a natural resource manager, I have defined this destination as having the ability to do the right thing on the land with appropriate budget to make that happen. It's the second part of this definition; a lack of funding that can many times be the limiting factor. As a result, I have spent far longer on the road from "Here to There" than I could have ever imagined when the adventure began.

The journey in wilderness management has never in U.S. Forest Service history been more challenging. We've been discussing what a declining budget means for many years. We are now in uncharted territory. Budgets are lower than they have ever been, yet the needs and demands of our backcountry are higher than ever with an increasing trend projected for the decades ahead. There are serious consequences as a result. We are no longer in a position to keep applying the "band-aid" approach as we have been doing for the last several years.

What I find critical now is to understand, have the ability to recognize, and the desire to adapt to how we approach this journey. What has not changed is a strong conviction to manage the wilderness to the highest standards as set forth under the Wilderness Act. It is simply fact that our current situation has taken a turn not of our choosing, but set by circumstances outside our control.

However it is the spirit of our journey that is as important, perhaps even more important than the

arrival at a set destination. For after all, the journey is really all that most of us will ever know. It's an opportunity to choose our response and chart a course correction on that part of the journey we have influence over.

Under the tightest budgets we've ever known, how are we to re-tool and prioritize to manage the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex in light of the changed conditions? How do we chart our course to be as efficient as we possibly can? How do we manage the complexities of change in the demands of this incredible resource in both the social and biological/habitat realms? Finding the solutions to these types of questions is our challenge while reflecting on the past to bring forward the lessons learned and methods of success. Then, it is up to us to use this information to define a journey that includes being effective and passionate leaders/implementers in wilderness. For me, this is making solid choices for the Complex to produce the highest quality product as cost efficient as we possibly can.

On behalf of all the complex Rangers, I invite you in partnership to chart this journey.



Amber Kamps with Sage, age 4, and Bridger, age 6 on top of Red Mountain, the Complex's highest peak at 9411 feet elevation, August 2006

INVITATION:

ANNUAL BMWC PUBLIC MEETING; LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE

WHEN

Saturday, April 14th 2007
10:00am - 3:00pm

WHERE

Flathead NF
Supervisor's Office
1935 Third Avenue East
Kalispell, MT
Need Directions? 406.758.5251

Please contact Amber Kamps
at 406.362.4265 or
akamps@fs.fed.us
for additional information.

Going the Extra Mile

Volunteer Project Accomplishments 2006

Paul Travis

*Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation
Program Director 2006*

This past season, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation (BMWF) coordinated 43 volunteer projects with over 387 volunteers throughout the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and surrounding wild lands. Projects ranged from trail maintenance to wilderness restoration and facility maintenance projects. Locations included work completed near trailheads such as the Gibson Lake Trail, Grant Ridge, and Youngs Pass, to locations deep in the wilderness such as Burnt Creek, Bungalow Mountain Trail, and Scapegoat Mountain.

Increases in funding allowed us to hire three Wilderness Crew Leaders this year for project leadership, volunteer training and on the ground support. Nick Cheney led volunteer crews on the east side of the divide on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Julia Seaward led volunteer crews on the west side of the BMWF, including Spotted Bear, Hungry Horse, and Seeley Lake Ranger Districts, and Matt Plank, our roving crew leader, led crews throughout the wilderness, mostly spending time with our many youth-at-risk volunteer groups. More on the ground leadership coupled with highly experienced crew leaders and increased support from the Forest Service has helped make this year one of our most successful yet.

This year, volunteers and volunteer groups donated 2,966 volunteer service days (23,728 hours), for a value of labor estimated at \$240,276. Volunteers included 194 youth and youth-at-risk participants, 29 volunteer packers, 84 national organization volunteers and 80 individual volunteers. Work was completed with volunteers from 16 different partner organizations, as well as Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation individ-

ual volunteers. New groups this year included Schreiner University out of Kerrville, Texas, and Hope Ranch, a therapeutic boarding school located near Whitefish.

Trail maintenance and construction accounted for 89% of the project work completed this year by Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation crews. Trail work accomplishments for 2006 included:

- 143 miles of trail brushed
- 1,850 trees cleared from trails
- 1,009 drainage structures maintained
- 93 water bars constructed
- 6,506 yards of tread-work completed
- 77 check dams constructed
- numerous drain dips constructed
- puncheon bridge repair
- cribbing construction
- culvert resetting
- rocking of numerous stream fords and trails

That equals 326 miles of trail work completed!

Along with the trail maintenance projects, the BMWF coordinated six campsite restoration and seed collection projects this year. Continental Divide Trail Alliance volunteers spent a week cleaning up over 31 campsites along the West Fork of the Sun River. Individual volunteers worked on campsite restoration at sites along Sunburst Lake, Shaw Cabin, Koessler Lake, Elk Lake, Shirrtail Park, and Pentagon Cabin. Volunteers also collected native grass seed at sites near Schafer Meadows to be used in future re-vegetation work.

Volunteers from the National Smokejumpers Association worked on facility maintenance projects at Silvertip Cabin, Indian Meadows, and Willow Creek during the last two weeks of July. Work accomplishments include replacement of sill logs and the front porch and steps at Silvertip Cabin, fencing at the McCarty Pasture near Willow Creek, and 400 yards of Jack Leg fence built at Indian Meadows. In September, individual volunteers worked at Wrong Creek Cabin on the North Fork of the Sun River, removing an old barbed wire fence and building 60 yards of Jack-Leg fence at the administrative site.

Volunteer packers made huge contributions to our volunteer program this year as well, packing in food, tools, and gear for many of our crews. Twenty-nine volunteers donated 71 volunteer service days, for a value of labor estimated at \$9,247.



Seeley Lake Ranger District

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Jim Blackburn
Wilderness Manager Seeley Lake

Every year visitors to the Bob Marshall, Great Bear or Scapegoat Wilderness find themselves or a member of their party in need of advanced emergency medical attention. If the responsibility of requesting helicopter evacuation services ever falls on your shoulder you will need to act calmly and decisively. If, in your best judgment, immediate evacuation by helicopter is necessary, you need to know the following.

“Satellite phones are legal in wilderness. Hopefully they are used only for emergencies as casual use of these devices threaten the very ideas and concepts behind wilderness.”

1ST CALL:



The County Sheriff's Office MUST be notified when an incident involving a fatality, medical evacuation or search and rescue occurs. The County Sheriff or their 911 center will take the information and coordinate the appropriate action. The Sheriff needs to call the air ambulance.

Calling 911 will not necessarily connect you to the county office that coordinates the emergency. Calling 911 will connect you to the county in which your phone was issued. There are five different counties within the Bob Marshall Complex! You should be familiar with the county lines before venturing into the wilderness.

2ND CALL:

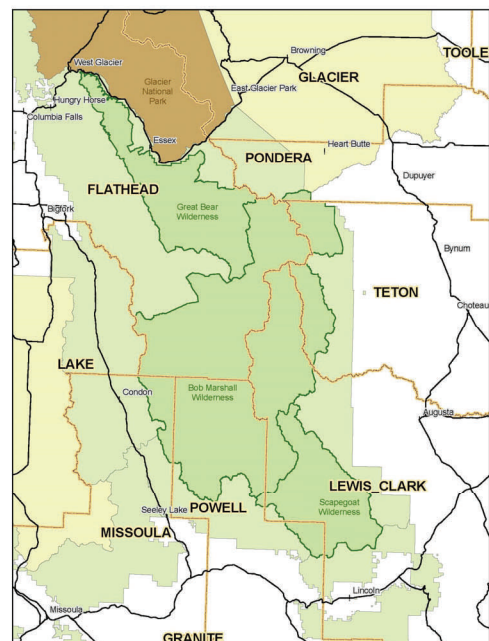


If the situation allows it a courtesy call should be made to the Local Ranger Station as soon as possible. It is the County's responsibility as the evacuation coordinator to get permission from the Forest Service for landing aircraft in the wilderness. Sometimes this step gets eliminated from the protocol.



Cut this phone list out and take it with you to the backcountry for quick access in case of emergency. Tape to the back of your radio & laminate to make water resistant.

<p>1ST CALL:</p>	County Sheriff Phone Numbers:	
	Missoula	523-4810
	Flathead	758-5610
	Lake	883-7301
	Powell	846-2711
<p>2ND CALL:</p>	Ranger District Phone Numbers:	
	Hungry Horse	387-3800
	Spotted Bear	758-5376
	After Hours	758-6475, 758-6478
	Seeley Lake	677-2233
Lincoln	362-4265	
Rocky Mountain	466-5341	



News From Spotted Bear

CHANGES AND REMINDERS

Deb Mucklow

District Ranger, Spotted Bear

Welcome to new employees – as you contact the district office or visit the wilderness you may find that there has been a change in staffing – join us in welcoming:

Hans Castren – Wilderness program leader for the South Fork of the Flathead drainage and the Spotted Bear River area, Hans came to Spotted Bear in July 2006 and its been off to the races since! He joined us from Mount St. Helens Monument.

Seth Carbonari – Fire Management Officer for the district, he is just getting his feet on the ground, joining us from Tally lake Ranger District, Flathead National Forest. He is looking forward to working with fire use. Steve Wirt retired in January – there was too many fishing trips with his name, but you can be assured he is going to be active in the fire management or at least be asking us questions.

Andy Nelson – Backcountry facilities, he has been working seasonally and is willing to step up to multiple priorities (OSHA, historic restoration, general re-supply and trails)!

As you plan your visits to the wilderness this summer – please plan ahead and be prepared! We all seem to think this and hope we practice this, but we are seeing more visitors not as prepared as you would expect. This year we have *lots of blow down!* When we pulled out last November our own crews and fall hunting parties had to cut there way out of the South Fork, Middle fork and Spotted Bear River. We've been asked is it only in recent fire areas? NO – it seems to be very widespread, dead trees, green trees, previous fire areas – it was just the right conditions of saturated soils from rain and early snowfall, to warmer temperatures and strong winds. So please have the hand saws, axes, etc. with you. Also remember to use weed free feed for stock, be prepared for the food storage order (there is a loan program available at the ranger district offices in the com-



Partner Defenders of Wildlife and packing in Unbearable Bins to better store stock feed at admin sites.

plex). Practices Leave No Trace principles and respect party size. In the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat wildernesses the party size in 15 and stock number is 35. As we are asked if Lewis and Clark camping would be ok – we will come back to you and say total party size is 15 – so if 8 are camping on one side of the river and 9 are on the other, but you have meals together and travel together – you are one party. We welcome all questions related to trip planning. Our goal is for all to enjoy and make sure that your experience is going to be as great as the next parties experience.

I received more calls this year about courtesy and respect of others. If there is a party already camping where you had planned – don't camp right on top of them, neither of you will have the experience you had planned. Please don't have your camp spread out across the trail – again you are impacting others. Lastly I'd add if you can avoid an accident with stock and give the right of way to others, please do and continue the tradition of safe, friendly back country wilderness

*“Please continue
the tradition of
safe, friendly
backcountry
wilderness users.”*

Gates Park Bridge Update

RECOMMENDED REPAIRS

Ian Bardwell

Trails Manager, Rocky Mountain

The Rocky Mountain Ranger District on the Lewis and Clark National Forest has completed its initial analysis of the Gates Park Bridge project and is recommending that the Bridge be repaired. For those unfamiliar with this project; the current bridge, built in 1964, was found by Forest Service inspections to be deteriorating in parts of its structure.

An analysis has been completed to determine the necessity of the bridge along with a more in depth inspection to determine the exact structural parts in question. The subsequent inspections have helped to pinpoint the problems which have resulted in narrowing the scope of work from what was initially expected. The Lewis and Clark Forest has selected the alternative of repairing the existing structure with the help of the Minimum Required Decision Guide (formerly the Mini-



mum Tool Analysis). While the Forest is still developing this alternative, the project will include work on the towers, the abutments, and the deadmen anchors. Work has tentatively been proposed to begin in the 2008 or 2009 field seasons. For more information or questions regarding this project please contact Ian Bardwell at the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, P.O. Box 340 Choteau MT, 59422 or call (406) 466-5341.

BMWC Fire Update For 2006

Jim Flint

Wildland Fire Use, Spotted Bear Ranger District

The Bob Marshall Complex experienced an active and successful fire season this past year. The Flathead National Forest portion (Hungry Horse and Spotted Bear Ranger Districts) saw 19 fires for a total of ~3700 acres, 15 of which were managed as Wildland Fire Use (WFU) for Resource Benefits resulting in nearly all of the acres. The Lewis and Clark National Forest also had several fires. Nanny Creek and Rival Creek were the largest WFU fires, while another large fire, Cigarette Rock, was managed with a suppression response. All the fires were managed with a high emphasis on protecting the Wilderness values as well as public and firefighter safety, and cost efficiency. Many of the practices commonly used to manage Wildland Fire in the Bob Marshall Complex are now being applied across the larger landscape as cost efficiency and selection of Appropriate Management Response become important throughout the nation.

“All the fires were managed with a high emphasis on protecting Wilderness values as well as public and firefighter safety, and cost efficiency.”

SPOTTED BEAR, FROM PAGE 4

“As we are gearing up for the field season – I want to pass on the entire districts thanks and appreciation to the partners and volunteers on the ranger district.”



Tandem-packing bridge materials for Black Bear Bridge maintenance (top). Strawberry Creek, Continental Divide Trail turnpike construction (bottom).

users.

Emphasis areas for the district in 2007 – trail opening, clearing the blow down, completing Limestone Pass trail reconstruction, Molly Creek trail reconstruction, Swithback Pass trail reconstruction, Stony Trail construction for communication access for Spotted Bear Ranger Station, LAC campsite monitoring (this is the 5th year of the 4th monitoring period), river presence on the South Fork and Middle Fork Flathead Rivers, and to implement the 2005 travel management/OHV map in September 2007.

As we are gearing up for the field season – I want to pass on the entire districts thanks and appreciation to the partners and volunteers on the ranger district. In 2006 we had over \$350,000 of volunteer time contributed to trails, snow survey, facilities, wilderness restoration, visitor contacts, river intern, packing, airstrip maintenance, fencing, weed inventory and mapping, artist in residency programs and much more. We continue to see budgets stay flat or decline and value that so many folks want to contribute to the Spotted Bear Ranger District programs.

Snags on the North Fork Blackfoot Trail

Snags from the 1988 Canyon Creek Fire continue to challenge users and forest service maintenance crews. Photo is Seeley Lake Trail Crew on North Fork Blackfoot Trail #32 above Smokes Cabin Bridge. Note the large number of snags still to come down ½ mile farther down the trail. Also note the wind-row of snags and thick regeneration that often makes pack-strings meeting on the trail a real challenge.



Rocky Mountain Ranger District

MCC RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

Kraig Lang

Wilderness Manager, Rocky Mountain

During the field season of 2006, Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) crews, directly supervised by a Wilderness Ranger serving as a “Technical Advisor” completed four Wilderness Stewardship Projects on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. These projects were funded through a matching funds grant from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) known as the “2006 Wilderness Stewardship Challenge”. During the winter of 2005 / 2006 MCC Supervisors in Missoula and Great Falls coordinated with Rocky Mountain Ranger District Staff to complete a grant application that was submitted to the NFF in competition for the “2006 Wilderness Stewardship Challenge”. In the spring of 2006 the MCC supervisors were informed that their application was selected for funding by the National Forest Foundation.

Four projects were completed over the course of the summer, totaling eight weeks of work for the seven person MCC crews based out of the Missoula and Great Falls MCC Headquarters. A wide variety of good work benefiting the Wilderness resource was accomplished. Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) natural resource and social monitoring, illegal equipment cache location and removal, campsite cleanup and naturalization, weed inventory and eradication, trail maintenance and the removal of several miles of abandoned barbwire fencing within the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas is just some of the work completed by these hardworking MCC crews.

Please join me in thanking the Montana Conservation Corps for a job well done!



MCC Crews doing trail work in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

FWP “Bob” Update

Mack Long

Region 2 Supervisor, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

FWP is close to completing initial fish sampling efforts in the lakes and streams of the Scapegoat section of the BMWC. Many of these lakes and streams have not been sampled for years. The connectivity between lakes, streams and rivers is important to maintaining healthy native populations of fish. The objective of this work is to document what fish species are occupying these lakes, in what numbers and the overall health of the aquatic system.

Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

VOLUNTEER TRAIL PROJECTS 2007

Saturday, June 2nd - National Trails Day
Middle Fork of Flathead River, HHRD

Friday, June 15th to Sunday, June 17th
Dearborn River, Devil's Glen, RMRD

Friday, June 22nd to Sunday, June 24th
Blackleaf, RMRD

Saturday, June 23rd
Ousel Peak, HHRD

Friday, June 29th to Monday, July 2nd
Sunburst Lake, SBRD

Friday, June 29th to Saturday, July 7th
West Fork of Sun River, RMRD

Tuesday, July 10th to Sunday, July 15th
Pretty Prairie, RMRD

Saturday, July 28th
Skiumah Lake, HHRD

Tuesday, July 31st to Monday, August 6th
Blackfoot Divide Trail, SLRD

Saturday, August 4th to Sunday, August 12th
Palisade Creek, SBRD

Wednesday, August 8th to Monday, August 13th
Indian Meadows, LRD

Wednesday, August 15th to Monday, August 20th
Spruce Point & Charlie Creek, HHRD

Friday, August 17th to Sunday, August 19th
Our Lake & Headquarters Pass, RMRD

Friday, August 24th to Saturday, September 1st
Blind Creek, RMRD

Friday, August 31st to Monday, September 3rd
Schafer Meadows, SBRD

Friday, September 7th to Saturday, September 15th
Middle Fork of Flathead River, HHRD



We've put together some great projects this year all over the Bob Marshall Wilderness & surrounding areas — now we need you to make them a success! Can't decide between the Rocky Mountain Front or the Great Bear Wilderness? From day trips, weekend, and week-long trips there's a variety of schedules and locations. If you like to hike and being outdoors — that's enough. Check out the project dates on the left, then head to the nearest computer to sign up. You'll find full project details and how to register online.



Check out our projects & register online at:

www.thebmwf.org



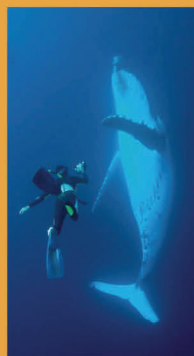
Volunteer trail projects in the
Bob Marshall Wilderness
& adjacent wild lands.



mountainfilm in telluride **WORLD TOUR**



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the passion of
visual storytelling**



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activismculture**



mountainfilm.org

A Fundraiser for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation



FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2007

O'SHAUGHNESSY CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

WHITEFISH, MONTANA



MINGLE WITH DRINKS AND DESSERTS 6:30PM - FILMS START AT 7:30PM
TICKETS \$10 BEFORE, \$12 AT DOOR - RAFFLE ITEMS AND DOOR PRIZES ALL NIGHT

PRE-EVENT TICKETS SOLD AT THE WHITE ROOM (WHITEFISH), ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTFITTER (KALISPELL)
OR CALL CARLA BELSKI AT THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION: 406.253.4421.

What's Happening in Hungry Horse

SNOW RANGERS ON THE PROWL

Colter Pence

Wilderness & Trails Ranger, Hungry Horse/Glacier View

This winter with the help of a grant from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Flathead National Forest, and managed by the Hungry Horse/Glacier View Ranger Districts, have been able to employ two snow rangers. The snow rangers reach out to local and visiting winter recreation users to educate and inform them of avalanche conditions, and rules and regulations. The snow rangers also monitor use patterns by maintaining trail counters, taking vehicle counts at parking lots, and traveling to favorite play areas to observe where people are recreating.

The Recreation Trails Program grant for \$21,000 has allowed the Forest Service to increase its ability to reach out to the snowmobiling, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and even dog sledding communities that recreate on the Flathead National Forest. So far they have been able to contact over 500 winter users having fun in the snow.

The snow rangers work weekends in order to ensure they are available to visit with the most number of people. When working in snowmobile parking lots they hand out maps and check to see if people are wearing their avalanche transceivers. They have assisted in several club family rides and events, including the Doug Betters Classic. The snow rangers also post signs indicating area closures, such as wilderness boundaries that are closed to motorized vehicle use. They monitor non-motorized areas such as the Great Bear, Bob Marshall, and Jewel Basin.



Ski touring the high country of the Flathead Range, Middle Fork of the Flathead drainage.

SNOW RANGERS, page 16

New Home for Hungry Horse & Glacier View

DISTRICT OFFICE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Colter Pence

Wilderness & Trails Ranger, Hungry Horse/Glacier View

Progress is underway for the new office building for the Hungry Horse/Glacier View and Spotted Bear Ranger Districts, also known as the Three Forks Zone Office. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation will also have office space in this new building.

The new office location is near the old building on Colorado Road in Hungry Horse. The current building is an old Bureau of Reclamation office, built in the early 1950's.

OFFICE, page 16

Lincoln Ranger District

BUDGETS, BABIES & BACKCOUNTRY!

Ernie Lundberg

Wilderness Manager, Lincoln

The 06 Wilderness and Trials crew Casey Burns, Trail Crew Forman, Bevin Feutrier, Wilderness Ranger, and two Trail Crew/Wilderness Ranger assistants, Jess Thomas and Mike Saunders the crew was short but did a great job. It seems with a constantly declining budget our crews, both people and stock, keep decreasing each year. We were able to accomplish a lot of work this year but we just couldn't quite reach the goals we set for ourselves. We did have one increase in personnel this fall Bevin and Chris had a baby boy Ivan. Volunteer groups like the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation (BMWF) and Charlie Russell BCH and help from our Outfitters and MCC we did have a successful year. We provided LNT and Wilderness education completed the Blacktail CIP project, got a good start on the Landers Fork CIP project, completing most of the five year LAC monitoring, along with clearing and maintaining trails and working with volunteer groups. Roy Barkley, Helena Forest Trail Construction Coordinator, acted as COR on the Blacktail project and was instrumental in accomplishing the contract, it would not have been completed without his dedication. This keeps the CDNST on the Continental Divide, the only thing left on this section signing.

The season began with an annual trip into Webb Lake Cabin in May, clearing the trail and opening the cabin for the season. We were lucky this year and only cleared 35 trees on the way and no winter damage to the structures or corral. From Indian Meadows trailhead to the junction of the Heart Lake trail, three miles, is through the 2003 Snow Talon fire, the rest, four miles, is through the rare green forest. The trouble is the green forest is getting old and trees are coming down on the trail more frequently. It seems green or not we can continue to expect an increase in blow down on the trails. The lesson here is, keep your ax handy and your saw sharp, and ready.

*"It seems green or not
we can continue to
expect an increase in
blow-down on the trails.*

*The lesson here is,
keep your axe handy
and your saw sharp,
and ready."*

June as usual was a busy month, mandatory training and getting oriented for the up coming season. Brett Todd, an outfitter on the district, was busy in June hosting the MOGA ride and later in June the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Stewardship Training ride to his base camp in the Scapegoat Wilderness. This was the first year, I believe, that the MOGA ride has been in Wilderness. Brett thought it would be a good change and introduce some of the Non-Wilderness Outfitters to issues Wilderness Outfitters face. Then toward the end of June a group of Wilderness managers spent three days with Brett discussing national and local issues facing Wilderness management. The trips were a success allowing managers and outfitters time to discuss issues without the disturbances from the modern world.

In June Bevin attended the 9-Mile LNT Masters course for stock. For those that have not attended this course I highly recommend it. The concepts taught at this training are equally applicable in and out of Wilderness. Bevin and Ernie provide a LNT session for the Women in The Outdoors in Helena. Over 150 women were in attendance. The women that attended the LNT portion were very interested and full of questions, as usual in these sessions we could have gone on much longer. The Helena National Forest once

LINCOLN, page 12



Chris Ryan, Regional Wilderness Program Manager and Nancy Hall, Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Lewis & Clark NF during the

Forest Plan Revision

SUMMARY FOCUSED ON WILDERNESS

The Bitterroot, Flathead and Lolo National Forests have completed an analysis of public comments received on the proposed land management plans. The forests received nearly 2,000 individual letters from members of the public, interest groups and other government entities. Forest Service staff considered more than 6,000 specific comments that were summarized into over 700 statements of public concern; these are available at www.fs.fed.us/r1/wmpz.

The public comments are being considered by each forest's leadership team and by planning team members. These comments are being used to develop the final plans which should be released in the spring or early summer. Most comments about wilderness were focused on the following broad topic areas:

Access: We received many general comments regarding motorized versus non-motorized access. Other comments were more site specific, mentioning roads or places in the national forest that should be opened or closed to motorized use. We also received comments to allow mountain biking in recommended wilderness.

Roadless Lands: The Bitterroot, Flathead, and Lolo National Forests contain areas that have been classified as inventoried roadless lands. Some people commented that all roadless lands should be designated as recommended wilderness or backcountry. Others commented that some of the roadless lands should be managed for multiple uses including motorized recreation and vegetation management.

Recommended Wilderness: The amount and location of recommended wilderness were of high interest. Many people expressed a desire for more wilderness, while others felt these three forests already have enough land designated as wilderness and want the remaining lands to be more actively managed.

LINCOLN, FROM PAGE 11

again hosted the Youth Forest Monitoring Program (YFMP). Casey & Bevin packed in supplies to Heart Lake for the YFMP crew and Bevin provided Wilderness and LNT education and aided them in monitoring resource impacts. Laura Burns, Fisheries Biologist, directed the crew in monitoring amphibians and fish habitat around Heart Lake. The area is an increasingly popular destination for day use and overnight camping and concerns have increased for the resources and public safety. Several management suggestions have come from this crew and previous year's crews. They range from closing sites, permanently and temporarily for rehabilitation, providing out houses, poles to hang food and limiting use. Currently there is only one development, hitch rails. In July Bevin (pregnant) and Casey decided

to do the Bob Marshall from Spotted Bear to Indian Meadows after the Rendezvous. They made it in about five days during the hottest part of the summer. You just don't understand how amazingly large the complex is until you try to do it full length, and that is just touching the surface.

We are heading into a time of unknowns, budgets and who or how many people we will have on the ground. I believe we will still be able to make a difference it just may be in baby steps instead of our normal stride. We just need to step back and look at what we have accomplished and take a hard look at our list of priorities and chink away at the list. In the words of Roy Rodgers "Happy Trails To You Until We Meet Again"!

"The forests received nearly 2,000 individual letters from members of the public, interest groups and other government entities."

Partners Caught on Tape

FILM HIGHLIGHTS WILDERNESS VALUES

Mike Munoz

District Ranger, Rocky Mountain

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and USDA Forest Service collaborated on a film for the RMEF's Elk Country Journal filmed in 2006 on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The RMEF worked with Barrett Productions, Montana Safaris and the USDA FS to film a trip and hunt in the Scapegoat Wilderness with a significant amount of footage and emphasis placed on the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (BMWC), as well as wilderness values and character related to backcountry big game hunting.

Not only were wilderness values clearly espoused by the RMEF members (clients) and Montana Safaris Outfitters (a licensed outfitter through the State of Montana and an Outfitter/Guide Special Use Permit Holder authorized by the FS), but an opportunity to clearly emphasize wilderness visitors' responsibilities during their backcountry visit was aired by the FS.

The FS was able to deliver key messages related to food storage requirements in bear country, weed seed free feed requirements on

National Forest System (NFS) lands, stay limits for occupancy regulated for the BMWC, and Wildland Fire Use (WFU) events - where lightning caused fires are allowed to play their natural role as nearly as possible in the wilderness environment.

The FS and RMEF, as partners, negotiated some critical aspects to move forward with the Elk Country Journal film in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Commercial filming in the wilderness requires special authorization and is not taken lightly. The agreement to allow filming in the wilderness for this occasion included a significant emphasis on wilderness values and responsibilities displayed in the film, as well as an agreement for future development of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) by the RMEF with direct input from the FS regarding the importance of Wilderness to the American People.

The RMEF and Barrett Productions aired the film on the Elk Country Journal show on the Versus Network (an outdoor channel) in early February 2007. If you're interested in acquiring a DVD or viewing the show, contact the RMEF headquarters in Missoula.

"The agreement to allow filming in the wilderness for this occasion included a significant emphasis on wilderness values and responsibilities displayed in the film."

Fire on the Mountain

Rival Creek and Nanny Creek Fires 2006

Russ Owens

Fire Use Manager, Rocky Mountain

The Rocky Mountain Ranger District selected two lightning ignitions for Wildland Fire Use that developed into significant events during the 2006 season. These fires were named the Rival Fire and the Nanny Fire (later combined for management purposes into the Rival-Nanny Complex). The fires were ignited by a lightning storm that passed over the District in mid-August, but the ignitions were not detected for a number of days. Their location near the Bob Marshall Wilderness Boundary and the proximity of structures and private land to the Wilderness boundary presented fire managers with an array of challenges.

The Rival Fire initially displayed the most activity. Located just two miles southwest of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch, and due west of neighboring ranches, the Rival Fire held the potential to exit the Forest Boundary. As it bumped a Management Action Point, the Lewis and Clark Fire Use Module, District suppression personnel, helicopters with buckets, and air-tankers worked together to check the fire's movement to the north and east, while allowing it to burn unhindered to the south. By the middle of September, when it had ceased to spread, the fire was mapped at 531 acres.

While the Rival Fire grew, its activity was occasionally moderated by a shadow cast from the Nanny Fire's plume, rising over a ridge directly to the West. Where the Rival Fire threatened to move toward the plains, the Nanny Fire held the potential of moving south and threatening the West Fork cabin and administrative site, the Massey Tract of recreation residence cabins, and the Teton Pass Ski Area. Structure protection plans were developed by District personnel in conjunction with County and State officials. County volunteer firemen, along with a fire use module composed of Forest and District employees, planned and positioned hoselays, sprinklers, and pumps around structures and applied fire wrap to selected buildings. As with the Rival Fire, the Nanny Fire crossed Management Action Points. Its growth to the south was aggressively checked, but management actions were not taken to prevent movement to the north, east, or west. The final perimeter for the Nanny fire was mapped at 1903 acres.



The RMRD recently recognized the cooperative efforts of local land-owners and the Choteau Airport in managing the Rival-Nanny WFU Complex. In appreciation of their cooperative efforts, they were given framed aerial photos of the fire complex. In the photo from left to right are: Clay Crawford, Tom Salansky and Harold Yeager (representing the Airport). Clay allowed the District to establish a critical helibase and communication link on his private land for the duration of the event; while Tom provided timely diversion of irrigation water into ponds located on his private land that are well suited as Type I helicopter dip sites; and Harold, once again, helped keep things running smoothly during our extended aircraft use of the Choteau Airport throughout the WFU event.

The Rival-Nanny complex allowed the employees of the Rocky Mountain Ranger District a unique opportunity to manage Wildland Fire Use in a new area. This particular area is characterized by numerous public and private building and improvements, as well as a relatively narrow corridor of National Forest between the Wilderness boundary and the plains. The experience has helped lay groundwork for future Wildland Fire Use in the Teton River, Birch Creek, and Dupuyer Creek areas. In addition, District managers gained valuable experience in working closely with State and County officials and personnel, as well as with members of the public who live, work, and recreate along the Front and the North Fork of the Teton.

FOUNDATION, FROM PAGE 2

Volunteers from the Backcountry Horsemen of the Flathead stepped up and packed for numerous projects this year, including the National Smokejumper Association projects on Dirtyface Creek and Sergeant Creek. Other volunteer packers donated their time and expertise to pack or re-supply many of our other trail and restoration projects. Dick Williams generously lent llama packing support on both of our Continental Divide Trail Alliance projects, Ray Woodside packed for projects on Smoky Creek and Sergeant Creek, Bob PaDelford and Gary Beauchene packed for our Youngs Pass project, and Greg and Deb Schatz showed their support by providing packing support for three of our projects. The Forest Service also lent packing support for several of our restoration projects and for many of the projects on Rocky Mountain Ranger District.

Thank you to all of our 2006 volunteers and partners including Salish-Kootenai College Upward Bound, Big Sky Bible Camp, Schreiner University, Montana Conservation Corps, Wilderness Treatment Center, Explorations, Building Bridges, Montana Academy, Summit Prep School, Hope Ranch, American Hiking Society, Continental Divide Trail Alliance, Wilderness Volunteers, Sierra Club Volunteers, National Smokejumpers Association, Backcountry Horsemen- Flathead Chapter, Montana Wilderness Association, individual volunteers, Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Spotted Bear Ranger District, Lincoln Ranger District, Seeley Lake Ranger District and Hungry Horse Ranger District.

On a final note, I find myself also thinking about the growth and success that the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation has seen in the last five years. The values and experiences I've gained through the challenges and successes of the job, along with all of the great and dedicated people I have met, have made this truly one of the most rewarding and enjoyable jobs I've ever had. I look forward to watching the organization as it continues to grow and develop stronger each year.

I am proud to have been part of an organization that draws volunteers and partnerships together with the common goal of helping to care for this one of a kind resource, and to educate and help people experience the value of wilderness and stewardship in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Thanks to all of you that have made this work possible, and my job so rewarding. Next summer, I look forward to seeing many of you again, this time as a BMWF volunteer.



*Paul Travis,
Former BMWF
Program Director
Thank You, Paul!*

FWP, FROM PAGE 7

In addition, insects, amphibians and water chemistry is documented as well.

The Red Mountain, Mountain Goat population is also doing well. Following the release of 10 goats in 2002 and a later release of 5 more goats, the population is now reproducing on their own. This population was thought to be extinct in 1980.

The Grizzly Bear DNA population estimate and the Trend Monitoring efforts are continuing in the BMWC and the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. According to Rick Mace with FWP, the interagency effort to monitor the grizzly population since 2004 is progressing. The data from the trend monitoring is necessary to determine if the grizzly bear population is increasing or decreasing. In addition, it shows distribution of females with young, mortality and genetic diversity. The monitoring efforts also look at habitat conditions.

According to Kate Kendall of the USGS, as of December 2006, genotyping of all of the hair samples was complete. DNA analysis identified 545 individual grizzly bears, 56% of which were female. A statistically rigorous population estimate for grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem will be developed using the DNA results and statistical models. Submission of a manuscript on grizzly bear population size in the NCDE to a scientific journal is planned for Fall 2007.

Who's Who In The Bob

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

ANSWER ON THE NEXT PAGE



OFFICE, FROM PAGE 10

The contract for construction was awarded to Swank Construction Company on July 7, 2006. Ground was broken in August of 2006. The construction workers have worked through the winter on the building, sometimes shoveling snow off the structure in order to keep working.

The new building will be approximately 14,000 square feet. There will be two larger conference rooms that will be available for public use. A large visitor information and reception area, and an expanded parking lot is part of the design.

The building was designed by Architects Design Group with local personnel's input. District personnel were able to make selections on such things as carpet type and paint colors. The total cost of the building will be 3.3 million dollars.

The estimated completion date is October, 2007. Forest Service employees expect to start the moving process soon after. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation personnel will move at that time as well.

Who's Who

DID YOU KNOW?

Photo: Tim Love, Seeley Lake District Ranger (left) and John Favro, Regional Trails Coordinator (right).



Construction is underway on the new Hungry Horse/Glacier View office.

SNOW RANGERS, FROM PAGE 10

Since avalanche education is a key part of the job for the snow rangers, they have taken and assisted in teaching several avalanche awareness classes, and they have helped with many beacon transceiver trainings. They help the Glacier Country Avalanche Center get its bi-weekly avalanche advisories out to the recreating public by informing uses of what the current avalanche hazard rating.

In the future, the Flathead National Forest hopes to secure this grant again so that we can continue to provide this level of winter season presence. If you would like to write a letter of support for this program, please contact the Hungry Horse/Glacier View Ranger Districts.