

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS COMPLEX NEWSLETTER

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INVITATION!

Annual BMWC Public Meeting

When: Saturday, April 8
2006

Time: 10 am - 3 pm (lunch
available with Lambkins)

Where: Lambkins, Lincoln

Please contact Tim Love
406-677-3905 or
tlove@fs.fed.us for addi-
tional topics/ideas

Spit and Whittle Meeting

When: Wed, March 22
2006

Time: 10 am

Where: Lincoln Ranger
District, Lincoln MT

Please contact Lincoln
Ranger District 406-362-
4265 for more information

Forest Plan Revision Updates

PLANS DUE OUT THIS SPRING

Deb Mucklow

District Ranger Spotted Bear

The Draft, Flathead and Lolo National Forest Plans are due out this spring. At the spring meeting in Lincoln we should be able to answer questions related to the plans. There are also open houses that will be held on both forests. Please check the following website for currently planned locations and dates: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wmpz>.

Outfitter Guide Allocation –

There has been a moratorium on outfitter use since the 1985 forest plan. Also, we have had interim direction for institutional outfitters for about 10 years. This topic only addresses outfitter use on the four forests of the BMWC.

Outfitted use is only one segment of the visitors to the wilderness and it includes commercial and institutional outfitters. Outfitters are a commercial business. Institutional outfitters are usually non-profits, such as boy scout or church groups. All outfitters have to have insurance, have their itineraries approved, and all pay fees. It is not addressing the private party use. It would be common to refer to outfitted publics and non-outfitted publics.

Traditional outfitting uses stock or

hiking, and operates in summer to provide roving trips and in fall to provide hunting trips at base camps. This also includes river outfitting; full service, drop parties and the ability to pick-up parties.

Institutional outfitting allows hiking based activities with no rafting or stock use. It mostly occurs in the summer with some fall use on an occasional basis.

Non-traditional outfitting includes different activities and/or seasons of use than is currently allowed or occurring with traditional outfitting.

In the current forest plan, there is a moratorium on traditional use of 30,000 service days. The 2003 and 2004 BMWC visitor use study estimated outfitted guests were 20 percent of the overall wilderness use. The majority of allowed outfitter use is the fall, and the FS has had many requests to shift days from fall to summer.

The Forest Plan Preferred Option is to allow 24,000 days for traditional use. This would be prorated out to summer and fall, with no additional float use. Institutional outfitting would increase to 2,500 days with the percentage split as displayed (*see chart page 13*).

Bob Marshall Foundation

Volunteer Project Accomplishments 2005

Paul Travis

Bob Marshall Foundation project director

The Bob Marshall Foundation has just finished its 9th successful season of coordinating volunteer projects in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (BMWC). The summer and fall of 2005 will be remembered as a season of near perfect weather, a short fire season, celebrations of the Forest Service Centennial, and a continuing growth towards excellence in our program. Only one project was cancelled due to wildfire near Black Bear Cabin in mid August, and nearly everything else went off without a hitch.

This year, the BMF coordinated 44 volunteer projects throughout the BMWC. From our kickoff project (National Trails Day) at Holland Lake on June 4th to the late September projects at Pentagon Cabin and Moose Ridge, the trails, facilities, and campsites of "the Bob" saw 369 volunteers donate 24,024 hours of work! The work was mostly trail maintenance, but also included several campsite rehabilitation, seed collection, and facility maintenance projects. At estimated entry-level wages, volunteers donated over \$243,000 worth of labor.



The BMF volunteer projects spanned in length from day trips to 21 day expeditions. Volunteers ranged in age from 13 to 80, came from as far as New York City, and ranged in experience from first time wilderness visitors, to well conditioned and knowledgeable "trail dogs". Volunteer groups varied from youth and youth at risk organizations to national volunteer and service groups such as the National Smokejumpers Association and American Hiking Society. Trail maintenance project sites included work on un-maintained day hiking trails, mainline trails deep in the wilderness, and everything in between. Work accomplished for 2005 includes:

- 198 miles of trail brushed
- 3534 downfall tree's cleared from trails
- 735 water bars and drainage maintained
- 139 water bars built
- 15,636 yards of re-tread work
- 414 total trail miles worked

Other accomplishments include three campsite rehabilitation projects on Spotted Bear Ranger District at sites near Shaw Cabin, Schafer Meadows, and Sunburst Lake. The National Smokejumpers Association volunteers tackled several facility maintenance projects with work at Willow Creek Cabin, Indian Meadows, Burnt Cabin in the Monture drainage, and the completely re-roofed Silvertip Cabin and its barn along the Spotted Bear River.

Along with the many volunteers helping out on the projects, we received an enormous amount of help from volunteer packers who packed in food, gear and tools for our backcountry crews. Members of the Flathead Backcountry Horsemen and individual volunteers donated over 440 hours of packing support. This year, for the first time, we worked with the renowned USFS Region One Ninemile Packstring, who packed in our Sierra Club Volunteer project.

When volunteer packers could not be found for a project, the Forest Service came to the rescue and

Seeley Lake Ranger District

2005 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Jim Blackburn

Wilderness Manager Seeley Lake

Trail Maintenance-All of the districts primary and secondary trails were cleared at least once this past season. Snags from the 1988, 2000 and 2001 fires continue to fall. It is not uncommon for the trail crew to cut 50-100 trees out from across a trail, only to have the trail choked with downfall a few weeks later. Our trail crews could not accomplish all of this work without help. We want to extend our thanks to all of you volunteers that contributed your labor last summer! WTR outfitters once again cut out many downed trees across the trails during their travels. Jack Rich and crew cleared Pyramid Pass Trail and came out the Jenney Creek Trail where they met the Missoula Backcountry Horsemen opening the Lodgepole Trail. Keith Guchawsky led the BCH group this year. This is the third year Keith and crew have taken on the task of opening trails in the southern end of the Bob Marshall complex. The group also did an excellent job of retreading the trail at Hahn Pass where a mud slide had washed over sections of the trail.

The Bob Marshall Foundation also was a major contributor in opening and maintaining trails on the Seeley Lake Ranger District this past season. Between the Smoke jumper association and the Wilderness Treatment Center the foundation can be credited for clearing 371 downed trees on 42 miles of trail, the brushed 18 miles, cleaned 87 water bars and reworked 990 yards of trail tread!

Our hats go off to all of these people and the excellent contributions they

made on our trails this past season.

Limits of Acceptable Change

Monitoring- Combining outfitter fee demo dollars and regular wilderness funding enabled us to complete our goal of re-inventorying 100% of wilderness campsites by 2006. 69 wilderness campsites were re-inventoried; 20 sites were rated as minimally impacted; 41 as moderately impacted and 8 as heavily impacted. Trends comparing campsite conditions for various 5 year periods from 1986-2005 are being compiled and should be ready for presentation at the Spring LAC Meeting in Lincoln on April 8th..

The LAC Inventory Crew also took a complete inventory of campsites in Seeley Lake Ranger Districts proposed Bob Marshall Addition. This area adjoins the Scapegoat and Bob Marshall to the South and West. 44 campsites exist in this Geographic Unit. 17 are lightly impacted. 18 moderately impacted and 8 sites rated as highly impacted. This information will aid in developing Opportunity Class designations so the area can be managed to retain its existing wilderness attributes.

The data collected from the 2005 inventory will be used to guide 2006 campsite restoration efforts in both existing and proposed wilderness areas.

Noxious Weed Control-The expanding noxious weed problem continues to be challenging. Wilderness crews spent 1-2 days out of every 9

“Our hats go off to all of these people and the excellent contributions they made on our trails this past season.”

Spotted Bear Happenings

LOOKING BACK AND AHEAD!

Deb Mucklow

District Ranger Spotted Bear

2005 continued the trend – a year of great partnerships, moving forward (slowly) on forest plan revision, changes in our workforce, good things being done to assure a quality wilderness experience and outstanding work on trails and bridges.

Thanks!!!! We had a great 100 year celebration at Spotted Bear on August 6 – over 350 folks joined us – the parade of 3 strings of loaded mules, tours of Meadows Creek Gorge and Bruce Creek hydro operation, using the historic phones, viewing the old office building, touring the ranger station compound, wonderful stories and photos, good food, the ranger story skit, and a large forest fire plume of smoke in the background, and outstanding participation! It was a pleasure for all of us to host such an event – we learned so much from the visitors and those that took time to write and share some of

their memories.

You'll experience some changes as you make contact at Spotted Bear this season – Susan Kemper and Gordon Ash have moved on to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Nate Gassmann has moved to the Custer National Forest. Each one of these folks added something special to our workforce. I am still calling and asking their advice and where to find things – we wish them well on their new adventures and hope they still plan on visiting the Bob Marshall Complex. We are in the hiring process to fill behind folks – stay tuned as we'll be introducing some new faces.

2006 is shaping up to be an action packed season. In addition to normal trail maintenance and opening, we will be having trail construction/reconstruction crews completing

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SPOTTED BEAR, page 5



Gates Parks Pack Bridge

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Rocky Mountain Ranger District on the Lewis and Clark National Forest is currently accepting comments in regards to proposed work on the Gates Park Pack Bridge. This



bridge, across the North fork of the Sun River in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, has been found to have some structural problems and is de-

teriorating. Although annual engineering inspections have determined that the bridge is still safe to cross, it is estimated that it has a life span of approximately 3-5 years remaining. The District is currently in the process of a needs analysis to determine the time of year the bridge is utilized and the amount of use the bridges receives. We are compiling data to determine when fording the river, in the vicinity of the bridge, is a safe alternative.

A scoping letter will be sent out to interested parties around the end of January 2006. The comment period will be open until April 1st, 2006. To receive a scoping letter, or for more information, please contact Ian Bard-

“Although, annual engineering inspections have determined the bridge is still safe to cross it is estimated that it has a life span of approximately 3-5 years remaining.”

SPOTTED BEAR, FROM PAGE 4

work on Trail #143 Limestone Pass accessing the Danaher; Trail # 138 Molly Creek as you travel to White River Pass; Trail #112 in the upper White River, and in the upper portions of Trails # 36 and 457 as you approach Gordon Pass and Pendant Pass. In the Middle Fork there will work on turnpikes on the Continental Divide Trail segments of Trail # 161 and 324. We will also be completing year 5 of this monitoring period for the campsite inventories. We plan on having a presence in the South Fork river corridor.

Thanks in advance to the many partners that will be working with us – the Missoula and Flathead

Back Country Horseman, Bob Marshall Foundation, National Association of Smokejumpers, Montana Conservation Core, Student Conservation Association, Montana Pilots Association, Wilderness Treatment Center, Big Sky Bible Camp, American Hiking Society, Summit Preparatory Scholl, Explorations, building



Monture Guard Station Enters Forest Service Cabin Rental Program

As of January 1, 2006 the historical cabin at Monture Guard Station became one of the most recent additions to the Northern Region Cabin Rental Program. The comfortable, clean and refurbished cabin has room for 8 overnight guests.

Although near the wilderness and 8 miles from the nearest community (Ovando) it's quite a bit more than a person would expect, with all the conveniences of potable water (spigot right off the back porch), propane heat and cooking range, full electric service and a telephone! It is available as a winter rental only from December 20 thru April 1 yearly.

During this first winter trial period the reservations are being handled through the Seeley Lake Ranger District. In the future it will be available for reservation via the National Recreation Reservation Service. The current fee is \$60 per night.

This is a convenient area for snowmobiles, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiers alike. A main winter recreation trail (groomed for snowmobiling) open for both motorized and non-motorized goes right by the gate to the Guard Station.

There is an area closure to the east and north of the Guard Station that is closed to motorized use year-long and provides opportunities for cross-country skiers and snowshoers to find some solitude in the deep snows of the Monture Creek drainage. The



Montana Wilderness Association does provide snowplowing service for the Monture Creek trailhead to allow for parking and easier access to this non-motorized area.

For more information about renting this cabin, give us a call at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station 406-677-2233.

“A main winter recreation trail, groomed for snowmobiling, open for both motorized and non-motorized use, goes right by the gate to the guard station.”



Rocky Mountain Ranger District

VOLUNTEER ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2005

Kraig Lang

Rocky Mountain Ranger District

The Rocky Mountain Ranger District would like to thank the many volunteer organizations, including



American Hiking Society doing re-tread work on the Cave Cr. Trail

tions, including the East Slope Backcountry Horseman, The Bob Marshall Foundation, and the many fine volunteer organizations and groups that they represent, plus all of the individuals that contributed their time, energy, and the love for the great outdoors to another fulfilling and productive year.

As a result of these individuals and organizations, the Rocky Mountain Ranger District was

able to accomplish a wide array of projects that would not have been possible without their effort and support.

Projects ranged from administrative fence and corral repair, trail work including brushing, tree and rock removal, tread repair, water bar and culvert replacement and repair, identifying, mapping, hand pulling and packing out invasive weed species on the Rocky Mountain front and within the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex.

These volunteers also assisted the district with visitor contacts, backcountry snow surveys and a multitude of other tasks that benefited the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, the Lewis and Clark National Forest, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness

Complex.

With over one hundred volunteers on the district in

2005 these are a few of the feats that were accomplished.

- Over 51 miles of trail was spot brushed
- Over 950 trees were cleared from the trails
- Over 117 water bars were cleaned
- 66 water bars were installed
- 5381 yards of tread work was done
- 161 miles of trail was worked.



Youth volunteers from Explorations Clearing the Prairie Cr. trail

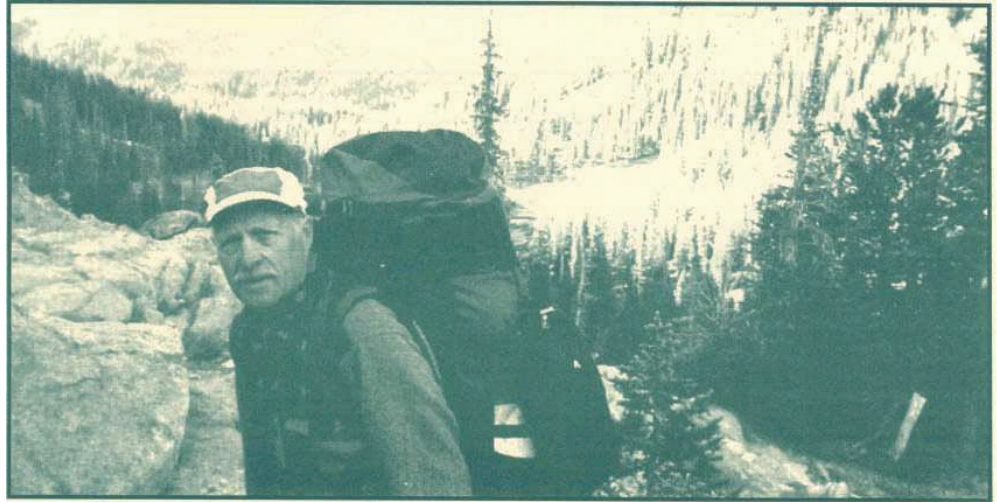
The Rocky Mountain Ranger District would like to send out a great big Thank-you to all groups and individuals that made this last year a success and hope that you will continue to volunteer for a safe and healthy forest.



National Smokejumper association at the West Fork of the Teton cabin

Art Jukkala

TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



Volunteers are crucial to the success of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex—thanks!

The National Smokejumper Association (NSA) trail maintenance program was created and launched by Missoula jumper Art Jukkala in 1999. Art had been retired from the U.S. Forest Service after many years as a leader of the Forest Service's Technology and Development Center in Missoula.

A very experienced woodsman, he recognized that the Forest Service was not maintaining trails as it had in the past. He discovered that only 800 miles in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness, for one, were being maintained compared to nearly 4,000 miles of trails in the 1930s.

Trails are essential to nearly all aspects of national forest management, and the obvious question was, "How can the Forest Service manage the forest and its resources if it cannot enter it to observe what needs to be managed?"

Art decided to do something about it. He recruited 18 veteran jumpers as volunteers. Working with the Bob

Marshall Foundation, whose personnel shared his vision, he obtained funding for food and transportation for two projects. While working as squad leader on one of those projects in the "Bob" he died of a heart attack on July 12, 1999.

The program has grown each year since. In 2000, more than 27 veteran smokejumpers in four states completed 5 projects. In 2001, 43 completed eight more, and in 2002, 79 volunteers completed ten projects in three states.

The 2005 efforts resulted in the clearing of over 175 miles of trails by 126 volunteers in four states who cut hundreds of logs and trees that had been blocking them. They also restored guard stations and over 6,000 feet of fencing. The program's future is exciting as more veteran smokejumpers volunteer and additional for-



Hazard Lake Wildland Fire Use Event

Steve Wirt

Fire Use Specialist

During the late evening of August 22, 2005, a thunderstorm pushed over the Continental Divide onto the Rocky Mountain Ranger District in the vicinity of the Chinese Wall. Observant lookouts on Prairie Reef and Beartop Mountain sighted in their fire-finders as lightning peppered the ridges bordering the South and North Forks of the Sun River.

Within a couple of days, three small fires on the South Fork were analyzed for suitability as Fire Use fires. Influenced by the proximity of the fires to a "fire exclusion zone," district managers arrived at a "no-go" decision for the fires, and they were subsequently extinguished by Missoula Smokejumpers. A fourth fire was also analyzed. Managers deemed this fire, located near diminutive Hazard Lake on the lee side of Scapegoat Mountain, a suitable candidate for Wildland Fire Use.

During the last days of August the Hazard Lake fire progressively grew to over a thousand acres. While the fire did cross over the North Fork of the Sun River, it was well-mannered and did not make a sustained run to the East until structure protection work was completed at nearby Cabin Creek Administrative Site, and the ink was dry on its Stage III Wildland Fire Implementation Plan.

With structures wrapped and plans in place, the fire grew by over 2000 acres on September 7th, burning over Cabin Creek Administrative Site. Smoke precluded an assessment of the burned-over structures until dusk, when the plume above Cabin Creek rolled to the side for a moment. This was

enough time to allow fire managers in a hovering helicopter to peek at the fully intact, foil-clad forms of a standing cabin, barn, and out-house.

With dry windy conditions continuing on September 8th the fire ploughed eastward to within a mile of the Bob Marshall Wilderness boundary. The fire also tried to chug south, but movement on this flank was checked by retardant drops, helicopter buckets, and the work of smokejumpers on the ground. These management actions were taken because of cabins located immediately outside the Wilderness boundary, to the south of the fire, and due to the presence of a "fire exclusion" zone also located in the same direction.

Although the fire continued to burn through the fall, its perimeter remained virtually unchanged



After Aderhold

ERIC NEWHOUSE

Tribune Projects Editor

Trappers, Hunters, please leave animal parts outside," says the sign on Mike Aderhold's office door.

Aderhold has a challenging job. For the past 15 years, he has supervised the Great Falls office of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

At the end of this week, Aderhold will retire, leaving a legacy of respect and trust.

"Mike is a guy with a lot of integrity," said Gloria Flora, former supervisor of the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

"He took pains to stay balanced and to find defensible and honest positions," she said.

Others remember Aderhold as a remarkable people person.

"Mike was always a joy to be around," said former FWP Commissioner Stan Meyer.

"He never took himself seriously, but he always took the landowners and the sportsmen very seriously," Meyer said.

Career changes

Aderhold joined FWP in 1973 as a biologist/public information officer in Glasgow.

"I was at the tail end of a simple mandate, which was that Montana wanted more big game and native fish," he remembered.

He was based in the Flathead Valley through the 1980s, taking over the Great Falls office near the end of 1990.

"Mike's first priority is protecting the resource, but he doesn't hesitate to fold in people's needs and comments," said Graham Taylor, who has been the regions wildlife manager through Aderhold's tenure.

"He's the consummate people person," said Taylor.

Access was the issue of his administration, Aderhold said last week.

"We added 26 fishing access sites, expanded eight wildlife access sites and increased the Ulm Pishkun from 190 acres to 1,400," Aderhold said.

With both hunting passions and big-game prices

high, Aderhold found a number of thorny issues.

"It shouldn't surprise anyone that people would lean toward leasing or fee hunting to supplement declining income from their ranches," he said.

"And that only increased pressure on public lands," said Aderhold, noting that 75 percent of the land in Region Four is private.

With the decade of drought, water issuers were almost as contentious.

"Half our prairie streams aren't flowing now, and one-third of our fish ponds can't support fish yet," he said.

The number of fishermen peaked about 1995, and there's been a slight decline in the number of hunters in the past few years, Aderhold said.

"But outdoor recreationist figures are going up," he said. "Montana has the highest per capita number of people going out to view wildlife."

So his job keeps growing.

In 1973, FWP had a \$7.3 million budget with less than \$1 million for capital expenditures and equipment.

Today, that budget is about \$63 million, with about \$15 million for capital expenditures, said Aderhold.

Taylor appreciates the demands on his boss.

"His plate is full and then some," said Taylor. "He's not adverse to getting involved in any issue, but he sometimes spreads himself too thin."



Scapegoat Adventures

ANOTHER YEAR IN THE WILDERNESS

Bevin Feutrier

Wilderness Ranger, Lincoln RD

We were off to an early start this year as we welcomed the crew back for another season of adventure and hard work in the Scapegoat Wilderness. As usual, the crew faced heavy blow down from the 1988 Canyon Creek Fire and cleared over 2000 trees, opening ninety five percent of our system trails.

This year trail #480, Meadow Lake Cut Off, was opened. The trail averaged 370 down trees/mile and had been blown in for 5 years. This opening alleviated pressure on a user created trail and the resource damages associated with its use.



We also want to let visitors know that we completed a series of switchbacks on the Continental Divide Trail #440 on the west side of Valley of the Moon near Caribou Peak. It was a great hitch for all of us involved as it reminded us, once

again, of the beauty of the CDT. With views of the Bob to the North and the Rocky Mountain Front to the East, we were humbled by the vastness of our wilderness complex and by how lucky we are to manage a part of it. Additional trail construction work in 2005 included building two puncheons on the Mainline trail #481, alleviating trail growth around mud holes.

Lincoln was happy to host several volunteer groups this year and we are grateful for their hard work and contributions. We thank all of you: the Bob Marshall Foundation, Retired Smokejumpers, Back Country Horseman and the Youth Forest Monitoring Group of the Montana Discovery Foundation. Also, a special thanks to one of our outfitters of K Lazy 3 for outstanding efforts in wilderness education and for getting visitors out on the trail, swinging tools. Thank you all!

In regards to our LAC monitoring, we continued in 2005 to collect both campsite and trail encounter data. We remain ahead of schedule to complete the 5 year monitoring cycle by fall of 2006. In addition to field monitoring, we also finished updating all of Lincoln's trail encounter reports, past and present, into the LAC database. We are currently analyzing and evaluating trends.

Lincoln was happy to host FWP personnel during the summer while they conducted two unique studies, one focusing on the Grizzly Bear DNA project and the other on fisheries and aquatic species in wilderness lakes.

“With Views of the Bob to the North and the Rocky Mountain Front to the East, we were humbled by the vastness of our wilderness complex and how lucky we are to manage a part of it.”

Goodbye Gordon and Mike!

Gene Persha

Two very fine individuals, that affected the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, moved on from their former jobs at the end of last year. Gordon Ash, former long time BMW backcountry ranger and staff member on the Spotted Bear Ranger District transferred to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Dillon. Mike Aderhold, long time Regional Director in Great Falls for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, retired at the end of December from his post. Both of these men contributed a lot to the BMWC with their knowledge, support and just plain good personal interactions with many of us for so many years.

I met Gordon Ash, fittingly on the trail, years ago after I hiked up from Holland Lake breathing hard from my 2000 ft. ascent. I remember asking him questions about the area and where I was going. I listened. Years later I said, "When Gordon speaks, I listen. When he gives advice, I take it." Over the years I learned a lot from him and always admired his

knowledge and "feel" for the Bob. I consider him a prototypical ranger!

Similarly, Mike Aderhold, who worked for the state of Montana, also left his mark in the BMWC for the time and representation he gave to the wilderness on behalf of Montana. Mike was as involved in Bob Marshall Wilderness matters as anyone in the Montana Department of FWP. He cared about the wilderness and made it a priority in his work.

One of Mike's great qualities was that he always made time for you: he would listen and converse with anyone who cared. His demeanor is emblematic on how public relations should be done. Hopefully Mike, now as a private citizen, will continue to advocate and participate in all that affects the BMWC.

To both of these men, thanks for a job well done and more importantly, thanks for being who you are. You have given the best you had. We, the users of the BMWC, are the beneficiaries of your work! Let our trails cross again

*"To both of these men,
thanks for a job well
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SCAPEGOAT, FROM PAGE 11

Early in August there was great enthusiasm when the FWP crew finally collared a female grizzly in an area identified as active habitat by last years hair sampling sites. The collared female will augment information about individual bears in a larger population study of Grizzlies in the BMW complex. We will also benefit from a fisheries crew who focused on the Scapegoat creating baseline data on fish and aquatic species in many of our wilderness lakes. Scientist looked at species diversity, habitat, water chemistry and more. We look forward, along with wilderness anglers, to

their results.

We would like to thank the members of our trails program in Lincoln. We have worked together for three consecutive seasons displaying great skill in everything from sawing trees



FOREST PLAN, FROM PAGE 1

There is a new category of non-traditional outfitting for 3,500 service days. This category includes activities such as winter dogsled use, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and educational based activities. Non-traditional outfitting could occur with day or overnight use through-out the year. Additionally, the BMWC managers would lift the current cap on the number of outfitters. If current outfitters could provide for the non-traditional service they would also be considered for days in this category.

In the preferred option, some traditional fall use could shift to summer if resource conditions allow and some

fall use could go to winter.

In non-traditional use, Schafer Meadows Airstrip landings that are outfitter livery service have been occurring but have not been under permit or part of overall service day cap. This use would be in addition to the non-traditional use proposed. In the plan this would be tracked by number of landings, not the number of service days.

LAC monitoring standards address the number of overall landings. There has been an increase in the number of flights per group ob-

“The 2003 and 2004 BMWC visitor use study estimated outfitted guest were 20% of the overall wilderness use.”

Preferred Option of Outfitter and Guide Allocation

Traditional	Institutional	Non-traditional	Total Service days available
24,000	2,500	3,500	30,000
South Fork – 48%	Spotted Bear(3) – 21%	To be determined	
Spotted Bear River – 1%	Hungry Horse – 11%		
Middle Fork, SB – 8%	Rocky Mt – 39%		
Middle Fork, HH – 4%	Lincoln – 19%		
Rocky Mt – 28%	Seeley Lake – 10%		
Lincoln – 6%			
Seeley Lake – 5%			
100% use	100% use		



Volunteers

Milo & Roy's Big Adventure



Tad Wehunt

Wilderness Ranger, Spotted Bear Ranger District

This past summer, we had the privilege of having two volunteers from a Denver historical group come up to take a look at our historic phone system running along the South Fork of the Flathead River in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Roy Lynn and Milo Masura have put together a wonderful journal documenting their adventure. It is a worthy and entertaining read. Below is an excerpt from their story. I encourage you to read the entire piece which can be found at www.telcomhistory.org. Click on the volunteers section at the top of the web page they will tell you their story.

Only a portion of the historical phone line remains along the trails in the South Fork today. Most of the original line was hung in early 1910. We currently maintain approximately 45 miles of phone line stretching from Black Bear cabin to Danaher Cabin. Remnants of the line can still be found along other trails and on peaks where lookouts were once

Being a Diary of a Journey into the Wilderness to Repair Phones from Another Time

By Milo Masura & Roy Lynn, Intro by Herb Hackenberg

Mary Riffle answered the phone. She yelled across the walkway (I'm a bit hard of hearing), "Herb, it's for you."

Thus, an unusual adventure for the Telecommunications History Group began.

A Wilderness Ranger from the USDA Forest Service in Hungry Horse, Montana, was on the line. "I found your web site on the Internet and I'm hoping you will be able to help me."

He went on to explain that the Forest Service had an operational magneto telephone line in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area of the Flathead National Forest. While the 75- to 100-year-old phones worked, transmission quality was poor. He added that Forest Service employees maintained the corrugated iron wire line that connected the phones, but there was no one who knew how to repair the phones themselves. Could THG furnish a couple of volunteers to repair the old phones, so the network would be in top working condition in time for the Forest Service to celebrate its 100th birthday?

The phone line was "grandfathered" into place, but couldn't be modernized. Also, there is no electrical grid in this part of the country. The single-wire, ground-loop technology, the dry cell battery and the hand cranked magneto electrical power is the same as Alexander Graham Bell used in the 19th century.

Being a Diary of a Journey into the Wilderness to Repair Phones from Another Time

Day Four

Black Bear, Day Four, Sunday, 7-24-05

By Milo Masura & Roy Lynn

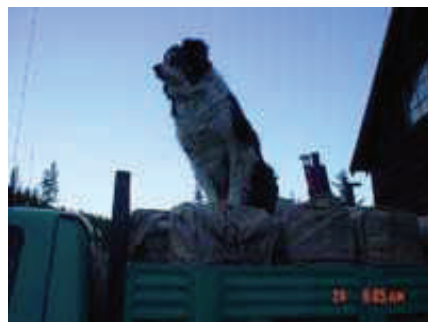
The early morning sun was still behind the mountains when we arrived at the stables. The whole pack-

ing crew worked to get saddled up. We loosely saddled Jasper and Spencer, and the packers loaded them along with the mules on a large truck to be transported to the trail head about 12 miles away. At the trail head we met the volunteer trailhead host. He was a fantastically interesting character who had provided this service for the last six years. He had coffee and brownies just in case we needed some nourishment. The horses and the mules were unloaded and then the mules had their packs tied on and secured. We secured our saddles and off we went.

About a quarter mile in we crossed a massively deep chasm on a wooden bridge. That was our first wake-up call. Bill Workman was our wrangler (assisted by his dog) on this first day in the "BOB," short for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. Gail did not go along on this trip. Roy led the train, followed by Milo, then Bill leading nine mules. Bill's dog was having the time of her life running ahead, checking things out and running back to see if we were still there. The trail was one horse wide and many times on the face of a cliff. It was very important to keep the string of mules moving to prevent a "mule wreck," a new term for us semi-flatlanders. It is caused when you stop and mule # 7 wants to converse with mule # 3, which offends mule # 4 who kicks mule # 5, then mule # 8 kicks mule # 9 down the hillside out of spite. It is a deadly serious situation and at times a mule or two is killed. The wrangler does not tie the mule

just the just in wreck He pulled

Pass-string



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Fire Update From the Flathead

Steve Wirt, *Fire Use Specialist Spotted Bear Ranger District*

An update on fire terminology may be in order for this newsletter. Since the fires we manage are rather dynamic, so is the language we use to manage them. A fire is a fire, is a fire is not exactly true, at least not today. When there is fire on the landscape it falls into one of three categories.

A **wildland fire** is recognized as either as a **wildfire, prescribed fire or a wildland fire use** fire. Only two of these three types of fires are managed for the benefit of the resource. A **wildfire** is an unplanned fire on the landscape and does not have specific management objectives associated with it. A **prescribed fire** is a management ignited fire with goals of accomplishing specific resource objectives such as reducing fuel loading or restoring historic fire regimes. When you hear managers refer to a fire as **wildland fire use** fire they are speaking of a fire started by lightning, that where and when appropriate, will be allowed to burn. Fires caused by lightning storms will either be managed as a wildfire or wildland fire use fire contingent on a variety of set criteria and situations observed in the field such as fire behavior and location. A wildland fire use event is managed for its benefits only in predetermined areas such as wilderness. Our Land Resource and Fire Management Plans provide specific direction on how we manage these events.

In 2005 we had seven fires in the BMW on the Flathead NF. Two of these fires were managed as wildland fire use fires. The remaining five fires were managed as wildfires and were suppressed and or closely monitored. The largest of these events was the Kelly Point Fire (3875 acres). The Kelly Point Fire was human caused and thus was placed into suppression status. Active suppression occurred on only the west side of the fire nearest the South Fork of the Flathead River because there were natural barriers on the other three sides. This specific strategy was chosen so as to minimize the threat to Black bear cabin and to prevent fire from advancing any farther beyond existing natural barriers in the Hodag Creek drainage.

Our fire managers felt strongly that this was the appropriate management response to this event. Any other response



FOUNDATION, FROM PAGE 2

graciously lent packing support to transport food and gear into the backcountry for crews.

It was another great year of work in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex! Thanks to all of our partners, individual volunteers, and wilderness managers, and we look forward to another great year in 2006! Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Spotted Bear Ranger District, Lincoln Ranger District, Hungry Horse Ranger District, Swan Lake Ranger District, Seeley Lake Ranger District, Nine-mile Packstring, Recreational Trails Program, National Smokejumpers Association, Continental Divide Trail Alliance, Backcountry Horsemen-Flathead Chapter, Wilderness Volunteers, Sierra Club, American Hiking Society, Individual Volunteers, Wilderness Treatment Center, Montana Academy, Explorations, Salish-Kootenai College UB/GU, Big Sky Bible Camp, Summit Prep School, Boy Scouts of America, Building Bridges, and Montana Conservation Corps. Thank-you!!

SEELEY, FROM PAGE 3

day hitch, pulling, chemically treating or inventoring noxious weeds. Yellow Toadflax and Canada Thistle are the most problematic as both plants are rhizomatous and are more difficult to kill than knapweed. Both plants like wet areas where chemical control is difficult.

Yellow or common Toadflax is not as common in the valley bottoms surrounding the Bob Marshall Complex as its cousin Dalmation Toadflax. This species has only recently been included on Montana's Noxious Weed List. It is becoming a weed of great concern in the Ovando area and is spreading into the Bob Marshall Complex from the south.

All wilderness users should become familiar with identifying Yellow or Common Toadflax and with reporting any plants discovered to the nearest forest service headquarters. GPS locations are invaluable in locating these weed infestations.

MIKE, from page 10

Personally, Aderhold believes his greatest weakness may be that he refuses to micro-manage.

"There's been a time or two when we acted late because I stood back longer than I should have," he said.

Stamping out fires

While Aderhold tried to stay ahead of the long-term trends, he frequently found himself in the midst of more local controversies.

"My biggest problems grew out of small things," he said.

One was a controversy three years ago pitting wilderness advocates against the Montana Pilots Association, which was lobbying to open up back-country landing strips.

Most controversial was an abandoned strip on the Ming Bar, which is part of the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area near Holter Lake.

"We've not always agreed with him on everything, but he's been thoughtful in terms of decisions, and he's been willing to listen to people and to look at the science," said Mark Good of the Montana Wilderness Association.

Ultimately, Aderhold got memos from his wildlife staff urging him to keep planes out of the area — and he did.

"We had an elk management plan in the Sweetgrass Hills that took an inordinate amount of my time," he said, "and we had angry confrontations between jet skiers and fly fishers."

But those controversies are actually where Aderhold was most effective, said Meyer.

"Mike goes into meetings where people are angry and need help communicating," he said. "And that's where he's at his best."

Aderhold mended fences with the Russell Back Country Sportsmen, said its president, John Borgreen.

"Mike was tremendous to work with," he said. "We didn't agree with him all the time, but he had an open door and you could sit down and talk with him.

"He opened the door so we could talk directly to the biologists and wardens, and that improved our image of the department a lot," said Borgreen.

One of Aderhold's hallmarks was that he refused to be stampeded into a position he didn't believe in, Flora said.

"He was an easy guy to work with, and you could always believe him," she said.

"But I never saw anyone successful in campaigning Mike to a particular point of view," Flora added.

Rocky Mountain Front

Earlier this year, Aderhold decided it was important to take a stand on the motorized travel plan involving the Rocky Mountain Front.

He strongly urged preserving the area for wildlife in a position paper that was summarized as a guest column in the Tribune's Outdoors section Oct. 6.

"He did that at some pain to himself," Meyer said. "He's a public employee, and some people felt that he shouldn't have done that."

His stand generated a lot of comment, Aderhold conceded.

"I got about 50 comments, including four or five who were strongly opposed to it," he said.

Still, his statement carried a lot of weight.

"Mike has built up a reputation of being a reasonable, thoughtful person who isn't an ideologue or one who bends to the political winds of the time," Flora said.

"Once a person establishes his leadership, he can take a stand that isn't mainstream or safe," she said.

"And his stand was remarkable because it was very well researched, very well presented," Flora said. "It had the potential to be contentious, but it didn't turn out that way."

Aderhold's future

In addition to his love of biology, Aderhold is fascinated by Montana history. He plans a lot of reading and research over the next few years.





Common Toadflax

Linaria vulgaris

Provincial Designation: Noxious

Description:

A perennial plant that makes seed, but reproduction is primarily by sprouting from its extensive, creeping root system (rhizomes). Toadflax prefers sandy-gravelly soils, but is adapted to a wide range of growing conditions. Despite its prolific seed production (5000 seeds/stem) and long viability (up to 10 years), germination rates are often very low – although 2-3 week old seedlings can produce creeping roots. Easily confused with Leafy spurge before flowering, toadflax stems do not contain the milky latex that spurge does. Also known as Yellow toadflax, Butter-and-Eggs.

Stems are erect, hairless, generally un-branched and grow to 1 m tall. Mature plants may have 1 to 25 stems.

Leaves are soft, lance-shaped, pale green, and very numerous. Leaves are mainly alternate but may appear opposite on the lower stem due to crowding. Leaves can be up to 10 cm long and are attached directly to the stem.

Flowers are bright yellow and arranged alternately in dense spikes at the ends of stems. The snapdragon-like flowers can have orange colouring on the throat and have a long spur extending from the base that is usually as long as the flower itself – in all, 2 to 3.5 cm long.



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Control

Brought from Europe over 100 years ago as an ornamental plant, Common toadflax has escaped and established itself all over North America. Spurred snapdragon, another common name for this plant, often appears in wildflower seed mixes, and should be avoided. Once present, it establishes dense patches that are extremely difficult to control, let alone eradicate. The flowers are identical to Dalmatian toadflax, but leaf shape differs between the two plants.

Pasture invasions flourish because the plant is not palatable to livestock, thereby reducing forage in the long-term.

To kill Common toadflax you must kill the roots. Thorough hand-pulling can be effective in soft soils where the roots can be removed easily. Repetition is required to deplete the seed bank and all root pieces. Cultivation must be frequent – but if a root fragment is carried elsewhere, it creates a new infestation, therefore not the best control option.

Some herbicides have been helpful in managing this invasive plant, primarily glyphosate, a non-selective herbicide, but this is not an option in natural areas.

Several biological control agents have been imported to attack Common toadflax. So far, climatic factors have limited successful establishment to a few locations in Alberta.

Awareness and prevention are the only truly effective strategies to manage Common toadflax.

