

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION



Volunteer Guide

Spring 2018



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Volunteering with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation is so much more than the simple act of swinging a pulaski. Individuals have different reason for volunteering, from “giving back to the Bob,” to experiencing complete Wilderness immersion, to sharing comradery with fellow Wilderness lovers.

There is an amazing phenomenon that happens on BMWF trips - eight strangers meet a BMWF crew leader at a wilderness trailhead, hike to a backcountry camp, sweat together, break bread together, and become a trail building/weed whacking force. If you've never been on a BMWF volunteer project and are wondering what all this awe is about, you can see on the next page what past BMWF volunteers have to say.

Also this year, we are recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Passed in 1968, this important legislation preserves rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Although not designated until years after the Act was passed, the Middle Fork of the Flathead River was a catalyst its creation. In the '50s, the dam that would create Hungry Horse Reservoir was under construction and enterprising engineers proposed a tunnel that would divert the waters of the Middle Fork under the mountains and into the South Fork in order to boost power production at the Hungry Horse Dam. A group of concerned citizens lead by the Craighead brothers voiced their concerns and squashed the effort. To hear more about the history of the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork, watch the video recorded at BMWF's Wilderness Speaker Series at www.bmwf.org/WSS.

The same year, the National Scenic Trails Act was enacted. President Johnson's comment as he signed the Act was: “The forgotten outdoorsmen of today are those who like to walk, hike, ride horseback, or bicycle. For them we must have trails as well as highways. . . Old and young alike can participate. Our doctors recommend and encourage such activity for fitness and fun.” Fifty years later, the medical profession is encouraging this more strongly than ever.

So in 2018, “Make a Splash” and find a trail clearing or weed removal project that fits your schedule. Over 20 projects are described in the next five pages on trails that lead to wild and scenic places and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Happy Trails!

Carl Treadwell















SIGN UP TODAY








- 1) Go to <http://www.bmwf.org/volunteer2018/>
- 2) Pick a trip that fits your schedule and abilities
- 3) Fill out the online registration
- 4) Pay a refundable deposit to hold your spot
- 5) Show up ready to work, explore, and have fun!








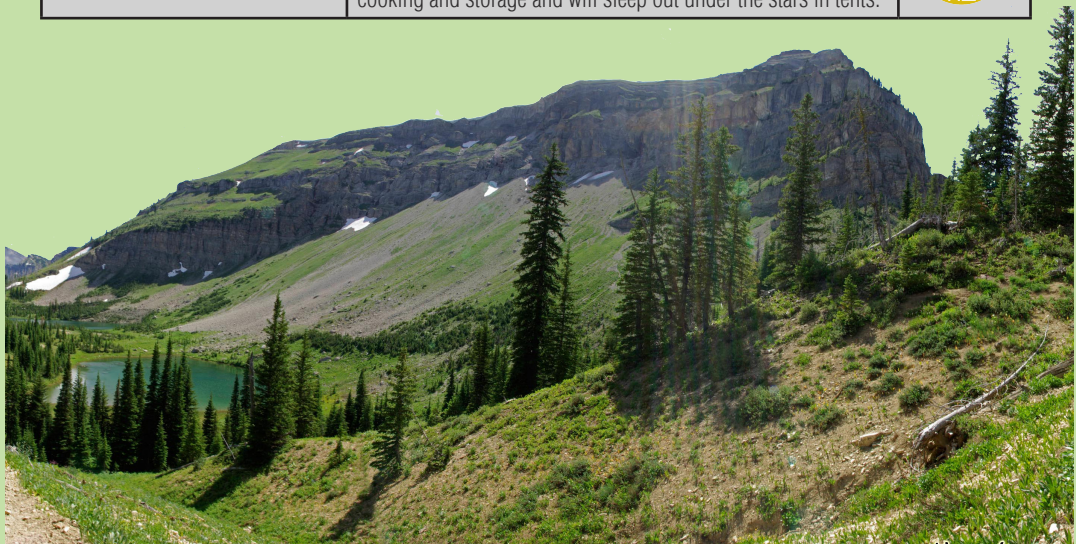
WILDERNESS







2018 VOLUNTEER ADVENTURES

<p>BMW F #1 National Trails Day June 2nd Lincoln Ranger District Indian Meadows Trailhead</p>	<p>Join BMWF for a celebration of our country's trails and work on popular trails leaving from the Indian Meadows trailhead located near Lincoln, MT. Bring the whole family, there will be something for everyone. Volunteers may be using pulaski's for tread work, loppers for brushing the trail corridor, or cross-cut saws to cut fallen trees. After a day of work, we'll treat you to a tailgate BBQ at the Indian Meadows Cabin from 4-6 pm. Registration is required.</p>	 
<p>BMW F #2 Deep Creek June 12-16 Rocky Mountain Front Blacktail Gulch Trailhead</p>	<p>Join all four BMWF Crew Leaders as they team up to lead the first backcountry project of 2018. This section of Deep Creek Trail #128 is in an area added to the Wilderness by passage of the Rocky Mountain Heritage Act in 2014. It is in one of the few areas not burned by wildfire in the past 20 years, so the vegetation along the trail needs some trimming! Work will focus on cutting brush from the trail corridor and improving tread.</p>	 
<p>BMW F #3 Sun River June 22-27 Rocky Mountain Front Mortimer Trailhead</p>	<p>Join us for some trail maintenance along the scenic Sun River. Volunteers will be camping near the river and working on retreading the trail between Windfall Creek and the north end of Pretty Prairie on trail #202. Portions of this trail get a bit skinny as they meander along the hillsides. Pulaskis, pick mattocks, and shovels will be used to widen these sections. Three days of work are scheduled with a day off in the middle. Be sure to get your fishing license for this trip. The trout will be hungry.</p>	 
<p>WEEDS #1 Webb Lake June 22-25 Scapegoat Wilderness Indian Meadows Trailhead</p>	<p>Help keep the Wilderness wild, make an impact, and enjoy along weekend in the Bob! Volunteers will be providing stewardship of the land by spraying and deadheading Oxeye Daisy near Webb Lake Cabin. Volunteers will use the cabin for cooking and storage, but camp out under the stars. This trip is limited to four volunteers!</p>	 
<p>BMW F #4 Meadow Lake June 22-28 Scapegoat Wilderness Indian Meadows Trailhead</p>	<p>Come and explore the Scapegoat Wilderness this summer! Volunteers will be camping at Meadow Lake and working on a trio of nearby trails, using hand saws and crosscut saws to clear downed trees and loppers to open the trail corridor. Enjoy a day off midweek to climb nearby Bugle Mountain or just relax by the creek.</p>	 
<p>BMW F #5 Skiuma June 23-June 24 Great Bear Wilderness Skiuma Trailhead</p>	<p>Calling all weekend warriors! The Great Bear panhandle trails make great day hikes, but they can also be a jungle. Volunteers will help wack back the brush that has grown into the Skiumah Lake trail. Once the trail is brushed out, there may also be some tread work needed. Volunteers will meet at the Hungry Horse Ranger Station on Saturday morning. Work days will be Saturday and Sunday, camping Saturday night.</p>	 

<p>BMWFW #6 Dry Fork June 30-July 4 Bob Marshall Wilderness North Fork Blackfoot TH</p>	<p>After a long winter and wet spring, the high-water bypass above Mainline #31 is in disrepair and in need of some hearty volunteers to improve the trail bed! You'll be surrounded by the tranquility and beauty of the Scapegoat Wilderness. Camp under the stars, share meals with like-minded public landowners, and cast a line into the waters of the nearby Blackfoot River.</p>	
<p>WEEDS #2 Danaher July 1-8 Bob Marshall Wilderness North Fork Blackfoot TH</p>	<p>If you are looking for a true Wilderness experience, this is it! The Danaher Valley is known for its expansive grassy meadows with sweeping views of the surrounding mountains. Getting there is not for the faint of heart, however. The 20-mile hike will be broken into two days. Volunteers will camp near the Danaher cabin. Your help is needed to keep the meadows pristine and untrammled.</p>	
<p>BMWFW #7 HQ Pass/Our Lake July 2-3 Rocky Mountain Front South Fork Teton Trailhead</p>	<p>Celebrate America's public lands heritage by starting your Fourth of the July holiday early. This two-day project will improve trail tread and clean and replace water bars on the Headquarters Pass and Our Lake trails. Volunteers will use pulaskis and saws and enjoy towering cliffs, waterfalls, and possible visits from mountain goats, marmots, or squeak of a pika. Volunteers will be camping at Mill Falls campground Monday night and head back to town Tuesday evening after a day of work. Be sure to stick around Choteau to celebrate Independence Day with a parade and rodeo!</p>	
<p>BMWFW #8 Hobnail Tom July 6-10 Bob Marshall Wilderness North Fork Blackfoot TH</p>	<p>Named for in honor of a long-time guide who was instrumental in the preservation of the Scapegoat Wilderness, Hobnob Tom Trail needs some tread maintenance. You'll be using pulaskis and picks to smooth the trail and improve the footing for two and four-legged users just south of "Smokes Bridge." Bring your fishing pole and enjoy the sights and sounds of the crystal clear Blackfoot River near basecamp.</p>	
<p>WEEDS #3 Castle Lake/Granite Cabin July 14-18 Great Bear Wilderness Granite Creek Trailhead</p>	<p>Granite Cabin, on the Middle Fork of the Wild and Scenic Flathead River, is a popular destination for river runners and fishermen. The spectacular scenery of the river valley and cirque basin around Castle Lake will make the workday pass by. Volunteers will spray Toadflax that has taken over the shores of this Wilderness lake. Other work includes pulling and mapping weed infestations along the trail. This year, 2018, is the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Celebrate by making a splash! Be sure to bring your fishing pole and license!</p>	
<p>BMWFW #12 Gunsight Lake July 21-27 Bob Marshall Wilderness Big Bill Trailhead</p>	<p>Sitting in the cradle of subalpine meadows and in the shadow of Whitcomb Peak, Gunsight Lake will be base camp for six nights. The 1,400' hike up and over a pass provides wide open scenic vistas and views of spectacular peaks and craggy rock formations. The trails around the lake are used frequently by packers, hikers, elk, and deer. Because of the high in the alpine location, these trails take a beating. Your help is needed to clear brush and trees and re-establish the trail bed. Enjoy a day off mid week to bag some nearby peaks!</p>	
<p>WEEDS #4 North Fork Cabin July 24-28 Spotted Bear Ranger District Big Bill Trailhead</p>	<p>Help make this popular route into the Wilderness even more beautiful by spraying and hand pulling ugly noxious weeds. Volunteers will pull and bag knapweed before it flowers and goes to seed. Cheatgrass, Toadflax and Houndstongue are also invading and will be treated and mapped using GPS. The North Fork Cabin makes a shady base camp and a day off will give you a chance to hike to the scenic North Fork Waterfalls or fish in the Blackfoot River.</p>	

<p>BMWF #13 West Fork Bridge July 28-July 31 Rocky Mountain Front Benchmark Trailhead</p>	<p>The pack bridge that spans Sun River is an impressive piece of engineering. Because it was constructed inside the Wilderness boundary, modern machinery was not used to build it and all the materials were packed in by horse and mule. Volunteers will do some maintenance to keep the bridge in tip top shape and keep it from falling into the river! Work includes maintaining the retaining wall at the bridge abutment.</p>	
<p>WEEDS #5 Winter Ridge August 4-11 Bob Marshall Wilderness West Fork Teton</p>	<p>The two day hike to (and from) base camp through the Bob and Great Bear Wilderness makes this trip a favorite for long distance backpackers hoping to get to the middle of scenic wilderness and immersed in the solitude. Volunteers will attack a knapweed patch that sits high on a ridge at the headwaters of the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Flathead River. These invasives need to be sprayed before they take over and spread down river. Volunteers will be working on a steep slope off trail. Strong calves and sturdy boots are a must.</p>	
<p>BMWF #16 Gordon Pass August 18-24 Bob Marshall Wilderness Owl Creek Trailhead</p>	<p>Live and work in the high alpine of the Swan Range. Volunteers will hike up and over Gordon Pass via Holland Lake. Camp will be on the east side of the pass, just a mile or two from the switchbacks. This trail gets a lot of use from stock and backpackers, and the switchback section is in need of some TLC to make them safer. Pulaskis, pick mattocks, and the occasional rock bar will be the main tools used to accomplish this work.</p>	
<p>WEEDS #6 Pretty Prairie August 19-23 Rocky Mountain Front Benchmark Trailhead</p>	<p>Help keep Pretty Prairie pretty, wild, and natural while camping for a week in one of the prettiest places in The Bob. Your good fight against ugly weeds will be rewarded with great fishing and camping around Pretty Prairie Cabin. You will work to reduce dispersed patches of invasive species within a few miles of the Pretty Prairie backcountry cabin.</p>	
<p>BMWF #17 Cabin Creek August 23-28 Rocky Mountain Front Mortimer Gulch Trailhead</p>	<p>Construction project! Volunteers will build a turnpike just 1/4 mile from the Cabin Creek Forest Service Cabin. Turnpikes elevate the trail over wet ground in hopes to keep your boots dry as you hike through a boggy spot. The work done here will help hikers and pack animals keep their feet dry and give them sound footing for years to come. The group will be using the cabin for cooking and storage and will sleep out under the stars in tents.</p>	



<p>BMWF #18 Big Prairie August 25- Sept 2 Bob Marshall Wilderness Owl Creek Trailhead</p>	<p>Lying at the foot of the Flathead Alps in the heart of The Bob, Big Prairie is an iconic wilderness destination with crystal clear night skies and some of the best fishing in the lower 48. Spend 9 days immersed in Wilderness while clearing summit trails to Butcher Mountain and Tilson Peak. Be prepared for long approach hikes, days filled with sawing using a crosscut, and rewarding scenery and experiences! A day off in the middle of the week will allow you to put your feet up at the historic Big Prairie Wilderness Ranger Station</p>	
<p>WEEDS #7 Lower South Fork August 30-Sept 2 Bob Marshall Wilderness Cedar Flats Put-in</p>	<p>Help make a splash for the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers act by spending three nights camping and 2.5 days floating while combating weeds on the banks and gravel bars of the South Fork. The designated river supports an acclaimed, all native fishery enjoyed by the public and is economically important to the local outfitting industry. You'll be helping to make sure this special place stays wild!</p>	
<p>BMWF #19 Blackfoot Divide August 31- Sept 5 Bob Marshall Wilderness Pyramid Pass Trailhead</p>	<p>Looking to get some time in on the cross-cut saw? This is your trip! The group will be camping high on a ridge at Pyramid Lake, on the border of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Volunteers will be put to work to keep Trail #278 from disappearing. Saw, saw, saw; clear, clear, clear. Enjoy fishing, huckleberry bushes, amazing wildflower slopes and opportunity to scramble up Pyramid Peak and gaze into the vastness of the 1.5 million-acre Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.</p>	
<p>BMWF #20 Dr. Lake/Koessler Lake September 1-7 Bob Marshall Wilderness Owl Creek Trailhead</p>	<p>All good things are worth some effort. The same goes for the hike into base camp for this project. The grunt begins at Owl Creek trailhead and hikes up, up and over Gordon Pass, on the Swan Crest. After the pass, it's downhill to basecamp near Doctor Creek This remote trail needs some helping hands to clear and brush the encroaching shrubs and fallen trees from the trail corridor. The views are worth it!</p>	
<p>BMWF #21 Wrong Creek Cabin September 4-9 Rocky Mountain Front Middle Fork Teton Trailhead</p>	<p>Calling all wilderness handymen and women! Wrong Creek is the right place for stunning views and wilderness immersion. The 12-mile hike to base camp gains 2,600' as it passes over Route Creek Pass and drops another 2,100' as it passes out into the rolling country of the Sun River. Wrong Creek Cabin is a Forest Service admin stop over for Wilderness Rangers, Trail Crews, and Wildlife Biologists. Volunteers will repair it corals and fencing. Volunteers will use the cabin for cooking and camp under the stars. Enjoy a day off midweek to explore the nearby peaks and valleys.</p>	
<p>BMWF #22 Public Lands Day September 29 Great Bear Wilderness Dicky Creek Trailhead</p>	<p>Join your fellow public land lovers for some good times in the Great Bear Wilderness on National Public Lands Day! Volunteers will meet BMWF staff Saturday morning in Hungry Horse and caravan the hour drive to the trailhead. After sorting tools and talking safety you will hike to the worksite. Clearing down trees and reestablishing the trail bed will be the primary focus. Pulaskis, shovels and hand saws will be the tools of choice.</p>	



EXPERIENCE AND TRIP DIFFICULTY

HIKING

Trailhead based or car camping with no hike into camp



Easy hike to camp: less than a five mile hike on even terrain with little elevation gain



Moderate hike into the camp: 5-10 miles of relatively flat trail with less than 1,000 ft elevation gain



Challenging hiking in to camp: under 12 miles with significant elevation gain and loss



Strenuous hike into camp: 15+ miles over mountain passes or two days on uneven terrain



WORK

Relatively easy work: bending over pulling weeds or lopping brush

Easy work including infrequent sawing, digging etc. with short hikes in between

Moderately difficult work such as repeatedly lifting up to 40 lbs, sawing, digging etc.

Difficult with consistent and repetitive work throughout the day such as sawing or swinging a pulaski

Very strenuous work-- such as a long hike up a mountain each day to the work site or hard and continuous labor (sawing, digging etc.) in difficult terrain

TYPICAL DAY

7 COFFEE'S ON! BREAKFAST, PACK LUNCHES.

8 LEAVE CAMP FOR WORKSITE AND PROJECT

12 LUNCH BREAK

4 HEAD BACK TO CAMP, FREE TIME

5 DINNER CREW STARTS COOKIN'

6 DINNER TIME!

7 CLEAN UP CREW HELPS OUT

