



**BOB MARSHALL  
WILDERNESS**

FOUNDATION

WINTER 2019

TRAILS NEWSLETTER

# SARA BOILEN

BOARD CHAIR

**This past year** was a successful year for the BMWF filled with growth, enthusiasm, and (of course) some amazing volunteers. It is my great pleasure to take this moment to remind you all – our amazing supporters – about last year’s accomplishments and our future, about which we could not be more excited.

To start, last season, the intern program grew to the largest to date. We had eleven interns, including four Wilderness Conservation Crew members, five Wilderness Ranger Interns and two Packer Apprentices. We were fortunate enough to have Meg Killen step into the role of Stewardship Coordinator and she has brought great energy, passion, and extensive knowledge to these crew members, adding her signature wit and humor (not to mention great cooking skills) to keep things exciting along the way. We believe that the future of the Bob lies in the hands of the youth. By engaging now with their public lands and trails, our young team members are becoming the sorts of future stewards that we can count on to keep the Bob accessible and available to all for generations to come.

Speaking of access to all, our staff is also hard at work broadening our reach and diversifying our crews by reaching out to the Blackfoot and Salish Kootenai tribes, as well as to under-served communities near and far. While we have historically had heaps of excellent volunteers hailing from neighboring communities, we want to be sure that folks, regardless of their geographical location, socioeconomic status, and history of access (or lack thereof), get to experience the sort of life changing opportunities we’ve become famous for at the BMWF.

Of course, 2018 was also a period of change. Our Board went through a period of transition, saying goodbye to our 16 year board president Fred Flint, along with other amazing leaders, and welcoming new members to our pack in hopes of keeping our organization current, sustainable, and vibrant. We also parted ways with our long-time executive director, Carol Treadwell, who served the organization with great dedication for seven years. Rebecca Powell, our trusty Program Director, has stepped into the role of interim executive director as we conduct a search for the candidate who has the passion, knowledge, skills, and energy to take us into the next era of Wilderness stewardship. Sue Johnson and Meg Killen, as well as our tremendous Board of Directors and volunteers near and far, have picked up the remaining slack in the spirit of providing a seamless transition. With them on our team, and a strong executive director, I am certain that 2019 will be our best year yet. I hope to see you on a trip or on the trail and I trust we can count on your continued support. Our mission has never been more essential and our commitment never stronger.

Happy Trails in 2019!





## MARTY AND BAILLY CORETTE

### Trail Dawg of the Year:

**Marty and Bailly** are a sister duo hailing from Missoula, Montana. They began volunteering in the summer of 2017 having never experienced trailwork before. We're glad they took that plunge, because now they're hooked! They wanted a way to give back to the trails they love, while getting a chance to bond with each other, away from computer screens, phones, and tv's. Through volunteering they have had the opportunity to see some spectacular parts of The Bob...some high-lights include getting to see the Chinese Wall in 2017, and napping on the shores of Doctor Lake after a long days work in 2018. "Before volunteering with BMWF, I had never been backpacking, and it changed my life. This incredible place has given us piece of mind and reminded us that there is light even when times feel dark. Thank you for the inspiration and the challenge". Thank YOU Marty and Bailly! We're sure lucky to have you both as volunteers, and we look forward to seeing you out on the trail soon!

## JOHN PEINE

### Packer of the Year:

**John has been packing** for BMWF for 8 years now, and for him, there's no better way to give back to the BMWF. John is a retired police captain from New Jersey, and also a 20 year volunteer fireman. These days he's happiest on his horse, exploring our beautiful trails. He loves getting to work with the crew leaders, and meeting volunteers and hearing their stories of how they end up volunteering in one of Montana's most beautiful places. "I volunteer pack, because I truly believe in what the Foundation stands for. These people work so hard for all of us to be able to access the trails, the least I can do is use my stock to pack them in. From their hard work, we all get to enjoy The Bob". We are grateful to John, and his critters for safely packing our crews in and out of the woods. We certainly can't do it without you!



# INTERNS IN THE BOB: Building resilience & future stewards

BY BRYN WILLINGHAM

In the summer of 2018, I was fortunate enough to work as an intern on the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation's Wilderness Conservation Corps (WCC). As a student heading into my senior year studying Natural Resource Conservation and Forest Ecology, I sought a summer work experience that would strengthen my outdoor work ethic, compliment my academic coursework, and allow me to be outside as often as possible. This amazing opportunity achieved that and so much more, equipping me with personal and professional life skills that I could have never predicted.

Before my internship on the WCC, I had never done trailwork. I had experience backpacking and hiking, but was intimidated by the prospect of long hours of back-breaking work on the trail with tools I had never even heard of, let alone worked with. After three weeks of training and guidance at the beginning of the summer with the US Forest Service and the BMWF's staff, crew leaders, and other interns, I felt confident to head out into the Bob for a summer of hard work in one of the most beautiful landscapes in the country. The five ten-day work hitches that followed were some of the most challenging yet rewarding weeks of my life, presenting my crew members and I with many obstacles, learning opportunities, and immense gratification from the work we were doing.



*“I loved knowing that the work that we were doing was bettering both my ability and the ability of other outdoor explorers to appreciate and get to know the natural world more intimately.”*

Though working conditions were not always pleasant, and we often found ourselves sawing through fallen snags in a burn area with the sun beating on our backs, or digging tread on an exposed ridgeline under seemingly ceaseless rain, the trail improvements we were making always felt worthwhile. I loved knowing that the work that we were doing was bettering both my ability and the ability of other outdoor explorers to appreciate and get to know the natural world more intimately. Beyond just the work itself, our days were accompanied by breathtaking vistas, wildlife encounters, gorging our bellies on huckleberries and wild strawberries, and a crew camaraderie that made up for the temporary discomforts of physical labor.

More than anything, my summer in the Bob built on my resilience, leadership abilities, and interpersonal skills. I was forced to persist through oftentimes challenging, physical working conditions that I had never experienced before, and I learned to push myself to persevere even when it was difficult to do so. I became stronger, both physically and mentally, because of it and found the beauty and satisfaction that comes from working towards a tangible and discernable goal. The crew working dynamic presented endless opportunities to step up to the plate as a leader and to improve upon effective communication skills, enabling our crew to communicate and work both efficiently and cooperatively. These types of skills can be applied to nearly any aspect of life, whether personal or professional, and I am eternally grateful to have had the opportunity to develop them with such an incredible organization. The capabilities and experiences I have acquired from my internship will follow me as I continue on in the professional conservation world, strengthening my understanding and devotion to the increasingly necessary stewardship of our world's wild places.



## MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

**Great Falls: March 10th**

**Helena: March 11th**

**Whitefish: March 13th and 14th**

**Tickets available at [www.bmwf.org/events](http://www.bmwf.org/events)**



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**2068** nights sleeping in a tent


**607** miles of trails maintained




**132** miles brushed | **10,348** yards tread work  
**390** drainages maintained | **5,795** trees cleared



## 67 PROJECTS

 **1,236** miles hiked

**4,336** cups of coffee brewed 

### INCOME

**\$402,008.49**



- 2% Merchandise
- 6% Investment Income
- 12% License Plates
- 20% Fundraisers
- 23% Memberships & Donations
- 36% Grants

**354** mule loads of gear



Value of packers **\$69,000**

### EXPENSES

**\$357,758.89**



- 15% Management
- 25% Community Engagement
- 60% Boots on the Ground Programs

**374** Volunteers



Returning volunteers



48% female 52% male

New volunteers

**44 acres** of weeds treated



**578,000** sq. feet sprayed weeds



**258,000** sq. feet hand pulled weeds

**Totaling**

**\$505,196**

in Wilderness Stewardship Value



# THANK YOU

to these members, donors & sponsors  
who so generously supported wilderness  
stewardship in 2018



## TRAIL BLAZER

AGL Foundation at WCF  
Anonymous  
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## GOLDEN PULASKI

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## BLAZING BOW SAW

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 Anthony Smith  
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 Roy Barkley

## MISSOULA BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN

Dan Harper  
 Ken Brown

## PACKER APPRENTICES

Conrad Scheid  
 Laramie Maxwell



# THE BOB SQUAD

I want to join  
The Bob Squad!

Membership levels

- \$3000 Trail Blazer
- \$1200 Golden Pulaski
- \$600 Cross Cut Saw
- \$300 Double Bit Axe
- \$120 Swinging Pick
- \$60 Blazing Bow Saw
- \$30 Hard Hat
- \$  Other

Name: .....

Address: .....

City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....

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Is this  a Gift Membership for someone else or a  Memorial Donation?

Name of person: .....

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**[www.bmwf.org/donate/](http://www.bmwf.org/donate/)**

Please make checks to BMWF. Do not mail cash. Upon receipt of donation, you will receive a letter for tax purposes. Consult your tax advisor.

To say thanks, we publish an annual donor list in our Trail Newsletter.

I wish to remain anonymous.



Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation  
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Hungry Horse, MT 59919  
406.387.3822 • [www.bmwf.org](http://www.bmwf.org)

