

2007 FIELD SEASON: *DONE* YEAR IN REVIEW

Here in Montana with recent temperatures in the negative digits and a driveway full of snow to shovel, it's a great time to look back at the 2007 field season. This past summer we saw a record-setting heat wave and numerous wild fires, but Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation volunteers still headed into the backcountry to work. Take a look inside this issue for highlights from the season, financial reviews from the year, a word from the President of the Board of Directors and a peek into the 2008 season.

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FEATURED VOLUNTEER: TOM DULL



Please give Tom Dull a hand! He has completed more BMWF projects in one single season than any other trail crew volunteer.

► **How many times have you worked with BMWF?**

The first time I volunteered was in 2007 and I signed up for 4 BMWF projects. I wanted an opportunity to explore as much of The Bob as I could.

► **Tell me a little bit about why you volunteer in the backcountry. Why do you do it?**

I enjoy being outdoors away from the demands and conveniences of civilization, close to nature - the wild-life, plants and the weather. Working on a trail crew provides one with a real sense of accomplishment—

(more on page 6)



Now Is The Time: A Note from the BMWF President

Recently I was reflecting on my involvement with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and how the organization has grown and changed over the years.

The Foundation had its beginning in 1980 on a trip in the Great Bear Wilderness. The Spotted Bear District had been asked to host a trip for an individual in the Carter administration who had an interest in wilderness. District Ranger Dave Owen and I put together a trip into the Middle Fork of the Flathead. Among others, the trip included Sarah Weddington, an advisor to President Carter, Regional Forester Tom Coston and Forest Supervisor John Emmerson.

As is often the case, evening discussions soon drifted to deteriorating trail conditions in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and the need to seek alternative means to maintain them. At some point after the trip, a proposal was made to establish a foundation to meet these needs. It took a while, but the original Bob Marshall Foundation was incorporated on May 24, 1985.

Unfortunately, while the Foundation had some national support, there was little connection with the ground. The group did propose to fund one trail project on the Hungry Horse District in the late 1980's. At that time, I was the Resource Forester at Hungry Horse and was charged with developing the project. The initial proposal was to reconstruct the Granite Cr. Trail using 20 volunteers recruited by the new Foundation. As the project approached 20 became 10, then 8, then 6. At that point the project was relocated to the Big River Trail near Spruce Park. Finally, 4 volunteers showed up to do the work. Two of the volunteers, Joe Franchini and Kevin Fenimore returned as individual volunteers for several years, but the Foundation faded into oblivion.

In 1996, the Foundation was revived through the efforts of Mike Conner, Mike Dailey, Dave Owen and others. This time it emerged as a grass roots organization made up of individuals intimately tied to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. The organization began to grow and to actually produce valuable work on the ground. During that time I had the opportunity to work closely with the Foundation in my capacity as Resource Forester on the Hungry Horse Ranger District. Over the years the partnership between the Forest Service and the Foundation grew and flourished. Initially the Forest Service provided strong funding support for the Foundation. Before long, the Foundation began to generate its own operating funds and expand its programs.

When I retired in 2002, I was asked to join the Foundation

Board of Directors. A year ago, I was elected President of the Board.

As I look back over 27 years I am amazed at what the Foundation has accomplished. From an idea in the minds of a few people with vision and perseverance the Foundation has grown into a national model for volunteer work in wilderness. From one small project involving 4 volunteers working on 5 miles of trail, our efforts grown enormously. In 2007 we completed 43 projects on 347 miles of trail with 354 volunteers. The work was accomplished in spite of one of the most severe fire seasons in recent history.

In 1997 we began with a volunteer coordinator funded by the Forest Service. We now have an Executive Director working half time and a full time Program Director. We also have 4 fully trained seasonal trail crew leaders, one of which is funded by and works exclusively with our long time partner, the Wilderness Treatment Center.

Over the years our annual budget has grown to over \$130,000. While the Forest Service still provides \$10,000 in annual funding, the bulk of our operating funds come from grants and fundraising events such as license plate sales, the Mountainfilm Festival and memberships.

We have developed and are implementing a Strategic Plan that will guide the Foundation into the future. New things are on the horizon.

We are expanding our fundraising efforts. In 2007, we amended our by laws to become a membership organization. The membership drive has been very successful. In 2008 we plan to revamp our annual giving campaign. The highly successful Mountainfilm Festival will expand to two nights in the Flathead and one night in Helena.

We continue to expand our projects and to involve new partners.

We have begun discussions on developing an endowment that, in time, will provide long term funding for the Foundation.

The Foundation is alive, well and growing. If you haven't gotten involved, now is the time. Become a member, join a project, buy a license plate, participate in a fundraiser! Your efforts will help preserve "The Bob".

—Fred Flint, President
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation Board of Directors

Voices of the Wilderness Update



Fundraiser ♦ Art Exhibition ♦ Silent Auction



artists ↔ wilderness ↔ connection

On October 5th, 2007 an art show and silent auction was presented at Kalispell's Hockaday Museum of Art helped nonprofits fund their trail and campsite work in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, the Mission Mountain Wilderness and the Swan Range.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and Swan Ecosystem Center sponsored the Voices of Wilderness event with help from the Hockaday Museum of Art and Flathead National Forest.

In addition to the art show and auction, the event highlighted the Artist-Wilderness-Connection, a partnership program that places professional working artists of various disciplines in remote forest cabins for a week to deepen their creative connection to the wilderness.

Contributing Montana artists Jane Latus Emmert, Myni Ferguson, Mike Patterson, Carol Poppenga and Janet Sullivan, whose

art was inspired by their recent wilderness experiences, were special guests. Beth Hodder, retired Forest Service botanist, read from her book: "The Ghost of Schafer Meadows."

The silent auction featured donated art and handmade items by many northwest Montana artists and businesses. Artist donors include Carol Poppenga, Jane Latus Emmert, Karin Connelly, Michael Patterson, Mark Ogle, Patti Grant Robinson, Lee Proctor, Allen Jimmerson, Deliah Albee and Eric Reese in addition to many other local artists. Business donors include Barney Jette Jewelry, Outfitter Supply, Walking Man Frame Shop and Gallery, Mi Casa Pottery, Montana Earth Pottery and Markle Pottery.

The event raised about \$8500 in total proceeds to be shared between the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and Swan Ecosystem Center. Thanks to all who made this a successful and fun event. See you next year! 🌀



Photos top left to right: Carol Poppenga presenting her artwork.s Deb Mucklow (Spotted Bear District Ranger) and Carla Belski (BMWF Executive Director). A full house during artists presentations. Auctioneer Edd Blackler (Backcountry Horsemen-Flathead) auctions off artwork with Fred Flint (BMWF President) looking on. Book signing with Beth Hodder. **Bottom left:** Carol Poppenga chatting with BMWF Board Member John Phelps. **Bottom right:** A guest bids on artwork at the event.



Paul Travis, former Program Director, passes on his wisdom in a cameo appearance on the trail, top photo. As you can see, I am soaking it in as I try to perfect my hand motions to his, far left. Crew leaders Addy Wygmans, Tara LaVelle and Casey Dunn listen to PT with awe.

Trial by Fire: My First Field Season with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

The nature of fieldwork in Montana usually means that folks are up to their eyeballs in projects during the summer and more mellow in the winter months. When I was hired as the new Program Director in November of 2006, I just ended a busy summer in the backcountry with the Forest Service and was looking forward to having a more relaxed winter schedule and accessible showers. Yeah right!

Well, I did have regular showers, but there was nothing relaxing about my new position with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. There were projects to plan for 2008 already! It was hands-on learning as Paul Travis, former Program Director, moved on and Carla Belski, BMWF Executive Director, helped me stumble through the endless logistics and details of organizing over 40 projects, 400 potential volunteers, many new faces and names to remember, meetings, fundraisers, etc. It was a whirlwind!

Then spring came. New crew leaders were hired (Casey, Tara, & Addy at right), calendars were finalized, projects were posted, and volunteers signed up. We launched the season with our first project; National Trails Day in early June. Volunteer feedback was positive and our new crew leaders were old hands on the trail. This was going to be an easy season. Or so I thought...



“ This was going to be an easy season. Or so I thought... ”

In Early July, the first lightening strikes were reported on Lewis & Clark National Forest, but it was still business as usual as the Fool Creek fire wasn't threatening trail work. Yet. Crews were alerted and we were on watch as temperatures held steady around the 100 degree mark. Then another strike and a smoke – the Ahorn fire. This was closer to a crew we had in the field so the project was cut short by one day to give them some relief from the smoke. About this time, fires on the southwest end of the wilderness complex were flaring up and moving fast. We rerouted a crew on the Seeley Lake Ranger District to a safer spot because of the Conger Fire. A project was cancelled on the Blackfoot Divide when the Railley Creek fire started growing closer to our proposed base camp. The Rocky Mountain Ranger District shut a majority of trails on the east side and we were forced to move projects to the Scapegoat Wilderness. Then Lincoln Ranger District closed the Scapegoat Wilderness. My perfectly planned season was turned upside down!



In the end, only two projects were completely cancelled due to fires and we rerouted seven projects around the complex to avoid fire threats.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers and partner groups on the trail, volunteer packers in the saddle (the Flathead Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen in particular), and helpful Forest Service staff behind the scenes, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation was still able to complete 43 projects in and around The Bob and provide a wilderness experience to over 350 volunteers. Thank you to everyone that helped make 2007 a great field season despite all the challenges.

Big Thanks!

Shannon Freix

Shannon Freix, Program Director



Top right: Even trail dogs have to doctor their own dogs every once in a while. **Bottom section - top left:** Fishing at Sunburst Lake. **Top Right:** This 21" fish is dwarfed next to the legend of the man known as Ed Leiser. **Bottom:** Fool Creek fire heats up in mid-July and volunteers are evacuated from a project in Lincoln late in the season

Financial Overview 2007

Dear BMWF Members & Donors,

As we finish our 11th season in the field, I look back at a year full of new faces, challenges and many successes. With an entirely new staff on board from the Crew Leaders to Program Director, we hit some bumps along the way, but I can proudly say that everyone rose to the challenges that were presented.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation headed into new territory this season with first-ever fundraisers; the MountainFilm Festival last April and the Voices of the Wilderness Art Auction and Exhibition held most recently in October in conjunction with Swan Ecosystem Center. Both were a huge success and we hope to expand on our efforts (and income) next year.

Looking forward to the Spring, we will release our Adopt-A-Trail Program where members and friends can support our efforts with specific goals in mind.

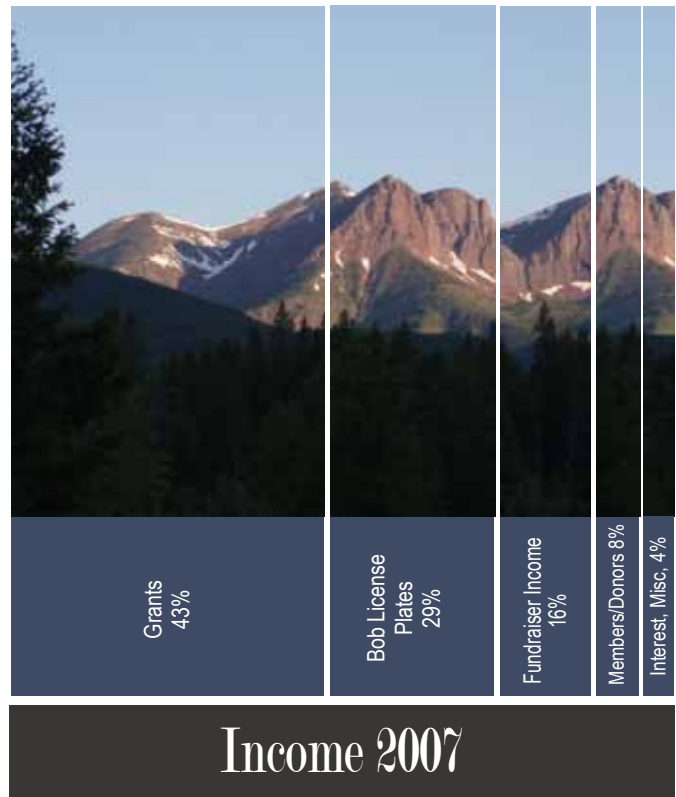
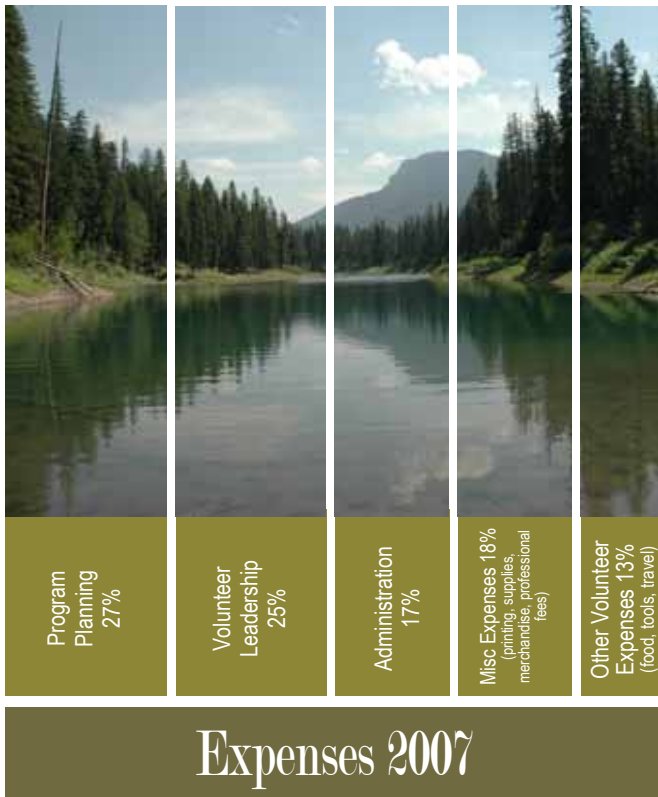
Lastly, I would like to present a rough breakdown of our expenses and income for 2007.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and The Bob. We consider ourselves lucky to work in such a unique place with equally unique people.

See you on the trail!



Carla Belski, Executive Director





Front page: Tom carefully crossing the Middle Fork as to not get his pants wet, Left: Tom and Casey Dunn (BMWFW Crew Leader) on Red Mountain in the Scapegoat Wilderness, Middle: Tom, Addy Wygmans (BMWFW Crew Leader), and another veteran BMWFW volunteer Bill Halm on Napa Point, Right: Tom bragging about his find of rose hips during the Schafer Meadows Seed Collection project. Editor's Note: We failed to find any photos of Tom actually working, but our staff confirms that he did swing a tool (always with a smile and a joke).

from the problem solving involved to the improved trails as a result. Volunteering for the BMWFW is a great way of meeting people from different walks of life, sharing stories & laughs. There is a real sense of camaraderie & teamwork that quickly develops as each project is performed. I also enjoy the physical challenge associated with backcountry hiking and trail maintenance.

► **Do you have any favorite spots in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex?**

This last summer was my first time in The Bob. I had the chance to be in four different areas of The Bob; in the Scapegoat near Lincoln, Spruce Point on the upper Middle Fork of Flathead River, Schafer Meadows on the Middle Fork proper and Napa Point of the Swan Range. I hesitate to select a favorite as I thoroughly enjoyed each for what they are and know that I have barely ventured into The Bob at this point - I loved the wildlife, panoramic views, rivers & lakes. I am still in search of that one great fishing hole... catch & release is not an issue for one with my fly fishing skills.

► **When you're not working with BMWFW, what do you do at home?**

I am a retired engineer/part time consultant living in Los Angeles. I spend my time training/participating in triathlons, biking and ultra-running events. I sail, camp and play rugby whenever the opportunity arises.

► **What's your favorite backcountry meal?**

I have not yet found a meal that I didn't like as my fellow crew members can attest to. One of my favorites that we ate in the backcountry with BMWFW was steak, salad and potatoes with a nice cold beer - one cannot thank the volunteer packers enough for their support!

► **What piece of camping gear is essential for you in the woods?**

The most essential piece of camping gear to me is my hiking boots! I found out the hard way that a bad fitting or damaged pair of boots can cause significant damage to ones feet and very quickly diminish one's positive disposition. I feel that I could find alternate replacements for my shelter, cooking and sleeping gear (probably from watching way too much of Man vs. Wild and Survivor Man on TV) but you never see Bear or Les making it very far without their boots.

NEW CONTACT INFO FOR BMWFW

Come visit us in the new Hungry Horse Ranger Station. Just up the road from the old station.

PO Box 190688
 Hungry Horse, MT 59919
 New Phone: 406.387.3808
 New Fax: 406.387.3889
www.bmwf.org

Carla Belski, Executive Director:
carla@bmf.org
Shannon Freix, Program Director:
shannon@bmf.org



Photo courtesy of The Wilderness Society.

Travelocity is offering a grant up to \$5000 to cover travel expenses when you volunteer with BMWFW.

Check it out!



Click on the Travel for Good logo if you're viewing this online.

Or look up
"Change Ambassadors Grant"
 on the Internet.

LADIES PACK TRIP



Sunday, August 19th, 2007. Smokey skies and cool weather didn't keep the ladies of the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead out of the backcountry. They rode their horses and led their pack horses and mules six miles into Spruce Park Cabin on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, to pack out a group of volunteer trail workers.

The Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead (BCHF) organized the educational project to help their female members build confidence in their own backcountry skills, rather than relying on male partners or friends. Trailering, horse handling and safety, and packing skills were the focus of the project.



The ladies enjoyed the two-hour ride along the Big River Trail into the Forest Service cabin, although they could barely see the river through the smoke from the Skyland Fire. After reaching the cabin and enjoying a delicious lunch of backcountry grilled cheese sandwiches, BCHF members sorted all the items that needed to be packed out. These items included two bear-proof ammo boxes for the food; two large propane tanks; trail tools including polaskis, hand saws, two five-foot crosscut saws, hardhats and shovels; plus "duffle"-tents and personal gear of the nine trail workers. Decisions were made regarding which items to mantle and which items to put in panniers, plus how to sling the loads on the pack stock.



BCH members shared their knowledge and experience in packing and back country travel. June Burgau demonstrated several different knots, showing how to make mantling a load quicker and easier to tie and untie. June also showed the ladies how to handle heavy loads with less lifting and bending, making it easier for a smaller person to do the same amount of work with less effort. Deborah Schatz demonstrated how to carry loads of sharp tools so that they could not injure the stock or riders. She also discussed how to balance loads of varying weights and sizes.

The Ladies Packing Project benefited both the Back Country Horsemen members and the trail volunteers with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. The trail volunteers save valuable time and energy when heavy items like tools and food are dropped off at the work site, instead of carrying them in their backpacks. BCH members gained confidence and skills they can use every time they visit the backcountry. And, best of all, backcountry trails are open for all of us to use and enjoy.

— Deborah Schatz, Backcountry Horsemen-Flathead



◆ BMWF BOARD of *Directors* ◆



Photos left to right: Rod McIver doing what he does best: swinging a tool. Anna and her edible masterpieces at the Voices of the Wilderness Fundraiser 2007. The BMWF Board Project in the Great Bear Wilderness, Marion Lake. Left to right back row: Greg Schatz, Deborah Schatz, Melisa Phelps, Chany Reon-Ockert, John Phelps-standing (Vice President), Tara LaVelle (crew leader 2007), Christina Larsen (Secretary), Lorie Groce, David Groce. Front row: Shannon Freix (Program Director), Duke the dog, Chris Miller (Treasurer), Hudson the dog, Carla Belski (Executive Director), DJ Groce, Hannah Groce, Addy Wygmans (crew leader 2007), & Beast the dog.

These dedicated volunteers offer their time, energy and expertise from all angles. They are lawyers, fundraisers, financial experts, Forest Service veterans, community leaders, backcountry users, wilderness lovers, trail dogs, and even gourmet chefs. They attend monthly meetings, committee meetings, special events and envelope stuffing parties. These folks do it all. Cheers to our great leadership team at BMWF!

In 2008, we would like to say goodbye and offer sincere thanks to Rod McIver and Anna Malpelli for their service on the Board of Directors. Rod (who also volunteers annually with the National Smokejumper Association) offered his backcountry trail knowledge to our staff and ensured that we had the sharpest tools in the West. Anna (a former River Ranger in The Bob) pro-

vided fundraising and program direction as well as her superb kitchen skills for our special events. Anna will be focusing her efforts on her catering business (The Simple Chef) and Rod has taken on the large responsibility to be Head Tool Guy for the National Smokejumper Association. Thank you for all that you have contributed to our Foundation!

Next, we would like to introduce David Groce our newest Board Member. David recently moved to the Whitefish and brings many years and experience of fundraising and strategic development to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. He and his daughter, Hannah, joined us for National Trails Day in 2007. He was hooked ever since! We look forward to having David join our efforts.

What's going on in 2008?

Advisory Committee Openings

By joining our newly formed Advisory Committee, you will be helping to promote the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and to raise funds to ensure a strong future of its work. You will also be helping to build a legacy for generations to come to enjoy the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

Since its founding in 1996, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation has become recognized as an effective provider of volunteer support for trail maintenance and wilderness restoration, having real impact across the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

The next several years promise to be exciting ones for Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. The volunteer trails and restoration program in Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex is evolving and the advisory group will play a central role in this important work.

We are currently drafting the primary responsibilities of advisory group members, but we would like potential candidates to provide feedback in the development of these guidelines. If you wish to be considered as a candidate for the BMWF Advisory Group, please contact Carla Belski at the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation at 406.253.4421.

Volunteer Program Assistant

Are you looking to gain some experience in project management or the outdoors? The BMWF is looking for a part-time Volunteer Program Assistant to help in the office from mid-late May to mid-late August. If you are comfortable with computers and willing to learn, we will teach you the "guts" of project planning, non-profit operations and field work. This is a great way to create relationships with Forest Service managers and other outdoor professionals. When your schedule permits, join us in the field leading crews and honing your outdoor leadership skills.

This is an unpaid volunteer position that will work closely with the Program Director and will be based out of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation office located in Hungry Horse. The Volunteer Program Assistant will provide logistical support and administrative assistance to the Program and Executive Directors. Primary tasks include processing volunteer registrations, managing project information, and coordinating logistics with trail partners.

Contact Shannon Freix, Program Director, at 406.387.3808 if you are interested.

We've teamed up with the Montana Wilderness Association to offer THREE projects on the Rocky Mountain Front in 2008.

MWA will be funding the projects and the BMWF will provide the trail expertise. Look for the project listings in our next newsletter.



Wish List 2008

You feeling generous? Here's what we could use help with for our next season. Thanks in advance for your help.

- ★ Radios \$100/ea (refurbished)
- ★ Mesh tent \$170-200/ea
- ★ Large Dry Bags \$20-25/ea
- ★ Grinder Power Tool \$200/ea
- ★ Weed Whackers \$15/ea
- ★ Walkie Talkies \$80/ea
- ★ Soft-sided coolers \$20/ea
- ★ Bear spray \$40/ea
- ★ Backcountry kitchen kit \$400
(various items like stove, water filter, gear, etc.)
- ★ Game meat (for crew food)

A huge THANK YOU to Vann's in Kalispell for the refrigerator donation and to Western Building Center in Whitefish for building materials used in our tool cache.

Don't have THE BOB tee yet? Order on online at www.bmwf.org > Merchandise



A HUGE **THANK YOU** TO OUR SUPPORTERS INCLUDING MEMBERS & DONORS, SPONSORS, LOCAL BUSINESSES AND PARTNERS. PLEASE HELP US THANK THEM, TOO!

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Vann's Electronics
Western Building Center
Blackfoot River Brewing Company
Monte Dolack Gallery
Andrea Brew, artist of "Bob" license plate

Volunteer Packers

Richard Williams, Backcountry Llama
East Slope Backcountry Horsemen
Greg and Deb Schatz, Flathead BCH
Mark Brust, Flathead BCH
Ray Knotts, Flathead BCH
David Langlois, Flathead BCH
Ed Langlois and Kay Lewis, Flathead BCH
Paul and Sylvia Pasley, Flathead BCH
June Burgau, Flathead BCH
David Williams, Flathead BCH
Bruce Bungay, Flathead BCH
Mary Windfall, Flathead BCH
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Ralph Hopkins, Flathead BCH
Steve Barker, Flathead BCH
Gary Dalen, Flathead BCH
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Wilderness Treatment Center
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National Smokejumper Association
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Swan Ecosystem Center
Recreational Trails Program
The Cadeau Foundation
Resource Advisory Committee, Flathead
Montana Community Foundation
Montana Conservation Corps
Montana Wilderness Association
Backcountry Horsemen of Montana
BMWFW Board Members

COMING SOON!

If your business or organization is interested in sponsoring the upcoming **Mountainfilm Fest** fundraiser, contact Carla Belski and we'll send you one of these slick registration forms. Two showings will be presented in Whitefish and one in Helena.

Hurry! The deadline for sponsorship is March 15th.



BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

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MISSION STATEMENT

THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION ASSISTS IN MAINTAINING AND RESTORING THE TRAIL SYSTEM OF THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS COMPLEX WITH NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, YOUTH GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS. WE FOSTER WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP SKILLS AND EDUCATION THROUGH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTANA'S PREMIER WILDERNESS AREA AND SURROUNDING WILD LANDS.

Voices of the Wilderness

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 Big Sky Brewing Company
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Artists & Donors

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 Isaak Walton Inn
 Alpine Market
 O'Shaughnessey Center
 Red Ants Pants
 The Nature Conservancy of MT
 Wild River Adventures
 Mills Wilderness Adventures of MT
 Snowy Springs Outfitters
 Badrock B and B
 Glacier Raft Company
 The White Room Mountain Shop
 Spotted Bear Ranch
 J and L Rentals
 Dr. Rod Spencer, Dentist
 First Interstate Bank of Kalispell
 Fun Beverage
 Rocky Mountain Outfitter
 The Simple Chef
 Big Sky Brewing Company



BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION
PO BOX 190688 · HUNGRY HORSE, MT 59919
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I WANT TO JOIN THE BOB SQUAD!

Enclosed is my membership gift of \$_____.

- ★ \$1000 Golden Pulaski
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- ★ \$250 Double Bit Ax
- ★ \$100 Swinging Pick
- ★ \$50 Blazing Bow Saw
- ★ \$25 Hard Hat

- ▶ To say thank you, we publish an annual donor list in our *Trails* Newsletter. _____ I would like to remain anonymous.
- ▶ I would like to give a Gift Membership to: (recipient's name here, address below) _____
 - ▶ With my gift of \$100 or more please send me "The Bob" tee featuring Bob Marshall himself, olive green.
(Women's tees fit very snugly; we recommend ordering one size up from your normal size.)

Men's (circle one): Med Lrg XL XXL **OR** Women's (circle one): Sm Med Lrg XL

Member Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City, State: _____ Zip: _____

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