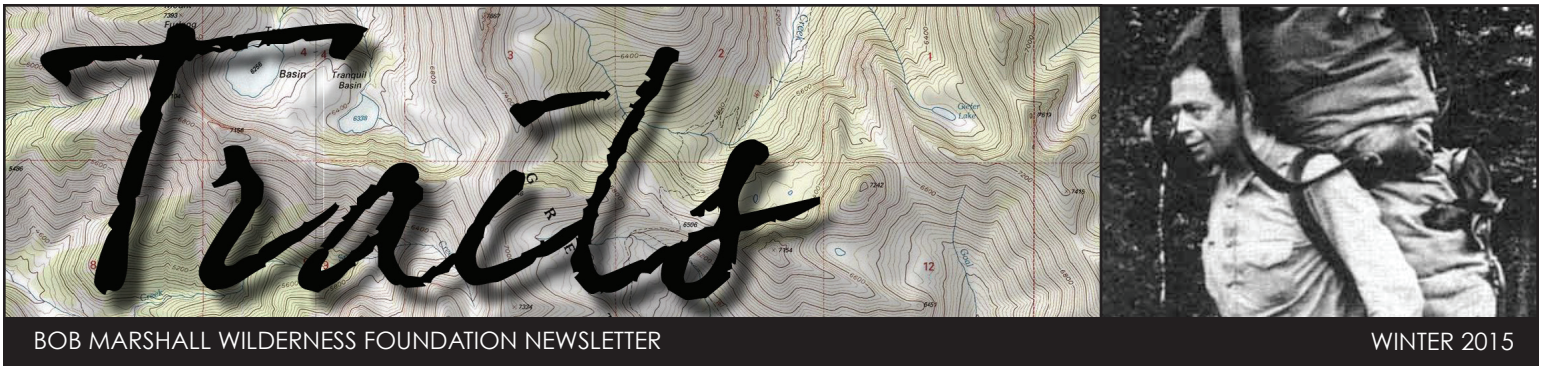




BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION
 PO Box 190688 • Hungry Horse, MT 59919
 406.387.3808 phone • 406.387.3889 fax • www.bmwf.org

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BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

Become a Member of The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and Become a Member of the

THE BOB SQUAD



I WANT TO JOIN THE BOB SQUAD!

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- \$1000 Golden Pulaski
- \$500 Cross Cut Saw
- \$250 Double Bit Axe
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- ▶ To say thank you, we publish an annual donor list in our Trails Newsletter. _____ I would like to remain anonymous.
- ▶ With my gift of \$100 or more please send me a Bob Tee. Color? __Brown __Olive __Cranberry
 Size (circle one): Sm Med Lrg XL XXL

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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. You can also make a donation with your credit card or debit card online at www.bmwf.org > Donate Now.



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation connects Americans with their wilderness heritage by providing access to and stewardship of one of the world's most spectacular places—Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, the crown jewel of the Wilderness System. We help hundreds of hard-working volunteers, including youth, develop a land ethic and give back to the wilderness by opening trails, restoring heavily used areas, maintaining historic structures and fighting weeds. Active wilderness stewardship is our mission.

GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in doing more? Join a board committee, help with fundraising events, stuff envelopes, camp cook? There is something for everyone.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we look back on a year of celebration and forward to the next 50 years of Wilderness, BMWF is profoundly grateful for the volunteers and donors who contributed to wilderness stewardship in 2014. As you read through this newsletter and the annual report you will see the impact that a dedicated group of wilderness lovers has on the resource. With Forest Service budgets declining these contributions are more critical than ever. Thank you.

In 2014, 285 hardy individuals volunteered on 41 projects that cleared and maintained 160 miles of trail, put a thumping on 99 acres of noxious weeds, and helped complete a two year study on the health and regeneration of Whitebark pine in the Bob Complex.

2014 was also a year of celebrations! BMWF commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act with a speaker series titled "50 years of Wilderness: What will the next 50 years look like?" BMWF also partnered to celebrate the 50th in Choteau, Kalispell, Lincoln, Seeley Lake, and at Benchmark Trailhead. The biggest celebration of all, GO WILD, was a cross generational celebration that brought 100's of wilderness enthusiasts together in the Flathead Valley.

The excitement that these celebrations generated will be poured into BMWF's 19th stewardship season. We look forward to the return of volunteer partner groups like the Girl and Boy Scouts, Salish Kootenai College Upward Bound and individual volunteers who share a passion for wilderness recreation.

The 50th anniversary has also renewed interest in the man whose early efforts lead to the federal protection of Wilderness - Bob Marshall. Bob was an early advocate for protecting roadless areas, organizer and benefactor of the Wilderness Society, and legendary hiker, sometimes covering 30 to 50 miles of trail in a day. In 1928, he spent 8 days hiking 288 miles on trails in the wilderness area that now bears his name. Several hikers have tried to retrace Bob's footsteps but segments of trail have disappeared or become impassible. During the 2015 field season BMWF will coordinate projects that will restore these trails. Look for "Walking in the Footsteps of Bob Marshall" trips on the summer 2015 project schedule to be published in March.

The BMWF is also proud to have been accepted as a member of the 21st Century Conservation Corps and will launch the Wilderness Conservation Corps (WCC) as part of this youth initiative. The WCC is an internship experience that engages youth ages 16 to 25 in outdoor work experiences that teach job skills leading to natural resource careers.

Block out a week on your calendar NOW so you can join a unique volunteer vacation in The Bob this summer. See you on the trail!

Carol Treadwell

ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation Endowment grew by 132% last year.

Thanks to several generous donations last year the BMWF endowment fund saw stupendous growth in 2014!

The Endowments' distribution will be put to work this year by partially sponsoring a Wilderness Steward Intern from Whitefish High School. The intern will have the opportunity to work as a part of the Wilderness Conservation Corps, BMWF's career building internship program for youth (for more details see WCC below).

As the BMWF Endowment grows, contributions to stewardship projects and youth internships will also expand. By donating to the BMWF Endowment Fund you give a gift that keeps on

giving. Your tax deductible donation is eligible for the Montana Endowment tax credit (40% in 2015). To learn more about this opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the long-term sustainability of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation please contact Linda Engh-Grady at the Whitefish Community Foundation (406-863-1781).

Currently, BMWF is working towards a challenge grant from the Whitefish Community Foundation in order to build the endowment further. With accumulated endowment gifts of \$20K made before Dec. 10, 2016, the **WCF will contribute matching funds of \$5K to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation Endowment Fund.**



Help BMWF meet the Challenge! Endowment donors contribute to the long term sustainability of the Bob Foundation and give to the conservation of the Bob Marshall Wilderness which holds a special place in the heart's of Montanans.

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION CORPS

BMWF will expand its internship program this summer

Formerly known as the "Weeds Internship" (yawn) the program will become the Wilderness Conservation Corps. The Corps is part of the 21st Century Service Corps which is a bold national effort to put thousands of America's young people and veterans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's great outdoors. This program will provide paid internships for college youth and will forward their natural resource career aspirations by engaging them in hands-on projects that deliver meaningful conservation outcomes to benefit wilderness. The positions are intended to increase the intern's field skills, understanding of invasive species control, and wilderness management knowledge. Former interns

have advanced to USFS seasonal jobs while attending college to pursue degrees in natural science related fields at the University of Alaska, Montana State, and Springfield College. Cody Rodriguez, Wilderness Stewardship Intern in 2015, reflected on his experience: "Being a wilderness steward intern with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation was an eye opening, and a constant learning experience. I grew as an outdoor leader and learned about program planning, ethics, marketing/public relations, organization, different cultures, and risk management. I was able to test myself in spirit, mind, and body. From the day I left for my first trip to my journey back east, I was living more independently than I ever had before which gave me the opportunity



for challenge and self-reflection." Work and learn in the outdoors this summer - Join the Corps! Applications can be found at:

<http://www.bmwf.org/staff.html>

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