



BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION
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Boy Scouts—Upper Twin Creek Trail #237

Location: Spotted Bear Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest in the Great Bear Wilderness, Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, Montana

Trailhead: South Creek TH North of the Spotted Bear River

Area Description: The Spotted Bear Country of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex includes a remote headquarters at the Spotted Bear Ranger Station; the 2nd largest Forest Service ranger district in the lower 48 states. This is the gateway to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and offers access to varied terrain including silent basins and remote mountain ranges. Geologically speaking, this part of the complex is characterized by an accordion feature called syncline. As rock masses of the earth's crust moved eastward, the pressure on these rocks caused them to fold and bend like an accordion. The valleys are mostly lodgepole pine and Douglas fir. Meadows are intertwined with mountain ranges with dotted lakes and winding streams. In terms of wildlife, you're likely to see white-tailed deer and black bear. If you're lucky (or not) you may see a grizzly bear.

Maps: Forest Service Bob Marshall, Great Bear, and Scapegoat Wilderness Complex Map (great overview map of entire wilderness; this can be ordered at <http://www.bmwf.org/>). USGS Quad Map: Horseshoe Peak.

Hike Details: This trail receives relatively little use, making it an ideal destination for those seeking solitude. From the trailhead the trail ascends gradually, crossing wooded benches with Condor Peak looming above. The trail crosses the creek a number of times, so make sure to have your sandals at the ready! With a total elevation gain of just over 1,000 feet over the 7.25 miles, you'll arrive to base camp ready for dinner.

Project: Crews will be working from base camp each day clearing and maintaining trails with primitive hand tools just as forest rangers have done in this area since the early 1900s. Work will consist primarily of cutting out pesky brush (with loppers) that threatens to consume the trail, clearing the trail of downfall with 2 person crosscut saws and retreat (digging with pulaskis) on sections of trail that are falling off the hillsides. Crews will also learn how to maintain and install drainage to keep water from eroding the trail and promote healthier fisheries for the native Westslope Cutthroat trout. Your BMWF crewleader will teach you all of the technical trail skills and Forest Service trail standards, as well as how to care for and maintain your handtools. We'll be building on the work from the previous day, so hiking distances to the worksite will vary.



Example Itinerary: *subject to change based on work, weather, Forest Service direction, etc.*

DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Day 1	9am	Meet your crewleader at the Spotted Bear RS, trip overview & safety briefing, caravan to TH, hit the trail and hike to camp
Day 2-3	8am-4:30pm	Safety briefing, hike to worksite, trailwork and lunch on the trail each day. Return to camp, dinner, campfire, and evening activities.
Day 4	DAY OFF!	Enjoy the area swimming, fishing, hiking to nearby peaks.
Day 5-6	8am-4:30pm	Safety briefing, hike to worksite, trailwork and lunch on the trail each day. Return to camp, dinner, campfire, and evening activities.
Day 7	8am	Pack up camp, hike out, travel home!



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Campsite: Primitive backcountry site with a primitive latrine...and a few luxuries! Greg Nelson of Great Bear Outfitters is kind enough to set up his camp, complete with a wall tent for cooking and a sleeping tent with bunks for 10 for our use! Our backcountry kitchen will include a propane 3 burner stove and a dutch oven to test out your backcountry baking skills, as well as gravity water filtration units to purify our drinking water. Each day we'll rotate camp chores including cooking, firewood and clean-up, and we'll learn low impact camping techniques and how to properly store our food in bear country.

Packing: We will meet our volunteer packer at the trailhead and send all of our food and tools in on horses and mules, leaving us with only our personal gear on our backs (tent, sleeping bag and clothes) for the hike in. Be sure to thank your packer—they are volunteering a lot of time, animals and equipment to help us out while sharing their knowledge of this fast disappearing traditional skill.

Food: Food and menu planning will be provided by BMWF. Please limit personal snacks to avoid over packing food; the BMWF will bring enough food for meals and snacks. If you did not indicate any food allergies or preferences on your registration information, please let us know ASAP. **The first meal will be dinner on the first day and the last meal will be breakfast on the day you travel home.** The BMWF crew leader will be putting together a menu and shopping for all the food the week before the project. We do our best to provide a healthy, varied diet of food for the project that includes some fresh foods and a mix of meat and vegetarian options. You will be expected to pitch in and help in the preparation of meals, cooking and campsite chores during the project.

Gear: BMWF will bring group gear such as a cooking stove, pots & pans, water filter, etc. However, each volunteer should bring a personal kitchen kit (with plate/bowl, spoon/fork, hot mug, water bottle, etc). **Note: participants will need to bring long pants (no shorts for trail work), long sleeved shirt (when sawing), leather work gloves and a sturdy pair of hiking boots (tennis shoes ARE NOT recommended) to work in.** Please wear hiking boots with ankle support. Volunteers are also responsible for bringing their own personal camping gear including a sleeping bag, tent, and backpack. Dressing in layers is the best approach. One work "outfit" will be sufficient; everyone will stink as much as you do (unless they are not working very hard).

Directions to Spotted Bear Ranger Station: Take Hwy 2 to the town of Hungry Horse. Continue through town, about ½ mile turn right off U.S. Hwy 2 following signs to eastside Hungry Horse Reservoir. Pass through Martin City and follow the road past Desert Mountain as it turns to gravel. Stay straight on the gravel road all the way down past the reservoir, past Spotted Bear Campground, cross the bridge at Spotted Bear River and arrive at Spotted Bear Ranger Station on your right, approximately 55 miles (2 hrs drive time). Meet your crew leader at the Ranger Station, the first building across the cattle guard with the flag out front.

Registration Info: Each unit must register as a partner group and a refundable project deposit of \$200/unit is required to save your trip dates. Visit the BMWF website at www.bmwf.org > **Volunteer** > select **New Partner Group Inquiries and Download Partner Brochure.**

Project request deadline: December 1st, 2010. Please complete and submit to reserve your dates today, opportunities are limited and trips will be filled on a first come-first served basis. Please include desired dates on your partner registration form (note: units choose an itinerary from dates—see dates below). Minimum group size of 6 required to reserve dates, maximum 10 (including 2 adult leaders). Units are required to adhere to all Boy Scouts rules and regulations. You will be contacted by January 10th, 2011 to confirm trip dates and we will email more detailed information regarding trip logistics for the project you selected (including maps, driving directions, a suggested packing list, etc). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Keagan Zoellner, Program Director, at program@bmwf.org or call 406.387.3808.

Trip dates for projects in 2011:

- July 2nd-9th **
- July 16th-23rd
- July 30th-August 6th
- August 13th-20th **

**Projects subject to change based on Forest Service direction, weather conditions, etc.

** Alternative backcountry projects available before and after dates indicated upon request.