

Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center's
Wilderness Investigations
High School

Wilderness Profile #1
Bob Marshall Wilderness

Common Core Standard Connections

Standards addressed will vary depending on how the teacher chooses to approach the lesson and/or activities.

Teacher background:

Established as part of the *Wilderness Act* of 1964, the Bob Marshall Wilderness typifies what many think of when they hear the word wilderness. Composed of high elevation mountains, glacially carved canyons, high mountain lakes, areas of dense forest, spectacular wildlife, and great trails, "The Bob" is loved by locals as well as visitors from afar.

Instructions for the teacher:

To help students become familiar with the Bob Marshall Wilderness, choose one or more of the following:

- Have students start a *U.S. Wilderness Area Field Guide* using the Bob Marshall Wilderness as their first entry (to be added onto as you work through future *Wilderness Investigations*):
 - Help them research the geographical location of the wilderness area and create a Montana map showing that location and its relationship to other familiar features (i.e. neighboring states, Canada, Helena (Montana's capital city), the Missouri River, and other Montana wilderness areas).
 - Photocopy the Student Information Sheet and have students turn the listed facts into an interesting written description.
 - Find photos of the area and have students create original drawings of favorite scenes.
 - Have students do more research and look for information about pre-wilderness history, the story of its wilderness designation, facts about those who championed its designation as wilderness.
 - Have students investigate who Bob Marshall was and why a wilderness area was named after him.

- Host a class discussion that focuses on the connection between large tracts of designated wilderness and the presence of healthy wildlife populations using the Bob Marshall Wilderness as an example.
- Create a *U.S. Wilderness Area* classroom display or place on class webpage. Continue to add information as new areas are focused on.
 - Just a few wilderness areas are focused on as part of *Wilderness Investigations*. Have students choose non-focused areas to research, present and post on the bulletin board.
- For more information about the Bob Marshall Wilderness, go to www.wilderness.net.



Students studying in Bob Marshall Wilderness
(from wilderness.net; Image #2594)

Wilderness Profile #1
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Student Information Sheet



Danaher Meadows/Bob Marshall Wilderness
(from wilderness.net; Image #1563)

What's the story?

- Designated by Congress as wilderness in 1964.
- Located entirely in Montana, it is bordered by the Great Bear Wilderness to the north and the Scapegoat Wilderness to the south.
 - These three designated wilderness areas make-up the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.
- Size: 1,009,356 acres (Montana's largest wilderness)
- Managed by U.S. Forest Service (administered by the Flathead National Forest)
- Named after early forester, wilderness preservation pioneer, and Wilderness Society co-founder Bob Marshall.
- Elevation range: 4,000 - 9,000 feet above sea level

- Landscape characterized by rugged peaks, alpine lakes, cascading waterfalls, grassy meadows with streams, a towering coniferous forest, and big river valleys.
- Wildlife: Habitat for the grizzly bear, lynx, mountain lion, wolf, black bear, moose, mountain sheep, mountain goat, elk and a variety of other birds and mammals.
- Plants (a sample of common species): Whitebark pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, beargrass, quaking aspen, subalpine fir, and many more.
- Historic Native People presence: Within ancestral Bitterroot Salish, Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai and Blackfoot lands and used seasonally by other tribal groups.
- Other information: More than 1,000 miles of trail. Some well-used trails are well maintained. In more remote areas they receive less maintenance.



Bob Marshall Wilderness
(from wilderness.net; Image #2603)