



# MONTANA CONSERVATION CORPS

## *Expedition Lingo 101*



**Back-Country** - Area where there are no maintained roads or permanent buildings, just primitive roads and trails.

**Backslope** – The cut bank along the uphill side of the trail, extending upslope from the tread.

**Bear Burrito** – Hammock.

**Bear Fortune Cookie** – Tent.

**Bench** – A long step, or tier, on the side of a hill. You climb until you reach the bench, then you walk across it, then climb

until you reach the next bench.

**Blaze** – Mark on a tree, rock, sign, etc. indicating the trail route.

**Blow-Down** – A tree or shrub that has fallen across the trail.

**Boardwalk** – Planking built on piling in areas of wet soil or water to provide dry hiking.

**Bog Bridge** – Narrow wooden walkway placed to protect sensitive wetlands.

**Buck-up / Bucking** - the process of cutting a felled and delimbed tree into logs.

**Corridor** - A belt of land linking two other areas or following a road or river.

**Cowboy Camping** – Where one camps without any shelter - just spread one's pad and bag out under the stars and putting one's faith in their opinion about the weather staying dry.

**Crib-wall / Retaining Wall** – A structured wall created (often with rocks) to hold back earth or soil.

**Dead Fall** – Term for fallen dead trees across the trail.

**Duff / Sluff** - A depression or hollow, usually filled with swampy or boggy ground

**False Edge** - A sharpened edge on the spine of a blade that does not run the full length of the blade.

**Food Bag** – A bag for keeping food in. It is typically suspended from a tree at night so bears and varmints don't get into it. Also called Bear Bag.

**Front-Country** – The opposite of Back-Country. Where there are maintained roads, amenities and facilities.

**Hitch** – Refers to the term of a project when you are out in the woods working and camping.



# MONTANA CONSERVATION CORPS

*Expedition Lingo 101 continued*



**Lopping** – To cut off a limb or branch from a tree.

**No-Go** – Opting not to proceed with a task because of risk oriented conditions.

**Puncheon / Bog Bridge / Boardwalk** – A wooden walkway built to provide a stable, hardened tread-way across bogs, mud flats, and marshy areas.

**Retread** – The cleaning and clearing of a trail surface.

**Scat** – Animal dung.

**Snag / Hazard Tree** – A standing or leaning dead tree.

**Spike** – Similar to Hitch, but refers to actions or elements of a hitch. Examples: Spike-In, Spike-Out, Spike-Meals, Spike-Money

**Switchback** – A method of building a trail that forms a zig-zag of trails up a mountain. The strategy is to make the climb easier and prevent erosion.

**Trail Dogs** - Well seasoned trail workers.

**Trail Pups** - Novice trail workers.

**Trailhead** – Where the trail leaves a road crossing or parking lot.

**Tread** – Making first tracks or the surface of a trail.

**Turnpike** – A trail structure made of gravel, rocks, and/or wood that allows seasonable moisture to flow across a trail.

**Understory** – Forest vegetation growing under the canopy.

**Water Bar / Drain Dip** – Log, rock or berm structure that diverts water before it hits a trail.

**Widow Maker** – Dead branch hanging in a tree.