

# Dirt Work: An Education in the Woods

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## Reviews

A really great publication with perfect and lucid explanations. Of course, it is play, continue to an amazing and interesting literature. I discovered this book from my i and dad suggested this publication to find out. (Dr. Augustine Borer)

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## DIRT WORK: AN EDUCATION IN THE WOODS



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Beacon Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 256 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 5.9in. x 0.9in.A lively and lyrical account of one womans unlikely apprenticeship on a national-park trail crew and what she discovers about nature, gender, and the value of hard workChristine Byl first encountered the national parks the way most of us do: on vacation. But after she graduated from college, broke and ready for a new challenge, she joined a Glacier National Park trail crew as a seasonal traildog maintaining mountain trails for the millions of visitors Glacier draws every year. Byl first thought of the job as a paycheck, a summer diversion, a welcome break from the real world before going on to graduate school. She came to find out that work in the woods on a trail crew was more demanding, more rewardingmore realthan she ever imagined. During her first season, Byl embraces the backbreaking difficulty of the work, learning how to clear trees, move boulders, and build stairs in the backcountry. Her first mentors are the colorful characters with whom she worksthe packers, sawyers, and traildogs from all walks of lifealong with the tools in her hands: axe, shovel, chainsaw, rock bar. As she invests herself deeply in new work, the mountains, rivers, animals, and weather become teachers as well. While Byl expected that her tenure at the parks would be temporary, she ends up turning this summer gig into a decades-long job, moving from Montana to Alaska, breaking expectationsincluding her ownthat she would follow a professional career path. Returning season after season, she eventually leads her own crews, mentoring other trail dogs along the way. In Dirt Work, Byl probes common assumptions about the division between mental and physical labor, womens work and mens work, white collars and blue collars. The supposedly simple work...

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