



The Ninemile Wildlands Training Center:
*Linking the past to the future by
teaching traditional back country skills*

NINEMILE WILDLANDS TRAINING CENTER

Ninemile Ranger Station
20325 Remount Road
Huson, MT 59846
www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lolo/nwtc
406-626-5201

Greetings!

Dec 16, 2019

Ninemile Wildlands Training Center (NWTC) is gearing up for another year of providing quality hands on traditional skills training. The NWTC was started in 1988 to provide traditional skills training to government employees. In 1998, Congress passed legislation allowing us to open our classes to the public through a program called Heritage Expeditions.

For those of you who haven't heard of us, Ninemile Wildlands Training Center is located at the historic Ninemile Ranger Station on the Lolo National Forest in western Montana. Ninemile Ranger Station is located approximately 25 miles west of Missoula, MT. Our facility, the Ninemile Remount Depot, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Remount Depot was built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a pack stock breeding/training facility and is still a working ranch today with its own share of building preservation and maintenance needs!

Attached is a schedule of courses that we will offer in 2020, including dates and course tuitions. Courses include: *Use and Care of Saddle and Pack Stock, Use and Care of Traditional Hand Tools, Dutch Oven Cooking, Axemanship and Tack and Leather Maintenance*. This year, we are proud to offer fourteen courses teaching hands-on traditional skills.

If you would like more information, please go to our web site at (www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/resources-cultural/nwtc), or contact us directly at (406) 626-5409 or (406) 626-5201; ask for Casey Burns or Laura Johnson.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our 2020 training opportunities.

Sincerely,

Eric Tomasik
DISTRICT RANGER
Ninemile Ranger District

2020 Course Descriptions

STOCK COURSES

Tack Repair and Maintenance: If you have a backlog of tack repair this class will help you out. Owners of Sun River Saddlery, Jennifer and Jordon Knudsen, will get you started with the basics. Lessons include general leather repair, setting rivets, oiling tack, and making quarter straps.

This is a 3 day course, and will take place at Sun River Saddlery in Six Mile Creek just east of the Ninemile Ranger District.

Please bring leather items and equipment to work on, such as riding and pack saddles, bridles, panniers, chaps, saddle bags, etc. The class will run from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Course is limited to five students so please sign up soon.

Teamster: Boone Jones has over 50 years of experience working with teams and equipment. This class is for the beginner and the expert. During this four day course you will learn to safely harness and drive stock and equipment. A hay wagon is on site to use for the course (we utilize the wagon to feed the Region 1 stock). Small pull carts and how to hook up to large logs will also be taught. This class is endless to what it can be; all you have to do is ask the question and Boone will show you how it's done. This class will take place at the historic Ninemile Ranger Station.

You are welcome to bring a team to the class. Please notify Casey Burns so we can plan additional feed and space.

Course is limited to five students so please sign up soon.

***Managers' Horsemanship and Packing Clinic:** The class is designed to fit your busy schedule and is offered to Line Officers, Staff, and Managers who are interested in learning backcountry skills. This two-day course will focus on basic horsemanship skills and packing. You'll develop or further your horsemanship skills using Ninemile and Northern Region Pack Train stock. Along with leading pack stock you will learn basic packing, saddling, and mantying skills. The class is taught by horse trainer and Ninemile Ranch Manager, Marc Haskins and Northern Region Pack Train Manager, Casey Burns.

***Ninemile Packing Clinic:** Stock use and packing has been the tradition at Ninemile since the Remount was established in 1930. Learning to pack mules and horses is what this class is all about. We've offered the packing clinic at Ninemile since 1980, and we're still going strong! The clinic is taught by Northern Region Pack Train packer Casey Burns. Topics covered in this five-day course include: stock anatomy, saddles and tack, feeding and care of stock, safe stock handling techniques, packing the Decker saddle, and minimum impact camping and stock use techniques. An overnight pack trip rounds out the week, with an opportunity to use your new packing skills. **This class is a prerequisite for the Advanced Packing course offered in July.**

***Defensive Horsemanship:** This one-day course focuses on safe and efficient stock handling techniques and practices. Participants will gain confidence in handling stock and will develop horsemanship skills. The class is taught by horse trainer and Ninemile Ranch Manager, Marc Haskins. You are encouraged to bring your own stock to work with.

Look forward to being challenged and taking home some great skills!

***Advanced Packing Clinic:** This epic six-day course begins at the Benchmark Guard Station on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Lewis and Clark National Forest. Northern Region Pack Train packer, Casey Burns will lead this enjoyable week of learning to safely pack, travel, and camp in wilderness and backcountry areas. During the week long session you will build on skills acquired in the Ninemile Packing Clinic (a prerequisite for this course), and learn techniques for packing difficult items into the wilderness such as water bars, bridge decking, gravel and tools. In addition, we will learn to camp safely in bear country with stock, practice current “*Leave No Trace*” principles for stock use, and practice several methods of backcountry stock management.

NWTC will cover all aspects of trip planning and preparation.

Class size is limited to ten students so sign up early!

***Horse Handling and Training:** Many stock users have had to deal with untrained stock, or stock with bad habits. Participants in this course for experienced riders will learn safe, correct procedures for riding, handling, and training saddle horses and mules. Techniques for correcting bad habits or undesirable behavior in riding stock will also be presented. Professional horse trainer and Ninemile Ranch Manager Marc Haskins will teach this two day course. You are encouraged to bring your own horse to this session, although we will provide one if you’re unable to bring your own.

Class size is limited to six riders, so sign up early!

Firearms Safety for Packers and Stock Managers: This one-day course is **restricted to agency personnel only** and will focus on safe handling, storage, and use of handguns for the specific purpose of dispatching injured or sick government stock. Topics include: firearms safety and handling, proper firing techniques (including the demonstration of weapons proficiency on a firing range), legal and ethical aspects of firearms use, and animal anatomy and behavior. The course will include both classroom and shooting range exercises. This course will be held at Ninemile Ranger District.

***This course meets the Forest Service Region One requirements for Defensive Horse Safety training.**

Lodging is limited around the Ninemile Ranger District, a lodging and logistics guide is forthcoming.

Traditional Skills Courses

Crosscut Saw Maintenance & Sharpening: This class is an intensive hands-on course emphasizing the art and science of fitting up and properly caring for crosscut saws. Topics include: styles of saws, qualities to look for when buying a saw, tools required to fit-up a saw, etc. The majority of class time will be spent learning to properly sharpen your saw. At the end of the week, you'll have an opportunity to spend an afternoon in the field practicing falling and bucking techniques and testing your newly sharpened saw!

Bring two or three saws if you have them, and all of the filing tools you can lay your hands on. We'll discuss the different tools and make sure they're properly adjusted. There will be plenty of tools and saws if you are unable to bring your own.

Saw expert Arden Corey will be instructing this five-day course. Arden has many years of crosscut saw experience and learned under Martin Winters. Arden has competed in lumber jack events and not only won many, but also held world records in timber competitions. One such record was cutting a 30 inch fir log in 31 seconds!

Class size is limited to five students per session, so sign up early.

Complete Axemanship Skills: This five-day course provides safe and proper instruction on use of the axe as a stand-alone tool or as a tool that can be used in conjunction with crosscut saws or other relevant hand tools. Hands-on instruction topics will include: axe types, handle replacement, sharpening, and proper felling and bucking technique. All instruction emphasizes safety. This course will be taught by Aaron Klug, Forest Service Trails Technician, who has extensive axemanship knowledge and experience.

Dutch Oven Cooking: Here's the class you Dutch oven cooks have been asking for!! Come hungry to the Dutch Oven Cooking class and learn how to make gourmet meals using a variety of Dutch ovens and cast iron. Bring your own Dutch ovens and stoves if you have them. Our Dutch oven chef Emily O'Neill, will furnish what you need if you don't. You will leave this class with a full stomach, a new piece of cast iron cookware, and a wealth of knowledge on the art of Dutch oven cooking. **Couples (husband & wife, father/daughter, best friends, etc.) are welcome to take advantage of reduced tuition, but will receive only one Dutch oven per couple.**

Lodging is limited around the Ninemile Ranger District, a lodging and logistics guide is forthcoming.



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2020 Course Schedule

Course Name	Date	Tuition
Crosscut Saw Maintenance & Sharpening	March 23-27	\$550
Crosscut Saw Maintenance & Sharpening	March 30- April 3	\$550
Crosscut Saw Maintenance & Sharpening	April 13-17	\$550
Axemanship	April 6-10	\$475
Tack & Leather	April 6-8	\$350
Teamster	April 13-16	\$400
Rigging	April 20-24	\$425
Firearms Safety for Packers & Stock Managers <i>(Agency Personnel Only)</i>	April 28	\$45
Line Officers	April 22-23	\$300
Dutch Oven Cooking <i>(Couples Rate)</i>	May 16-17	\$250* \$350*
Horse Handling & Training Techniques	May 27-28	\$300
Horse Handling & Training Techniques	June 3-4	\$300
Ninemile Packing Clinic	May 11-15	\$600
Ninemile Packing Clinic	May 18-22	\$600
Basic Defensive Horsemanship	June 10	\$150
Advanced Packing Clinic	July 18-24	\$1000**

*Includes meals - **Must bring your own stock. If personal stock is unavailable, contact Casey Burns to reserve Government stock; extra charge of \$100 applies)

Ninemile Wildlands Training Center is a program of the USDA Forest Service located on the Lolo National Forest in west central Montana. Courses are open to the public as well as agency personnel.

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