



NINEMILE WILDLANDS TRAINING CENTER

USDA Forest Service

Lolo National Forest

Ninemile Ranger Station

20325 Remount Road, Huson, MT 59846

*Linking the past to the future by
teaching traditional
back country skills*

2011 Heritage Expeditions Course Descriptions

Stock Courses

Defensive Horse Safety This 8 hour stock safety awareness course is designed to meet the need for mandatory safety training for stock users that is required by many Forest Service Regions. This mandatory training requirement applies to volunteers, as well as Forest Service employees. (This course is the beginning day of the Ninemile Packing Clinic). Topics include: horse anatomy, tack (good & bad), and safe techniques for catching, leading and tying, grooming, trucking and hauling stock, loading, saddling, bridling and mounting.

Ninemile Packing Clinic Learning how to pack mules and horses is what this class is all about. Stock use and packing has been the tradition at Ninemile since the Remount was established in 1930. We've offered the packing clinic at Ninemile since 1980, and we're still going strong! The clinic is taught by Montana outfitter and author, Smoke Elser. He is assisted by Forest Service packers Bob Hoverson and Mark Pengelly. 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 with an opportunity to use your newly learned skills, rounds out the week. ***Note: This class is a prerequisite for the Back Country Packing, Camping & Stock Handling Techniques course offered in July.***

Back Country Packing, Camping & Stock Handling Techniques This six-day course will originate from Clearwater Crossing Work Center on the Ninemile Ranger District, Lolo National Forest. Bob Hoverson and Mark Pengelly, along with the Forest Service Northern Region Pack Train will team up again to take you on this enjoyable week of learning to safely pack, travel and camp in wilderness and backcountry areas. During the weeklong session you will: cover all aspects of trip planning and preparation, learn to camp safely in bear country with stock, learn to practice state-of-the-art Leave No Trace principles for stock use, and practice several methods of backcountry stock management. Students will use skills acquired in the Ninemile Packing Clinic which is a prerequisite for this course. In addition, you will spend time working with a Forest Service trail crew supplying them with water bars, bridge decking, gravel and/or tools. ***Class size is limited to ten students so apply early!***

Basic Horsemanship This course covers basic riding instruction for new riders or serves as a brush-up for more experienced riders. Professional horse trainer and Ninemile Ranch Manager Marc Haskins will make sure you're a confident and safe rider at the end of this two day class. The session includes hands-on instruction on bridling and saddling, mounting and dismounting, along with lots of riding both in the arena and backcountry mountain trail settings. Safe handling techniques and practices for personal safety are stressed at all times. ***Class size is held to ten students so that participants can receive maximum individual attention.***

Horse Handling and Training Techniques Almost every unit with a stock program has at some time had to deal with untrained or spoiled 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 Marc Haskins will teach this 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. ***Space is limited to ten riders, so sign up early!***

Leave No Trace Master Educator (Stock) This course is designed to teach participants the principles of Leave No Trace (LNT) as it applies to stock users and packers. Students learn "hands-on" teaching methods and techniques for teaching outdoor ethics to diverse audiences. Graduates are expected to share the knowledge gained in this course with others, in a "train-the-trainer" format. All material and information presented is based on the latest wildland recreation research. The course is taught by Bob Hoverson, Program Manager for the Ninemile Wildlands Training Center and the Northern Region Pack Train. He is assisted by other Master Level Instructors. Class size is limited to twelve students. This course is sanctioned by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and students will receive a "Master Educator" certificate. This course is taught at Ninemile Ranger Station, Huson, Montana.

Leave No Trace Master Educator (Front Country – Stock) This course is a pilot course focusing specifically on front country stock use, techniques, issues and impacts. Ideal participants for this course are equestrians who are interested in Leave No Trace (LNT), willing to teach others LNT and who have an understanding of equestrian impacts when riding and camping in front country areas. This course is sanctioned by the LNT Center for Outdoor Ethics and students will receive a "Master Educator" certificate. The course is taught by Bob Hoverson, Program Manager for the Ninemile Wildlands Training Center and he is assisted by other Master Level Instructors. ***This course is located on the Shawnee National Forest, near Carbondale, Illinois.***

Firearms Safety for Packers and Stock Managers (Agency personnel only) This course titled "Firearms Training (Handgun) for Packers & Stock Managers" will be held in Missoula, Montana. 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 (horses or mules). 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. Graduates will receive a certificate of completion and a credential qualifying them to apply for a concealed weapons permit under Montana law. Gary Marbut, President of the Montana Shooting Sports Association will conduct this training.

Traditional Skills Courses

Crosscut Saw Maintenance & Sharpening Saw expert, Warren Miller teaches this five-day course. Warren, along with the Missoula Technology and Development Center wrote the "Crosscut Saw Manual" which is currently used by the Forest Service. This class is an intensive hands-on course emphasizing the art and science of fitting up and properly caring for crosscut saws. Discussion topics include: styles of saws, qualities to look for when buying a saw and tools required to fit-up a saw. 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're unable to bring your own. ***Sign up early as space is limited to five students per week.***

Back Country Survival Techniques Survival expert Peter Kummerfeldt conducts this training that is suitable for individuals age 15 and older. The course is designed to provide the practical knowledge needed to travel safely in the back country knowing that should some emergency occur, a night out does not have to be a life threatening event, just an inconvenience. The following will be covered during the course: the psychology of survival, survival medicine, assembling a useful survival kit, emergency shelters, fires and fire building, water and water procurement, and signaling-the art of attracting attention. The two and a half day course consists of a combination of classroom activity, instructor demonstration and lots of time for student practice. Participants will be required to sleep out one night.

Practical Map, Compass and GPS This land navigation course consists of two and a half days of both classroom instruction and field exercises. Topics presented include: introduction to USGS topographical maps, overview of mapping software, determining position-terms and concepts, topographical map border information, contour lines and map symbols, geodetic datum's, grid systems, compasses, declination and map orientation, determining distance and bearing, measuring and estimating distance, navigation techniques, and using the GPS. Field exercises will be conducted throughout the course to allow for practical application of the academic material. This will include at least one night time exercise. Note: Participants are encouraged to bring their own compass and GPS. Maps will be provided.

Back Country Survival Techniques/Practical Map, Compass & GPS This course is a combination of the two above courses taught by survival and outdoor safety expert, Peter Kummerfeldt. ***A discount is given for those attending the full five days.***

Dutch Oven Cooking Basics Colleen Sloan has been teaching Dutch Oven cooking across the United States for over 25 years, but she's been a Dutch oven cook all of her life. If you've attended classes at the Ninemile Wildlands Training Center the past few years, you've likely experienced her excellent cooking! Now, Colleen has offered to share her skills with you. This one-day class covers: equipment for low impact cooking, seasoning and cleaning Dutch ovens, cooking for a crowd, back country menus and packing for back country trips. Come to class with an empty stomach, we'll start cooking first thing in the morning and continue right on through to a first class dinner! Tuition includes an instructional cookbook, a Dutch oven to take home and meals for the day. Additional supplies will be available for purchase at the course. ***Couples (husband & wife, father/daughter, best friends, etc) are welcome to take advantage of a reduced tuition but will receive only one instructional cookbook and Dutch oven per couple.***

Advanced Dutch Oven Cooking Here's the class you Dutch Oven cooks have been asking for!! Come hungry to the Advanced Dutch Oven Cooking class and learn how to make candy, ethnic dishes and gourmet meals; plus learn to cook on a cast iron wok and fry pans. Bring your own Dutch ovens and stoves, if you have them. Our Dutch Oven Chef Colleen Sloan, 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 new knowledge on the art of Dutch Oven cooking. Couples (husband & wife, father/daughter, best friends, etc.) are welcome to take advantage of a reduced tuition but will receive only one instructional cookbook and Dutch Oven per couple. ***Prizes will be drawn hourly!***

Historic Building Preservation & Maintenance

Introduction to Shop Tools for Cabinet, Window & Door Construction Participants will work in the Northern Region Preservation Team's wood shop in Missoula, Montana, to learn basic skills in set up and operation of shop power equipment to construct and repair windows and doors. Power tools covered will be radial arm saw, sliding compound miter saw, jointer, surface planer, drum sander, table saw, shaper, tenoner machine, and mortise machine. The course will include tool maintenance and tool safety. Students will construct and repair windows and/or doors for actual use and will gain knowledge of historic maintenance techniques, understanding of the Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance process, and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. In addition, a lead awareness certification class will be held.

Log Repair and Replacement for Historic Buildings, restoring Greenwood Cabins. This course will be located six miles from Clearwater Crossing Trailhead on the Ninemile Ranger District. Students will receive training in repair and replacement of deteriorated sill and wall logs and crown ends and they will develop skills in layout and cutting of notches, half-lap splicing, shaping and fitting logs, and epoxy joints. In addition, topics such as understanding of the Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance process, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation, common structural problems and various preservation techniques will be discussed. Also, students will be replacing floor joists, flooring and windows. ***Food and cook will be provided, however students must furnish their own sleeping tent, sleeping bag and personal gear. District packer will pack our supplies and gear for the project. Students must hike six miles to the project site.***

Putting the Building to Bed (Mothballing Techniques) The mothballing process halts the further deterioration of a historic structure while allowing time to gather resources, funds, and information in order to preserve the building. It is a recognized preservation techniques that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards as a "no adverse" effect. Mothballing essentially buys time in the decision making process while little further deterioration occurs to the structure. This course, which is taught by the Northern Region Preservation Team, will cover the following specific topics: ventilation, mold and dehumidification, structural stability, utilities, vegetation concerns, cleaning and removing excess items in the building, and the construction of door and window louvers. In addition, lead awareness certification training will be held. Due to possible mold, mildew, hantavirus, rodents, lead, and asbestos problems commonly found in buildings, it is recommended that each student receive medical clearance (Fit For Duty and Respirator Protection Equipment Usage Forms) prior to attending the class. ***This course will be located at or near West Yellowstone, Montana with a max of four students.***

Wood Shingle and Shake Roofing Techniques Ninemile District facilities manager, Shiffy Wellborn, and master carpenters from the Northern Region Historic Preservation team will teach this formal hands-on training in wood shingle and wood shake roof replacement on historic and modern buildings. This five day course will be located at Powell Ranger station on the beautiful Lochsa River in Idaho. The class will replace the roof on a building which is listed on the National Historic Building Register. Each trainee will learn skills in material selection, ground staging (scaffolding), roof staging (toe boards), use of specialty roofing tools, and old roof removal. New roof application techniques consisting of single and double coursing, installing fasteners and flashing, and determining proper shingle exposure will be practiced during actual roof installation. ***Food and a cook will be provided. Students must furnish their own sleeping bag and personal gear.***

Log Repair and Replacement for Historic Buildings The Northern Region Preservation Team will conduct this training on a Forest Service cabin located on the Lewis and Clark National Forest, between Neihart and White Sulfur Springs, Montana. Each trainee will learn skills in material selection, ground staging (scaffolding), repair and replacement of deteriorated sill and wall logs and crown ends, layout and cutting of notches, half-lap splicing, epoxy techniques, shaping and fitting logs, chinking and daubing techniques, and cribbing and lifting log structures. In addition, topics such as the Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance process, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation, common structural problems and various preservation techniques will be discussed. ***Food and a cook will be provided. Students must furnish their own sleeping tent, sleeping bag and personal gear.***

**Ninemile Wildlands Training Center
20325 Remount Road, Huson, MT 59846 (406)626-5201
www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/resources-cultural/nwtc**