



## 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  
backcountry skills*

### 2014 Heritage Expeditions Course Descriptions

#### **Stock Courses**

**Line Officers and Managers Horsemanship and Packing Clinic:** Line Officers, Staff and Managers need to get in the field too! The two-day class is designed to fit the busy schedule of managers and will focus on horsemanship skills and packing. You will learn or review horsemanship and riding skills and work on basic packing including saddling, mantying and leading pack stock. Class is taught by horse trainer and Ninemile Ranch Manager Marc Haskins and Northern Region Pack Train Manager Casey Burns. ***Agency employees only. This class fulfills the Region 1 mandatory Defensive Horsemanship requirement.***

**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 Casey Burns and Northern Region Pack Train Lead Packer, 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. This course also fulfills the Forest Service Region 1 Defensive Horsemanship requirement. ***Note: This class is a prerequisite for the Advanced Packing course offered in July.***

**Defensive Horsemanship:** Learn safe and efficient stock handling techniques and practices in this class or brush up on your stock handling skills for the field season. Participants will gain confidence in handling, bridling, tying and riding stock and will also acquire new horse handling skills. Look forward to being challenged and taking home some great new skills. The class is taught by Marc Haskins, horse trainer and Ranch Manager. ***This class fulfills the Region 1 mandatory Defensive Horsemanship requirement.***

**Advanced Packing Clinic:** How do you get 8 foot lumber to a backcountry cabin? How do you move 10 tons of gravel from the trailhead to a trail project? How do you safely pack a camp into the backcountry? Helicopter? Heck no! Let Ruthie, Palmer, Tess and the rest of the mules on the Northern Region Pack Train show you how it's done. Casey Burns, Pack Train Manager, and Forest Service Packer Mark Pengelly, take you on 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), learn techniques for packing more difficult items, spend time working with a Forest Service trail crew supplying them with water bars, bridge decking, gravel and/or tools. In addition, we 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. The class will culminate with a backcountry overnight in the Great Burn. Includes stellar meals!

***Class size is limited to ten students so apply early! This class fulfills the Region 1 mandatory Defensive Horsemanship requirement.***

**Horsemanship Clinic:** This is an awesome course! In addition to learning or brushing up on your riding skills, find out what lateral flexion, hindquarter yields and side passes are all about. Professional horse trainer and Ninemile Ranch Manager Marc Haskins will make sure you're a confident and safe rider at the end of this 3 day class. The session includes hands-on instruction on bridling and saddling, mounting and dismounting, along with lots of riding. Safe handling techniques and practices with personal safety are stressed at all times. ***Class size is held to ten students so that participants can receive individual attention. Fulfills Defensive Horsemanship requirement.***

**Horse Handling and Training :** 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 and Ninemile Ranch Manager Marc Haskins will teach this 3 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. ***Space is limited to ten riders, so sign up early! Fulfills Defensive Horsemanship.***

**Leave No Trace (Stock) Master Educator:** 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 encouraged 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 Casey Burns, Leave No Trace Master Educator and the legendary Smoke Elser! 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.

**Firearms Safety for Packers and Stock Managers (Agency personnel only):** This course will be held at Ninemile Ranger District. 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.

## **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. 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 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. 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!

***Sign up early as space is limited to six students per week.***

**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 places primary emphasis on safety. This course will be taught by Lawrence Dowsett of Auburn, Wyoming. Lawrence is originally from Australia where chopping is a national sport. Lawrence has years of experience both as a competitor and as a logger.

**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 30 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 backcountry 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.

**Wood Shingle and Roofing Techniques:** Ninemile District facilities manager, Shiffy Wellborn, and Syd Bacon, Forest Archeologist, will teach this formal hands-on training in wood shingle roof replacement on historic and modern buildings. This five-day course will be located at the Historic Ninemile Ranger District. The class will put a new shingle roof on the infamous saddle shop, home of two packers and Scratch the saddle shop cat! 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.

**Log Repair and Replacement for Historic Buildings:** Shiffy Wellborn and Syd Bacon will conduct this training on the Lolo National Forest at Greenwood cabins located six miles into the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness. Each trainee will learn skills in material selection, 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, 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.usda.gov/goto/lolo/nwtc](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lolo/nwtc)**



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## 2014 Course Schedule

Course Name	Date	Tuition
Crosscut Saw Maintenance and Sharpening	March 31- April 4	\$475
Crosscut Saw Maintenance and Sharpening	April 7-11	\$475
Crosscut Saw Maintenance and Sharpening	April 14-18	\$475
Introduction to Shop Tools for Cabinet, Window & Door Construction/Lead Awareness Training <b>Missoula, MT</b>	April 7-11	\$250
Line Officers/Managers Horsemanship and Packing Clinic <b>(Agency Only)</b>	April 9-10	\$200
Complete Axemanship	April 21-25	\$475
Complete Axemanship	April 28-May 2	\$475
Firearms Safety for Packers & Stock Managers <b>(Agency personnel only)</b>	April 25	\$35
Dutch Oven Basics <b>(Couples rate)</b>	May 3	\$125* \$200*
Advanced Dutch Oven Cooking <b>(Couples rate)</b>	May 4	\$125* \$200*
Leave No Trace (Stock) Master Educator	May 5-9	\$700*
Horsemanship Clinic	May 7-9	\$300
Ninemile Packing Clinic	May 19-23	\$500
Ninemile Packing Clinic	June 2-6	\$500
Horse Handling & Training	May 28-30	\$300
Defensive Horsemanship	June 4	\$100

Log Repair and Replacement for Historic Buildings <i>(Greenwood Cabin)</i>	June 16-20	\$500*
Wood Shingle Roofing Techniques <i>(Historic Ninemile Ranger Station)</i>	June 23-27	\$500
Back Country Survival Techniques	June 27-29	\$250
Practical Map, Compass & GPS	June 29-July 1	\$250
Combined Course-Back Country Survival Techniques/Practical Map, Compass & GPS	June 27-July 1	\$450**
Advanced Packing Clinic	July 20-25	\$900***

\* Includes meals.

\*\* Discount given if both Back Country Survival Techniques & Practical Map, Compass & GPS are taken.

\*\*\* Must bring your own stock, unless arrangements have been made otherwise (government stock limited - extra charge of \$100.) Includes meals.

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

**Please call 406-626-5201 for more information.**

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