



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Lolo National Forest | R1-23-08 | February 2023



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!

Jan 18, 2024

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 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a pack stock breeding/training facility and is still a working ranch today!

Attached is a schedule of courses that we will offer in 2024, including dates and course tuitions.

If you would like more information, please go to our web site ([Lolo National Forest - Special Places](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lolo/nwtc) usda.gov), or contact us directly at (406) 626-5438 or (406) 626-5201; ask for Robin Connell or Laura Johnson.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our 2024 training opportunities.

Lodging is limited around the Ninemile Ranger District. Please plan accordingly.

Sincerely,

Christopher Gauger
District Ranger
Ninemile Ranger District

2024 Course Descriptions

Stock Courses

Teamster:

Boone Jones has over 50 years of experience working with teams and equipment. This class is for the beginner and expert alike. During this four-day course you will learn to safely harness and drive stock and equipment. Utilizing small pull carts, wagons, and large logs, you'll learn the basics pulling with stock. Lots of possibilities with this class; just ask the question and Boone will show you how it's done! This class will take place at the historic Ninemile Ranger Station.

5-day course

Course size: 5

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!

This course includes in-depth discussion and hands on application of stock anatomy, saddles, tack, process of mantying, feeding and care of stock, safe stock handling techniques, packing the Decker saddle, and minimum impact camping and stock use techniques. You will learn techniques for packing traditional mantied loads to difficult items such as water bars, bridge decking, gravel, and tools.

An overnight pack trip rounds out the week, with an opportunity to use your new packing skills.

This 5-day course is taught by Northern Region Packer Robin Connell.

This class is best for individuals that already have some stock experience.

Course size: 8

*** Horse Handling and Training:**

This course is for beginner, intermediate, and advanced individuals. Participants will learn safe, correct procedures for riding and handling saddle horses and mules. Techniques for correcting bad habits or undesirable behavior in riding stock will also be presented. You are encouraged to bring your own horse to this session, although we will provide one if you're unable to bring your own.

This 2-day course is taught by horse trainer Ely Indreland.

Course size: 6

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

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. Most of the 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 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 David Brensiden will be instructing this five-day course.

Course size: 5

*** 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. Bring two or three axe heads for handling and sharpening!

This course will be taught by Peter Bauer, Forest Service Trails Technician.

Course size: 6

* Class depends on instructor availability



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2024 Course Schedule

Course Name	Date	Tuition
Crosscut Saw Maintenance & Sharpening	April 1-5	\$650
Crosscut Saw Maintenance & Sharpening	April 8-12	\$650
Axemanship	April 1-5	\$450
Teamster	April 15-18	\$450
Horse Handling & Training Techniques	May 14-15	\$350
Horse Handling & Training Techniques	May 28-29	\$350
Horse Handling & Training Techniques	June 11-12	\$350
Basic Packing Clinic	May 6-10	\$650
Basic Packing Clinic	June 3-7	\$650

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. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.