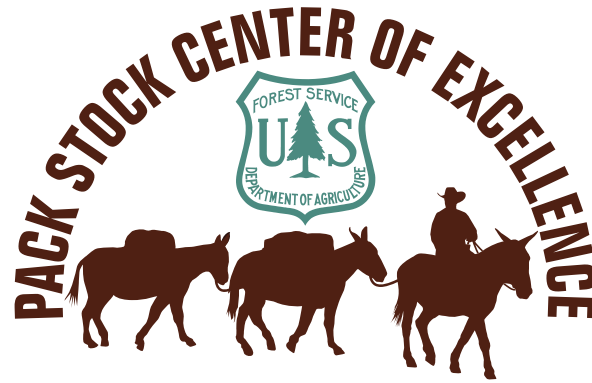


Pack Stock Center of Excellence



A resource for efficient and effective management of wilderness and other remote areas



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Who We Are

The Pack Stock Center of Excellence (PSCOE) is a group of highly skilled Forest Service professionals with decades of pack stock and wilderness management experience.

The PSCOE coordinates pack stock resources and expertise from throughout the USFS Pacific Southwest Region (R5) to be responsive to, and efficiently serve, the local needs of all R5 forests, whether that's supporting a project, participating in a local event or providing training. The PSCOE serves as a one-stop shop for pack stock,



primitive skills, and traditional tool- related needs.

We excel in helping to find creative solutions for getting work done in wilderness and other remote settings. We offer high quality training and education, ensuring ongoing capability to complete work using pack stock, primitive skills and traditional tools.

What We Do

General Packing

- ▲ Transport tools, monitoring equipment, camp gear and project materials and supplies

Technical Support

- ▲ Project oversight
- ▲ Technical expertise and consulting

Fire Support

- ▲ Supply crews working in remote areas
- ▲ Backhaul trash and equipment
- ▲ Serve as Wilderness Resource Advisors

Training

- ▲ Pack and riding stock safety
- ▲ Basic horsemanship & packing
- ▲ Apprenticeship program

- ▲ Leave No Trace Master Educators
- ▲ Traditional tools and primitive skills

Community Outreach

- ▲ Parade appearances
- ▲ Events & demonstrations
- ▲ Youth outreach



What We Do in Detail

The PSCOE is an operating principle versus a physical location. It creates economies of scale by sharing pack stock resources across the region and ensures support for a range of high priority projects.

One pack string typically consists of five pack animals, two riding animals, a packer, and an assistant. However, resources are scalable to meet local needs ranging from multiple packers and strings for larger projects to just one packer with a riding animal. The PSCOE is equipped to travel and can operate in front or backcountry locations.

The PSCOE can provide support to a variety of programs and activities such as trail maintenance, restoration, wilderness, range, heritage, fuels, wildlife, fisheries, hydrology, botany, research, monitoring and law enforcement.



Pack strings are a cost-effective way to maximize efficiency of personnel, partners, and volunteers working in wilderness or remote areas. Pack stock can support a base camp or travel to multiple sites.

Using pack strings to support volunteer and partner crews working in remote settings, helps forests to engage in shared stewardship, adding capacity and leveraging resources to care for the land.

Pack strings can effectively supply wildland fire crews in wilderness and remote locations, greatly reducing the risk and cost associated with helicopter flight time. All PSCOE packers have training as fire fighters (FFT2 or FFT1) and Wilderness Resource Advisors (READ or REAF).

PSCOE trainers bring a passion for public lands, wilderness management and traditional skills. We offer training ranging from horsemanship and packing to crosscut saw sharpening. Our Master Trainers are available to teach Leave No Trace ethics.



The PSCOE is also a resource for engaging with your local communities and sharing the agency's long history of using traditional tools to care for public lands as land stewards. We are available to participate in parades, special events, youth outreach and demonstrations.

Contact Us

Reach us by email: SM.FS.PackStockCOE@usda.gov
Or learn more about the PSCOE Program online:

www.fs.usda.gov/PackStockCOE



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