

BMWf WOMEN'S PACK CLINIC AGENDA

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Choteau, MT

Instructors: Keegan Rumsey, Krissy Gillispie

Location: Teton Weatherbeater

9:30am-4:30pm

9:30: Arrive, meet and greet, coffee, get settled in the shop for morning

10:00: Get started with intros for Krissy, Keegan and BMWf. Hear from participants.

10:30-12:00: Learn/Practice building loads

12:00: Lunch – Bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee and water will be provided.

12:30: Hands on with the mules

4:30: Final statements and wrap up

Please dress in weather appropriate clothing for being in a non-heated arena. Bring layers, gloves and water bottle. You will be handling mules who still have a fuzzy winter layer, so dress appropriately to get dirty!

Packing Topics Covered:

PLANNING

- First and biggest part of having a low impact in the Wilderness. One of the Leave No Trace principles, and the best way to keep stock and people safe.
- Gain knowledge/training in how to plan safe, well-thought-out trips:
 - Water crossings, trails conditions, washouts, construction projects, fires, closures, etc.
 - Know where your camps are and how much feed you need to bring (Weed Seed Free Feed/Pellets)
- Etiquette when you meet another string, backpackers, dogs, etc.
- Know the spots/times of year and learn where you need to wait/watch/yield to traffic. Learn and inquire for any area or Wilderness you may be going to.
 - Bob Marshall-specific tricky spots/times of year
- What to do if you need to turn your string around in a tight spot

SAFETY

- How to be prepared with knowledge, gear, feed, tools, etc.
- How to implement safety precautions throughout the entire trip
- Use of breakaways, knives, and trail clearing tools
- Water/river crossings
- Equine first aid best practices

BUILDING LOADS:

- Packing basics and gear suggestions
- Building, wrapping and weighing a secure load
- How to pack food/liquids/etc.

GROOMING/ASSESSING/SADDLING:

- Basic safety in moving around an animal and grooming. Quick release tie-up.
- Show basic palpation assessment for potential lameness
- Checking/cleaning feet and hooves
- Saddling, fit and adjustments of a decker, parts of a decker

LOADING:

- Approaching an animal with loads
- Loading with one person on each side; Loading with two people on one load
- Crucial knots and managing rope
- Attaching one mule to the next
- How to check for balanced loads, and how to adjust

UNSADDLING:

- Smoothly unloading
- Best way to “put up” a decker, unwrap loads, and re-hang ropes

Extra Topics as time allows:

- Equine First Aid: What’s in a basic kit
- Camping with Stock and LNT best practices
- Highline vs. Midline
- High use camps vs new camps
- Electric Fences, hobbles, grazing hobbles