

2017 Pacific Northwest Wilderness Stewardship Skills Training Modules

Wilderness Skills Introduction

This introductory module includes topics that will equip the participant with the knowledge and practical skills that are needed to work safely and effectively in the Wilderness setting. Participants will learn about the Wilderness Act and obtain a general understanding of current USFS management principles. Participants will learn the basic responsibilities of wilderness stewards and practice important work skills including: staying in contact with radio dispatch, navigation using map and compass, work documentation, leave no trace (LNT) principles, and understanding weather systems. If you are new to Wilderness Stewardship this is the module for you.

Visitor Contacts

This module presents an in-depth look at visitor interactions and provides different approaches to positive and productive visitor contacts and education. Participants will learn how to make visitor contacts using a personalized process based approach. This will include plenty of live practice using training scenarios to build skills and confidence in a safe and friendly environment. This module will cover regulations, recommended practices, interpretation, information, education and enforcement. Participants will start to develop their personalized “elevator speech” for common scenarios. The module will also cover safety and situational awareness as they relate to visitor contacts.

Wilderness Monitoring

Participants will learn key skills for Wilderness character monitoring for the following topics: noxious and invasive species, recreation sites, solitude, and trails. Each topic will exhibit how that form of monitoring fits into the goals of preserving wilderness character and explain the ecological and social reasons for why each form of monitoring is necessary. Participants will learn the protocols, tools and techniques for performing each manner of monitoring.

Wilderness Restoration

Participants will gain the skills needed to identify and gather the site information needed to plan and implement a restoration project. The tools and techniques used in site restoration will be covered; including opportunities for hands on practice. Post project monitoring and adaptive management techniques will also be covered.

Primitive Field Skills

This hands-on, interactive module will provide participants with a wide range of techniques for interacting with stock on the trail and minimizing stock campsite impacts. Stock related topics will include: recognizing appropriate feed, preventing invasive weed spread, minimizing trail braiding, and rehabilitating campsites. Methods and tools for removing, repairing, and installing signs in Wilderness will be covered in depth.