

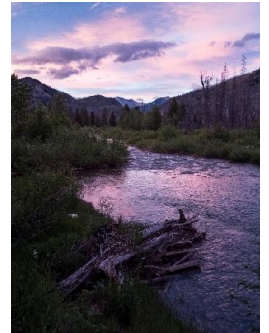
A Lazy H Outfitters Choteau, Montana



Wilderness Pack Trips

About This Bulletin

A summer horse packing trip into Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness is an extraordinary experience in the heart of the West. The country is beautiful and enormous- fitting the nick name "Big Sky Country". There are so many unique aspects to a summer horse packing trip, depending on your interests and time of season you decide to join us. We hope you find this bulletin fun and interesting to read, and we look forward to your specific questions about how to take a summer pack trip and turn it into your most special summer outing.



About Us

Way back in the late 1920's our predecessor outfitters established one of the earliest fishing camps on the North Fork of the Sun River in what was then the Sun River Primitive Area. Since then we've had the privilege of sharing horse packing excursions with people from all walks of life and all corners of the globe. A Lazy H Outfitters is a privately owned family business that is focused exclusively of guiding you through this special country and helping you enjoy the many magnificent opportunities that are unique to a wilderness summer pack trip.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness

The Bob Marshall Country is big in size, grandeur and legend. It is the second largest wilderness area in the continental US. It comprises almost 1.5 million acres and is larger than Rhode Island. Roads do not cross it and no motorized or wheeled vehicles are permitted. It is also home to almost every big game species in North America, including elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, grizzly bear, moose, big horn sheep, and mountain goats. The Bob Marshall straddles the Continental Divide and as such rivers, streams, and hidden lakes abound. This area has been relatively unchanged since Lewis and Clark went through Montana on their western expedition 200 years ago. The southern area of the Bob Marshall was explored by Lewis on his eastward journey in 1806. Lewis went on to explore the Rocky Mountain Front northward until his party ran into hostile members of the Blackfoot Indian tribe near the northern reaches of the Bob Marshall. The ruggedness of the mountains and the tenaciousness of the Blackfoot Indians kept this area unexplored and unsettled until well into the late 1800's.



Fly Fishing

Fishing in the rugged backcountry is of the Bob Marshall is unparalleled in North America. During the peak fishing months of summer (late July-late August) the fishing action on these wild rivers is hot, fast, and exhilarating. In a time when the world-class fishing is either on private land or in the most remote corners of the world, the rivers in this corner of Montana are as good or better. What really differentiates the angling experience in

the Bob Marshall is the extraordinary dry fly fishing. The back country rivers are the rarest of waters where you can catch 60-80 wild fish per day on dry fly tackle. We hear repeatedly from experienced angler that this is truly special. We've had many young fishermen get "hooked" on fishing after a fishing pack trip into the Bob Marshall.

Horseback Riding and Traveling between Campsites

Part of the mystery and intrigue of a summer horse packing trip in the Bob Marshall is that this country can only be accessed by horseback or by hiking. This area is particularly suited to horse travel with good trails and superb camping areas (if you know where to find them!) Riding through this spectacular country will allow you to really see, hear, and enjoy all the beauty that is unfolding before you. And during those occasional rainy days, we're confident you'll find riding along muddy trails much preferred over hiking through them. You will be matched to a horse that fits your riding ability, and rest assured that you do not need any prior riding experience. All of the riding stock is well-trained and reliable in mountain conditions. We'll pack up all your gear on strong pack mules as we move from campsite to campsite. The distances covered on trips can be relatively short 20 mile trips to extended travel trips covering over 80 miles. As you will see in the schedule of trips, they emphasize different activities during different times of the season. The traveling trips tend towards more sightseeing and riding with fewer lay over days. Fishing trips of course tend to travel to different camps along the best fishing rivers. Regardless of the type of trip you take, on days when you do not travel you can take day rides to nearby points of interest. These include fire lookout towers with spectacular views, lazy rides through high mountain meadows, leisurely rides along the rivers or excursions to hidden mountain lakes.



Hiking, Exploring, and Wildlife Viewing



There are unlimited hiking opportunities for those that want to stretch their legs after a day's ride. Just pick a direction and go. We can point out some wonderful spots to explore. A nice leisurely hike allows you to see the fine detail of this wilderness wonderland. There are beautiful wild flowers, magical secluded mountain ponds, rare and colorful migratory birds, and tall virgin forests. There is also the chance to glimpse the larger big game species such as a cow elk and her calf or a browsing black bear. Grizzly sightings are infrequent and usually at safe distances.

Number of Guests on a Trip

The ideal size trip is between six and eight guests. Typically, we provide around three or four crew members to support each trip so you get the benefit of a lot of personal attention. It is not necessary to have a large group to take a trip. We commonly provide smaller trips that may have only three or four guests. We will match up people with the same trip interests onto a single trip. Small families, couples and singles also frequent the trips and have a great time. We will take larger trips up to 12 people, though these trips are typically arranged by special request. Because there are so many different options on a trip, everyone can usually find an activity that fits their needs.

Trailhead Locations

There are a variety of different routes and areas to visit in an area as large as the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Depending on the dates and trip emphasis, we use different public

and private trail head locations as the starting and ending points for your trip. You may find that we start at one trailhead and come out at another. We use locations at the furthest south points near Augusta, and all along the eastern Rocky Mountain front to Glacier Park. The primary trailhead locations include our private facilities near west of Choteau and Dupuyer.



Equipment

We are confident you will find the equipment well maintained and in excellent condition. The camps are fully furnished and we provide all the necessary camping gear including spacious waterproof tents, kitchen equipment, and riding gear. We carry everything we need for the trip with us. That way we do not have to come out of the mountains for the entire trip. We try to conform to the wilderness environment instead of making it conform to the rest of the world. Literally, the only equipment you need to bring is your sleeping bag, personal belongings and fishing gear.

Camp and Food

Our commitment to quality and service applies to everything we do. We do not cut corners with equipment, livestock or supplies. We think you would be hard-pressed to find cleaner, more comfortable, more professional wilderness camps or packing services. There is a limit to comfort in the backcountry, but we make every effort to furnish the essentials for a high-quality trip.

These include comfortable and spacious sleeping tents, a large covered kitchen area and tables for buffet style meals. We also have stools for sit-down dining and campfire tales. On top of all this, we serve you the best food in the mountains. A full day of riding and exploring seems to invoke larger appetites than many are used to having. Therefore, we serve hearty, filling meals with lots of meat, vegetables and delightful desserts.

Staff

We employ some of the finest packers, guides and cooks so that we can provide you the caliber of pack trip you expect from us. We are very fortunate in that we have superior people returning annually to work our trips and we pay top wages for their services. You will find them personable, knowledgeable and ready to help you.



Rates

Part of the allure of a pack trip is the pleasant unpredictability of what you will experience next as you travel through this wild country; the spectacular photo opportunity around the next bend in the trail, the surprise of a herd of elk on a nearby ridge, or the size of that next fish rising for your dry fly. We believe though that predictability is very helpful in planning a unique trip like this. We do our best to include what we can in our trip rates, and identify clearly the items (generally optional) that you will need to consider. The trip rate sheets supplied with this bulletin include the following:

- Average party size of between six and eight per trip
- A saddle horse matched to your abilities for the duration of the trip
- Best food in the mountains. All meals provided.
- All camp equipment exclusive of personal belongings
- All livestock and camp chores attended to by the staff
- Private tents for those traveling solo, double occupancy tents for couples

Reservations and Deposits

We require a 33% deposit to confirm your horse packing trip. A trip is not confirmed until the deposit is received. We do our best to honor verbal or email commitments to hold your reservation for a reasonable (approximately a week) without a deposit. Deposits are not refundable unless you are unable to come due to a serious medical illness. In that case we

are happy to credit your deposit to a pack trip of equal duration and party size for the following year. Every trip and every part of the season offers something unique and different. If you think you have a private party in mind, it's best to give us a call as soon as you can so we can assist you in finding a time and trip schedule that fits for your group. In general, the sooner you let us know what you're looking for the easier it is for us to match the perfect trip for you.

Transportation and Directions to A Lazy H

If you choose to drive to Montana, we will provide directions and addresses as part of the final logistics for your trip. Additionally, commercial flights are readily available to Great Falls (GTF), Helena (HLN), Missoula (MSO) and Bozeman (BZN). Great Falls is the closest and about 50 miles from Choteau. We have a shuttle service to/from Great Falls for a nominal charge. For those wishing to visit Glacier or Yellowstone National Parks as part of your trip, you may consider Bozeman as the airport destination and rent a car from there. Bozeman is about 200 miles from us. Occasionally private pilots chose to fly out and for those you can land at either Great Falls or Choteau. Should you fly your own plane, private planes are welcome in Great Falls and Choteau. We request all guests arrive the day before the trip departs.



References

If a reference list has not been supplied with this bulletin, please do not hesitate to call and request references. The list of references changes all the time so we will ensure you have the most current list of superb people to talk with about their Montana pack trip experience.

On a final note, we deeply appreciate the trust you place and the integrity you expect when you confirm your pack trip experience with us. We are committed to providing the complete, quality, superior wilderness adventure that you are anticipating. We are excited to hear from you soon and have you join us this year!

