

Packing in the Gallatin: Sawbuck Saddles and Hardy Horsewomen

Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund Expedition Grant Application

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August 10 - 26, 2011



Packing in the Gallatin: Sawbuck Saddles and Hardy Horsewomen

Application by Lauren Foster, Lucy Holtsnider, Claire McKeever, and McKenzie Woolley
Submitted January 10, 2011

Goal

The goal of this expedition is for four women and six horses to experience horse packing in the scenic Gallatin mountain range in Montana. In doing so we will be challenging the gender stereotypes connected to a pastime often associated with manly cowboys and hunters. We will be riding over 75 miles to five different base camps. From these camps we will do day rides and day hikes in the area. We will be renting horses from the Mantle Ranch in Three Forks Montana.

Dates

We plan to leave Denver on August 10th and return on August 28th. We will be in the wilderness from August 12 to August 26, 2011, leaving twelve full days of riding and two days for drop off and pick up.

Plan to solidify skills

Our plan to solidify our horse packing skills includes reading our trip bible, Packin' in on Mules and Horses by Smoke Elser and Bill Brown. These two grizzled old cowboys provide priceless wisdom regarding the art of horse packing, from how to bandage minor wounds to advice on packing in a standing piano. We will practice some essential skills on the horses Lucy rides in Littleton, including mounting a set of panniers (horse packs), bandaging wounds, tying the diamond hitch knot, and ponying (leading a horse while riding) other horses. In addition, as new lessees at the Mantle ranch, we will participate in an afternoon Backcountry/Pack School on August 11th. During this session the ranchers will help us fit our tack, get to know our horses, and learn the specifics of the equipment we are renting.

All of us have riding experience and will continue to ride throughout the year in preparation for the trip. Lauren Foster will be working at Camp Cheley as a backpacking instructor, and will also be riding frequently in the summer with her camp. Lucy will be riding at home in the wilds of Chatfield State Park. Claire and McKenzie will also be riding throughout the summer to stay in shape.

One of the perks of horse packing is that, unlike backpacking, the animals do most of the heavy lifting. Regardless, we will all spend the months before the trip getting into shape to prepare for day hikes and the rigors of camping for two weeks.

In addition, we have received an Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund Education Grant to take a horse first aid class through the Equine Learning Center of America. This class teaches lessons on treating and preventing colic (the most common equine ailment), caring for wounds, lameness and diseases. This thorough course includes five distinct sections and takes place over

two days, culminating in a written exam that qualifies each student for a spot on the ELCA Equine First-Aid National Registry. We will take this class all together during the spring of 2011 in preparation for our expedition.

Plan to arrive at trail head

Lucy, Claire and Lauren will drive from Denver in Lucy's car on the 10th to Three Forks MT. McKenzie will fly into Missoula International Airport on the 10th and take a shuttle from the airport to Three Forks via <http://msoshuttler.com/>. The drive from Denver to Three Forks is to 764 Miles. We calculated the cost of gas to be to be \$106 each way at 14 cents per mile. This figure is based on the IRS's standard mileage rate for charitable organizations.¹

Once we arrive at the Mantle Ranch we will take a one-day intensive pack course on the 11th, and shop for food. On this day we will also set up our grain cache resupply. This involves leaving a car containing 144lbs of grain at the Lightning Creek trail head. On the 6th day of our itinerary our route passes a few miles from this trail head (which is also located on one of our evacuation routes). This cache of grain will sustain the horses for the the last 8 days of our trip. By storing the grain this way and picking it up along the way, we eliminate the need for a third pack horse, saving \$500.

An employee of the Mantle Ranch will drive us and the trailer containing our 6 horses and tack to the Beaver Creek trail head on the 12th. We'll be in the field from the 12th to 26th of August. On the 26th we will be picked up by the Ranch and driven back.

Leave No Trace Plan

The first component of our Leave No Trace plan is the use of electric fences to restrict how far our horses can graze while we're camping. The fence gives the horses more room to graze than tying them to a long lead would, while still keeping them contained. The larger area they have to graze, the less impact they will have on the vegetation in the field they are in. The area where the horses graze will be rotated every night. We'll rent a solar powered electric fence from the Mantle Ranch which allows us to designate where the horses will graze, and to keep them contained when they are not eating or being ridden. We will also hobble our horses at night, which allows them to walk around but not get too far away. Finally, we will bring additional feed for the horses so that they are gaining calories from a source besides the meadows they graze in, which will reduce the amount of grass they eat. This feed is certified weed-free, ensuring that we are not introducing foreign species of plants in the areas in which we are hiking.

The route we have chosen has been revised by local forest ranger Tom Barr to make sure that we are grazing in meadows that can withstand the impact. We will also vary our elevation to avoid trampling delicate high-alpine foliage. Staying on trails is the most important part of our LNT plan. We will take care to avoid riding the horses on marshy ground or over fragile vegetation. We'll always try to find rocky places for the horses to water since the muddy

¹ IRS Online, "IRS Resources," *IRS Announces 2010 Standard Mileage Rates*, <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=216048,00.html> (accessed 30 Dec. 2010).

banks of a stream can easily be torn up.

Next, we will take care to LNT while saddling the horses in camp. By setting a high line up around trees we can prevent horses from doing damage to live tree roots. We'll also use fly spray while the horses are tied in order to prevent itchy horses from pawing the ground.

We will always set up camp out of sight of the trails. Manure piles that horses leave while stopped will be kicked apart and spread out.²

Cultural Considerations

In order to be considerate of the culture at the Mantle Ranch we will each purchase an authentic cowboy hat to wear for the trip.³ We'll also be gracious and considerate customers and use our extensive equine knowledge and experience to ensure that their horses and equipment come back in better shape than they left.

Consideration of Risks and Hazards

The first hazard we must be ready for is horse health problems. All of us already have some experience with horse first aid, and after taking the ELCA horse first aid class this spring we will be even more prepared. This class addresses nearly every health issue we would encounter on the trail. The most common health problems we would have to address are lameness, colic, and minor wounds including saddle sores. We will be carrying an extensive horse first aid kit to address each of these problems, and will receive additional instruction during the all day pack course at the Mantle Ranch. Saddle sores in particular are a concern for horse packing because if they are not addressed quickly they can get infected and be very dangerous. We will be checking for saddle sores daily and stop using a horse if they show any signs of hot spots or sores. Minor wounds will be carefully bandaged and treated. Lameness can only be detected while a horse is in motion, so we will remain attentive to our mounts and watch for any signs that a horse is favoring one leg.

Issues with gear might include a horse loosing a shoe, or a piece of tack tearing or cracking. The horses will be shod before we leave the Mantle Ranch so their shoes should be secure. During our pack course at the Mantle ranch we will learn how to tack on (reattach) a lost shoe. We will be carrying a glue-on easy boot in case a horse loses a shoe. These are easy to apply and extremely durable, some extreme horse packers will use these exclusively for trips of 100 miles or more. We will bring along a leather sewing kit to fix any tears or cracks in the tack.

Horse misbehavior is another issue that we might have to address on this trip. If a horse spooks, bucks, or kicks us or another horse all of us are confident enough riders to address the situation. The horses we are renting are very well trained and experienced at packing. We also have the packing course the day before we leave to get to know the horses and their unique personalities. In addition, all of us are experienced riders and have had to handle horse

2 Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, "Leave No Trace: Backcountry Skills and Ethics," *Backcountry Horse Use*, <http://www.bchw.org/lnt/lntbk.htm#PLAN> (accessed 25 Nov. 2010).

3 Wikipedia contributors, "Annie Oakley," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Annie_Oakley&oldid=403290770 (accessed January 4, 2011)

misbehavior. We are all prepared to confidently ride through any equine mischief.

Leaving the horses behind while we go on day hikes would be risky. We will mitigate this risk by hiking in pairs. Two of us will hike during the day while two stay behind and watch the horses. The horses will either be grazing, which they must do for 6 to 8 hours a day with moderate supervision, or tied up to trees to reduce the amount of grass they are eating. The two who stay behind can set up camp and make sure that the horses are safe.

If a horse does go seriously lame or get sick, we will distribute the load we take onto the other horses and give that horse a break. In order to anticipate this measure, we will not load up the two pack horses with the maximum amount of weight they could carry. This gives us some flexibility if one of them gets hurt. If a horse is sore or injured we'll administer some Phenylbutazone, or equine aspirin, to relieve pain. We will also bring liniment oil as a topical pain reliever.

Wildlife encounters on horseback must also be anticipated. If we see a bear or mountain lion on a ride, we'll slowly turn around and walk in a different direction. We will be using bear-proof panniers rented from the Mantle Ranch. Each of us will also be carrying an individual bear mace spray can. We'll also be riding with bells on our saddles to make wildlife aware of our presence. Each horse will have bell on while grazing to alert wildlife and make them easier for us to find if they escape.

Weather is one of the most important risks we have to keep in mind. Horses can slip on muddy trails if there is excessive rain and so we will either take it slow or stop and set up camp early if this happens. If there is lightning we will make the decision whether to keep riding or to assume lightning position until we can get to a lower and safer area. Lightning position with horses includes dismounting, walking horses to treeline, spreading them out so they don't spook, and having each rider wait with her horse for the storm to pass below treeline. In the event of snow we are bringing extra layers to keep warm and dry, and we'll be sure to pick out the horses feet every day to prevent ice cakes from forming in their hooves.

Water will be a very important consideration for us and the horses. We will filter all the water we drink with Aquamira tablets. All of our campsites will be near a stream or lake so that the horses can drink. Horses will be given access to water at rocky places on the shore to avoid tearing up this fragile terrain. We will also take care not to give the horses too much cold water at once after they have exerted themselves all day, as this can cause colic.

There are a few key dangers to be aware of on our day hikes. The first is falling rocks in steep, loose talus or boulders. To avoid this we'll keep the group together and switch back so that no one hikes above anyone else at any point. We'll also check the depth of scree if we are hiking through it, and avoid scree if it is on rock slabs. We'll avoid wet rocks and slick wet grass whenever possible. We will also take all bearings the evening before if we plan to start at sunrise in order to avoid trying to take a bearing in the dark.

Emergency Evacuation Plans

Two evacuation routes are carefully planned out in the itinerary section of our proposal on day 6 and day 9. If we had to evacuate due to horse or human injury we would not take the entire pack string out because this would be slower and much more complicated. If a person sustains an injury that compromises her ability to continue the trip, we will split into two pairs. Two people will stay with four horses and most of the gear and set up a safe base camp. If

possible (the injury is not a spinal or other extremely delicate injury) the remaining two people and horses will ride to the nearest evacuation point with enough supplies to spend a night if the condition worsens. We will take along two copies of a written evacuation plan so that both groups have one. This plan has the time and place to reunite written out, as well as the plans for either evacuating of the rest of the group or continuing the trip. The Ranch and local veterinarians will be notified of the emergency via a Spot satellite messenger device, and will pick us up at the end of the evacuation route. The Spot sends our gps coordinates along with a message of distress, so the ranch will know which evacuation route we are waiting at. We are purchasing batteries to use in the Spot owned by the Mantle Ranch.

Individual and Area Specific Concerns

The flies can be very bad in Montana in August, and can cause great irritation to horses and people alike. We'll bring fly spray for the horses and spread out manure piles to avoid attracting flies. Bears are fairly common in this area and we have also taken several precautions regarding their presence. We will each be carrying a canister of bear mace, and we'll attach bells to the tack of each horse to alert bears and other wildlife of our presence. We will also be carrying bear-proof panniers on one of the pack horses where we can store our food and any smell items which might attract wildlife.

Itinerary

Route and maps courtesy of the “Wild Women in the Wild West” expedition, 2009

Day 1: Ride (6 miles on loaded horses)

Leave the Mantle Ranch early in the morning, drive loaded trailer to Potamogeton Park (120 miles)

Unload horses, tack up, begin adventure!

Ride trail 203 northeast to junction with trail 206

Take the left fork of trail along west side of Carrot Basin for 2.5 miles

Turn right at junction with trail 35 in Section 3

Base camp 1 is located east of where the trail crosses a creek, with trees for shelter and good grazing.



Day 2: Day ride (14 miles without packs)

Backtrack 2.5 miles from Day 1 to junction with trail 68

Trail 68 connects with trail 203

North on 203 for 5 miles (going over Pika point and small knife ridge between Carrot Basin and Sunlight Basin)

Trail 203 connects with trail 35, take this back to camp

Day 2 Alternate ride

Backtrack from Day 1, return to junction of trails 206 and 35

Follow hidden path north

This trail might be pretty steep, and we will most likely skip this option in favor of the first one since we will still be getting to know our horses at this point.



Day 3: Ride 8 miles on loaded horses OR 6 miles (alternate campsite)

Pack up base camp 1

Return to junction of trails 35 and 206

Ride northwest on trail 206 for 1 mile to junction with trail 7

Ride trail 7 north for 2 miles to junction with trail 158

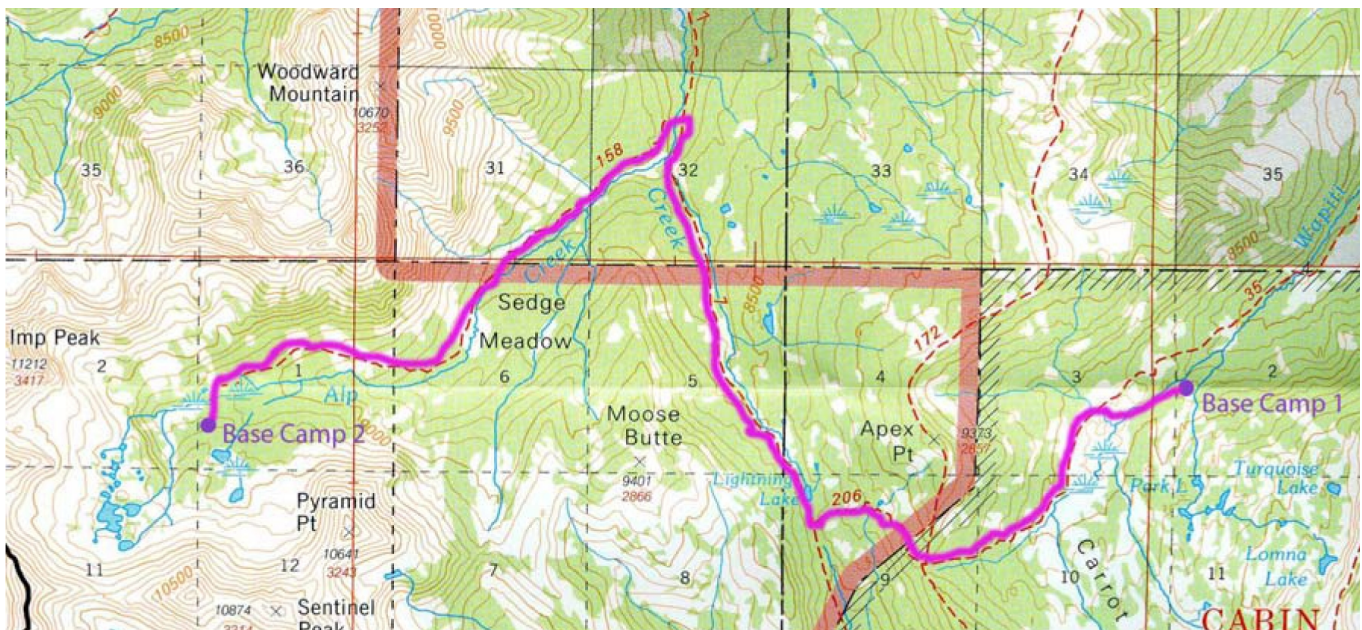
Ride southwest on trail 158 for 3 miles to Alp Basin

Set up base camp 2 (9,000 ft)

Day 3 Alternate campsite

If we can't get all the way up to Alp Basin, Sedge Meadow is a good alternative

We pass through Sedge Meadow on trail 158, and there are good places to camp and graze on the south side of the meadow.



Day 4: Hike (4 miles hiking and scrambling – two will hike and two will stay at camp)

Leave horses and gear at base camp 2

Hike east down Alp Basin

Then south around the base of Pyramid Point (10,641 ft) – ascend from the east side

Follow saddle southwest to Sentinel Peak

Retrace route back to base camp 2 to delicious dinner prepared by non-hikers

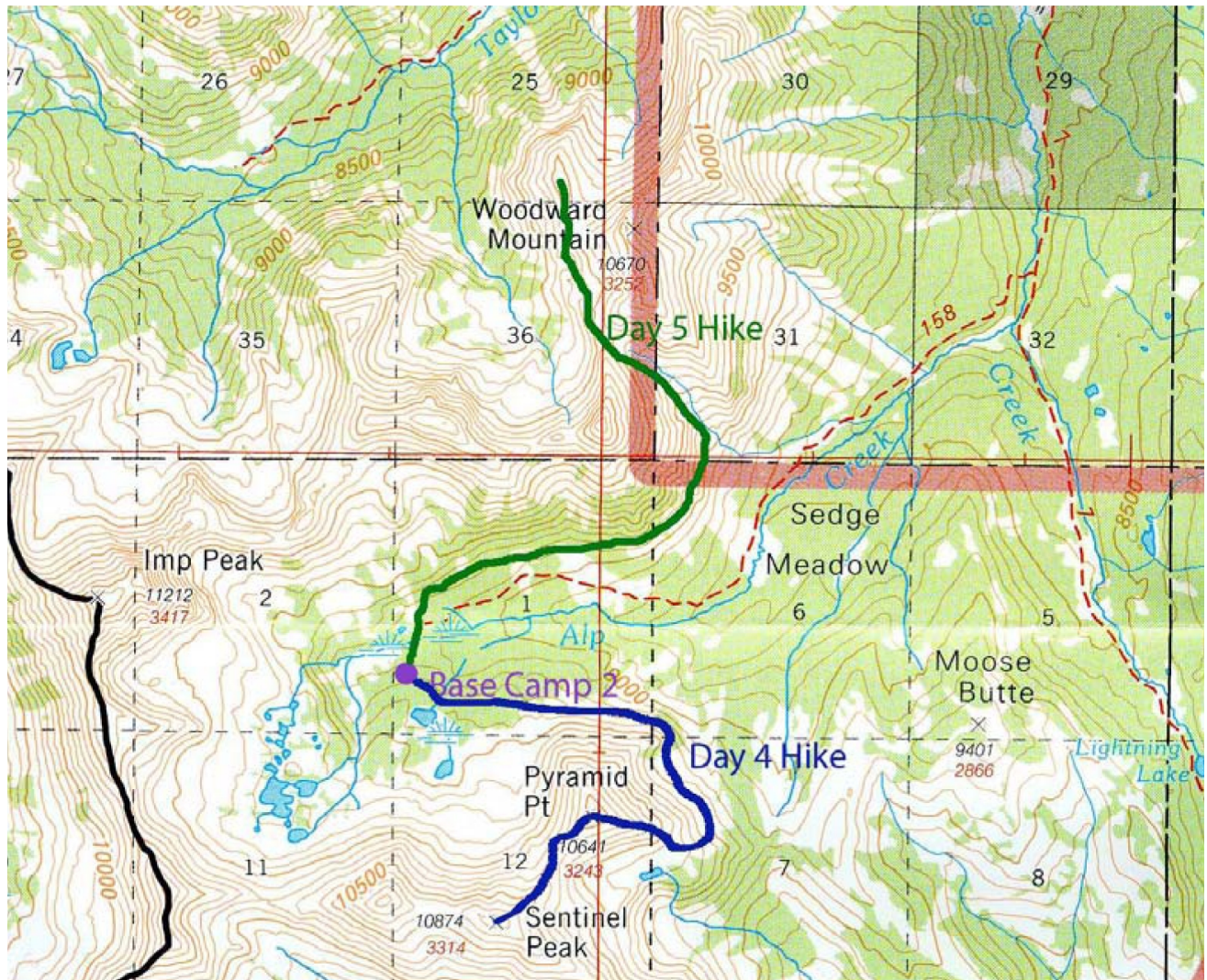
Day 5: Day Hike (6 miles hiking and scrambling – other pair gets to hike)

Depart from base camp 2

Head north from camp into high alpine meadows,

Skirt the base of the ridge to find a good route to summit Woodward Mountain (10,670 ft Class 3)

Retrace steps back to base camp 2



Day 6: Ride and retrieve grain resupply (9.5 miles on loaded horses)

Pack up base camp 2

Ride 3 miles east on trail 158 to junction with trail 200 (labeled here as trail 7)*

Ride north 3 miles to junction with trail 17 (passes through private land, but its ok to go through)

Ride 1 mile west on trail 17 to junction with trail 4

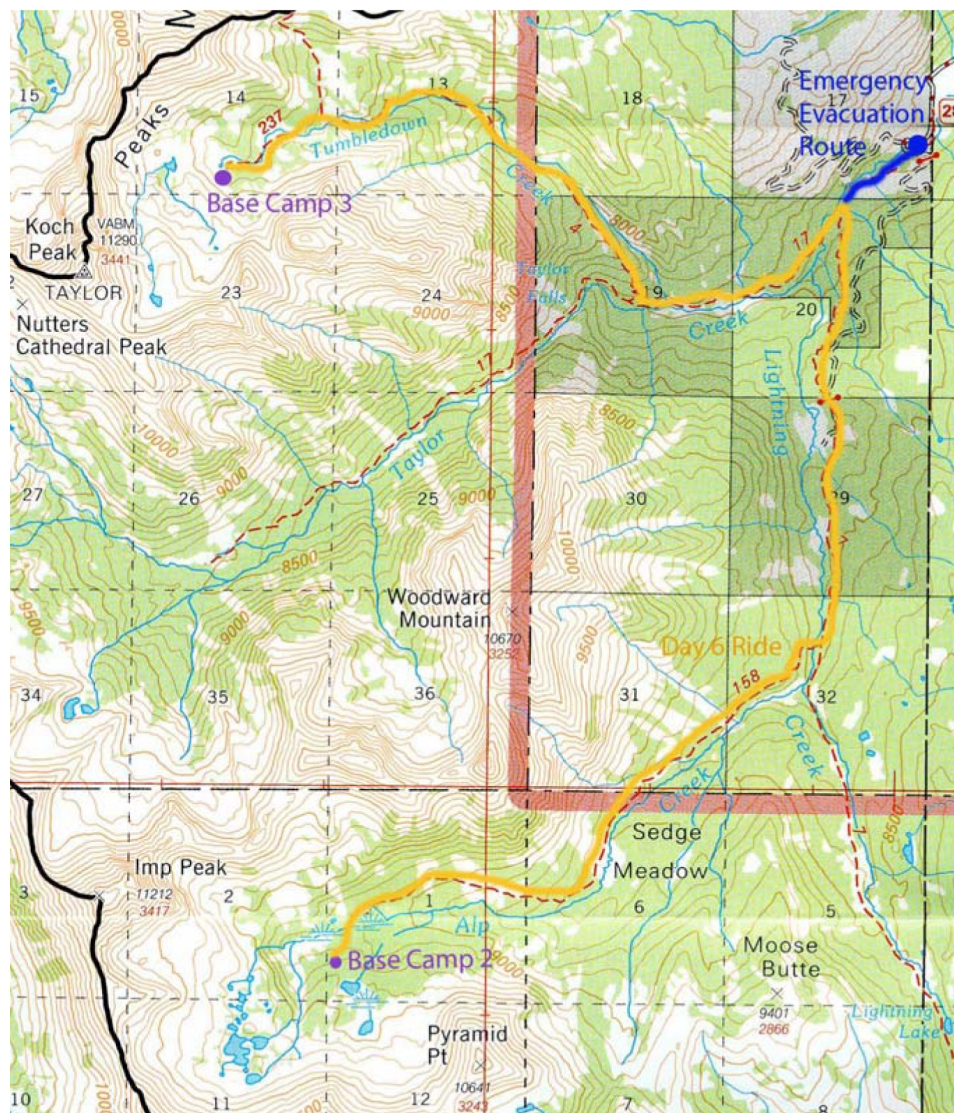
Ride northwest 2 miles on trail 4 to junction with trail 237 (first mile of trail 4 is very steep)

Ride 0.5 miles on trail 237 to Tumbledown Basin

Set up base camp 3 (8,300 ft)

*Evacuation route 1 and grain resupply:

At this point we will retrieve the additional 150lbs of grain waiting in Lucy's car at Lightning Creek trailhead (trailhead 28). This point is also one of our evacuation routes. The trailhead is a accessible to trailers if a horse were to sustain an injury, and its also a central point in the itinerary in case an injury occurs any other day.



Day 7: Day hike (5 miles of steep hiking)

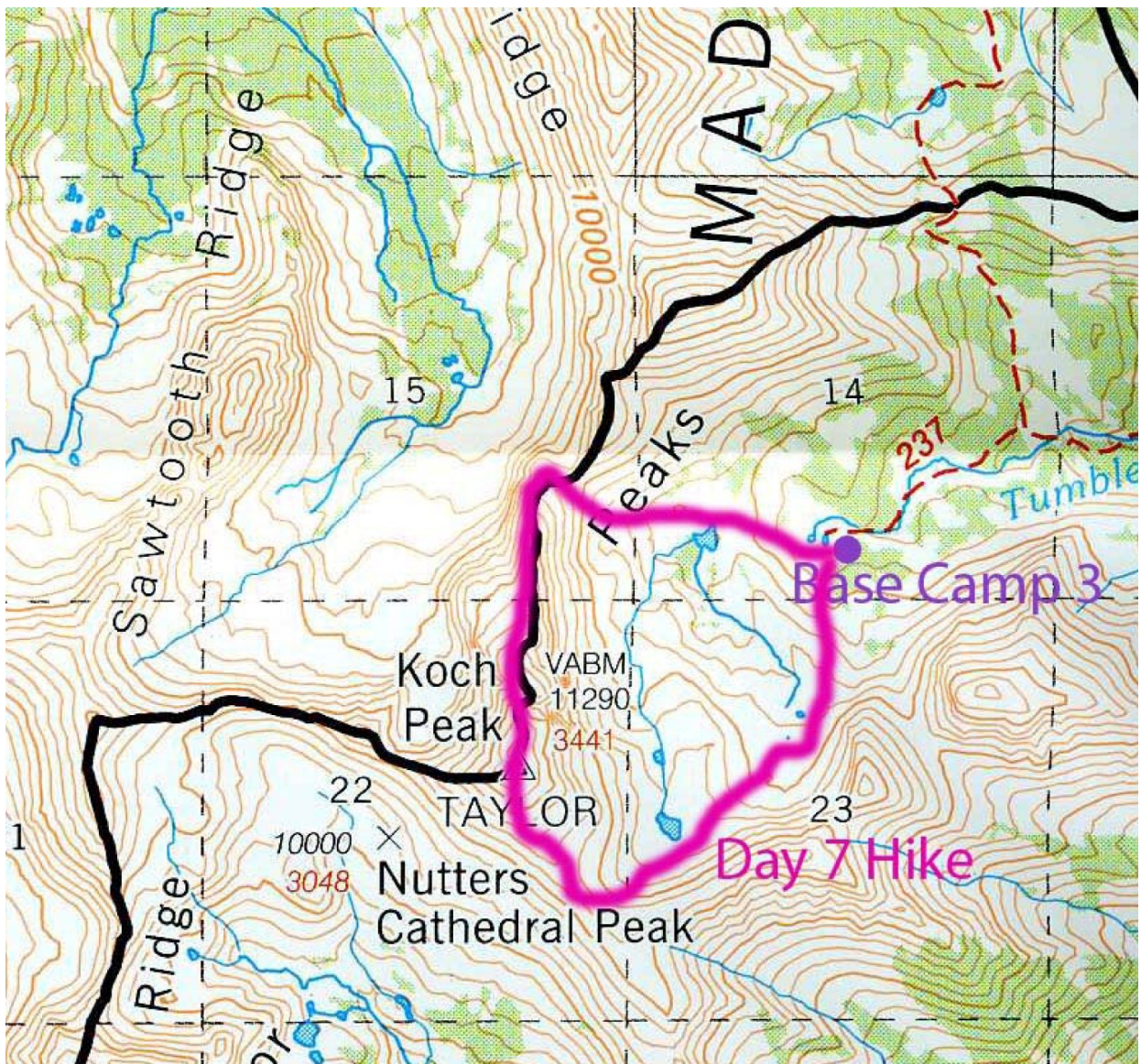
Leave horses at base camp 3

Hike west out of Tumbledown Basin to ridge line north of Koch peak

Follow ridge line south up to Koch Peak summit (11,290 ft)

Hike down on the southwest ridge and around back into the basin

Return to base camp 3



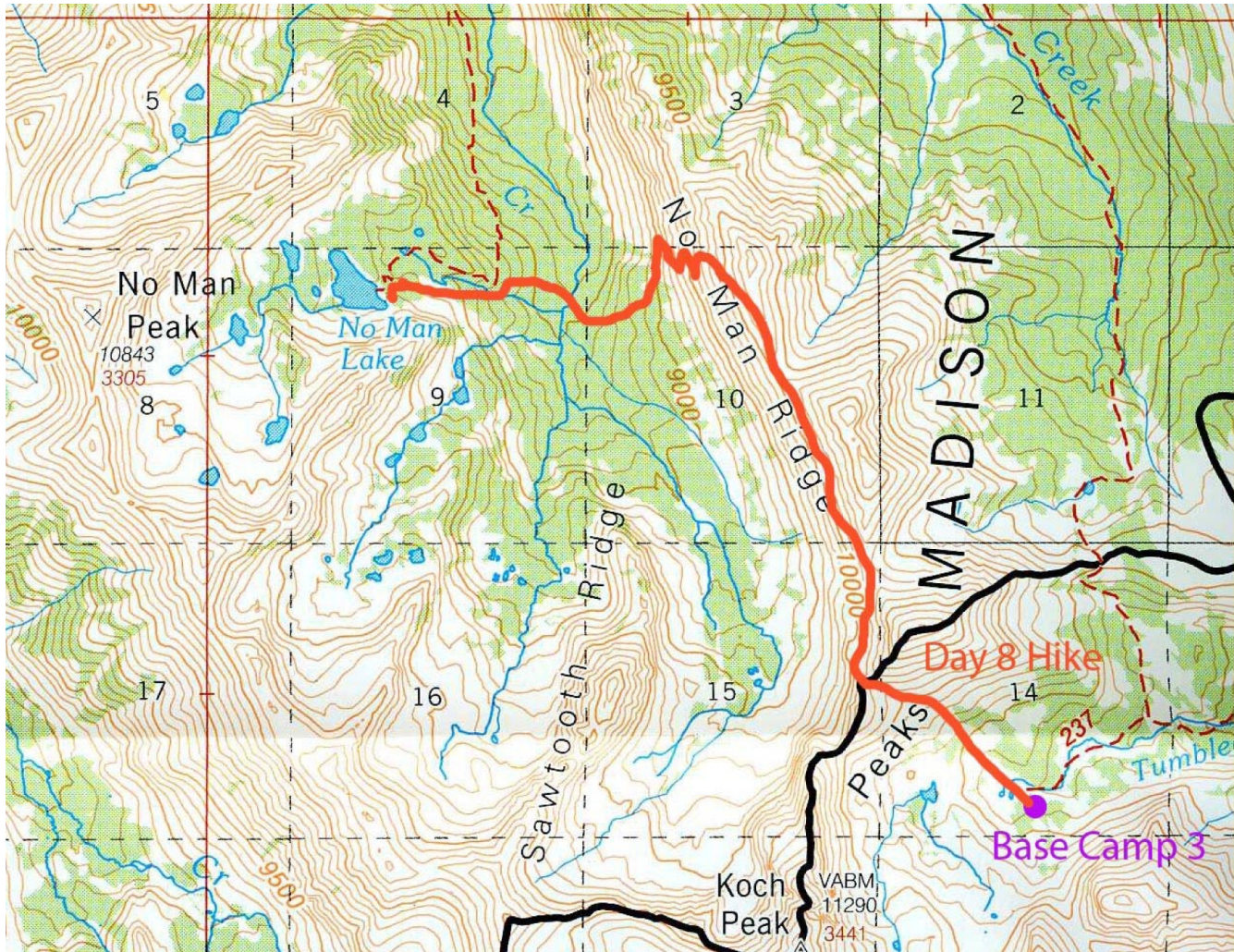
Day 8: Hike (8 miles – 2 people hike)

Depart base camp 3

Hike northwest up to No Man Ridge

Hike along the top of the ridge and drop down into the basin of No Man Lake

Retrace steps back to base camp 3



Day 9: Ride (10 miles on loaded horses)

Pack up camp 3

Ride east on trail 237 for 0.5 miles to junction with trail 330

Ride north 5.5 miles on trail 330 to junction with trail 328

Ride north 1.5 miles on trail 328 to junction with trail 326 (Manley Junction)

Ride west 2.5 miles on trail 326 to junction with trail 357

Set up camp 4

Evacuation Route 2:

Ride west 2 miles to Bear Creek Trailhead #23



Day 10: Hike (7 miles – opposite pair from day 8 hikes)

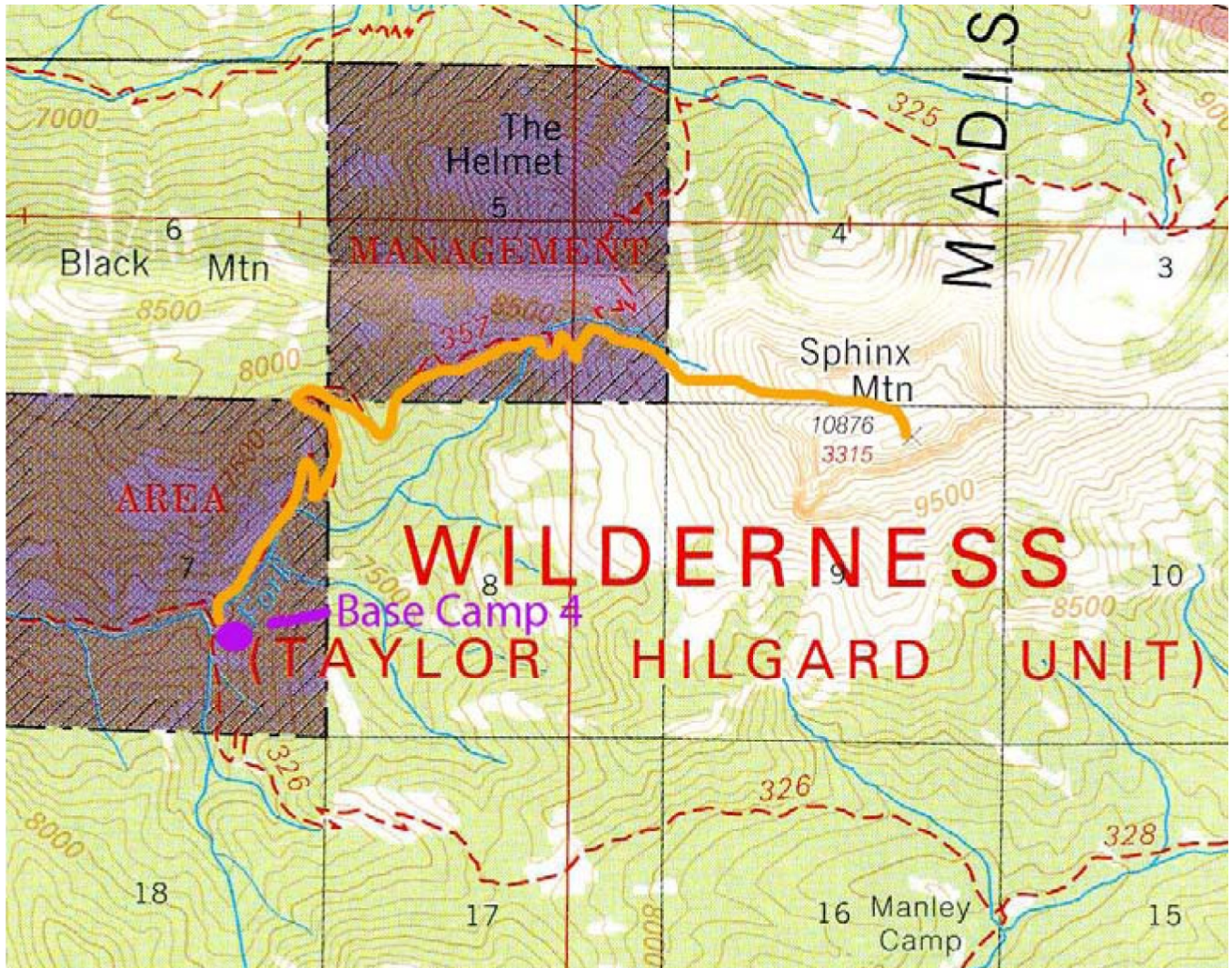
Say sayonara to camp 4

Hike east 2.5 miles on trail 357

At second river crossing follow drainage east to tree line

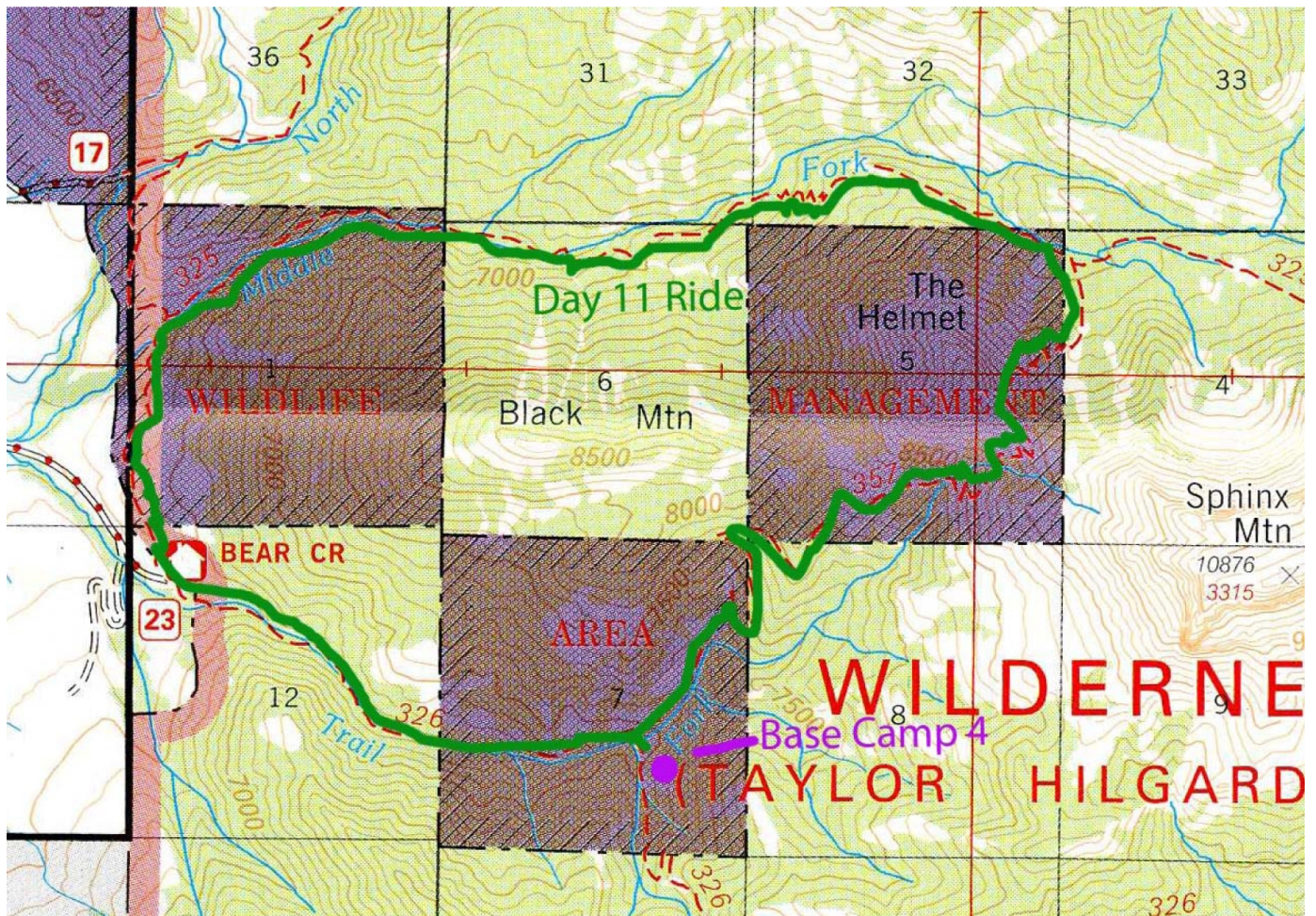
Summit Sphinx Mountain (10,876 ft) from the northwest

Retrace steps back to gourmet meal waiting at camp 4



Day 11: Day ride (9.5 miles unloaded horses)

- Depart camp 4
- Ride back to junction of trail 326 and 357
- Ride west 2.5 miles on 326 to junction with 325
- Ride east 4 miles on 325 to junction with 357
- Ride southeast 3 miles on 357 back to camp 4



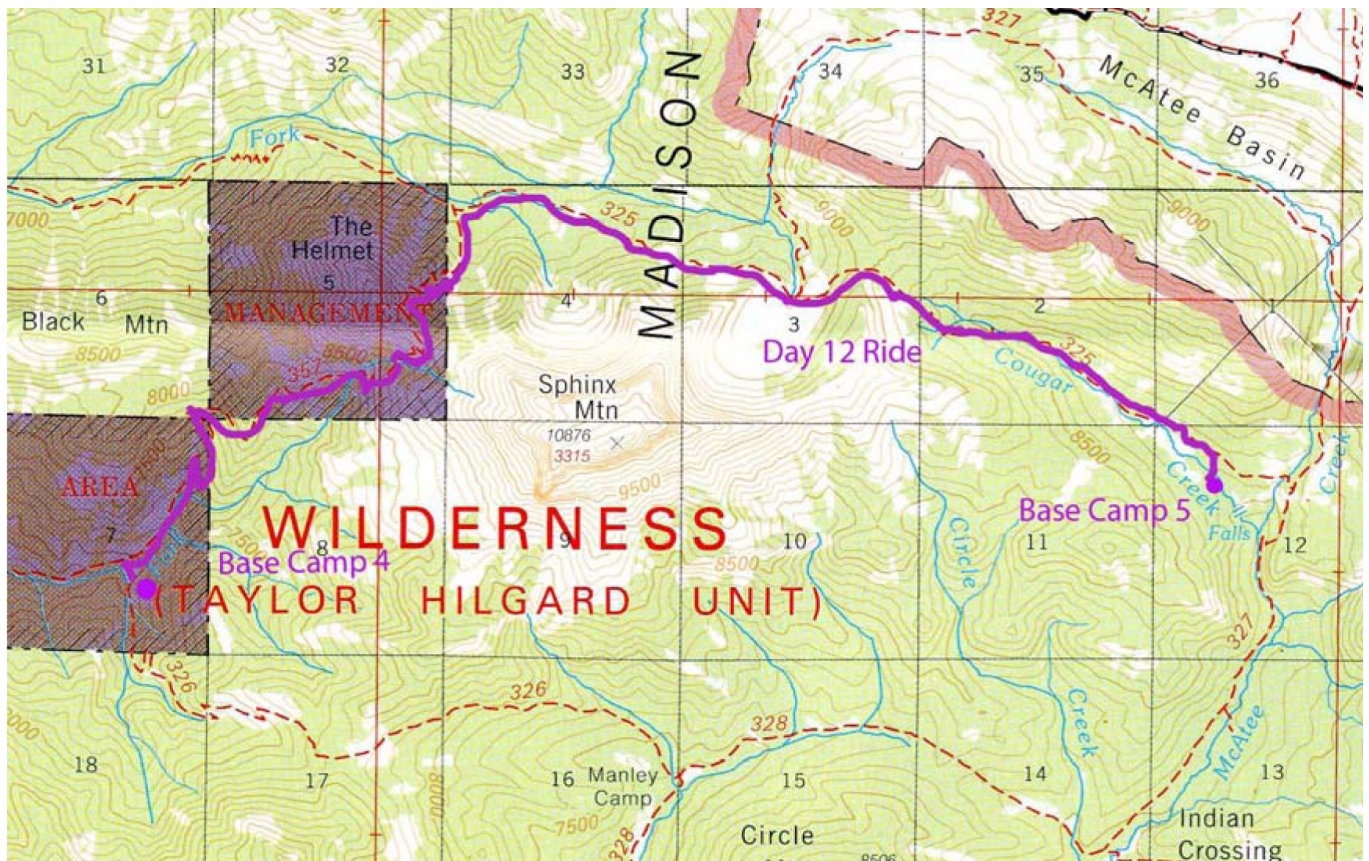
Day 12: Ride (7.5 miles on loaded horses)

Pack up camp 4

Ride northeast 2.5 miles on trail 357 to junction with 325

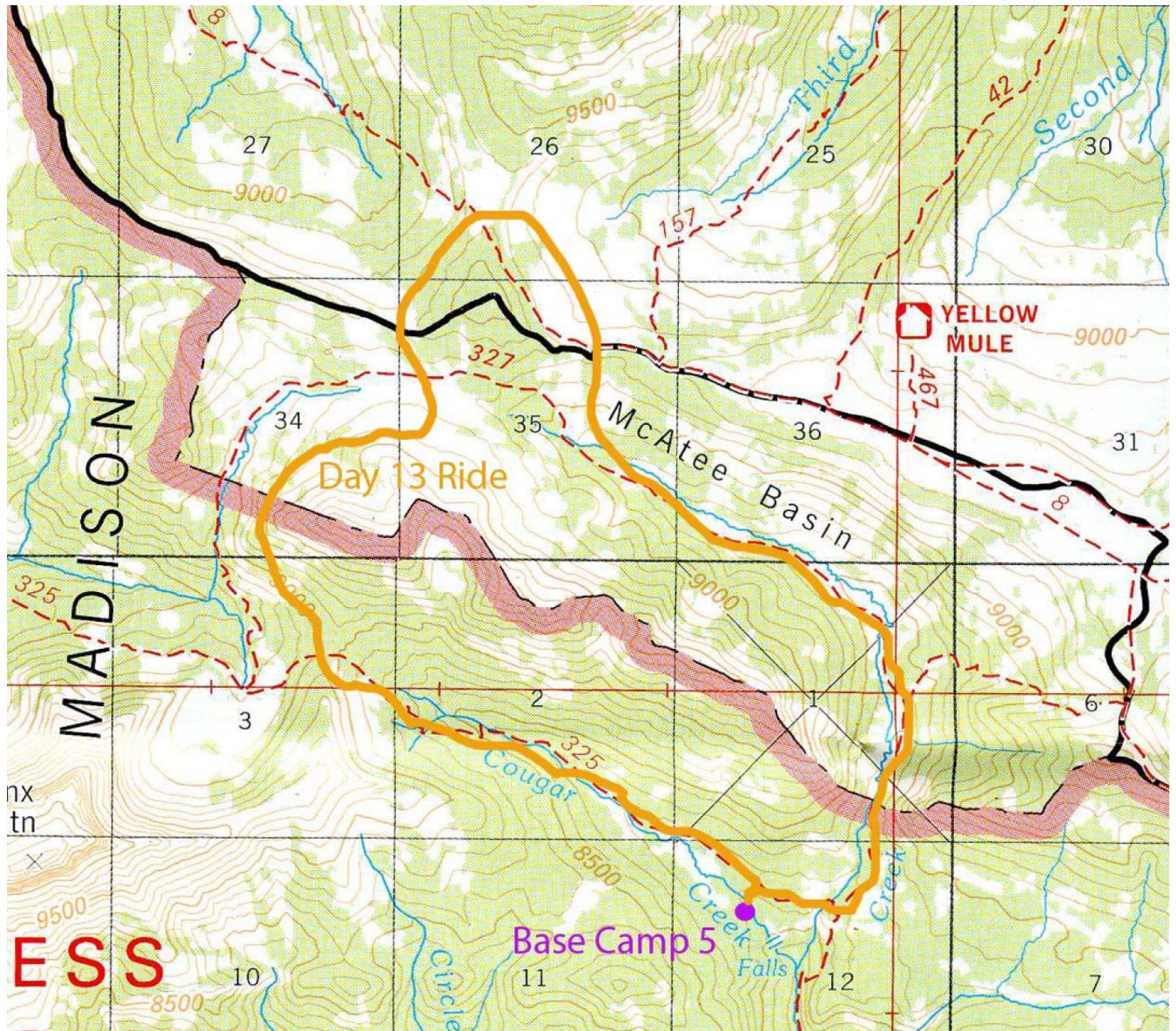
Ride east 4 miles to junction with trail 327

Ride one mile west of this junction to camp in the meadows on the south side of trail 325



Day 13: Day ride (8 miles unloaded horses)

- Depart base camp 4 (leave equipment behind)
- Ride 1 mile east to junction with trail 327
- Ride 5 miles, bearing left, on trail 327 through McAtee Basin
- Enjoy delicious picnic in basin
- Ride back to camp on trail 325 2.5 miles

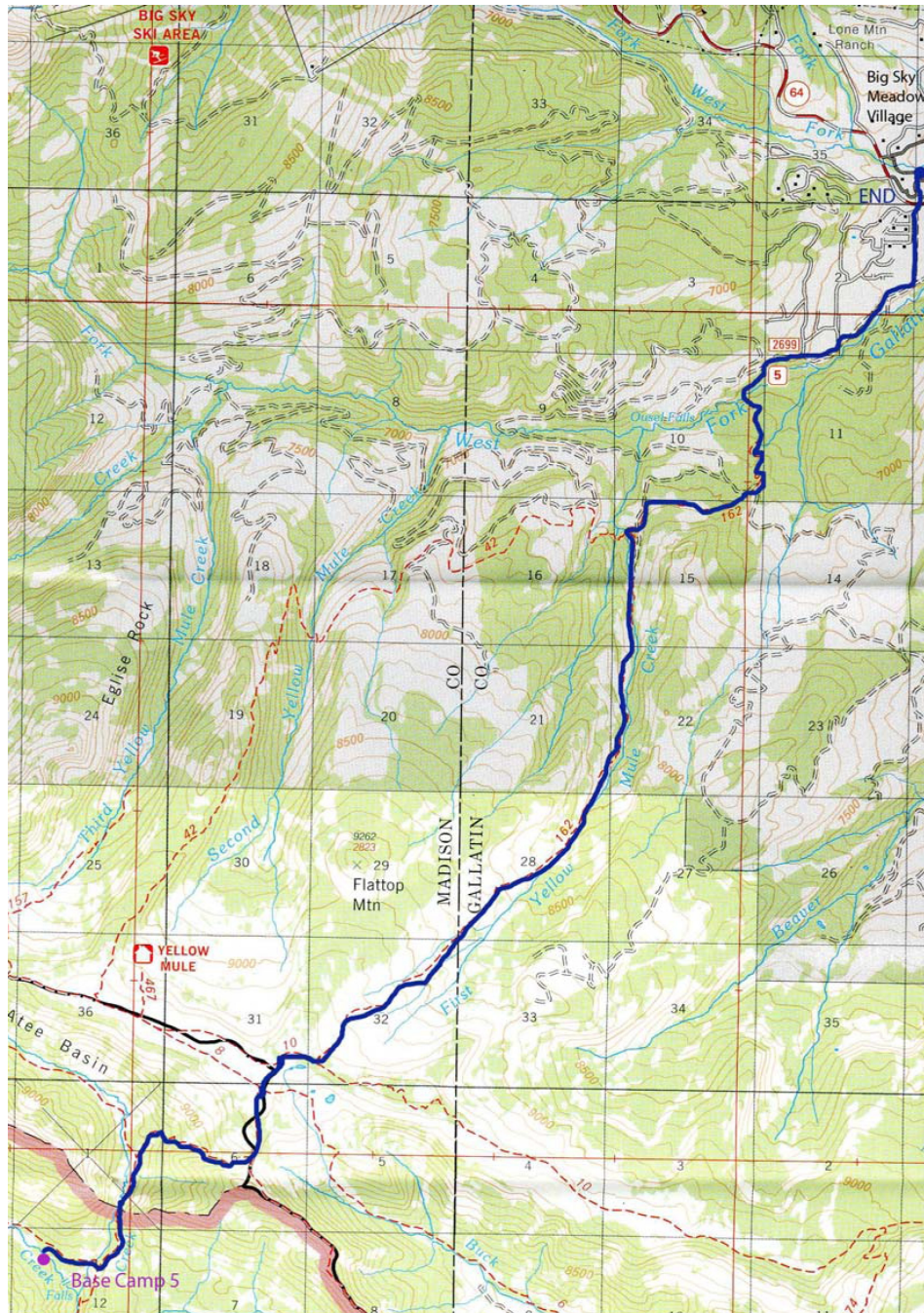


Day 14: Ride (11 miles loaded horses) Homeward bound!

- Pack up camp 4
- Ride 0.5 miles north on trail 327 to junction with un-numbered connecting trail
- Head east on this trail 0.5 miles to junction with trail 8

Ride northwest 1 mile to junction with trail 10
Ride east 1 mile on trail 10 to junction with trail 162
Ride northeast 6 miles on trail 162 to dirt road 2699, trailhead 5
Follow dirt road 2699 2 miles to Big Sky Meadow Village for trailer pickup

Yee haw!



75 miles total on horseback
35 miles total on foot!

Equipment

Human first aid kit (WMI)

All of this equipment we own, or will purchase a refill if necessary

General Equipment

nitrile protective gloves
EMT Shears
splinter grabber
safety pins
pencil
irrigation syringe
Patient Assessment Forms
ziplock bag
biohazard label
First Aid & Extended Care Book
Emergency Action Card
WMI Wound Pack

Bandaging

3 x 3 sterile gauze pads
2 x 3 non-adherent dressing
3" conforming gauze
1 x 3 adhesive strips
knuckle bandage
2 x 3 fabric oval
1" tape
3" elastic bandage
butterfly bandage
moleskin
cotton tipped applicators
pressure wrap
2nd Skin
triangular bandage
5 x 9 trauma pad

Medication and Topicals

Acetaminophen (20)
Ibuprofen (20)
Antihistamine (10)
antiseptic towelettes
antibiotic ointment
iodine ointment
tincture of benzoin
antimicrobial hand wipes

Equine first aid kit⁴

All of this equipment we own, or will purchase a refill if necessary

Wound Care

2 oz. surgical betadine scrub
Surgical scrub brush
Gauze pads
Hemostat forceps
20 cc syringe (used for flushing)
Triple antibiotic ointment
4x4 telfa pads
4" Vet-rap
6" gauze roll
6" brown gauze (iodine pad)
1" medical tape
Scissors
4 oz Aloesepic ointment (for tack sores)
2" Foam padding (also for tack sores)
Wire cutters

Assessment Tools

6" veterinary thermometer in case (with string and clip)
Vinyl gloves

Hoof Care

Hoof pick
Hammer and nails (to reattach shoe)
Easy boot

Medication

Butazolidin Paste (pain/inflammation)
Banamine Paste (pain/colic)
Banamine shot (pain/colic)
Electroamino paste (dehydration)
Eye Wash
Liniment Oil (soreness)

Insect Care

Fly Spray
Towel (to rub repellent in ears)

⁴ Squaw Butte Chapter Backcountry Horseman of Idaho, "Equine Backcountry First Aid," <http://www.bchi.org/education-manual/Equine%20First%20Aid.pdf> (accessed 2 Jan. 2010).

Clothing List

Warm down coat	Hiking boots
Polypro long sleeve	Camp shoes
Long sleeve shirt	Warm hat
2 Short sleeve shirts (non-cotton)	Gloves
2 pairs of jeans (for riding)	Fleece pull-over
Sleeping pants	Sunglasses
Long underwear	Underwear
5 pairs wool socks	Quick dry shorts
Rain Pants	Cowboy Hat
Down Coat	Sunglasses

Expenses

Travel

Travel to MT: Denver to Three Forks = 764 Miles x 2 (roundtrip) = 1528 miles
1528 miles x \$0.14 per mile = \$213.94

Travel to trailhead: Mantle Ranch to Potamogeton Park trailhead = 120 miles
Trailhead #5 in Big Sky Meadow Village to Mantle Ranch = 71 miles
191 miles x \$2.50 per loaded mile = \$477.50

Horse Related

		Cost
Renting Horses	\$500 each x 6	\$ 3,000.00
Equipment for riding horses	\$75 each x 4	\$ 300.00
Equipment for pack horses	\$75 each x 2	\$ 150.00
Saddle Panniers	\$25 x 4	\$ 100.00
Bear Proof panniers	Borrow	
Canvas tarps	Borrow	
Fly spray		\$ 13.00
Bear Bells	Own or will purchase separately	
Bear Mace	\$40 x 4	\$ 160.00
Tack repair kit	Own or will purchase separately	
Electric Fence	Borrow	
Glue-on Easy Boot (emergency shoe)		\$ 43.00
Grain	250lbs* @ \$15 for 50lbs	\$ 75.00
Horseshoeing hammer		\$ 10.00
Spare shoes	\$6.40 a pair x 2 pair	\$ 11.00
Horseshoe nails	one box (minimum)	\$ 19.00
Equine First Aid kit	See above	
Hobbles	Borrow	

Total: \$3881.00

*Grain calculation: 3lbs per day x 6 horses = 18lbs per day of grain 18lbs x 14 days = 252lbs total

Camping Expenses

Stove	Own or will purchase separately	0
4 person tent	"	
Clothing	"	
Poop trowel	"	
Sleeping Bags	"	
Kitchen Set: 1 big pot, 1 small pot, 1 skillet, pot grippers, spoon, spatula, sharp knife, four sporks	"	
Lighter	"	
Knife	"	
Human First Aid kit	"	
Compass	"	
Watch	"	
Water bottles	"	
Folding Pack Saw	"	
Headlamp	"	
Sleeping pads	"	
Insect repellent		\$ 7.00
Aquamira Water Treatment Drops	2 (each treats 30 gal) x \$14.95 each*	\$ 30.00
Stove Fuel	3 20oz bottles x \$17.95 each	\$ 54.00
Heavy duty poly tarp (for equipment and tent)		\$ 12.00
Map of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness	Already Purchased	\$ 16.00
Matches		\$ 1.00
Lighter		\$ 2.00
First Aid Kit Resupply (Expendables)**		
Second Skin	4 x \$1.50	\$6.00
Benzoin Tincture	pack of 10	\$6.00
Triangular bandage	4 x \$1.50	\$6.00
WMI wound pack	3 x \$4.00	\$12.00

Total: \$152.00

*Prices according to Aquamira.com

**Prices based on ordering from NOLS WMI resupply

Food Budget

Breakfast	Price
4 lbs. bagels	\$12.00
4 lbs. granola	\$12.00
2 lbs. cream cheese	\$10.00
2 lbs. oatmeal	\$3.00
2 lbs. pancake mix	\$4.00

Dinner	Price
8 lbs. pasta	\$10.00
4 lbs. instant rice	\$6.00
3 lbs. couscous	\$11.00
Sauces (pesto, alfredo)	\$9.00
2 lbs. soup mix	\$10.00
1 lb. broccoli	\$2.50
1 lb. cucumber	\$4.00
2 lbs. onions	\$3.50
6 heads of garlic	\$5.00
1 lb. peppers	\$5.00
2 lbs. canned tomatoes	\$2.50
1 lb. carrots	\$10.00

Lunch and Trail Food	Price
15 lbs. cheese	\$52.00
6 lbs. tortillas	\$16.00
4 lbs. peanut butter	\$9.00
2 lbs. salami	\$12.00

1 lb. powdered hummus	\$3.00
2 lbs. mixed nuts	\$16.00
1 lb. dried mango	\$6.00
1 lb. raisins	\$5.00
1 lb. dried bananas	\$3.00
1 lb. M&Ms	\$5.00
6 lbs. apples	\$8.00
3 lbs. oranges	\$5.00
2 lbs. Snickers and Hershey's bars	\$10.00

Miscellaneous	Price
1 lb. sugar	\$1.50
Spice kit	\$10.00
2 lbs. flour and baking supplies	\$2.00
1 lb. oil	\$6.50
1 lb. cocoa	\$7.00
1 box of tea	\$3.50
2 lbs. powdered milk	\$12.00
1 lb. Jello cheesecake mix	\$3.00
1 lb. brownie mix	\$3.50
.5 apple cider mix	\$1.50

Total weight* : 93.5 lbs.	Total cost** : \$320.00
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*Based on NOLS ration planning, as outlined in *NOLS Cookery, 5th Edition*, edited by Claudia Pearson. Their calculations specify 1.5 pounds of food per person, per day, in warm weather. Thus: 1.5 lbs./person/day x 4 people x 13 days = 78 lbs.

A second pack horse gives us up to 30 lbs. of discretionary food weight, as well.

**Cost based on current food prices as listed on Safeway.com.

Final Budget

Driving to and from Three Forks	\$213.94
Trailer Delivery and Pick-up	\$477.50
Horse Expenses	\$3,881.00
Camping Expenses	\$152.00
Food	\$320.00
Total: \$5,044.44	

Cost Saving Measures

Storing a resupply of grain to be pickup up on day 6 eliminates the need for a third pack horse and saves \$500. Also, choosing to drive to the Mantle Ranch (\$212) instead of flying (\$1788) saves \$1576. This is a total savings of \$2076!

Important Contacts

Local Veterinarian

Doug Young 406-682-7956

Dr. Young is located in Ennis, MT and is the closest veterinarian to where we are going. Dr. Young has access to back country trail heads with his mobile clinic and is very familiar with Mantle Ranch.

Kelly Hall 406-285-6672

Dr. Hall works out of Headwaters Veterinarian which is closer to Mantle Ranch but further from our route. Dr. Hall is also very familiar with Ranch.

Local Hospital

Madison Valley Hospital Emergency

Ennis, MT

406-682-4222

Big Sky Medical Clinic

Big Sky, MT

406-995-2797

The Mantle Ranch

Kail Mantle and Renee Daniels-Mantle (406)285-3541

9700 Clarkston Road
Three Forks, MT 59752
www.montanahorses.com

We are renting our horses and packing equipment from the Mantle Ranch. Kail Mantle has approved our route and provided handy advice about other elements of our proposal.

Erin Keuster

The Mantle Ranch put us in touch with Erin. She is a CC alumnae who frequently packs in the Lee Metcalf wilderness. She answered some questions for us and was very helpful.

Forest Service

Tom Barr 406-823-6961

National Forest Service

Tom graciously looked over the route we are using and made sure it was feasible and safe. He provided some suggestions for revising the beginning point.

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The Hardy Horsewomen

Lauren Foster

Personal Statement

I grew up in Boulder, Colorado in a house that backed open space. To this day I don't catch most TV references from my childhood because I spent every day hiking, scrambling and playing in the mountains behind my home. I jumped at almost any opportunity I had to get outside and learn more about being in the backcountry. This started with me convincing my mom to leave my dad with my younger siblings, pets, and the house so we could go backpacking when I was thirteen and then later dragging my dad on a similar mission my freshman year of high school. When we couldn't go to regular summer camp my sophomore year of high school, my best friend and I became girl scouts long enough to attend a girl scout backpacking camp. During my junior year of high school I made an agreement with my parents to pay for half of a NOLS mountaineering course, which I attended in the summer of 2006. In college I have continued these pursuits actively and had the pleasure of sharing my joy with younger kids as a counselor and backpacking leader in the Rockies.

I could never pass up an opportunity to learn a new skill that will connect me in some way with the outdoors. When some of my closest friends suggested horse packing I leapt at the idea and have since used every opportunity I can find to read about and ride horses. Though my backcountry experience will lend itself to making good backcountry meals and route-finding on the peaks we hike, I feel confident with and around horses and I'm excited to keep learning as