



Wilderness Packtrips

About This Bulletin

From one summer to the next, we receive hundreds of inquiries about our summer packtrips. To answer in detail the many questions asked in these letters, individually, would be overwhelming. We have collected these letters and attempted to summarize the general questions we get about the Bob Marshall Country, our summer packtrips, and us. That is the purpose of this bulletin. It is an honest effort on our part to give you an accurate picture of our summer packtrip operation.

About Us

Our outfit has been taking summer packtrips and fishing trips into the mountains of Montana since the early 1930s. We are descendants of a long and honorable line of outfitters, guides, and sportsmen. Our outfit was one of the first to begin taking trips into the area now called the Bob Marshall Wilderness. We have been providing the highest quality packtrips ever since. A Lazy H has always been a family owned and operated outfit. We do whatever it takes to ensure the highest level of quality for every one of our guests. In the past 60 years there have been many changes in the country, in our outfit, and in our guests. However, the one constant through it all has been our unwavering commitment to quality and dedication to service. Feel free to contact us and ask any questions you may have.

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 in the late 1800's.

Fishing

The Bob Marshall Country is the source of some of the great fishing streams of the West. These include the Flathead, Dearborn and Sun rivers. These rivers start from high springs and snowfields along the Continental Divide. Because they are remote and difficult to reach, these streams afford the fisherman an unparalleled opportunity to work great fishing waters and hardly see anyone else all day. The streams are well populated with Rainbow, Cutthroat and Brook Trout. There are also some Artic Grayling. The waters are absolutely clear, cold, swift and relatively shallow. The fish are excellent fighters. Their sized can range from frying-pan size on up to two feet. The streams are fantastic fly-fishing waters, though a good spin cast fisherman can also do well. It is not uncommon to catch 30 or more fish on a hot summer day. This is a great and truly unique experience for the beginner or the seasoned fishing veteran.

Horseback Riding

The Bob Marshall Country can only be accessed by horseback or foot. You will ride well-trained and reliable mountain horses along safe trails. The breeds include Tennessee Walkers, Morgans, Quarter Horses and Saddlebreds. Big, strong, lovable pack mules carry your gear around the mountains. The packtrips cover 50 to 70 miles on horseback on a seven-day trip. Some trips travel more than others because the emphasis on activities is different. The traveling trips emphasize more sightseeing and riding, and less fishing. 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 and Sight-seeing

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. The common denominator is a love of the outdoors.

The Ranch

The A Lazy H Ranch is located at the foot of the east slope of the Rocky Mountain front. We are 25 miles west of Choteau, Montana and 85 miles west of Great Falls. The South Fork of the Teton River runs through the west boundaries of the ranch. As the summer progresses our successive packtrips will use various trail-heads (starting and ending points). This gives our repeat guests a great opportunity to experience different parts of the Bob Marshall. We have private facilities at several of our more heavily used trail heads.

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 make it a priority to serve hearty, filling meals with lots of meat, vegetables and delightful desserts.

Crew

We employ some of the finest packers, guides and cooks so that we can provide you the caliber of packtrip 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

The areas we visit, our excellent service, the diversity of our trips and our commitment to quality create an adventure package superior to other outfitted summer packtrips. We are aware that Montana packtrip vacations are special and sometimes rare events. Therefore, we make every effort to price our packtrips so they are competitive with the best of the top-notch outfitters. Rate sheets are supplied with this bulletin or with our brochure and include the following:

- Average party size of between six and eight per trip
- One day of travel into and one day out of the mountains
- Arrival night's stay at our Ranch
- 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 crew
- Private trips (minimum of six in a group) and special requests are welcome
- Discounts apply to larger group sizes

Reservations and Deposits

We require a 30% deposit to confirm your summer packtrip adventure. A trip is not confirmed until the deposit is received. We will hold your reservation for approximately two weeks 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 packtrip of equal duration and party size for the following year.

In the event of a cancellation, we will try to fill that space and refund your deposit if possible. We make every effort to give you the trip type and activities you most prefer. In order to get the time and trip that is best for you, it is important to confirm your summer packtrip adventure as soon as possible.

Transportation to the Ranch

If you choose to drive to the Ranch, we will provide a map to you before you arrive. Commercial airlines (Northwest, Delta, and Horizon Air) provide service to Great Falls. In most cases this service is by jet airplane. Should you fly your own plane, you may choose the Great Falls or Choteau airports. Please refer to the Rate Sheet for the per-vehicle cost to pick up a party. If you choose to arrive by train there is an Amtrak station in Shelby, which is the same distance from the ranch as Great Falls. Guests must arrive the day before the trip goes into the mountains. The arrival night's stay at the Ranch is included in the overall fee.

References

If a reference list has not been supplied with this bulletin, please do not hesitate to call and request references. If your initial inquiry has been by letter or telephone, we will send you a follow up letter about two weeks after your initial inquiry and references will be included with that letter.

On a final note, we deeply appreciate the trust you place and the integrity you expect when you confirm your summer packtrip vacation with us. We are committed to providing the complete, quality, superior wilderness adventure that you are anticipating. If you have any further questions, please give us a call.

