



## **Missoula Back Country Horsemen Recommendations for Packing Stock**

1. The Back Country Horsemen set their summer project schedules by the end of March, so members have the ability to plan. Please provide your project schedules no later than the end of February to ensure your project is prioritized. Weekends are ideal times for packing.
2. Contact the lead packer at least 5 days prior to your packing date to finalize any details regarding trailhead, camp location, gear lists, food and estimated weight to pack. We request that no changes are made beyond the 5 day period unless there are serious weather conditions (fires, floods, etc.).
3. Meet at the trailhead at the agreed time with food and gear ready for packing. Please remember that packers need time to saddle, pack and load gear, get to the destination, unload gear, return to the trailhead, pull saddles and take care of stock.
4. Tailgate safety sessions, packing plans, and paperwork should all be completed well in advance of packing the loads.
5. Weight is crucial, as it must be evenly distributed on the animal. Please weigh and label weights on all gear (duffels, tools, etc). This allows for ease of packing at the trailhead. We allot a maximum weight of 80 pounds per side of pack stock.
6. Essential gear includes food, kitchen items and tools. Non-essential items (i.e. personal gear) may be packed only if there is room and weight limit not exceeded.
7. Large duffle bags work well for kitchen gear. Plastic storage containers and hospital boxes are not allowed.
8. Provide bear resistant containers, if available.
9. All tools must have sheaths. Saws must be clean with covered or sheathed bars and dogs. We attempt to pack both sides of the animal evenly, so it is ideal to have an even number of the same tool (i.e. Polaskies).
10. All fuels must be in leak proof approved containers.
11. Alcohol may only be packed (as a non-essential item) in leak proof plastic bottles.
12. Absolutely NO GLASS will be packed.