

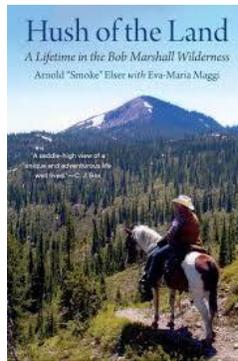
Historic Ninemile Remount Depot and Historic Ranger Station

The Ninemile Remount was, at one time, the center for the U.S. Forest Service packing activities in the Northern Rockies. Completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935, the Remount was the home roost for more than 1500 Rocky Mountain Canaries (also known as mules), as well as a prime breeding stock for the Forest Service. Firefighting, trail and fire lookout building, and many other kinds of backcountry work was done with Ninemile packstock wearing US brands on their hips and diamond hitches cinching down their cargo. The pack strings were spurred on by packers who had reputations for never sparing the adjectives when the going got tough. The Remount's upper hayfield was used to train smokejumpers in the early years of the famous firefighting crews. More often than not, Ford TriMotor airplanes had to buzz the field to clear it of grazing livestock before the jumpers could hit the silk.

The site is now home to the Northern Region Pack Train and Ninemile Wildlands Training Center, providing training in horsemanship, packing, and traditional skills.

Our excursion provides an interpretive walk around the station, time to visit sites on your own, a demonstration of packing, and BBQ lunch with Dutch oven dessert. Plus an opportunity to enjoy a meet and greet with Arnold "Smoke" Elser and book signing for his inspirational memoir "Hush of the Land" which chronicles the six-decade quest to protect wild lands by bringing thousands of people deep into the mountains of Montana on horseback.

You'll also have time to check out the visitor center and gift store, featuring books, art, and Forest Service memorabilia. Friends of Ninemile, the non-profit volunteer partner raising funds to maintain the historical structures, are your sponsors and will be on hand to explain their efforts, including the most recent effort to restore the only remaining Forest Service mule hauler.



Ninemile is approximately 30 miles northeast of Missoula. This excursion will last approximately 4 hours, and includes transportation (bus) and lunch. Restrooms and water are available.