



# 2025 Reunion Program

*Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, MT*



## Monday Sept. 22

- 10am to 8pm:** Registration Cabin open all day and Silent Auction Drop Off
- 8am to 3:30pm:** Association Meetings (NAFSR & NMFSH)
- 10am to 3pm:** Oral History collection (James Wall)
- 5pm to 7pm:** Evening Welcome Reception (Appetizers and No Host Bar)
- 7pm to 9pm:** Square Dancing / Social Dancing (Tentative)
- 5pm to 9pm:** Silent Auction Opens



## Tuesday Sept. 23:

**7am to 5pm:** Registration Cabin open all day

**11:00pm to 3:30pm:** Silent Auction Open

**8:30am to 11:30am:** Opening Ceremony with Opening Prayer/ Color Guard/  
Pledge/Music  
Welcome by Tom Thompson and Lisa Tate (includes Museum  
update)

**10 min. Break**

NAFSR Update- What's happened in 2025 (30 min)  
Chief Tom Schultz (45 min with Q/A)

**12:00pm to 1:30pm: Veterans Appreciation Buffet Lunch**

**1:30pm to 3:00pm:** Panel Discussion

***The proud history of the Agency and what happened yesterday.***  
*A panel discussion chaired by Tom Thompson*

**3:30pm to 4:30pm:** Buses leave the hotel for the Conservation Legacy Center Campus

**4:30pm to 7pm:** Afternoon/ Evening: at Conservation Legacy Center-

- Nine Mile Mule Team- USDA Forest Service
- Traditional Skills Demonstration (Bob Beckley)
- UM Woodsman Team - field forestry skills and emulates traditional logging techniques in a competitive format
- Smokey & Woodsy
- Special Gifts and Surprises!

**5:30 to 7:30: Chuckwagon Dinner** provided by Mineshaft Catering



## Wednesday Sept. 24

**8am to 5pm:** Registration Cabin open all day

**10:00 to 8pm:** Silent Auction Open

**9am to 10:30am:** **Plated Breakfast** and Special Panel:

### **Diversifying the Outfit- Tuskegee**

*In the late 1960s, a small group of students, professors, administrators, and Forest Service employees worked together to create a pathway for Tuskegee Institute (University) students to learn about forestry. Although the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts had been passed years earlier, the Forest Service had fewer college-educated Black employees than any other federal agency. The program—based in the Deep South—started out slowly, recruiting only a handful of students in its early years. With hard work and dedication, the program became a sustainable source of talent that re-invigorated the outfit in the decades to come. This panel brings together two of the original Tuskegee Program participants—John Yancy and Mack Hogans—along with Forest Service employees Brian Payne and Larry Gadt, who volunteered for the Tuskegee assignment in its formative days.*

**11:00am to 5pm:** **Excursions** (Lunch included with all excursions)

**1. *Historic Ninemile Remount Depot and Historic Ranger Station*** - Buses to shuttle folks from the Hilton Garden Inn to the Nine Mile approx. 26 miles one way- Lunch Included

The historic Remount Depot at Ninemile Ranger Station was established in 1930 when the Forest Service purchased the old Allen Ranch. The Remount Depot bred mules for 32 years to assist with fire suppression. In the heyday, there were over 1500 animals at the station with 35 animal packers. Today 200 head make their way from all across Montana, northern Idaho, and some from Wyoming to spend their winters here.

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. You'll also have time to check out the visitor center and gift store. Friends of Ninemile, the non-profit volunteer partner raising funds to maintain the historical structures, will be on hand to explain their efforts, including a 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.

**2. Passage Through Time: The Road to the Buffalo (Lolo Pass) - Buses to shuttle folks from the Hilton Garden Inn to Lolo Pass, approx. 31 miles one way- Lunch Included**

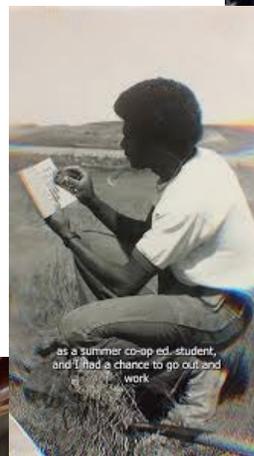
The Bitterroot Mountain Range has been a serious barrier to Native Americans, explorers, early settlers, and developers travelling through the Northern Rocky Mountains. The Salish and Nez Perce Tribes used this route for hundreds of years to trade bison and salmon.

We will drive Highway 12 following the Road to the Buffalo along the auto tour routes of the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trails to the Lolo Pass Visitor Center on the Idaho and Montana divide, between the Lolo and Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests. Activities include guided tours to a Lewis and Clark campsite or to Packer Meadows where the Nez Perce camped during their annual camas harvest, and programs on the history of Forest Service management here. Exhibits, videos, and book sales are featured in the Visitor Center.

Fee includes interpretive programs, tour materials, bus transportation, and lunch)Bring: Walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, water, and coat

**6:00 to 7:30pm: Evening: 120 Years of Challenges, Courage, and Change- A Celebration of USFS Chiefs (Ret'd) (Appetizers and No Host Bar)**

- 6:00 to 6:30pm: Social
- 6:30pm to 7:30pm- Very Special Program:  
**Recognition of Retired USFS Chiefs and  
Celebration of Randy Moore, newest Retired  
Chief**



**7pm to ?:** Music Jam- Retirees bring your instruments!



## Thursday Sept. 25:

<b>8am to 12pm:</b>	Registration Cabin Open
<b>9am to 12pm:</b>	Silent Auction closes at noon
<b>4pm to 6:30pm:</b>	Pick up silent auction and raffle items
<b>10am to 3pm:</b>	Oral History collection (James Wall)

### **8am to 10:00 am: Continental Breakfast**

**Excursions** (\*10:15am to 4:30pm- bus leaves at 11am) (Lunch provided for all excursions)

1. ***Rock Creek Historic Sites Visit*** - Buses to shuttle folks from the Hilton Garden Inn to Rock Creek Morgan Case Cabin, approx. 45 miles one way - Lunch Included - Montana Party Bus shuttles (pre-excursion talk starts at 10:30)

Visit the Hogback and Morgan Case Homesteads and the Rock Creek Guard Station in the Lolo National Forest, Granite County, Montana with retired Forest Archeologist C. Milo McLeod.

10:15am to 4:30pm - the pre-excursion talk begins at 10:30am, bus leaves at 11am

Transportation to and from the Hilton Garden Inn and lunch are included.

The Hogback Homestead, a fully furnished two story log cabin, is situated on approximately five acres along Hogback Creek. It has three bedrooms, kitchen, living room, and dining room. It is heated with a wood stove and is equipped with propane lights and cook stove. This homestead, built in 1917 as a permanent home, provides an opportunity to experience the setting and lifestyle of the early 1900s.

The Morgan-Case Homestead is a rustic, single story log cabin situated on approximately 320 acres along Rock Creek. The cabin has two bedrooms, a living room, dining room, and kitchen. It is furnished in the era of the early 1900s. The cabin is entirely electric -- with an electric range and oven, refrigerator and lights. This homestead is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance relating to early homesteading and ranching (1890-1951) in Granite County and western Montana. **Wheelchair accessible**

- The buses providing transportation are motor coaches and do not have lifts.

2. ***Travelers' Rest State Park and Holt Heritage Museum Excursion*** -Buses to shuttle folks from the Hilton Garden Inn to the Travelers Rest State Park, approx. 8 miles one way – Lunch Included (pre-excursion talk starts at 10:30)

An Excursion Trifecta:

- a. Walking in Lewis & Clark's footsteps at [Travelers' Rest State Park](#)
- b. Exploring the 'Old West' Native American and Cowboy era at the [Holt Heritage Museum](#), and
- c. Relaxing with friends at the award-winning [Lolo Creek Distillery](#).

10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Our bus will leave the hotel at 10:30 sharp. Please arrive for boarding at 10:15.

Travelers' Rest State Park is home to the only archaeologically verified campsite of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and is also an important cultural site of the Salish and other indigenous people. The Holt Heritage Museum contains a rich collection of remnants and artifacts of the Old West. The displays represent 35 years of dedication to telling the story of the Old West by Bill and Ramona Holt.

We'll end our afternoon at the award-winning [Lolo Creek Distillery](#) where we'll enjoy craft cocktails and mocktails while relaxing with friends in the picturesque setting showcased from the Distillery's tasting room and outdoor patio.

Lunch and travel to and from the venue are included in the price.

This excursion is walker and wheelchair accessible. The buses providing transportation are motor coaches and do not have lifts.

### 3. ***Missoula Fire, Science and Technology Forest Service Campus Tour*** - Trip

Buses to shuttle folks from the Hilton Garden Inn to the USFS Compound on Highway 10 West, approx. 3 miles one way – Lunch Included

**Missoula Smokejumper Center** - The Smokejumper excursion/tour includes a stop at the Visitor Information Center for a briefing and viewing of

smokejumper equipment. From there, a tour through the Aerial Fire Depot by a veteran smokejumper will include the equipment construction and repair facility, parachute tower, rigging room, ready room, dispatch center, the cargo room, and the airplane.

**Rocky Mountain Research and Fire Sciences Laboratory** The Missoula Firelab is the preeminent fire research facility in the world. It was established in the aftermath of the Mann Gulch Fire. The Firelab's original focus of developing a greater understanding of wildland fire and using the best technology available to get that knowledge into the hands of fire managers continues to be the way of life for researchers.

**National Technology and Development Program/Center** The NTDP evaluates problems and creates solutions across all Deputy Chief areas, helping to make the agency and its employees safer and more efficient. NTDP has 76 employees with a wide range of skills and disciplines, some rare or even unique to the agency. Facilities and programs are critical for developing and testing equipment specifications and for supporting other land management programs.

This excursion is walker and wheelchair accessible. The buses providing transportation are motor coaches and do not have lifts.

### **6:30pm: Plated Dinner Banquet**

with 2025 Reunion Remembrance Slide Show and Museum/NAFSR Awards



## Friday Sept. 26

**8am to 11am: Closing Plated Breakfast**

**9am to 11am: Closing Presentation**

Thank you!  
2028 Reunion Slide Show / Presentation  
Salute to Veterans  
2028 Reunion "Passing of the Torch"  
Closing Song

Excursion details can be found at

<https://2025usfsreunion.org/Excursions/excursions.html>

**\*Program details and times may change due to unforeseen circumstances\***

**\*Plated meal choices will be made via email closer to the event date\***

**\*All meals and appetizers noted on the program are included in the cost of registration\***

Meals include lemonade, water, tea or coffee. A No Host bar will be available at most evening events

Excursions may be cancelled if minimum registration numbers are not met. If this occurs, you may sign up for another excursion or receive a refund.

