



WILDERNESS · PACK · TRIPS

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# Llameros Newsletter



Fall/Winter 2008-2009

Issue 18

## Wilderness and the Llamas

We have had the privilege to lead many people for many years into some our most **pristine federal land...."Designated Wilderness"**. **Wilderness is special. It's recognized by our government as special. It's a place** when visiting for the most part, appears **untouched by civilizations of Man. It's special** because no matter what happens on the outside, closer to civilization, these pristine areas look the same today as they did 100 years ago. We, as owners and visitors of the wildernesses, have a special responsibility also. We need to teach each other the simple things to care for the land to meet these high standards of **designated wilderness. I'd like to pass on** few ideas.

**Campfires.** Should we have campfires or not? I think we can have them, when allowed, but it comes with responsibility. Many articles have been written and discussed on this **subject in depth, so I won't attempt detailing it** in this limited space. One of the biggest **impacts I've noticed, is that people innocently want to build big rock fire rings...and** leave them as almost a signature for the next owner/visitor to stumble upon or even use. **Here's the problem with this construction project.** You assume that the next person **wants to use it. It's safe to say most people do** want to use it, but a few choose not to, and if

there are several rings in the same immediate area which one do you choose? You should choose one that already has been heavily used. This way the impacts associated with fire rings, like fuel wood gathering and soil compaction, are concentrated. If you do not want to use an existing fire ring, or there is not one around where you want to camp, ask



Shad Hamilton

**The Fitzpatrick Wilderness offers beautiful scenery and long treks.**

yourself these questions first. Do you need one to survive or just not have to put on another layer of clothing before you retire to **your tent? If it's the latter, then why not make**

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### Special points of interest:

- [Wi-Fi and Bunk House rates](#)
- [Woody's Fly Shop embroidered hats](#)
- [Dung Happens](#)
- [Colorado Mountain Club Thanks](#)

## Where are They Now?

**D**id you ever wonder what your guides are doing today? **Well... we didn't list every** single friend or family member that has helped us on a llama trip or lease, because **there's just too many to mention, but we hit on the main ones! (They're also not necessarily in the order that they worked for us.)**

**Lars Peterson**-Lars and his

wife Jennifer live in Laramie, Wyoming and have a young daughter. Lars is a physician of internal medicine at Iverson Memorial Hospital.

**Mike Duffy**-Mike lives in Lander with his wife, Lisa, and two boys. He is a chemistry instructor at the high school and works for the BLM in the summer.

**Tim Woodruff-Scott's** brother, Tim, lives in Broomfield, CO, with his wife, Shawn, and their four kids. Tim is a physical education teacher in the Adams 50 school dist. in Westminster.

**Shad Hamilton**-Shad and his wife, Mandy, have two young children and live in Lander. Shad is principal at Fort Washakie Charter H.S.

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### con't- Wilderness and the Llamas

a small fire maybe even without rocks, and thoroughly put it out and dismantle the ashes when leaving the next day? By doing this you accomplish two very good custodial goals.

**1) You don't perpetuate clusters of rock rings** leaving a clear presence of

Man. 2) You reduce the possibility that the next group will pick the same exact spot, therefore reducing and dispersing the impact of



Marty Todd

the campsite. If the reason for building the fire is survival, believe me, **there won't be a fire ring, and it will be as big as you hopefully can make it, and safety aside, impacts may be irrelevant for the time being.**

**Llama Dung** Dung happens! Disperse (kick/spread) it from your llamas camping spot when you leave. We go over this thoroughly in our llama lease program, but unfortunately it is probably the largest poor management practice by some of the llama trekkers. We see the llama dung piles, and so do others. Does it matter? Yes, it does matter on many fronts. 1) Leaving little llama dung piles burns small holes in the fragile

alpine environment. By dispersing the dung piles with a few swift kicks not only eliminates this but it fertilizes the soil over a larger area. 2) By leaving llama dung piles you are leaving it for the next back packer to set his tent up on, for a few years. If you disperse the dung, the pellets will biodegrade and break down at a much faster rate, leaving the area acceptable for a tent the next year. 3) By spreading the dung piles it creates faster natural production of the grasses making it available for forage to wildlife or the next traveling llama or horse.

***"Why not make a small fire maybe even without rocks...?"***

(con't page 3)

### con't- Where are They Now?

He is still into extreme biking and races any chance he can get. Check out his blog. <http://landerbackcountry.blogspot.com/>

**Dan Woodruff**-Scott's youngest brother, Dan, lives in Boulder, CO. He is a forensic chemist for Chematox Laboratory that analyzes biologic specimens for toxins and unknown substances for identification.

**Bob Scholl**-Bob presently lives in Lander and runs his own graphic website design business. [www.RedDeserthdesign.com](http://www.RedDeserthdesign.com)

**Samuel Pedersen**-Sam is in his last year at the University of New Hampshire and will graduate with a bachelors degree in biochemistry. He still guides for us in the summer and is on his 8<sup>th</sup> year with us!

**Riley Hopeman**-Riley graduated from the University of Laramie with degrees in Journalism and physical geography. He works in Lander for the National Outdoor Leadership School as a Field Instructor and Marketing Rep.

**Lara Vowles Lock**-Lara recently married Tony Lock and they live in Lander. Lara is an elementary teacher's aide at Fort Washakie School.

(con't page 3)

***"Did you ever wonder what your guides are doing today?"***

### Thank You

We want to thank all of our customers and friends over the years that helped us build our small outfitting company. We continue to mold our company to better serve our customers. We truly appreciate your business. We also want to express our thankfulness for a great crew of employees over the last 23 years. Many have moved on to successful careers and we have thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow. We couldn't have done it without them!

**Scott, Therese, and Skyler**





### con't- Wilderness and the Llamas

**Trail Encounters.** While we may think llamas carrying our heavy gear and politely following us on the trail is pretty slick, Mr. Horse person may not. You see, horses (and some horse people) really would like to keep their distance from llamas and other foreign looking objects, as they need much more space to pass than a hiker and his pack llama does. If a llama trekker boldly stands on the trail with his loaded llama and forces the horse user to delicately slip by without a "wreck", it clearly shows they have no respect for other users and the potential danger it imposes. Horse users have as much right to the wilderness as you do. Most horse users are aware that their horses can spook at almost anything and are very cautious around llamas. It would be of great help to our fellow wilderness users if we llama trekkers would all get far off the trail, when possible, to assist the rider(s) from having to deal with a "wreck". While it's not your fault the horse may spook, it speaks volumes when you politely allow safe passage.

### con't- Where are They Now?

**Steve Foelker**-Steve lives in Green Bay, WI and is a spinal parts sales representative for the state of Wis. He still enjoys guiding one trip a year with Scott.

**Elijah Pedersen**-Elijah is in his first year at the University of Wyoming and is in the secondary education program there. He is also on the Laramie Elite Nordic Ski Team.

**Montana Smith**-Montana is heading to Alaska in February and will be guiding wilderness therapy trips for Alaska Crossings. (not pictured)

**Max Matson**-Max is at the University of Wyoming majoring in biology. He's getting outside as much as possible, and looking forward to snowboarding. He still guides for Lander Llama Co. in the summertime.

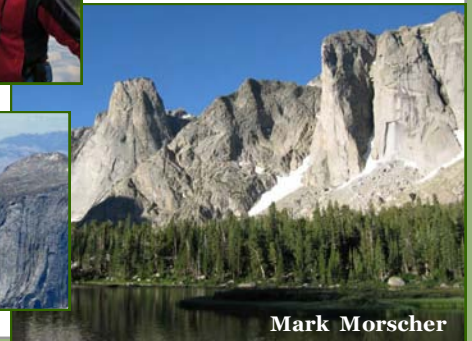
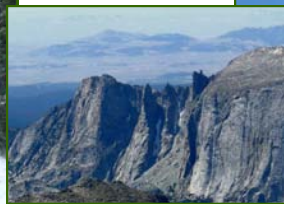
**Collin McRann**-Collin worked for us this past summer and presently is a carpenter for a general contractor/construction company here in Lander.



### A special thanks to the Colorado Mountain Club!



Photos by Marty Todd



Mark Morscher

### Banner Year For The Bunk House

Good news! The Bunk House has new winter rates!! For the months of January through March, The Bunk House price is \$60.00 per night for the same great amenities! Take advantage of Lander's beautiful winter weather and its many winter activities while staying with us. The Bunk House has a toasty gas "log burning" stove and cozy interior that beckons winter visitors. Good news for all you computer savvy customers...The Bunk House now has Wi-Fi! Now you have the choice to stay connected with the rest of the world while you're on your vacation!

**New Bunk House rates for 2009 :**

**\$115 per night, \$575 per week (6 nights) April-December**

**\$60 per night, January through March**



# Lander Llama

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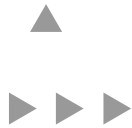
## “Parting Llama Shot”

Waylon, the llama, passed away in August 2008



Collin McRann

In memory of Waylon



*“Woody’s Fly Shop.com is open. Please log on and browse for some flies or pack rods or order some really cool embroidered hats.”*

Scott Woodruff, Owner



### Woody’s Fly Shop.com

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RSS FEED



Woody’s Fly Shop.com at Lander Llama Company is open and can take your on-line order for dry flies, wet flies, and fly fishing gear for our western high mountain areas at very competitive prices! [Woody’s Fly Shop.com](http://Woody’s Fly Shop.com) also has promotional items...mugs, tees, hats and water bottles. Did you forget something before your llama trip? We have sunscreen, soap, lip balm, watches, travel games...whatever you need to help make your trip stress-free and the trip of a lifetime. Our new embroidered hats are really cool!

The shop’s physical location is at Lander Llama Company where you can browse our flies and many nic-nac’s if on-line is not your style.

(April-October)

