



Wildlife Trailing Courses



Winter Ungulate Trailing

Develop the skills required to follow a deer or elk until you find the animal. Together, we will learn about ungulate behavior first hand, observing what deer and elk eat, how they use the landscape, where they bed, and how they evade predators. The day will be spent in the field following elk and deer trails. Given the opportunity, we will spend time observing wildlife.

Dates: January 9, 10, 11.

Location: Arcata, CA

Cost: \$300 per person

Instructors: Matt Nelson and Preston Taylor

Spring Bear Trailing

Learn the habits of the largest-terrestrial carnivore in our ecosystem, the American black bear, by following their tracks and hopefully through direct observation. We will spend the day in the field following bear trails. Together, we will learn what bears are eating, how to age tracks and scat, where they bed, and how they move across the landscape. Spring is the beginning of the bear rut, so we will see and discuss bear scent marking and communication sign.

Dates: April 17, 18, 19 – FULL

May 1, 2, 3 – Two spaces available (as of 1/26)

Location: Arcata, CA

Cost: \$300 per person

Instructors: Matt Nelson and Preston Taylor

Contact:

Matt Nelson – nelsonmattw@gmail.com

Preston Taylor – taylorapreston@gmail.com

www.redwoodcoastanimaltracking.com

Please be prepared to hike off trail, through thick brush, up steep hills, and for multiple miles each day.



Traditional Hunting Class

This course will cover what is involved when hunting big game traditionally. For our purposes, traditional hunting means harvesting a big game animal within 20 yards. The method of take is less important; however, we will talk about traditional bows and arrows and do some practice shooting. We will use wild hogs to work on the following skills: spot and stalk, still hunting, closing the distance to an intimate range, how to find animals on the landscape, setting up an ambush, using the wind, animal behavior during usual hunting seasons, making the shot, and how to bring an animal out of the woods after the harvest.

Dates: February 20, 21, 22 – One space available (as of 1/26)

February 24, 25, 26 - Full

Location: Annapolis, CA

Cost: \$300 per person

Instructors: Matt Nelson and Preston Taylor

Animal Trailing Basics

In this class, we'll learn the basics of trailing. We will begin the day talking about what trailing is and what we collectively know about the focus animals. The rest of the day is in the field, learning how to find a fresh trail and developing the skills and confidence to follow the animal until we find it. We will focus on track identification, aging, working through track clusters, recognizing feeding sign, where animals bed, scent marking and communication, animal interaction etiquette, and how to approach the animal using the terrain and wind. If conditions allow, we will interact directly with the target animal, which may include elk, wild hog, and deer. Let's learn together about these amazing animals we live with. Bring your own lunch and water.

Dates: December 13, 20, January 17, February 8

Location: North Bay San Francisco

Cost: \$100 per person per day

Space available: 5 people

Instructors: Matt Nelson