

## Pack Llama Trail Association

# PLTA Pack Trials

### *Educating You and Your Llama for the Backcountry Experience*

The **PLTA Pack Trial** presents a series of standardized tests that evaluate pack llamas for their natural ability and acquired level of training and conditioning appropriate to actual packing conditions. These evaluations are conducted in a realistic packing environment. Llamas successfully completing the tests are certified as competent at one of four available levels.

#### *Trials are regulated by stringent written standards.*

Multiple trial repetitions are required before a llama earns its certification at a given level. This requirement demonstrates a llama's ability over time and in variable conditions.

During trials llamas are evaluated for their manageability, fitness and skill. Manageability includes those tasks necessary for packing activities as demonstrated by a polite and willing llama. At all times during a trial, the llama is required to behave in a safe and controlled manner.

Fitness is evaluated through distance and elevation requirements, while skill is evaluated via the negotiation of obstacles such as jumps, slash, and water crossings, typically encountered in backcountry packing environments.



#### *The four levels of certification are available at both individual and 'string' or team applications.*

A **Basic** llama adequately performs the skills required of a light duty packer on easy terrain for short distances with light loads.

The **Advanced** llama is trustworthy for well defined, easily negotiated backcountry travel.

The **Master** llama is capable of cross-country backcountry travel in rough terrain at distances required by an outfitter guide.

The **Elite** llama is fit for long distance travel in extreme terrain.



### *Achieving the Educated Llama*

Earning certification in the levels of the Pack Trial Program, participating in the PLTA Challenge and the Mileage Program provides a llama with a well documented education that shows how you have worked through the educational process to build your llama's skill and confidence as well as your own.



**PLTA**  
**Promoting the Working Llama**  
[packllama.org](http://packllama.org)

*For More Information Contact:*  
*Tom Seifert, Program Manager*  
[trials@packllama.org](mailto:trials@packllama.org)

