Professional Development Funding Recipient:

Wilderness First Responder Recertification Course

A large body of water surrounded by trees

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I received MES Professional Development Funding to participate in a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) Recertification course. This was a 3-day event held in Leavenworth Washington through the National Outdoor Leadership School’s (NOLS) Outdoor Medicine Institute. The course was held at the Wenatchee River Institute November 2nd and 3rd, 2018. As a field biologist, any medical training is a huge advantage especially when conducting field work in the backcountry where you can be miles from a trail head. Having and maintaining a WFR is very beneficial for biology or ecology technician positions.

WFR certifications are valid usually 2-3 years with a year grace period, depending on the organization. This was my first recertification, and I learned an immense amount. Both instructors hold EMT licenses and were extremely knowledgeable, organized, and efficient. This was a fast-paced course where patient assessment, treatment, and evacuation topics were reviewed. Practical scenarios combined with classroom style lectures were utilized to best teach students on medical updates and changes. Medicine is a dynamic field, updating every year with new advances and best practice. I highly recommend considering a WFR certification if you work in field positions.

A close up of a pond of water

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