

**Blaine County Sheriff Search and Rescue K 9 Unit  
Wilderness Trailing  
Knowledge & Performance Certification Standards**

**Purpose:**

To participate in a professional volunteer program involving Emergency Rescue Services for the public in a missing person context.

**Policy:**

Prior to being evaluated and approved as a field ready team, each individual must have fulfilled the necessary requirements as deemed by the Blaine County Sheriff Search and Rescue K-9 Unit Standard Operating Guidelines.

**Level of Certification:**

Fulfilling the standards listed will qualify the team as a Level I, II, or III for Wilderness Trailing in Blaine County Search and Rescue. If a team has passed the NASAR Canine SARTECH I, II, or III certification for Trailing, they will automatically qualify for the same Level for Blaine County Search and Rescue.

**Standards for Evaluation**

- There will be one or more evaluator(s). At least one of the evaluators must be independent of BCSAR K 9 Unit.
- Selection of an evaluator(s) by agreement of the BCSAR K-9 Unit Commander and Sheriff's Office BCSAR Commander.
- All evaluator(s) are answerable to the BCSAR K-9 Unit and may be dismissed by same. However, all test results are final and may not be reversed by BCSAR K-9 Unit.
- Evaluator(s) will use the BCSAR K-9 Unit Trailing Certification Score Sheet.

- All teams testing will be given fair and equal test situations. Teams will not test on the same day on a previously used site.
- No team with a female dog in heat will be allowed to test with other teams present.
- Any protest of the test scenario must be presented and considered prior to the test, e.g. presence of smoke, fuel or female dog in heat cycle.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be allowed two attempts to pass each test.
- A certified team must re-test every 3 years to maintain certification.

### **Level III Wilderness Trailing Search Dog Field Test**

The candidate handler and canine will be able to follow subject's trail over a short distance and locate a single stationary subject during daylight hours.

- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a trail of ¼ to ½ mile aged a minimum of four (4) hours to a maximum of six (6) hours during daylight hours.
- Subject's trail will have at least two (2) more recent cross-tracks laid by one or two people other than the subject, placed at separate points along the subject's trail.
- Subject's trail will cross at least one road (surfaced or no surface) and will traverse more than one terrain feature (vegetation zones, hills, etc).
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time limit of one (1) hour including breaks.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they are able to establish a direction of travel.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they were able to follow the path taken by the subject, giving consideration to the weather conditions, wind

- direction and traffic. (They must stay within 100 yards of the laid track on all legs.)
- An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of their search.
  - Handler will be able to justify and document the search tactics used to complete their search problem. This documentation should include:
    1. A map of the route traveled
    2. An assessment of the work the dog did accomplish
    3. Relevant Meteorology
    4. Estimated POD

### **Level II Wilderness Trailing Search Dog Field Test**

- The candidate handler and canine will be able to trail in wilderness terrain consistent with what the handler normally works, or the terrain in the testing area, during daylight hours.
- The candidate handler and canine will be evaluated using a wilderness trail that is 18-24 hours old, 1 to 1.5 miles in length.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they are able to establish a direction of travel.
- The subject's wilderness trail should wander through varied terrain, including a dirt road or trail and have at least 3 turns. The candidate handler and canine partner will be able to identify the subject's trail from at least two individual trails.
- The canine handler and canine will be evaluated up to a maximum time limit of two (2) hours.
- An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the test.

- Candidate handler will be evaluated as to whether they can articulate to the evaluator the dog's indication of the proper subject.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether or not they identify the proper subject.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they were able to follow the path taken by the subject, giving consideration to the weather conditions, wind direction and traffic. (They must stay within 100 yards of the laid track on all legs).
- Handler will be able to justify and document the search tactics used to complete their search problem. This documentation should include:
  5. A map of the route traveled
  6. An assessment of the work the dog did accomplish
  7. Relevant Meteorology
  8. Estimated POD

### **Level I Wilderness Trailing Search Dog Field Test**

- The candidate handler and canine will be able to track/trail in wilderness terrain consistent with what the handler normally works or the terrain in the testing area.
- The candidate handler and canine will be evaluated using a wilderness trail that is 30-36 hours old, 1 to 1.5 miles in length.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they are able to establish a direction of travel.
- The subject's wilderness trail should wander through varied terrain, including a dirt road or trail and have at least 3 turns. The candidate handler and canine partner will be able to identify the subject's trail from at least two individual trails.

- The canine handler and canine will be evaluated up to a maximum time limit of 3 hours.
- An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the test.
- Candidate handler will be evaluated as to whether they can articulate to the evaluator the dog's indication of the proper subject.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether or not they identify the proper subject.
- Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they were able to follow the path taken by the subject, giving consideration to the weather conditions, wind direction and traffic. (They may not deviate from the laid track more than 100 yards on any leg.)
- Handler will be able to justify and document the search tactics used to complete their search problem. This documentation will include:
  1. A map of the route traveled
  2. An assessment of the work the dog did accomplish
  3. Relevant Meteorology
  4. Estimated POD