



# Crosscut & Chain Saw Policy Development & Revision Work Group Information Request

**To: Sawyers, Saw Program Instructors/Coordinators, Safety and Occupational Health Managers/Coordinators, Recreation and Wilderness Managers, and Line Officers**

**Please complete and return electronically to [ghoshide@fs.fed.us](mailto:ghoshide@fs.fed.us) by May 29, 2009**

## **Background**

Lack of national program direction to implement a safe and uniform crosscut and chain saw “certification” process servicewide has resulted in development and implementation of inconsistent certification, recertification, and training ‘requirements’ between and within Regions and Stations that impedes access to critical skill pools, and partnering opportunities with volunteer groups. A clear, consistent national saw policy on training curriculum, certification, and instructor experience standards, similar to the Red Card process in Fire, will: “eliminate duplicative, conflicting, or confusing instructions to agency personnel” per (41 CFR 201-6.002(k)); ensure employee and volunteer safety; ensure reciprocity across Regions, Stations, and partner and volunteer organizations; enhance our capacity to develop third party trainers and complete field work; and improve relationships with our partners and integrity of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

In 2008, Agency leadership requested Missoula Technology & Development Center (MTDC) begin a project to develop national guidance on implementing saw training and certification requirements servicewide. A questionnaire was distributed to agency sawyers, volunteer groups, and other interested employees in June 2008. The responses from the questionnaire identified issues needing to be addressed in national chain saw and crosscut saw direction.

On November 7, 2008, Agency leadership made a decision to realign national program responsibilities. The resulting action placed the responsibility for issuing direction on Chain Saw Operations and Crosscut Saw Operations with the Director of Fire and Aviation Management.

## **Now The Work Group Needs Your Help**

The enclosed [proposed] draft policy direction has been prepared for your review, and the Work Group requests your comments. A separate draft policy direction —specific to Chain Saw Operations—will follow, pending results of the review of this proposed draft direction for Crosscut Saw Operations. As you review this draft direction on Crosscut Saw Operations, keep in mind the proposed direction is specific to using crosscut saws outside the wildland fire work environment. The use of crosscut saws in the wildland fire work environment is currently prescribed by interagency National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) direction.

The comments you provide will aid the Work Group in formulating a recommendation to leadership on identified issues and recommend solutions associated with implementation of this draft policy. Other recommendations the Work Group will make to leadership will be the placement of completed policy in the most appropriate program area (Safety and Occupational Health, Recreation and Wilderness, Forest Management, Fire and Aviation Management, or other) to reduce fragmentation or redundant direction.

If you have any questions please contact Gary Hoshide, Project Leader, at (voice) 406-329-1029 or (e-mail) [ghoshide@fs.fed.us](mailto:ghoshide@fs.fed.us).

To help facilitate your comments, use the following table to provide responses:

Topic or Section	Comments, Issues, Questions, Suggested Changes, etc.
<b>## - CROSSCUT SAW OPERATIONS</b>	
<b>##.01 - Authority</b>	
<b>##.02 - Objective</b>	
<b>##.03 - Policy</b>	
<b>##.04 - Responsibility</b>	
##.04a - Deputy Chief for Business Operations	
##.04b - Director, Office of Safety and Occupational Health	
##.04c - Director, Fire and Aviation Management	
##.04d - Director, Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers	
##.04e - Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, and International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF) Director	
##.04f - Forest Supervisors and Lab Managers	
##.04g - District Rangers and Unit Managers	
##.04h - Region, Station, Area, IITF, Forest, Lab, and District Safety and Occupational Health Managers or Collateral-Duty Safety and Health Officers	
##.04i - Region, Station, Area, IITF, Forest, Lab, and District Fire and Aviation Management Staff Officers (Reserved)	
##.04j - Region, Forest, and Ranger District Wilderness Program Managers	
##.04k - Region, Station, Area, and IITF Crosscut Saw Coordinators	
##.04l - Forest and Lab Crosscut Saw Coordinators	
##.04m - Ranger District Crosscut Saw Coordinators	
##.04n - First-Line Supervisors	
##.04o - Instructor/Evaluator	
##.04p - Crosscut Saw Sawyers	
<b>##.05 - Definitions</b>	
<b>##.1 - Qualifications</b>	
##.11 - Proficiency Skill Levels	
##.12 - Specialized Skills	
<b>##.2 - Training</b>	
##.21 - Knowledge	
##.22 - Skill	
<b>##.3 - Examination and Field Performance Evaluation</b>	
##.31 - Examination	
##.32 - Field Performance Evaluation	
##.33 - Prerequisite for Field Performance Evaluation	
##.34 - Field Performance Reevaluation	
<b>##.4 - Certification of Training and Field Performance Evaluation</b>	
<b>##.5 - Operations Implementation</b>	
##.51 - Reappointment	
<b>##.6 - Operations Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>##.7 - Specialty Crosscut Saw Uses (Reserved)</b>	
<b>##.8 - Accident Investigation</b>	
<b>##.9 - Crosscut Saw Use</b>	
##.91 - Personal Protective Equipment	
##.92 - Safety Procedures	
##.93 - Safety Practices	
<u>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</u>	

Please check the appropriate items(s) that describe your background and interest as a commenter (Optional):

- Bureau of Land Management employee
- Fish & Wildlife Service employee
- Forest Service employee
- National Park Service employee
- State Government employee
- Non-governmental Volunteer (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Saw Coordinator
- Line Officer or Unit Manager
- Safety & Occupational Health Manager or Collateral-Duty Safety Officer
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

- Chain Saw Experience:
- Skilled Sawyer - A Certified
  - Skilled Sawyer - B Certified
  - Advanced Sawyer - C Certified
  - C-Certifier
  - Lead Instructor

- Crosscut Saw Experience:
- Skilled Sawyer - A Certified
  - Skilled Sawyer - B Certified
  - Advanced Sawyer - C Certified
  - C-Certifier
  - Lead Instructor

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone no. or email address: \_\_\_\_\_