

## **USFS Saw Program Partner & Cooperator Roundtable Conference Call; January 21, 2021.**

I participated in a Microsoft Team conference call hosted by the "Pacific Crest Trail Association". The attendees to the call represented a majority of the different trail volunteer groups around the country that are participating in the USFS Sawyer Training program. The discussion was led by Pete Duncan, National Saw Program Manager and senior USFS saw managers from different regions and covered a number of different topics that were of interest to trail volunteer organizations and their sawyer trainers.

Topics Included: Updates to the National Saw Policy with a number of changes that have been in common uses, but not written into the current policy and some additions that had been requested by the volunteer community. A draft version is expected summer of 2021.

NPS/USFS Reciprocity Agreement – A written agreement between the National park service and other public land agencies to recognize sawyer certification issued by other public land agencies. Up to now the NPS didn't accept certifications from other agencies.

Forest Service's New Training Curriculum – A new training manual for sawyer certification is being written that will better suit non-public land agencies employees (Volunteers). A draft of many of the modules will be available in late summer of 2021 with a final draft expected by the spring of 2022. This new manual will replace the current one "MTDC Chainsaw & Crosscut training Manual ", that was last updated in 2006, but written in the 1960's.

USFS Sawyer Certification Database: This database that has been in the works for a number of years, is still in beta testing with no date when it is expected to come online for use. The purpose of the data base is to track sawyer certification nationally and to provide saw managers with data on certifications and skill sets in their region or district.

The call was then opened up for questions and suggestions and a lively discussion on certification levels and opportunities for advanced training for future instructors got lots of input from the attendees.

It was agreed that conference calls like this one should become a regular event.

The USFS also mentioned that they are updating many of their trail related manuals. An example is: One Moving Part: The Forest Service Ax Manual. 1823 2812P. Missoula, MT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, National Technology and Development Program. 234 p.

This manual provides information about different types of axes and their historic and current usage in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Subjects covered include the anatomy of an ax, types of axes and related tools, selecting the right ax for you, the art of filing, sharpening an ax head, restoring, or replacing an ax handle, using an ax, maintaining an ax, and purchasing an ax. The manual also includes a list of

resources and information about ax manufacturers and suppliers.  
<https://sbbch.org/?p=6582>

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