Backcountry Horsemen of America- Volunteer Activity/Abstract

Trail work and stock support with public volunteers, Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) supporters, BCHA employees, and organized community partner groups. Volunteers will be directed and led by Back Country Horsemen of America from priority project work identified by the Forest Service. Tasks include light trail work, logout and horseback riding and packing in support of trail projects with Forest Service partners. Volunteers will work with their own horses and mules. Volunteers and employees are subject to extreme weather such as heat, thunderstorms, snow, high winds, cold, earthquakes and other conditions associated with mountainous terrain.

All volunteers must be properly trained and certified following Forest Service policy. Certification will be required for the use of crosscut saws and chainsaws. As directed by Forest Service National Saw Policy, volunteers can be trained by certified sawyers outside of the agency. Once a training has taken place, the saw trainers will submit each sawyers certificate of course completion, evaluation form, and first aid documentation to the Forest Service, in which the Forest Service will certify and generate sawyer cards based on the trainers recommendation on each evaluation form. The Forest service will provide no Defensive Horsemanship or Packing training. The BCHA will ensure participants have adequate skills and knowledge before participating in a partnership with the Forest Service.

Appropriate Risk Management Assessments provided by the Forest Service will be reviewed and signed by volunteers working within this agreement. The BCHA will ensure that all employees and volunteers use proper PPE in accordance to Forest Service policy and RMAs.

BCHA will be responsible for developing a check-in/check-out safety plan that is independent of the Forest Service to ensure field volunteers and employees are accounted for. BCHA will be responsible for the development of an emergency response plan that has standardized protocols to provide the most efficient response should an incident occur in the field.