



File Code: 2350
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Date: March 29, 2023

Subject: Updates to the National Saw Program

To: Regional Foresters and Regional Recreation Directors

The Washington Office Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources program is pleased to announce three important updates to the National Saw Program:

- **Amended National Saw Policy, Forest Service Manual 2358.** The updated policy was published March 6, 2023, and is available on the [Forest Service Directives website](#). Amendments improve clarity, remove conflicting information, and better support Saw Program Managers to carry out the saw program for employees, volunteers, and cooperator groups.
- **National Sawyer Qualification Tracking Database.** The database tracks and stores certification and training information for sawyers, including employees, volunteers, and partners, who operate chainsaws and use crosscut saws on National Forest System lands. Forest Service and non-Forest Service employees will have access to the database. Regional Saw Program Managers will manage permissions for user access. The [Chain Saw and Crosscut Saw Program SharePoint page](#) contains a database user guide and tutorial videos.
- **New chain saw and crosscut sawyer training curriculum: “Developing Thinking Sawyers.”** The new training curriculum focuses on sawyer safety, human factors, and risk management. The curriculum consists of seven modules and is intended to be delivered in person. The modular design will allow instructors to tailor the training to the needs of each group of students. Firefighters who take specific modules will be awarded credit for S-212 in the Incident Qualification and Certification System. Regional Saw Program Managers are currently distributing the curriculum to sawyer instructors.

These updates support implementation of the saw program at the regional, forest, and district levels to benefit Forest Service staff, partners, and volunteers who use chain saws and crosscut saws on National Forest System lands. Visit the [Chain Saw and Crosscut Saw Program SharePoint page](#) for more information. Also, enclosed are talking points and responses to frequently asked questions.

Regions are encouraged to use the new curriculum but will have until April 2024 to transition. During this time, the Missoula Technology and Development Center Chain saw and Crosscut Saw course, the Game of Logging course, and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group S-212 course will continue to be accepted.



Special thanks to the Regional Saw Program managers, Regional Crosscut Coordinators and all the Subject Matter Experts who have worked over the past few years to accomplish these updates. The Forest Service is now able to better implement the saw program for employees, volunteers, and Cooperator groups because of their contribution.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your respective Regional Saw Program Manager or Pete Duncan, National Saw Program Manager, at peter.duncan@usda.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Blum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gordon" and last name "Blum" clearly distinguishable.

GORDON BLUM

Acting Director, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources

Enclosure

cc: Penny Wu, Pete Duncan, Brenda Yankoviak, Katie Armstrong, Julian Affuso, Ehab Hanna, Monte Ulmer