

**File Code:** 2300**Date:** July 9, 2024**Route To:****Subject:** Forest Service National Saw Program Updates**To:** Regional Recreation Directors and Regional Fire and Aviation Management Directors

The Washington Office's Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources, and Fire and Aviation Management staffs are pleased to announce three important updates and two key 2024 program of work items to the National Saw Program. Each of these updates is covered in depth in the enclosed 2024 National Saw Program Facts Sheet.

Updates to the Forest Service Saw Program

- **Wildland Fire Leg Protection Requirement.** Chaps that meet National Fire Protection Association 1977 standard are now approved leg protection for fireline and non-fireline personnel.
- **Saw Training Requirements.** To operate saws on National Forest System (NFS) lands, an individual must complete one of the two Nationally Recognized Sawyer Training Courses approved by the Forest Service. These courses meet the standards outlined in the National Wildfire Coordination Group's (NWCG) Position Qualification Requirement in Publication Management Systems 310-1:
 - NWCG S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw Course
 - Forest Service's "Developing Thinking Sawyers" Course
- **S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws Equivalency and "Developing Thinking Sawyers"** For sawyers that participate in incident response and maintain qualifications in NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications or the Forest Service Fire and Aviation Qualification Guide a certificate of completion for S-212 shall be issued to anyone who has successfully completed the Fireline Module package in a "Developing Thinking Sawyers" course.

Key 2024 Program of Work Items

- **Updates to the National Saw Policy, Forest Service Manual 2358**
The current policy was published March 6, 2023, and is available on the [Forest Service Directives Web site](#). A working group of Regional Saw Program Managers is reviewing and amending the National Saw Policy to clarify personal protective equipment standards as well as discrepancies in required agreement language with volunteer and partner organizations involved in saw operations on NFS lands.



- **“Developing Thinking Sawyers” equivalency to S-112, S-212, S-312**
The Forest Service National Saw program and NWCG are working together to better align their respective curriculums. Over the next several years NWCG is transitioning from a single training program “Standards for Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operations, S- 212”, course (2012) to three courses to provide continued learning as a chainsaw operator’s knowledge and skillset progress. The new NWCG curriculum will include Basic Faller, S-112; Intermediate Faller, S-212; and Advanced Faller, S-312 with associated Position Task Books.

Special thanks to the Regional Saw Program Managers and other subject-matter experts who have been working diligently over the years to keep up with policy updates and streamline and standardize processes.

For more information, visit the [National Saw Program SharePoint page](#), or contact your respective [Regional Saw Program Manager](#), or Dan McLaughlin, Acting National Saw Program Manager, at Daniel.McLaughlin@usda.gov.

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Enclosure

cc: Daniel McLaughlin; Anthony Bethas; Heath Cota