

File Code: 2300
Date: February 22, 2018

Aaron Pedersen
Regional Saw Program Manager
595 Northwest Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023

Subject: Approval of Cooperator Saw Program

To: Aaron Pedersen
Regional Saw Program Manager

In accordance with Forest Service Manual 2358 (FSM 2358), Forest Service Saw Policy; Cooperators, volunteer groups and individuals under agreement and operating chainsaws and/or crosscut saws on National Forest System lands will be trained, evaluated and certified in accordance with FSM 2358. These groups have three options to meet this requirement:

- Forest Service Saw Program (Option 1)-Working in coordination with local and regional agreement administrators and local Agency staff, Regional Saw Program Managers can provide, upon request and based on availability of Agency funding and personnel, organizations/groups with appropriate training and evaluation opportunities. Successfully evaluated sawyers will receive certification.
- Forest Service Saw Program (Option 2)– The Forest Service Saw program can be implemented by Forest service volunteers, cooperators, consultants and/or contractors who are certified as C Sawyers or C Sawyer Evaluators who in turn can train, evaluate and certify their own organization’s members, other cooperating organizations, and/or Forest Service employees.
- Cooperator Saw Program (Option 3)-Organizations/groups proposing their own training, evaluation and certification programs will present their proposed saw training and evaluation program structure to the National Saw Program Manager who will consult with the Saw Program Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for review. Upon a successful review the National Saw Program Manager will approve the cooperator program through issuance of official correspondence. Once approved, the cooperator will coordinate with the appropriate Forest Service Regional Saw Program Manager(s) to conduct their program in accordance with FSM 2358 and Forest Service Handbook 6709.11

Cooperator saw programs must adhere to the same requirements and be equivalent in rigor and demonstrated saw proficiency levels as the Forest Service saw program requirements. The *BackCountry Horsemen of Washington* has elected to utilize Option 2 to meet the requirements



of FSM 2358. A saw training program proposal was submitted to and reviewed by Aaron Pedersen Regional Saw Manager and Pete Duncan, National Saw Program Manager.

This letter recognizes the *BackCountry Horsemen of Washington* Saw Program as an approved cooperator saw program which meets the requirements of FSM 2358. The Saw program will remain in effect until such time it is determined thru monitoring the Program has become ineffective or has fallen out of compliance with FSM 2358. The *BackCountry Horsemen of Washington* program and its approved Sawyer Instructors and Sawyer Evaluators will be monitored by the Regional Saw Program Manager and Forest Saw Coordinators for effectiveness and compliance with policy (FSM 2358.04g).

Sincerely,

/s/ Pete Duncan
Pete Duncan
National Saw Program Manager
U.S. Forest Service

Cc:

Enclosure
BCHW Saw program Proposal