

Comments from Tom Mix on the new national saw policy March 6, 2017

Of particular interest is that we can now collaborate with other agency recognized instructors/evaluators to conduct sawyer certification events.

We can instruct and evaluate non BCHW members.

Even though the national policy states that evaluations will run 3 years - we will continue to visit each A level sawyer every year, B level sawyers every 2 years and C's every 3 years.

Our Instructor/Certifiers are now known as Instructor/Evaluators. Sawyers no longer carry restrictions. Sawyers are expected to "walk away" from situations beyond their capability and seek assistance from other, more experienced sawyers. The FSSOG states that A level sawyer must saw under the immediate supervision of a B or C sawyer. Our field eval forms have provisions for 2 Evaluators to sign. Only 1 Evaluator signature is needed for A, B and C level Sawyers. Two Evaluators need to sign the field form for designation as a C Sawyer- Evaluator.

The wallet card now has a different look and size. At some undetermined time in the future - the wallet card will be published from a national database. Until such time - we are to print our own wallet cards on card stock.

The PPE has changed. Our PPE chart is the nation wide USFS PPE standard. Sawyers are not to saw if they do not have proper PPE. Sawyers continuing to operate without their PPE or otherwise displaying unsafe operations should expect to have their credentials revoked.

Sawyers are to always have current certifications for First Aid and CPR. Others on the trail crew are encouraged to have their FA/CPR current.

We will present sawyers with the new USFS standard of the OHLEC 5 point size up and cut plan system. We have always taught this but now the USFS has their very own 5 step system with its very own acronym (OHLEC) that we will use.

Currently evaluated BCHW sawyers: If a land manager wants to know who their sawyers are - they should ask the local BCHW Trail Projects Coordinator. That Coordinator can answer most all land manager questions. No land manager has asked me for a by name list of our certified sawyers. It was sufficient to tell the land manager that we have a policy that only certified sawyers saw on our events. That our sawyers are instructed and evaluated per USFS standards. Every land manager defers to the USFS standard. Should such a listing be needed, the BCHW Trail Projects Coordinator can request the Executive Director to issue one. Our Sawyer-Evaluators can request reports from the Executive Director of Sawyers in their area.

By mid season - BCHW will have about 10 sawyers certified as Fallers. This capability will better enable BCHW to accomplish its Mission.