

Specific Operating Requirements

Storm Recovery Projects

Work Teams:

Each sawteam will at a minimum meet the following requirements:

- Consist of a sawyer and a swamper/lookout.
- Chainsaw and crosscut sawyers will be certified.
- Each team will be assigned to a wilderness advisor who will coordinate assignments within the work area.
- Each separate team will have radio contact with dispatch and its wilderness advisor
- An EMT/First Responder will be available in each work area.
- All field personnel will wear required personal protective equipment in addition to long trousers and work boots.

Work Standards:

Campsites and portages will be cleared as directed in the Storm Recovery Rehab Guidelines. Trails will be opened to standards set in the BWCA Wilderness Management Plan and Implementation Schedule (See attached Table 3-2 from Plan).

Mechanized vs Non-mechanized Decisions:

See the Superior Wilderness Chainsaw Policy (Spring 2000). In general, the following guidelines will be applied in making decisions.

Use of Chainsaws:

When any of the following situations are present and would lead to unsafe or potentially unsafe (uncontrolled) work conditions:

- When wood is under tension and will shift (jump, spring, etc.) when released.
- When large wood to be cut will roll in an unsafe direction when released.
- When standing trees have other trees leaning into them, limbs hanging in them, or obvious weak spots, etc.
- Where a sawyer is off the ground, on uneven footing, or in an awkward position.
- When the sawing situations require a constant lookout.
- When the escape route is restricted.

Use of Crosscuts/Bowsaws/Axes:

- When none of the "chainsaw" situations apply.

Use of Winches:

- When material must be moved for safety reasons, but cannot be safely handled with non-mechanical means.

Monitoring/Reporting:

- Work teams will use the Storm Recovery Rehab Guidelines and Report Form or the Trail Accomplishment Summary

Superior Wilderness Chainsaw Policy:
Spring 2000

All wilderness advisors and work crews on the Superior N. F. Storm Recovery Project must be aware of the following policy:

- Storm recovery operations in the BWCAW will be assumed to be hand tool work.
- In special situations where safety is an issue, chainsaw operation may be authorized.
 - * The Regional Forester's July 14, 1999 letter authorizes chainsaws "only where the use of non-motorized and non-mechanized equipment would be unsafe".
 - * Sawing situations recognized as unsafe are listed in the document Specific Operating Requirements. Additional unsafe situations may be added to the list if approved by the Storm Recovery Management Staff.
 - * Determination of the risk to the sawyer, and subsequent chainsaw use will be a joint decision by the sawyer and crew wilderness advisor.
 - * Chainsaw use will be documented in the BWCAW Campsite/Portage Rehab Guidelines and Report Form or the Trail Accomplishment Summary.
 - * A task that is determined to be unsafe for either non-mechanized or mechanized tools will not be attempted.

(nr/wilderness/july4_incident/CSPolicy)

Chainsaw Orientation Outline
Spring 2000

Handouts:

- * Regional Forester's Authorization Letter (July 14, 1999)
- * Specific Operating Requirements
- * BWCA Wilderness - Chainsaw Policy (Spring 2000)
- * Storm Recovery Rehab Guidelines and Report Form or Trail Accomplishment Summary

Presentation:

I. Chainsaw Issues:

A. Non-mechanized wilderness restrictions:

1. 1964 Wilderness Act.
2. Past BWCAW practices.

B. Authorization for safety reasons.

1. Regional Forester's authorization - safety only: Chainsaws will not be used outside this authority - as interpreted by the Superior Wilderness Chainsaw Policy.
2. Recognized unsafe situations.
 - * Specific Operating Requirements

II. Superior Wilderness Chainsaw Policy.

A. Chainsaw use is an exception to normal operation.

1. Assumption is that all work will be non-mechanized.
 - a. It will not be necessary to take a chainsaw on every job.
 - b. On light clearing jobs, crews will not take chainsaws along. Situations warranting chainsaw use can be flagged for a later trip.
2. Safety is the only reason for chainsaw use - cost, convenience, efficiency, etc., are not reasons for mechanized tool use.
3. Chainsaw use can only result from a site specific analysis that indicates that the job cannot be done safely without using a chainsaw.
 - a. Determination of risk to the sawyer will be determined by the sawyer and the crew wilderness advisor.
 - b. Normally a situation determined to require chainsaw use will be covered in the Specific Operations Requirements. Unsafe situations not anticipated in the Operating Requirements should be shared with Storm Recovery Overhead.
 - c. If the spirit of the RF's Authorization and the Operating Requirements are followed, there will no "second guessing" of chainsaw decisions.
 - d. Saw situations will be documented, by the wilderness advisor, on BWCA Campsite and Portage Rehab Guidelines and Report Form or the Trail Accomplishment Summary.

B. A task that cannot be done safely with either mechanized nor non-mechanized tools will not be attempted.

C. Non compliance with this policy will be reason for removal from the Storm Recovery Project.