



**File Code:** 2350-3/1830-3

**Date:** June 29, 2009

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Pacific Crest Trail Association Sponsored Volunteer Agreements

**To:** R5 Forest Supervisors, Humbolt-Toiyabe Forest Supervisor , R6 Regional Forester

The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) is a valued partner in providing trail maintenance and construction assistance for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) from Mexico to Canada. Our Memorandum of Understanding with PCTA recognizes their contributions in providing information and promoting, coordinating, developing, improving and maintaining and reporting volunteer work on the PCT.

In 2008 we identified several issues in our volunteer program for the PCT that need remedy. The major areas of concern include:

- 1) Volunteer work coverage for tort claims and liability on private lands under easement to the United States for the trail and/or lands acquired for the PCT outside of the administrative boundaries of the National Forest System lands.
- 2) Inconsistent use of the FS-1800-08 Sponsored Volunteer Agreement and significant coordination time required by PCTA to ensure that districts and Forests are coordinating projects and executing the volunteer agreements.
- 3) Inadequate and inconsistent Job Hazard Analysis(es) (JHA). Units and partners have requested JHAs that could be tier to at a local level.

To address those concerns the following actions have been taken:

**A. Optional Template FS-1800-08.** The intent of this agreement is to authorize standard trail maintenance and reconstruction activities and to specifically address work on easements and private lands acquired by the Forest Service at the Forest level. Project details and dates should be agreed upon at the annual (or more frequent) local agency meetings held with PCTA.

**B. JHAs for Trail Maintenance, Chainsaw, and Crosscut Saw** use have been approved by the Regional Forester. These JHAs will be posted on PCTA's website. Units may modify as needed for their local conditions.

**C. An inventory of easements and acquisitions** and identification of the agency lead for management and maintenance is underway and is anticipated to be complete in 2009.



R5 Forest Supervisors, Humbolt-Toiyabe Forest Supervisor , R6 Regional Forester 2  
Additional concerns have been identified by our partners and agency team regarding varied saw training and certification requirements between Regions. Beth Boyst, Pacific Crest Trail Program Manager; David Michael, R5 Crosscut Saw Coordinator, and Winston Rall, R6

Chainsaw Coordinator have been working with a national interagency team to address these issues in the non-fire environment.

If you have additional suggestions on tools to improve our volunteer program delivery, please contact Beth Boyst at [bboyst@fs.fed.us](mailto:bboyst@fs.fed.us) or (707)562-8881.

*/s/ Beth G. Pendleton (for)*

RANDY MOORE  
Regional Forester

Enclosures: FS-1800-08 Optional Template, JHA's Trail Maintenance, Crosscut Saws, and Chain Saws.

cc: Beth Boyst  
Randy Welsh  
Gail E Throop  
Valerie C Guardia  
Lynn Boone