

Risk Assessment Worksheet	1. Project/Incident/Work Activity	2. Location
	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
3. Specific Objective	4. Name and Title of Preparer	5. Date
Livestock Operations	Peter Bonsall - PCT Operations Specialist	04/08/2025

6. Risk Decision Authority: (Authority Signature Block) If block 15 is Moderate, High or Extremely High a higher level of authority needs to sign in this block.
 Signature/Date:

Assess Hazards					Identify Risk Mitigation Measures	Residual Risk				
7. Task	8. Hazard	9. Severity/Consequence	10. Hazard Probability	11. RAC	12. List all mitigation or abatement measures	13. Severity/Consequences	14. Hazard Probability	15. RAC	16. Necessary (Yes/No)	17. Hazard Control Assigned to:
Communication	Lost contact with individuals or home station	Critical	Unlikely	Moderate	Utilize cell phones, satellite phones or other communication devices. Be aware that cell phones do not work in many areas of travel. Know the location of the nearest working landline and the nearest location for cell phone service. Best practice is to use agency compatible radios. Ensure radio has properly programmed frequencies and have an extra set of batteries before leaving on the trip. Know local repeaters and best locations to use radios during emergency. Know who is available on the radio, as agency staffing may be few or none after regular work hours and on weekends. Carry a map and compass. Identify safe routes and local conditions. Make sure visual contact is kept with others in your group at forks in the trail. Avoid hiking in the dark. Designate meeting spot should someone become separated. Check-in before project and check-out after project with designated tracker, which may be PCTA Regional Representative or federal agency staff.	Critical	Rare	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Emergency Response	Incident occurs requiring emergency response	Catastrophic	Unlikely	High	Ensure plans are in place prior to beginning of project. Share Trailhead Communication Plan (TCP) with PCTA Regional Rep, agency staff, and tracker. If Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is activated due to incident, contact PCTA and federal agency staff immediately. First aid kit. Volunteer Injust Instructions. Personal communication device. Map and compass. Matches/fire starter (waterproof container). Water or water purifier. Supply of food for 1-3 days. Flashlight or headlamp (extra batteries and bulb). Lightweight shelter and appropriate clothing for rapidly changing climatic conditions.	Critical	Unlikely	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Livestock Operations	Injury to personnel and livestock	Catastrophic	Unlikely	High	Agency supervisors, crew leaders, and the lead designated packer shall ensure that personnel assigned to pack and ride stock are competent in these tasks. Personnel hauling stock in trucks and/or trailer shall have the proper license endorsements. A detailed plan of operation may be used additionally to clarify roles and responsibilities for project implementation. Only employees and volunteers authorized under a signed Volunteer Agreement by the District Ranger/Forest Supervisor may ride and/or pack stock.	Catastrophic	Rare	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Transporting Livestock	Vehicle accidents, Injury to personnel and livestock	Catastrophic	Unlikely	High	All trailers shall be equipped with a non-slip surface and inspected annually for protruding nails and/or rotten boards. Aluminum floored trailers will be inspected for floor warpage between frames and floor corrosion leading to holes. Conduct a pre-trip inspection of truck and trailer. Check spare tire condition and if driving on extended dirt or bad roads an additional spare tire should be considered. Check for proper wrenches to remove tires. Secure safety chains, break-away system and plug in and check electrical system. Avoid quick stops and starts.	Catastrophic	Rare	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Hauling dirt/gravel with Livestock	Injury to personnel and livestock	Catastrophic	Rare	Moderate	Use only gentle animals for this operation. If possible use three individuals for this operation (one to hold the lead rope, two to load and unload). Load and unload side boxes together. Do not overload animals. Try to load and unload in areas that will allow for personnel to step away from the animal if they become spooked. Inspect all dirt boxes for smooth operation before use.	Critical	Rare	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project

Assess Hazards					Identify Risk Mitigation Measures	Residual Risk				
7. Task	8. Hazard	9. Severity/Consequence	10. Hazard Probability	11. RAC	12. List all mitigation or abatement measures	13. Severity/Consequences	14. Hazard Probability	15. RAC	16. Necessary (Yes/No)	17. Hazard Control Assigned to:
Shoeing	Injury to personnel and livestock	Catastrophic	Rare	Moderate	For extended overnight trips, it is recommended to carry shoes, tools, easy-boots and nails. Only competent personnel shall be assigned to shoe a horse/mule. Maintain all tools to a sharp and properly functioning condition. Use caution when heating shoes and handling hot shoes. Wear PPE, leather chaps, etc. Tie stock to a secure location. Tie up in a smooth, shady location if possible.	Critical	Rare	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Feeding Livestock	Injury to personnel and livestock	Critical	Rare	Moderate	Do not feed or water a sweaty animal until it has cooled off. Use caution when feeding or salting animals, animals may become aggressive and/or dangerous.	Negligible	Rare	Low	Yes	Every person on project
Loading, Unloading, and Securing Livestock in Trailer	Injury to personnel and livestock	Catastrophic	Unlikely	High	Load/unload in a flat open area. Do not exceed the load carrying capacity of the vehicle. Do not carry loose gear, personnel and animals together. Do not lead an animal in a two horse trailer by being in the same stall. Do not wrap lead rope around hand or body. Halter stock and fasten the animal's head securely. Use a rolling slipknot or hitching rack-tie to secure stock to trailer or tie with panic snaps. Secure excess rope away from stock so that it doesn't drag floor of trailer. When hauling one animal in a two-stall trailer load to the left stall. Secure hook divider chains. Close tailgate immediately. If loading only a few animals in a large trailer secure animals so that the center of gravity of the load is just ahead of the axles.	Catastrophic	Rare	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Riding Livestock	Injury to personnel and livestock	Catastrophic	Unlikely	High	Always speak to an animal when approaching. Check/clean all animals shoes/hoooves pre and post riding. Bridle stock prior to mounting. Lead animal around after being saddled and before mounting or being packed. Be alert for things that may spook stock. Do not wrap reins or pack stock's lead rope around the saddle horn or your hand. Keep excessive slack out of lead rope. Do not ride stock in lightning storms. Watch-out for low hanging branches. Do not run animals. Always carry a cutting tool on your person for emergencies. Exterior tools should be secured and protected in a covered sheath. Riding with a backpack >10 lbs. is not allowed. The designated lead packer or person in charge of the stock shall carry a first aid kit and ensure all personnel have appropriate PPE. This includes long pants, riding boots or work shoes that will not hang up in the stirrups, and hat. Protective headgear is recommended for inexperienced riders. Riding bareback is not permitted. Before riding, hold a tailgate briefing to instruct all members of the work party that livestock can be dangerous specifically addressing stock safety, individual stock habits, characteristics, local hazards and environmental concerns.	Catastrophic	Rare	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Securing Livestock	Injury to personnel and livestock	Catastrophic	Unlikely	High	When tying livestock, clear away debris and tie the lead rope at least 5' above the ground to prevent entanglement. Tie up using a rolling slipknot. If possible tie to an object that the animal cannot walk around. Do not cross under the lead rope of a tied animal. Do not tie to a wire fence. Use a halter under the riding stock's bridle – do not tie up with reins. Do not tie animals to movable objects. Use sound sturdy rope at least ½ in. dia. in securing stock. When near the rear of stock, stay close, maintain contact and talk to the animal.	Catastrophic	Rare	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Packing and Leading Livestock	Injury to personnel and livestock	Catastrophic	Unlikely	High	Only persons authorized in packing and unpacking livestock shall be allowed to perform these tasks. Keep animals' backs clean, saddle pad straight, saddle blanket smooth, and ensure saddle is properly fitted and tight. Tighten cinch before riding or loading pack stock. Load side packs as equally as possible. Use breakaways to tie pack string together. Generally yield to loaded strings or larger strings when encountered on the trail. Hikers should yield to stock traffic, ask them to step to the downhill side of trail. Lead ropes should be around 10 feet in length, avoiding excessive lengths that may become entangled. Do not wrap coils of the lead rope around the hand or saddle horn.	Catastrophic	Rare	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project

The Risk Assessment Worksheet (RAW) will identify the hazards associated with a project, incident or work activity assessing initial risk, mitigations and post mitigation risk (residual risk).

Block 1	Name of project, incident or work activity
Block 2	Location of project, incident or work activity
Block 3	Specific Objective
Block 4	Name and title of person preparing the Risk Assessment Worksheet
Block 5	Date that the preparer filled out the Risk Assessment Worksheet
Block 6	If block 16 is Moderate, Serious or Critical, Use the Risk Decision Authority matrix to determine the authorization required to sign in block 6. The intent is to brief the Risk Decision Authority on the Control Measures used to reduce risks. Note: if the person preparing the form signs this block, the risk in block 17 must be Minor or Negligible. Asses Hazards: See instructions for blocks 7-11
Block 7	Task: task to be assessed (Driving, tree falling, stream assessment, mop up)
Block 8	Hazards: Identify hazards (low visibility, overhead hazard, swift current, stump holes)
Block 9	Hazard Probability: Probability a hazard will be encountered during task. Select from drop down box.
Block 10	Severity/Consequence: Consequences should an event occur. Select from drop down box.
Block 11	Risk Assessment Code (RAC): When blocks 09 and 10 are populated a Risk Assessment Code (RAC) will be automatically assigned. Identify Risk Mitigation Measures: Identify mitigation and abatement measures in block 12
Block 12	List all mitigation or abatement measures: What mitigation or abatement strategies will eliminate or minimize residual risk (ex. engineering, administrative, PPE, Avoidance, education, etc.) Residual Risk: See instructions for blocks 13-17.
Block 13	Severity/Consequence: Severity/consequence following mitigation or abatement actions. Select from drop down box.
Block 14	Hazard Probability: Probability following mitigation or abatement actions. Select from drop down box.
Block 15	Risk Assessment Code (RAC): When blocks 13 and 14 are populated a RAC in block 15 will be automatically assigned. Fill out the risk questionnaire pop up and this will give you block 16.
Block 16	Necessary: Is the risk necessary following mitigation or abatement actions. Yes/No This will be auto-populated based on the answers provided on the risk questionnaire. If the answer is No, either develop additional or alternate mitigations, modifications, or do not accept
Block 17	Person or operational area assigned the abatement actions. This can be left blank.

Severity/Consequences

Catastrophic	Impact to objective (Imminent and immediate danger of death or permanent disability; major property or facility damage; loss of critical system or equipment).
Critical	Impact to objective (Permanent partial disability, temporary total disability; moderate environmental damage; extensive damage to equipment).
Moderate	Impact to objective (Hospitalized minor injury, reversable illness; minor damage to equipment, property or the environment).
Negligible	Impact to objective (First aid or minor medical treatment; little or no property or environmental damage).

Probability

Almost Certain	Continuously experienced.
Likely	Will occur frequently.
Possible	Will occur several times.
Unlikely	Remotely possible but not probable.
Rare	Improbable; but has occurred in the past.

Definitions

Probability	The likelihood or the chance of an event occurring.
Severity	The magnitude of impacts or consequences stemming from an event.
Consequence	The outcome or effect of an event or incident, usually evaluated with respect to objectives.
Severity /Consequence	Both terms are used interchangeably, both refer to the impact that a hazard could have on the objective.
Hazard	Any real or potential condition that can cause damage, loss, or harm to people, infrastructure, equipment, natural resources, property or objective.
Risk	Risk is "the effect of uncertainty on objectives" typically expressed as an estimate of the probability and severity/consequence of uncertain future events

Risk Assessment Matrix		Probability <i>Likelihood of Mishap if Hazard is Present</i>				
		Almost Certain (Continuously experienced)	Likely (Will occur frequently)	Possible (Will occur several times)	Unlikely (Remotely possible but not probable)	Rare (Improbable; but has occurred in the past)
Severity/Consequences <i>Consequence if Mishap Occurs</i>	Catastrophic (Imminent and immediate danger of death or permanent disability; major property or facility damage; loss of critical system or equipment)	Extremely High	Extremely High	Extremely High	High	Moderate
	Critical (Permanent partial disability, temporary total disability; moderate environmental damage; extensive damage to equipment)	Extremely High	Extremely High	High	Moderate	Moderate
	Moderate (Hospitalized minor injury, reversible illness; minor damage to equipment, property or the environment)	High	High	Moderate	Low	Low
	Negligible (First aid or minor medical treatment; little or no property or environmental damage)	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low

Severity/Consequences: Both terms are used interchangeably, both refer to the impact that a hazard could have on the objective. Should something go wrong, the results are likely to occur in one of these areas - Injury or Death, equipment damage, project/fire operations degradation, adverse publicity, environmental damage, property damage, etc.

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Moderate	Impact to objective (Hospitalized minor injury, reversible illness; minor damage to equipment, property or the environment).
Negligible	Impact to objective (First aid or minor medical treatment; little or no property or environmental damage).

Probability: The likelihood or the chance of an event occurring.

Almost Certain	Continuously experienced.
Likely	Will occur frequently.
Possible	Will occur several times.
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