

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
General Chain & Crosscut Saw Operations	Peter Bonsall - PCT Operations Specilaist	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:
Vehicle travel	Driving conditions and traffic	Critical	Unlikely	Moderate	Complete defensive driving course. Wear seat belts; training (defensive driver, etc.); defensive driving techniques; follow traffic laws; vehicle PMCS; Use spotter when backing; Adjust speed limit based on conditions; Stop and rest if fatigued.	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Yes	Every person on project
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. Have agency compatible radio. 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.	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. Personal communication device. Map and compass. Matches/fire starter (waterproof container). Water or water purifier. Supply of food for 1-3 days. Flashlight (extra batteries and bulb). Lightweight shelter and appropriate clothing for rapidly changing climatic conditions.	Critical	Unlikely	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Chain and/or crosscut saw equipment	Injury to personnel	Catastrophic	Possible	Extremely High	Carry tools safely as instructed by crew leader. Carry tools on the downhill side. Carry sharpened edge of tool downward away from your body. Be aware of others around you. Do not carry tools on your shoulder except pole saw or crosscut saw. Maintain a safe walking distance between people (10 feet minimum). Always have sheaths on tools and carry them on the downhill side of the trail. The person carrying the crosscut saw or pole saw should walk last. Properly maintain and care for tools. Carry tool with scabbard on. Look around for hazards before swinging tools. Have firm footing and be balanced when swinging. Never throw a tool. When not in use, shield any sharp edges. Limb and peel logs on the opposite side of you. Keep tools sharp. Wear gloves safety glasses, and a hard hat. Do not use tools with a loose handle. Avoid working in the dark.	Critical	Unlikely	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Opening fuel container / filler cap	Fuel geyser	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Always assume fuel tanks and containers are pressurized, open cap slowly and direct potential spray away from you, cover the cap with a rag or glove to contain potential geyser spray, move at least 20 feet or more from any heat or open flame, and don not use fuel older than one month.	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Yes	Every person on project
Working near trees & snags	Struck by	Critical	Possible	High	Only when pre-approved by the hosting local unit and necessary, wear personal protective equipment (PPE), continually perform hazard size-up to identify conditions with potential to harm, when possible keep out from under the natural weighted lean of trees and branches, cut the snag down or mitigate with equipment or explosives and learn to identify hazard tree indicators and signs of compromised wood fiber.	Critical	Unlikely	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project

Assess Hazards					Identify Risk Mitigation Measures	Residual Risk				
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Working in adverse conditions	Weather related illness or injury	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Disengage from work when environmental conditions push operational complexity above safe working limits. Come equipped with all the necessary personnel gear, food and supplies to aid in sustaining yourself as a viable member of the team. Take good care of your physical body and mind at all times, both on and off the clock.	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Yes	Every person on project
Trail Maintenance (Encountering trail users and livestock)	Injury to personnel	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Inform crew members when you see trail users on the trail. Work stops until the trail users clear the work area. If a potential hazard exists, crew members can stand watch at safe distances and stop trail users until the hazard is cleared. Ensure trail users have a clear path. Communicate the clear path to trail user. Place tools off the trail in a centralized location. Keep sheath/shield on sharp edges when tool is not in use. Inform everyone when stock approaches. Talk to the rider to make contact and receive direction. Work stops until the stock has passed the work site. Stand off the trail on the downhill side. Place tools a safe distance away from the trail. Do not make sudden movements or loud noises. It may be helpful to take your hard hat off until animals pass. Listen and look for approaching stock. Remain calm and back away if animals become unruly.	Negligible	Rare	Low	Yes	Every person on project
Working in steep terrain	Rolling debris, slips, trips, or falls	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Wear a hardhat and sturdy leather boots with lugged soles, maintain spacing and never position yourself above or below another work activity. When possible carry tools on the downhill side and utilize a sheath. Alert others of rolling debris. Move slowly and methodically.	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Yes	Every person on project
Personal Protective Equipment	Bodily injury	Critical	Possible	High	PPE requirements for saw operations include the following: Hard Hat, Safety Glasses, Hearing Protection, Gloves, Long sleeved Shirt & Long Pants, Leg Protection (Chaps), and Cut-resistant or Leather boots. Eye protection (compliant with ANSI Z-87.1), ear protection and work gloves must be worn as appropriate for the specific tool. Any prescription safety glasses must have side shields. Carry compliant first aid kit.	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Yes	Every person on project
Saw handling	Laceration or puncture	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Wear all required PPE, be aware of reactive & kinetic forces. Be vigilantly aware of the cutter teeth and keep them sharp. Use a sheath to cover all sharp surfaces when not in use. Practice good body mechanics to avoid fatigue or muscular injury.	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Yes	Every person on project
Bucking	Struck by tree, snag, or branch	Critical	Possible	High	Use OHLEC (Objective, Hazards, Lean, Escape, and Cut) process to size-up bucking operation before engaging. Cut near contact points or other barrier for added safety to avoid being struck by a log in motion, especially when a high release of energy is anticipated. Secure all bucked sections of a log to prevent unanticipated movement and be aware remaining log lengths may roll after being severed. Maintain area control and walk away from any saw operation that is above your certification or comfort level.	Critical	Unlikely	Moderate	Yes	Every person on project
Training	Untrained sawyer	Negligible	Rare	Low	Only qualified sawyers may operate chain and/or crosscut saws within the scope of their current certification. Sawyers must follow safety and cutting techniques taught in a Forest Service-approved Nationally Recognized Sawyer Training Course. All sawyers must maintain all required certifications. Comply with PPE requirements found in the Forest Service Manual 2300 (FSM2300), Chapter 2358. All sawyers need to be certified in Basic First-aid and CPR. Trainees and A sawyers may saw only under the immediate supervision of a B or C sawyer qualified to supervise that work. When working in or near felling situations ensure an area 2 1/2 times the height of the tree to be felled is clear of personnel.	Negligible	Rare	Low	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.
Unlikely	Remotely possible but not probable.
Rare	Improbable; but has occurred in the past.