

BCHMT – Forest Service Montana-wide Volunteer Agreement

2023 Operating Principles

April 9, 2023

1. This group volunteer agreement will replace all local agreements between BCHMT Chapters and local Ranger Districts or Forests in Montana.
2. This agreement will cover BCHMT volunteers while working on approved projects across the forests and districts in Montana. Those projects will be developed and agreed upon by local BCHMT Chapters in consultation with local Forest Service offices, primarily Ranger District personnel.
3. Chapter members will sign form OF 301b (Group Volunteer Form) ahead of the season and provide that document to the Regional Office Coordinator who will distribute the Chapter 301b's to all Forests and Districts. If work is scheduled prior to these forms being distributed from the RO Coordinator then the local Chapter can provide the signed OF 301b to the local unit. **During the season additional/new members can sign 301b forms prior to a workday or at the start of the workday/project and provide that updated information to the local District prior to the workday/project or directly after the workday/project.**
4. The Forest Service will provide BCHMT a list of primary contacts at both the District and Forest level as part of this new volunteer agreement.
5. Anyone using a chainsaw or crosscut saw will be required to have a current Forest Service-recognized saw certification card as well as a current First Aid and CPR card.
6. Appropriate PPE will be required depending upon the work agreed to in the local operating plan for specific projects. Volunteers must use proper PPE to be covered by the Forest Service Volunteer Agreement.
7. RAs will be reviewed prior to specific work projects to ensure all volunteers are aware of hazards specific to that work project.
8. Communication requirements with the local District or Forest will be followed before, during, and after each work project, whether a single day or multiple-day project. Those protocols will be agreed upon between the local BCHMT Chapter and the local Ranger District.
9. No reimbursements will be processed thru this volunteer agreement. Instead, volunteer payments will be handled thru the state-wide CCSA (Challenge Cost Share Agreement #23-CS-11015600-xxx). Mileage and other expenses for projects would be reimbursed thru this agreement.