

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) Sawyer Certification Program

In accordance with the USDA Forest Service, BCHW is authorized to instruct, evaluate and certify BCHW members (and qualifying friends) in the safe use of cross cut and chain saws to **buck** downed trees. We do not issue **felling** credentials.

FAQ'S

BCHW sawyer certifications are recognized on all US public lands.

BCHW may instruct and certify qualified "Friends of BCHW" such as sawyers from other groups and associations who are operating under an individual or group land manager volunteer agreement.

In order to receive certification from BCHW, each sawyer's technical proficiency with a crosscut saw and/or chainsaw must be evaluated by BCHW Instructor/Evaluator (I/E) and assigned a sawyer proficiency level.

At the start of every work party the group leader conducts a tailgate safety briefing where the Job Hazard Analyses are reviewed. Sawyers are encouraged to "walk away" from any situation that they feel is beyond their ability to safely address.

Sawyer levels:

- Individual sawyers certified at the "A" or "Apprentice" level must recertify every year. An A level sawyer must saw under the immediate supervision of a level B or C sawyer
- Individual sawyers certified as "B", "C" or "Journeyman" level sawyers must recertify every three years. C level - sawyers with good communication skills are encouraged to become Instructor/Evaluator.
- BCHW I/E's are required to participate in a **Safe Saw Operations** workshop every year.

If you are interested in becoming a certified sawyer, ask your chapter president, director or trail boss for the contact information of your chapter's I/E who will know about upcoming classes.

For first time sawyer certification – the sawyer must attend a classroom session and demonstrate proficiency during a field evaluation.

Once certified, a sawyer's recertification may occur during a work party or some other field event; the classroom session need not be repeated.

In order to retain certification Sawyers must

1. Wear proper Protective Personal Equipment (PPE)
2. Work with at least one partner
3. Have current certifications for First Aid, CPR

The BCHW saw program is administered by our Saw Program Coordinators who report to the USFS Region 6 Saw Program Coordinator.

Our two coordinators hold the USFS's highest level of sawyer certification – that of C Sawyer Evaluator.

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Visit the BCHW Sawyer web page

<http://bchw.org/Tech%20tips/SawCertification/BCHW%20Saw%20Cert.htm>
for complete program documentation and other interesting publications
along with a list of current Saw Instructors/Evaluators.