



Georgia Maintenance Status

By Phil Guhl, Georgia Maintenance Director

Blue Ridge (Sections 1 through 6): **[No restrictions on tool use.]**

Crew Leaders must emphasize the Safety Debrief and Job Hazard Analysis (Trail Maintenance & COVID19). DO NOT JUST CHECK A BOX BY MENTIONING IT!

Crew Leaders must convey that volunteers, especially those in high risk groups, should consider whether a maintenance trip during these times is worth it.

PPE Requirements still exist (Long pants, sturdy footwear, hard hats, gloves, eye protection). Masks are optional, but social distancing should be maintained as best as possible. People should consider whether carpooling is increasing their personal risk. Crew must have a maximum of 10 people (including the leaders). Multiple crews can operate simultaneously. Each crew has to be working at a different location.

Review and reprioritize work. Example: Trash left at a campsite. Normally, this might be picked up and thrown in a backpack. Now... reconsider...may want to leave the trash and come back with a trash bag, trash picker/grabber/tongs, and appropriate PPE. If it is not absolutely critical that it be done now, consider doing it later when appropriately equipped with the appropriate PPE.

Chainsaws are authorized with the existing restrictions:

Chain sawyer must hold a current Chainsaw B or higher certification.

Chain sawyer must have at least one swamper.

Chain sawyer must hold a current First Aid and CPR certification.

Chain sawyer must have a First Aid kit with trauma materials to control bleeding.

PPE: Chaps, Gloves, Hard hat, Eye protection, Hearing protection, Sturdy footwear.

If you have any questions or concerns about cutting a particular tree...DON'T! Walk away from it and report it to the USFS.

Private Land (Section 7): No restrictions on tool use.

In consideration of safety, please follow USFS guidelines as specified in Sections 1-6.]

Conasauga (Sections 8 through 10): Restrictions on tool usage and crew size as stipulated.

Crew Leaders must emphasize the Safety Debrief and Job Hazard Analysis (Trail Maintenance & COVID19). DO NOT JUST CHECK A BOX BY MENTIONING IT!

Crew Leaders must convey that volunteers, especially those in high risk groups, should consider whether a maintenance trip during these times is worth it.

PPE Requirements still exist (Long pants, sturdy footwear, hard hats, gloves, eye protection).

Masks are optional, but social distancing should be maintained as best as possible.

People should consider whether carpooling is increasing their personal risk.

Crew must have a maximum of 10 people (including the leaders). Multiple crews can operate simultaneously. Each crew has to be working at a different location.

Review and reprioritize work.

Example: Trash left at a campsite. Normally, this might be picked up and thrown in a backpack. Now... reconsider...may want to leave the trash and come back with a trash bag, trash picker/grabber/tongs, and appropriate PPE.

If it is not absolutely critical that it be done now, consider doing it later when appropriately equipped with the appropriate PPE.

Check with the Georgia Maintenance Director for the current status of restrictions for using chainsaws/crosscut saws.

Ocoee/Cherokee (Section 11): Restrictions on tool usage and crew size as stipulated.

Crew Leaders must emphasize the Safety Debrief and Job Hazard Analysis (Trail Maintenance & COVID19). DO NOT JUST CHECK A BOX BY MENTIONING IT!

Crew Leaders must convey that volunteers, especially those in high risk groups, should consider whether a maintenance trip during these times is worth it.

PPE Requirements still exist (Long pants, sturdy footwear, hard hats, gloves, eye protection). Masks are optional, but social distancing should be maintained as best as possible. People should consider whether carpooling is increasing their personal risk.

Crew must have a maximum of 4 people (including the leaders). Multiple crews can operate simultaneously. Each crew has to be working at a different location.

Review and re-prioritize work.

Example: Trash left at a campsite. Normally, this might be picked up and thrown in a backpack. Now... reconsider...may want to leave the trash and come back with a trash bag, trash picker/grabber/tongs, and appropriate PPE.

If it is not absolutely critical that it be done now, consider doing it later when appropriately equipped with the appropriate PPE.

Check with the TN/NC Maintenance Director for the current status of restrictions for using chainsaws outside of Wilderness areas or crosscut saws in Wilderness areas.

Crosscut sawyer must hold a current Crosscut B or higher certification.

Crosscut sawyer must hold a current First Aid and CPR certification.

Crosscut sawyer must have a First Aid kit with trauma materials to control bleeding.

PPE: Gloves, Hard hat, Eye protection, Sturdy footwear. If you have any questions or concerns about cutting a particular tree...DON'T! Walk away from it and report it to the USFS.

If you have any questions or concerns about cutting a particular tree...DON'T! Walk away from it and report it to the USFS.