



Goal 1: Multi-use trails: 24" tread// Corridor 8'wide x 10'high. To remove vegetative material to create a safe clear trail corridor of 8 feet wide and 10 feet high with tread width of 24 inches.

Why? To extend the maintenance interval and allow for safe passage of pack and riding stock.

Select and use the proper tools needed to accomplish the work, including but not limited to:

Do not exceed the capacity of the tool – choose the correct size for the work

Hand tools: handsaws (under 12"), simple and ratcheting hand clippers, simple and compound loppers, machete/brush hook, leaf rake, trail hoe

Extension tools: pole saw &/or lopper (full face protection needed), ladder (2-person team)

Only *Certified Sawyers* use and/or direct others to use single or two-person crosscut saws, handsaws over 12" in length, or power saws.

Goal 2: To use tools and techniques safely with protective body mechanics (ergonomics) and proper personal protective equipment:

PPE: Work gloves

Eye protection; full face protection for power tools *and when using pole pruner*

Hearing protection (when power tools used by individual or in proximity)

Foot protection: Closed toe boots/trail shoes

Safety Helmet

Orange Safety Vest during hunting season (Sept 1 – Dec 31)

Carrying/Transporting Tools:

Carry tools properly at their balance point to reduce sustained stress injuries and reduce risk of injury from load-stress &/or falls

No carrying tools on shoulders

Carry tools on downhill side and drop/release tool if fall occurs

Positional Strategies:

Bend at the knees rather than at the waist during lifting and brushing activities

Use a *kneeling pad* or sit to work closer to ground level when clearing small brush

Avoid over-extension when reaching up or out

Invite another volunteer to assist with lifting or complex tasks

Step off-trail to work at the base of target plant growth rather than reaching forward

Safe work zones:

Be very aware that limbs you are trimming can fall onto a fellow volunteer, ensure clear space

Brushing tools that swing (machete, brush hooks) require a clear safety zone, **work 8-10 feet apart**

Always communicate, make eye contact, verbally acknowledge and stop work when passing on trail

Ensure you are not creating trip hazards for others; retamp and level disturbed soils

Goal 3: Employ strategies and techniques to slow/prevent the regrowth of vegetation within the work zone.

Cut off plants as close to the ground as possible to prevent regrowth. Leaving stubs creates tripping and impalement safety hazards, and just cutting plants off creates a 'Medusa' effect – where one shoot had existed, now ten shoots arise!

Avoid placing blackberry and similar materials directly on bare soil where cuttings can root

Pull out plants from the root to help prevent regrowth (esp. roses, berries, Oregon grape)

Use a shovel, trail hoe, or hand spade to dig out plants at the root

Goal 4: To protect the beauty of the natural landscape and wild nature of trails, and to respect the needs of trees and plants for proper handling:

Before trail work - clean your boots and tools to remove soils and seeds

Cut live branches **using the 3-cut method** – ask us to demonstrate!

Trim branches at the trunk of a tree rather than mid-branch, this is healthier for trees

When using a handsaw, undercut first, then finish with a top-cut to prevent splintering

Scatter cut materials in a random pattern well off-trail rather than piling materials; butt-end farthest out

When delimiting trees, cut off lower limbs around the entire trunk rather than only on the trail side

Clean tools and boots at conclusion of activity

