

Saw Training Continues To Shine

Greetings from Southwest Colorado! I am proud to report that our latest saw training, geared towards advanced sawyers, at Brushy Creek in Black, Missouri, was a complete success. I had a great time traveling to Missouri to help get folks trained under Mark Himmel's lead.

We had 18 attendees from nine states attend the training. We had trainers from two regions who attended and helped. We issued over 30 certifications. Some were dual certified in chainsaw and crosscut. Some were dual certified in chainsaw bucking and felling. We had three trainers doing the certifying and one admin oversight. Dan McLaughlin, Forest Service saw lead for Regions 8 and 9, assisted with the training all the way from Minnesota, and he worked with us to get all cards signed and folks entered into the database.

To say this is the best training yet that I've attended would be an understatement. I am proud to say that BCHA is leading the volunteer movement in ensuring the saw program continues nationwide and that we are enabling our members to not only become certified but stay certified and advance in their certifications if they so choose.

I am excited that the folks we certified with advanced certifications will pay it forward for BCHA. They will be able and willing to do training in their neck of the woods and help us get others certified. That's the beauty of this program and the importance of keeping it going. We've already met with them to let them know next steps, and we're here to help every step of the way. The saw program certifications nationally currently break down into the following categories (approximate #s): 22% volunteers, 15% cooperators and 63% Forest Service employees. A large number of volunteers in the category are BCHA members. We do

immense and important work, and we are helping shape the national saw program going forward.

We are planning to do our next training in the center part of the nation. If you need folks certified, either chainsaw or crosscut, please let us know, either Mark Himmel, national saw lead, or Tif Rodriguez, BCHA Vice Chairman, central region co-lead.

Thank you for your service and commitment to BCHA. We appreciate all you do.

Tif Rodriguez
BCHA Vice Chairman

