

COTA Phased Approach for Getting Back to Trail Work- 4 Levels

COTA trail work on Deschutes National Forest, BLM and other land managing agencies comes in many formats from smaller groups to large ones, and many different tasks from flagging trail to log out to clearing drains ,machine work, finish work behind machines and more. COTA has been in stand down mode since early March, but we are ready to get back to work when we get the green light from the various land managing agencies. Below is our plan for getting back to work, Levels 1-3 require no special training whereas Level 4 work needs special training for crew leaders.

Level 1: Timeline Now

Activities allowed: Trail design and flagging, scouting, sign work.

C19 Risk- extremely low

Overall risk of injury for this activity: low

Numbers of volunteers involved: teams of 1-2 persons

Who: COTA trained trail designers and trainees, COTA volunteers for sign work

Mitigations: Travel is in separate vehicles, physical distancing of 6' minimum, if more than 1 volunteer participating masks are available and worn when working with 10' of each other (COTA will supply mask if needed).

Goals: Get trails that have been approved through NEPA beyond corridor flagging stage and perform detailed pin flagging to prepare for construction this year, get carsonite tree hugger signs in place for new Sunriver trails to help users find and navigate new trails.

Level 2: Timeline Now

Activities allowed: Basic drainage/water management work and user management

C19 risk: Very Low

Overall risk of injury for this activity: Low

Numbers of volunteers involved: Small teams of 2-4 workers, traveling to work site by foot or bike

Who: COTA trained Level 2-3 volunteers. These volunteers have had formal training of at least 2 sessions including COTA Level 1 and Level 2 training modules.

Mitigations: Travel in separate vehicles, physical distancing of 6', volunteers will all wearing mask when working within 10' (COTA will supply new mask to each volunteer), normal PPE of helmets, gloves, glasses, riding gear or normal wear for light trail work, no sharing of trail tools. Other than mask, all volunteers responsible for their own PPE (COTA has given most 3 volunteers a personal helmet and will issue helmets to Level 2 Volunteers for use during the duration of the pandemic)

Goals: Basic work on water management, raking out existing drains to get them functional, adding guide structures where needed to keep users on trail and prevent trail widening.

Level 3: Timeline Now

Activities Allowed: Machine use for new trail construction, log out of higher elevation trails with hand saws and power saws

C19 risk: Very Low

Overall risk of injury for these activities: low to moderate

Number of volunteers involved: 1-3 per team. Sawyer with 1-2 swampers, 1-3 machine operators rotating out shifts on machine with observers

Who: COTA certified sawyers with trained volunteers as swampers, COTA trained machine operators or trainees under supervision with COTA Machine Operator Trainer

Mitigations: Travel in separate vehicles, physical distancing of 6', all volunteers will wear mask when working within 10' of each other (COTA will supply new mask to each volunteer), normal PPE requirements for activity (helmet, glasses, gloves, hearing protection, long pants and sleeves, good footwear). Other than mask, volunteers are responsible for all their own PPE

Goals: Get higher elevation trails logged out and ready for the season which will help disperse user loads, get machine work on new trails finished while there is still some moisture in soils helping to get trail treads to pack and bed in, prepare new trails for hand crew finishing as we move into the next phase

Level 4: Target Timeline July 1

Activities Allowed: small groups/teams performing finish work behind machines on new trail construction, needed treadwork and drainage work to trails including building new drains and rolling grade dips where needed, tread improvements where needed, guide structures to help manage users, brushing and other needed sightline work.

C19 risk- Low

Overall risk of injury for these activities: low to moderate

Number of Volunteers involved: Teams of no greater than 10, though multiple teams may be working at some time but in different locations. 1 trained COTA crew leader per total number of 9 other volunteers

Who: COTA Trained Crew Leaders, working with a team of general COTA volunteers

Mitigations: Travel in separate vehicles, physical distancing of 6', mask to be worn by all volunteers when working in 10' zone (COTA will provide new mask to each volunteer), all normal PPE (glasses, gloves, long pants and sleeves, good footwear), no tool sharing, COTA will provide helmets if volunteers don't have their own and will disinfect before and after each use. Crew leaders will include C19 concerns in the safety briefing each work session.

Goals: Getting new trails finished out and ready for use further dispersing user loads, performing normal trail maintenance work that we do every year, performing good and needed trail work but also starting to rebuild the COTA community and inspiring and motivating volunteers to re-engage in taking care of the trails we use and general public lands stewardship, supporting the USFS in the overall need of good trail maintenance.

Notes: Levels 1-3 require no additional training for trail stewards and crew leaders. Those levels have very low numbers and will involve mostly well-trained volunteers. COTA will develop and a training module for Level 4 trail work as that involves untrained volunteers and a crew leader responsible for the safety and monitoring of other. **That training will be required for all crew leaders wanting to lead crew in Level 4 projects.**

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