

Composite Strategies G, H, & I:

Prioritize Hazard Tree removal along Multi-modal corridors and Public access sites on the ANF and provide aid and education to private landowners for hazard tree removal on private property within the ANF on these same corridors linked to public land.

Overview: A variety of methods and tools have been used to address hazardous trees on corridors and public access sites in the last 5-7 years.

What We Have Done:

1. Heavy Motorized Trail Maintenance Contract

Who: Contractor, typically 1-4 people

What: Removes hazard and downed trees

When: Annual, but typical when the trails are closed. Contract(s) has been around since 1998

Where: Marienville ATV, Timberline, Penoke Bike Trail, and Bradford Rocky Gap Trail - 98 Miles

2. Light Motorized Trail Maintenance Contract

Who: Contractor, 1-3 people

What: Typically both down trees and some hazardous trees

When: Annual, work when the trails are both open and closed for approximately 20 years

Where: All Forest OHV trails – 108 miles

3. Spring Creek Horse Trail Volunteers

Who: Volunteers, 3-6 people

What: Some hazard or down material

When: Annual; Seasonal/summer, 1 time/ week, since opening of trail – 2012

Where: Spring Creek Horse Trail – 38 miles. ROWs on SGL and Collins Pine Land

4. Motorized Trail Volunteers

Who: Volunteers, 2-4 people

What: Mainly down trees to clear trails

When: Summer/Fall up to 3 days/week or less for the last four years.

Where: Marienville Motorized trails – 89 miles

5. Non-motorized trail clubs, groups, volunteers

Who: Volunteers, 1-10 people, SCA, NCTA, IMBA

What: Some tree clearing, not hazardous trees

When: Summer/Fall, NCTA long history. IMBA new to the ANF. SCA 5 years+

Where: FY 17 - Laurel Mill Trail (10.7 miles), Jakes Rocks (12 miles), NCT at Minister/Morrison

6. Cost Share Snowmobile Agreements and Volunteers

Who: Three snowmobile clubs, approximately up to 30 people

What: Clear down trees on the trail

When: Annual, Winter, Summer/Fall, agreements from 1-5 years

Where: ASL and Connectors, approx. 50% of mileage under agreement/volunteer – 180+ miles

7. FR 503 – CE Kiasutha Recreation Area Sanitation – 2016/2017. Harvest of insect and disease affected trees on 89 acres - Winter/Spring 2017. Removed over 1000 trees, mostly ash/snags. Contractor felled/commercial harvest and FS did cleanup (break down slash/chip) in visually sensitive areas.

8. **2012 Hazardous Tree Removal – Developed Recreation Sites.** 624 campsites in 13 campgrounds, along with 6 day use areas and 3 boat launches were assessed. Est 500 trees were identified and felled by FS personnel and in 2012 and 2013.

Campgrounds: Hearts Content, Twin Lakes, Loleta, Minister Creek, Red Bridge, Willow Bay, Buckaloons, Kiasutha, Dewdrop, Morrison, Hooks Brook, Hopewell, Pine Grove; **Boat Launches:** Elijah Run, Kiasutha, Willow Bay; **Day Use Areas:** Jakes Rocks Overlook, Kiasutha Picnic/Swim Area, Kinzua Beach Swim/Picnic Area, Red Bridge Fishing Area, Rimrock Overlook/Picnic Area and Willow Bay Picnic Area

Follow up: In 2013/14 Marienville field reviews were accomplished on an estimated 125 disperse campsites sites, trail heads, and canoe launches. Hazard trees were removed on sites along the Clarion River, Millstone, trailhead (s) at Buzzard Swamp, Brush Hollow, Little Drummer, Laurel Mill and canoe launches at Irwin Run, Dark Hollow, and Millstone.

1. **Special Use Concessionaire Permit** –ID hazard trees at campgrounds under permit every year. Site manager removes a limited amount of trees and FS/Prison Crew removes remainder.
2. **Emergency Contract(s) Example** – After May 1, 2017 storm, Contractor cleared hazardous trees on trails affected by the storm – Marienville ATV & Bike Trail and Spring Creek Horse Trail
3. **Existing Timber Sale Contracts (70+)** includes felling hazard trees as provided in contract provision: BT2.32 Construction Clearing...”All dead or unstable live trees designated for cutting that are sufficiently tall to reach Purchaser’s landings or the roadbed of Specified roads”. We have been utilizing this to remove diseased trees.
4. **Bradford Restoration EA, Ash Remediation EA (Example):** Hazard trees near trails, such as North Country National Trail, have been cut as a result of these recently signed documents.
5. **SUP permits** issued for maintenance on utility lines/pipelines that affect privately owned infrastructure.
6. **FS Review Roads open for Hunting Season** - Roads are cleared prior to hunting season and occasional hazard tree is cut, including disabled hunter roads.

What We Are Doing:

Vegetation Enhancement Project – State Route (SR) 59 - (PennDOT Upgrade Partnership Agreement)

Cooperative project with PennDOT, McKean County, 3.6 miles includes daylighting and hazard tree removal within 100 feet of the highway. Project out for public comment.

Future Considerations: These efforts and projects are in the discussion or planning phase

- Vegetation enhancement for SR(s) 321, 219, 62, and 66 are being discussed with PennDOT.
- Brush Hollow Hiking and Ski-Trail Restoration from 2017 Windstorm/Tornado storm event.
- Recreation Program: 20% of the developed campgrounds are in plan to be accomplished every year, volunteers, public reporting, trail groups, contracts, partnerships, SUP are ongoing.
- Future NEPA: Programmatic documents: EAs or individual maintenance CEs?
- Education and Aid to Private Landowners?