

The Whitefish Trail - 2015

Forestry Guidelines & Scope of Services

Dollar Lake & Little Beaver Lake Areas

All trail construction slated for 2015 will occur in the Dollar Lake and Little Beaver Lake areas, on school trust lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). The Whitefish Trail project has an easement with DNRC that authorizes construction of the trail system. Project Managers and Whitefish Trail designers David Noftsinger and Greg Gunderson will coordinate all trail construction and related activities, including forestry, with DNRC approval. Any work proposed to occur must be approved by Brian Manning - DNRC Stillwater Unit Manager.

Forestry Guidelines

Forestry work is required along the entire trail corridor prior to any trail excavation. All forestry work must be done with chain saws and hand tools. The corridor for forestry work is 15 feet wide. Within this corridor some trees will have to be removed, some pruning of branches will occur, and some dead and down material will need to be removed. Depending on concentrations of material, all woody debris will either be piled for burning or lopped and scattered. The following criteria will be applied to trail-related forestry:

- Burn piles must be placed in locations as approved by Project Managers and DNRC Forest Management Supervisors. Piles must be placed a minimum of 20' (feet) downhill from the trail and must be located at least 12' (feet) from live trees.
- Burn piles must be built compactly, with a minimum of dead air spaces, to ensure efficient burning. Each pile must include enough dead material to ensure easy ignition.
- Material not placed in burn piles must be lopped and scattered, and must be placed in contact with the ground. Ideal locations for lop and scattering versus burn piling will be discussed on the mandatory walk-through with Project Managers.
- Any trees larger than 4" diameter at breast height must be individually approved by Project Managers prior to cutting.
- Branches overhanging the trail must be pruned to a minimum of 10' (feet) above the ground. Pruning must not damage the trunk of the tree. Branches must be cut within 1" (inch) of the trunk of the tree.
- All stumps must be flush-cut prior to completion of the project.
- As many trees as possible will be left standing within the trail corridor. Only remove those trees necessary for trail construction. If significant root damage occurs during trail construction, some trees may need to be removed after trail construction.
- Trees within the trail corridor may be more easily removed with mechanized equipment. These trees should be cut 3' (feet) above the ground to make excavator removal easier. *(All high stumps that remain after trail excavation must be flush-cut prior to project completion. This will require an additional pass through the entire trail corridor after trail excavation is completed.)*

Additional Information

1. Contractor (not employees) must be available to walk the trail corridor with Project Managers before, during, and after forestry work. This level of coordination is imperative for a successful finished product.
2. Bids must be for a **total sum** that includes all tasks.
3. Contractor should assume there will be final touch-up work required before completion and final invoicing. All work will be clarified by Project Managers.
4. All invoices must be submitted to Project Managers. Address for mailing invoices: Forestration, Inc., PO Box 1043, Whitefish, MT 59937: Email addresses for emailing invoices: greg@forestation.org
5. Additional sawyer/swamper work may be requested by Project Managers. Please include a rate sheet for sawyers and swampers.
6. Forestry work (prior to trail construction) must be completed no later than August 31, 2015. Forestry contractor must stay ahead of excavator work and not impede excavator progress. The final low-stumping must occur by October 10, 2015.