

Trail Talk

Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District

November 2006



Congratulations to our 2006 Award Winners



Volunteer of the Year Troy Brown and our "Top Guns". Left to right: Amos Burrell, Wanda Brown, Tom Blackwell, Troy Brown and Bob Korch. Not pictured Tannis Blackwell.



Troy and Wanda Brown worked with district employees Mike Davis, Alan McKnight, and Larry Thomas to layout the designated campsites in the Beech Bottoms area for the November 1st – March 31st winter camping season. This is associated with the closure area there. **Dean Ellis** continued to keep the Cohutta Overlook trimmed up and mowed.

Troy and Wanda Brown tackled blowdown removal along Beech Bottom trail. Troy Brown also spent a day on East Cowpen Trail swingblading. Trout Unlimited Volunteers **Steve Perce, Herman Spivey, Ronny Cooper, Paul Diprima, John March, and Anthony Lowman** worked with district employees Rex Rymer and Ruth Stokes on Mountaintown Creek and Rock Creek. The group tackled maintenance of stream structures and stream surveys. **Amos Burrell** and **Justin Holsomback** attended the Fall Wildfire Refresher for qualified firefighters in Chatsworth for a day. **Bob Korch** led a group into Beech Bottoms to continue campsite rehab in the closure area. Participants included **Mary Korch, Troy and Wanda Brown, Jim Bishop, and Larry Jones. Chuck and Linda Williams** served eighteen days as campground hosts at the Pocket Recreation Area. **Bob and Mary Korch** tackled trimming and swingblading needs along a portion of the lower Jacks River trail. **Troy Brown** spent half a day scouting the Johns Mountain Loop Trail for us for the upcoming November work day. Great job TEAM, thank you for the **573** hours you contributed in October.



Volunteer Spotlight

This month's light shines on a couple of long time TEAM Volunteers. He has been with us since June of 1995, she since July, 1999. These two are definitely a part of our valued "core" group. Atlanta area residents **Bob and Mary Korch** continue to provide instrumental labor and leadership with our trails program. Bob also played a role in our Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) document for the Cohutta Wilderness that is now beginning to be implemented (for example: the Beech Bottom/Jacks River Falls closure). Bob is beginning to see his time with the LAC Task Force coming full circle now. As he says "it's a labor of love". Bob's first hike in the Cohuttas was a solo hike in the fall of 1988. He was also an active member of Singles Outdoor Adventures (SOA) in the early 1990's when he got involved with the Forest Service. Bob has contributed 1,140 hours to our program, he is one of a handful 1,000 hour Volunteers. Mary has 640 hours to her credit. These two met on the district in 1996 in the Fort Mountain area. When asked if they'd like to share anything for this spotlight here is what they said -

“We talk often of the wonderful friendships we have made with the other volunteers as well as each of you in the Forest Service. And all that we have learned from you and other volunteers about the outdoors, trail working, and safety. We also enjoy the opportunity to give back to the Forest Service because it has given Mary and me each other in addition to a multitude of opportunities for hiking and camping. And we share great pride in comparing the trails of the Cohutta Wilderness with those of other areas we hike, and seeing that our trails are the best maintained of them all thanks to the contributions of everyone in TEAM Cohutta.”



“Success is no accident.”



It looks like we'll be tackling some amount of blown down tree and limb removal after the passage of a strong cold front in mid-October that resulted in high winds across the district. The northwestern portion of the Cohutta Wilderness seems to have received the worst of this.

Let's discuss the pressure on trees known as "bind".

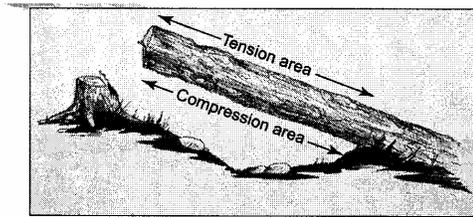


Figure 4-15—When a bind occurs, pressure areas result. These areas are called tension (pulling apart) and compression (pushing together) areas.

It is extremely important to determine what will happen to the log when it is cut. Inspect the log for all binds, pivot points, and natural skids. Various bucking techniques can be used to lower a suspended tree to the ground.

The four types of bind are: top, bottom, side, and end (figure 4-16). Normally logs have a combination of two or more binds:

Top Bind: The tension area is on the bottom of the log. The compression area is on the top.

Bottom Bind: The tension area is on the top of the log. The compression area is on the bottom.

Side Bind: Pressure is exerted sideways on the log.

End Bind: Weight causes compression on the log's entire cross section.

Determine Bucking Locations—It is best to start bucking at the top of the log and work toward the butt end, removing the binds in smaller material first. Look for broken limbs and tops above the working area. Never stand under an overhead hazard while bucking.

Look for spring poles (figure 4-17). Look for small trees and limbs bent under the log being bucked. They may spring up as the log rolls away. If you can safely do so, cut them off before the log is bucked. Otherwise, move to a new cutting location and flag the hazard. Anticipate the spring poles' reactions.

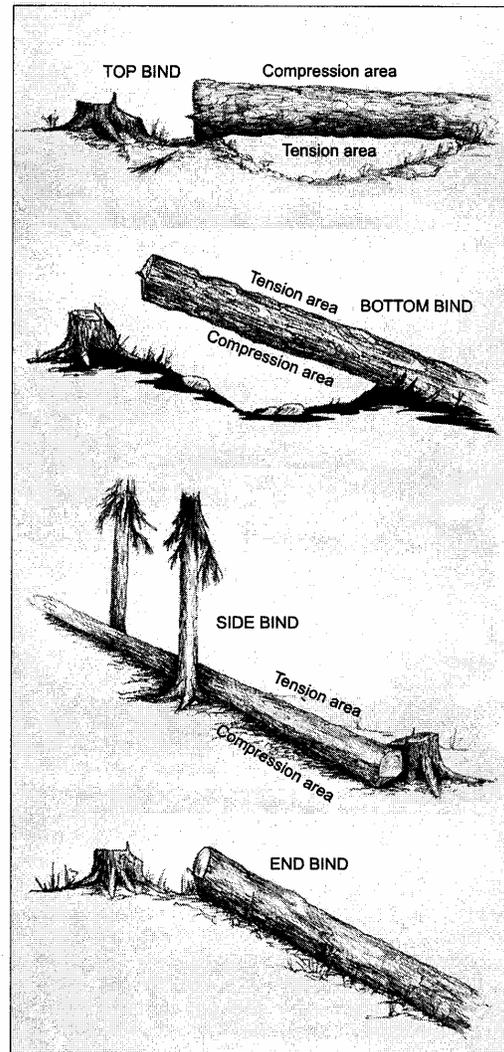


Figure 4-16—There are four types of binds. A log can have a combination of two or more binds.

The pressure on these trees can cause them to move at accelerated rates of speed towards the sawyer or ax user. Be very aware of what may happen when planning these cuts. This can even occur with small saplings if you're using pruning shears. As always be careful out there.

The above information came from the 2001 U. S. Forest Service Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Training Course.



As the holidays approach we know that everyone's schedule becomes increasingly busy (including ours). With that in mind our next formal work day will not likely occur until late-January with our next Working Weekend event. At this time it is tentatively planned for portions of the Pinhoti with a possible overnight stay at Sloppy Floyd State Park. We'll try to post a 2007 work calendar soon.



Thanks to all of you who attended our 16th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Fort Mountain. As always it was a great time of fellowship. Several have told us that it was one of the best ever. What will 2007 bring?



Hopefully more of you that are reading our newsletter will come and join us. We have a number of people that

show an interest throughout the year in our Volunteer Program. Many leave us an email address and receive the newsletter. If you're one of those folks – consider joining us in January. The winter Working Weekend is often one of our best trips of the year. Be careful though, if you try it you'll likely be hooked and you'll wonder why you waited so long to get involved!

