



### ***Cleaning up OUR National Forests***

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## **SAFETY BRIEFING & PROTOCOL with SOCIAL DISTANCING**

**Safety** – Is the highest priority, whether a volunteer is out with FoF or on their own. These protocols are posted on the FoF website and will be emailed to each volunteer when pre-registering for each cleanup to ensure everyone is briefed in advance. A paper copy of this will also be available on site.

**Social Distancing** – will be done at all times. This will be done by each person extending a grabber in their hand while making sure it does not contact any other volunteer's grabber. When gathering as a group (maximum of 5), individuals must maintain this distances as well. Individuals may use their cleanup bucket to sit on during a gathering while still social distancing.

**Mini-Cleanups** – all FoF cleanups will be done with a maximum of 10 people allowed at each site (including the Group Lead), with ½ going in 1 direction and ½ in another (i.e. north & south or left & right sides of the road). Each site will have it's own Group Lead, with it's own site Command Center with Sign In&Out form, safety equipment and supplies. For larger areas, a maximum of 10 mini-cleanups will be allowed. One Main Command Center (2-3 people, including an overall Site Supervisor) designated for overall coordination and support for the mini cleanups will be set up.

**Pre-Registration** – REQUIRED for each volunteer attending so each person can be pre-assigned to a mini-cleanup site to ensure no more than 10 people are present at anytime. Pre-Registration and signing of the Informed Consent & Waiver form will be done online and in advance. Upon pre-registering, each volunteer will be sent directions to the specific site they were assigned.

Allegies/Medical Information – please indicate on the Pre-Registration form any information FoF should be aware of in case of an emergency (information will be kept private).

Photo Waiver – The Pre-Registration form includes a place to allow pictures to be used. Should a volunteer indicate “no”, we ask that they stay out of pictures being taken. Pictures will also be emailed to them for approval prior to posting the pictures publicly.

Cancellations – Due to a limit of 10 volunteers per site, we ask that you notify us if you will be unable to attend as there may be others who would like to join the cleanup that are on a waiting list.

Volunteer Screening – a questionnaire will be sent via email the day prior to the cleanup regarding your health. Should you be able to answer “yes” to any of the questions we will cancel your registration for the event, but you may pre-register for a future one.

**Site Designation** – each mini-cleanup will be designated with clear signage in advance, along with directional signs along the way to that site.

**Sign-In/Out** – will be done only at each mini-cleanup site and will be done one at a time, with designated distancing signage in place. Signin/out to record who is actually in attendance will be done verbally to minimized contact through pen & paper. Sign In & Out time is used to track manhours and to insure everyone returns safely.

**Group Leads** – Will be in orange vests, for info, concerns and instruction of where to proceed. If you hear a loud whistle, locate your group lead as the group may be moving location or there may be a concern.

**Mini-CleanUp General Directions** – will be done on each side of the road, for up to ½ mile in each direction and up to 200 yds off the road. Volunteers will spread out & wander, debris blows with the wind, especially downhill. Pick up anything larger than a quarter. Be aware of your surroundings for both people and animals (bears are out), watch where you walk as terrain can be unstable, especially near the road. Lightning storms, wind, nests of bees, snakes in the brush are all concerns. Recreational shooters should be avoided and the area being shot into.

**Trash Removal** – trash is to be left on the side of the road and/or collected a minimum of 15 ft from a designated site. Mobile trash removal trucks will then be used to collect trash from sites (no more than 2 people/truck). Dumpster(s) is to be located a minimum of 25 feet from the main Command Center. No more than 1 truck allowed at each dumpster at any time.

**Carpooling** – is not permitted at this time with unknown volunteers.

**Recreational Users** – due to the increase of new recreational users, a FoF representative at each site will be designated to interact with the public and provide educational information. The FoF representative will attempt to deter use of the site during the cleanup by any of the public, but should this not be possible, FoF will reduce the number of volunteers in that area immediately to insure the maximum of 5 people is not exceeded.

**Camps & Campers** – avoid occupied areas. If approached, be friendly while still practicing social distancing. Explain what we are doing. If someone is confrontational or a camp may be abandoned leave the area and notify a Group Lead. Forest Service will need to investigate and clear the area first for any cleanup.

**Abandoned Campfire Rings & Mitigation** – Always use a grabber, not gloves as coals may not glow but be hot and could melt fingertips. If concerned it is still hot, get Group Lead to extinguish. Due to the increase of new recreational users and increased fire danger, each site and those in the surrounding areas will be specifically checked for completely extinguished campfires. Additional water will be brought and provided to any campers for future use, with educational information available to them regarding campfire safety. Fire Danger Level: for today is \_\_\_\_\_

**Supplies (provided):** Use what you can, return if you won't need them

**Masks** (required) – volunteers may bring their own or one will be provided.

**Gloves** (required) – for glass & tires and sanitation (latex gloves provided for added protection underneath work gloves)

**Grabbers** – use to reach in bushes (sharp objects, snakes, animals)

**Buckets** – going green (reduces bag use), fill and put directly into compactor, rolloff or trash bag

**Trash bags** – carry an extra. Once full, leave on side of road and trucks will be used to pick up.

**Lunch** - Premade sack lunches will be provided to each mini cleanup site. One FoF representative will dispense hand sanitizer to each volunteer while social distancing (signage for distancing will be set up), and then operate the soap and water dispenser for each person individually at the wash station.

**Water** – drink lots, more each mini-cleanup site Command Center. We encourage refillable waterbottles, but have some disposable ones that can also be refilled if you need one.

**Sunscreen** – please apply prior to arriving for the cleanup

**Sharps, Toxic/Hazardous materials, etc.** – leave where they are and get a Group Lead. Items like batteries, oil, medical syringes, and any suspicious or unusual looking items should be left.

**TVs** – lead and glass are toxic, rubber gloves & mask required. Notify a group lead.

**Noxious Weeds & TICKS** – brush off pants, clothes, animals etc. before going home and check for ticks

**Pets** - are to be leashed during all events and owners are required to be in full control of their animal(s) at all time. Pet owners take full responsibility and liability for their animal(s) and the actions of their animal(s).

**Federal Land & Pike District:** All federal & local laws apply. (i.e. leash laws, marijuana, etc.)

**Injuries** – notify Group Lead immediately, who will contact Site Supervisor and fill out an Incident Report

**Bathrooms** – nearest location is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Group Picture** - is at the beginning at each mini-cleanup, and will done with grabbers extended to include social distancing. But please share any pictures you take during the event by emailing them to us at [focusontheforest@gmail.com](mailto:focusontheforest@gmail.com) or texting them to (719) 286-0077.

**FoF Phone Number:** (719) 286-0077 to see if events have been cancelled, text pictures to, etc. Keep in mind, that reception is limited in some of our remote cleanup areas and messages may not be received/returned until leaving the area.