



Department of Interior

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Region

National Park Service
Interior Regions 6, 7 and 8
Interior Regions 8, 9, 10 and 12

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Interior Regions 5/7
Interior Regions 8/10
Interior Regions 9/12

Department of Agriculture

U.S. Forest Service
Intermountain Region

State Agencies
Idaho
Nevada
Utah

Date: July11, 2022

GBCG Correspondence #2022- 06

To: Great Basin Coordinating Group
Great Basin Incident Commanders
Great Basin Operations Committee

From: Chair, Great Basin Coordinating Group

Subject: Great Basin Consumable Saw Parts

Chainsaws are an essential tool utilized in Fireline production for Great Basin fire resources. Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHCs) operate three to five chainsaws per operational shift. Average run time per saw is approximately eight hours per shift. The upkeep and maintenance of chainsaws is necessary to maintain Fireline production rates. Simply stated, without chainsaws operating at their peak performance, Fireline production rates greatly diminish.

Chainsaws were not designed to operate in the harsh wildland firefighting environments in which they are being used. Smoke, soot, ash, fire, dirt, and rocks are constant obstacles hindering safe chainsaw operations. Working conditions warrant a need for a streamlined preventative maintenance and parts replacement process for safe and high performance of the saw. Previously, Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and/or Buying Teams, have required Government Property Loss and Damage documentation to authorize consumable chainsaw parts replacement. This is not in alignment with other processes for consumable item replacement. The chainsaw has many small parts that require constant maintenance and care for proper operation. For example, a Rim Sprocket is what the cutting chain seats into from the clutch to make the chain spin. When the Rim Sprocket is worn down it accelerates loosening of the chain, resulting in a "throwing a chain" more frequently. This condition is more prevalent when cutting brush. The chain loosens resulting in derailment due to the slightest movement. This in turn creates burring on the bar and many other connected parts.

The Great Basin Coordinating Group recognizes the value of promoting a standardized replacement process for consumable chainsaw parts used on wildland fires and is hereby implementing the Great Basin Consumable Saw Parts Ordering Form for Government Agency Chainsaws effective immediately. The form is approved by the Fireline Supervisor, and parts are first filled via the Supply Unit and or Cache. Items unable to be filled by the Supply or Cache, will be sent to Ordering for S# assignment and sent to a Buying Team, incident purchasing support, or provided to the requesting resource for fill at the home unit.

Please provide feedback to Brian Burbridge, Great Basin Saw Coordinator at brian.burbridge@usda.gov by October 1st annually to facilitate updates. Questions may be directed

to the Incident INBA, or a member of the Great Basin Incident Business Committee at the following link: [GBIBC Contacts 6.14.2022.pdf \(nifc.gov\)](#).

Sincerely,

Dennis Strange,
Chair, Great Basin Coordinating Group