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| Risk Assessment Worksheet | | 1. Project/Incident/Work Activity: Wilderness/Backcountry Activities | 2. Location: Clear Creek Ranger District, ARNF |
| 3. Specific Objective: Safety During Wilderness/Backcountry Activities | | 4. Name and Title of Preparer: Ralph Bradt | 5. Date Prepared: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 |

6. Risk Decision Authority: The risk decision authority block should be signed after the worksheet is completed. Use the Risk Decision Authority matrix to determine the authorization required to sign in block 6.

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| Signature: | Title: District Ranger | Date: 3/2/2023 |
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| Identify Hazards | | Assess Hazards | | | Risk Control Options | Residual Risk | | | Decision | Implement |
|---|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--|------------------------|----------------------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7. Task | 8. Hazard | 9. Hazard Probability | 10. Severity / Consequence | 11. RAC | 12. Identify hazard mitigations & abatement measures (press [alt + enter] to add a line) | 13. Hazard Probability | 14. Severity / Consequence | 15. RAC | 16. Task Necessary? | 17. Hazard Control Assigned to: |
| Hiking on patrol or en route to project site | Slipping, tripping, dehydration, and foot injuries | Possible | Critical | High | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plan ahead, select safe routes, and watch out for changes in ground surface, slick spots, tripping hazards or unusual hazards. Watch your footing and do not shift body weight until you are sure the spot is solid. Wear well-fitting boots providing good ankle support and foot protection and with durable lug soles. Wear clean, snugly fitting quality socks. Protect tender spots with mole skin or adhesive tape when redness first appears. Treat blisters promptly. Do not stick your arms out to break a fall. Roll with the fall. Do not stick your arms out to break a fall. Roll with the fall. Always carry adequate water and stay hydrated. Always treat wild water through filtration, chemical treatment or boiling before drinking. | Unlikely | Negligible | Low | YES | Crew members |
| Navigation on patrol or en route to project site | Getting lost/disoriented | Possible | Moderate | Moderate | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Always let someone know where you will be for the day and the time you plan to return, particularly if hiking alone. Maintain situational awareness at all times. Check weather before going out and be prepared. Expect spotty or nonexistent cell phone coverage. Carry emergency supplies, including extra clothes headlamp, and food. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them. A GPS unit is helpful, but not a substitute. If available, carry a satellite emergency notification device, such as SPOT, InReach, or similar personal locator device. | Rare | Negligible | Low | YES | Crew members |
| Insect encounters | Bites, stings, and associated insect borne diseases | Possible | Critical | High | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of bee and wasp nests. Use insect repellents and avoid areas with high concentrations of mosquitos (West Nile Virus). Periodically check for ticks (Lyme Disease, Colorado Tick fever, Rocky Mountain Spotted fever) If you have any known allergic reactions, carry the appropriate medicine to arrest the reaction (e.g. sting kit, epipen, or medical inhaler). | Unlikely | Moderate | Low | YES | Crew members |
| Wildlife encounters | Defensive/offensive animal behavior | Possible | Critical | High | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If approached by a mountain lion or bear, do not run or climb a tree. Back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Raise your arms and look big. Stay calm and speak in a firm voice. Do not corner a lion or bear, leave it a means of escape. If attacked by a mountain lion or bear, fight back with anything available. If you see young, the mother is usually close by. Leave the area immediately. Insure dogs are leashed at all times, particularly in moose country. Always give wildlife room and observe from a distance. If you walk up on them unexpectedly, quietly retreat to a safe distance. | Unlikely | Moderate | Low | YES | Crew members |
| Working in adverse weather conditions | Dehydration, sunburn, hypothermia, lightning, and deadfall. | Likely | Critical | Extremely High | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain situational awareness at all times. Check weather before going out but always be prepared for sudden changes. Wear sunscreen and carry raingear. Layering your clothing is the most effective way to dress for the woods. Clothing can be shed as you exert yourself and put back on as you cool down. Afternoon thunderstorms are common in the summer. Plan to be off high, exposed ground by early afternoon. If caught in a lightning storm, move to lower, sheltered ground. High winds can blow down standing dead trees (snags) and even snap healthy trees. During high winds, avoid beetle killed or burned areas with numerous snags. Be aware of the wind chill factor in cold, windy weather. | Possible | Moderate | Moderate | YES | Crew members |

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| Trail Maintenance Tool Use | Injuries from improper use of tools | Possible | Moderate | Moderate | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know proper carrying and use of tools. 2. Check that hand tools are properly maintained and in good condition. Only sharp and properly maintained tools should be used. 3. Use proper tool for the job. 4. When tools are not in use, place them in a predetermined location on the ground away from persons, with cutting edges uphill and away from the trail and the handle lying towards the trail or resting the handle against a wall, bank or stump. 5. Never throw tools or direct the tool toward the body or anyone else's body. 6. Use appropriate PPE, i.e., sturdy footwear (good lug sole, adequate ankle support) gloves, eye protection, long pants, long sleeves, and hard hat. 8. Have current certification for any activity or use of any tools requiring certification. | Unlikely | Moderate | Low | YES | Crew members |
| Heavy Lifting | Back strain | Possible | Moderate | Moderate | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use proper lifting techniques. Bend knees when lifting, lift with legs and not with back, and look upward to keep balance and better alignment. 2. Do not exceed your personal ability. 3. Do not twist or turn while carrying a heavy load. | Rare | Moderate | Low | YES | Crew members |
| Public contacts | Negative contacts | Possible | Critical | High | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Human - Observe persons and surroundings on approach. Do not exceed your comfort zone. Avoid hostile persons and do not make contact if drugs/alcohol are present. If not comfortable with the situation, do not make initial contact. If contact has already been made, back out of it. Do not antagonize an uncooperative visitor by word, deed or action. 2. Dogs - If carrying a tool, keep the tool between you and the dog. Be assertive, but not aggressive. If owner is nearby, ask that the dog be leashed. If approaching a camp where dogs are present, call out on approach and have owner leash dogs before approaching. 3. Equestrian - When approaching stock, particularly from behind, make your presence known by speaking up in a normal tone. Make no sudden motions and ask the stock users what they would like you to do. | Possible | Moderate | Moderate | YES | Crew members |
| Backcountry Camping | Location and wildlife hazards | Possible | Critical | High | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carefully select your campsite. Look up, look around. Do not camp near standing dead trees. Sites should be free of overhead hazards such as leaning green trees, widow makers, or trees hung up in nearby trees. 2. Be aware of danger from rolling rocks and slides, danger from flash floods or rising waters. 3. Be aware of signs of possible animal problems (tracks, scat, scrapes, kills and claw marks). 4. Keep camp areas clean and keep food stored out of reach at a distance from camp and/or in bearproof containers | Unlikely | Critical | Moderate | YES | Crew members |