

Forestry Tools

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Here is a list of useful forest management tools, from the “must-have” to more specialized tools.

Basic cutting tools

- 1) Chainsaw
- 2) For safe and efficient operation, make sure you have gloves, chaps, hearing and eye protection. A good investment is a hard hat with face screen and ear muffs. A hard hat is essential if falling trees. Even very small trees can hurt you if they were to hit your head!
- 3) Associated with the chain saw is some way to sharpen it- from the basic hand file, 12 volt portable hand held grinder up to a bench style grinder.
- 4) Containers for fuel and oil.
- 5) For work during fire season – fire tools – shovel, Pulaski, hazel hoe, McCleod, small fires extinguisher for use with chain saw. Larger operations require a water truck.

Fuel reduction and slash disposal

- 1) For cutting of plants low to the ground (e.g., re-sprouting Manzanita), use a brush cutter (weed eater with a brushing blade).
- 2) If folks are burning in the winter/spring you will need at least a shovel.
- 3) A drip torch allows ignition of piles with a bit more safety using a non explosive diesel/gasoline mixture. I hope folks are not throwing gasoline on a pile and then throwing on a match!

Moving logs

- 1) Selling logs or yarding logs to have lumber milled requires some way to get material from the woods to the processing location. Some folks use a pickup truck or ATV. Need to be very careful because of logs rolling and pulling your vehicle.
- 2) I have a four wheel drive farm tractor with a Farmi winch to skid logs, poles and firewood.
- 3) I also have a small arch to fully suspend a log when needed.

Processing of material

- 1) Firewood – a splitting maul or powered splitter (I use a maul – good to get the exercise!)
- 2) Peeling poles. Pole peeler or a draw knife (I have both, plus my son-in-law uses a large machete to expertly peel poles).
- 3) Cutting lumber from logs: Alaskan mill, beam machine, granberg mill are all attachments to a chain saw. They are good for limited production.
A Peavey is handy to roll large logs. Tongs can be used to life logs. You can hire a portable sawmill to cut your trees into lumber.

Other

- 1) I also have a chipper, a grader and field mower as attachments for my tractor.
- 2) Tree Planting – You can use a shovel but if doing serious planting a hoedad and planting bag is more efficient.

A good resource to learn more about tools is WSU Extension's Basic Hand and Power Forestry Tools website. Click on: <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/handtools/index.htm>

This website has basic information about the following categories of tools.

- [Fire Tools](#)
- [Measurements](#)
- [Moving Logs](#)
- [Multi-Purpose](#)
- [Planting](#)
- [Pruning](#)
- [Thinning](#)
- [Felling](#)
- [Weed Management](#)

Sources of Tools:

PacForest Supply <http://pacforestsupply.com/index.php>

Ben Meadows <http://www.benmeadows.com/>

Forestry Suppliers, Inc. <http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/index1.asp>

Terra Tech <http://www.terratech.net/pilot.asp?pg=default>

Future Forestry Products, Inc. <http://www.futureforestry.com/>