

MBRB Tree Saddle Policy - 2021

Tree Saddles may be used in all MBRB Hunts. Saddles are a safe alternative to traditional tree stands, since you are connected 100% of the time you are elevated. When used properly saddles systems are designed to prevent a fall, as opposed to fall restraint systems, which “catch” a fall.

The following commercial saddles are approved for use on all MBRB hunts. No home-made saddles will be allowed. No modified or commercially manufactured climbing harnesses shall be used unless made for the specific purpose of hunting. A climbing or arborist harness is NOT a Tree Saddle. At the time this policy was created, the following manufactures are approved for use in MBRB Hunts:

- [Tethrd](#)
- [Aerohunter](#)
- [Trophyline](#)
- [JX3 Outdoors](#)
- [Trophyline](#)
- [Wild Edge](#)
- [Cruzr](#)
- [Hawk](#)
- [H2](#)

All saddles must be stock. No modifications that would compromise the safety or integrity of the saddle will be allowed. This does not include accessories added to the saddle such as molle attachments, rope pouches/bags, etc. All Saddles are subject to be inspected by hunt coordinators before use to ensure they are manufactured tree saddles, not a DIY setup. If for any reason the hunt coordinator questions the safety of your gear, you will not be allowed to use it during that MBRB hunt. Attempting to do so will result in immediate removal from the hunt and suspension from the MBRB. You may still hunt with a TMA certified tree stand if your saddle is disallowed by the coordinator.

Saddles must be in good working condition. Bridges and structural webbing must not show signs of excessive wear. Always remember to safety check your gear before every hunt.

Hunters using tree saddles, must have 2 years' worth of experience, this correlates to a minimum expectation of 20 hunts using a tree saddle. Hunters must be proficient with the use of their saddle gear and are expected to be very effective at shooting deer from a tree saddle. *DO NOT SHOW UP FOR YOUR MBRB HUNT USING YOUR TREE SADDLE FOR THE FIRST TIME! HUNTERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE PROFICIENT WITH THEIR GEAR! THIS TAKES PRACTICE AND TIME! To increase your proficiency, you are strongly encouraged to practice (target shooting) out of your saddle. There are a few more moving parts with saddle hunting, but it is a proven safe way to hunt.

Climbing Method:

Due to the MBRB striving for safety for all hunters, only “traditional climbing methods” will be used for saddle hunters. The use of climbing sticks is most desirable. No use of aiders/swaiders, rope methods (SRT,DRT), no tree spikes, screw in steps, may be used in MBRB hunts, unless they are forbidden by specific landowner policies> **You must use a lineman’s rope while climbing**, also while attaching your approved climbing method and platform to the tree. The lineman’s rope must not be removed before you’re at your climbing height, standing on your platform, and your tree tether is attached. That means, 100% of the time you shall always be attached to the tree via a lineman’s rope and/or your tree tether to ensure prevention of a fall.

Tethers & Lineman's Ropes

Ropes or webbing must be of climbing-grade, rated to 5,000lbs or greater.

Prusiks

Prusiks must be made of climbing-grade cord rated to 20kn or greater. Climbing-grade mechanical ascenders (Ropeman 1/Duck rope clamp) are also an acceptable alternative to Prusik cord. These items are only used for adjustments to the length of your lineman's rope, and/or to adjust the length of the tree tether.

Carabiners

Carabiners must be of climbing grade, with a locking gate, automatic or twist lock. Carabiners used for lineman's rope or the tree tether must be rated for 22kn Strength Major Axis Closed Gate or greater. Carabiners must always be locked when in use! Leaving the gate open decreases the carabiners strength by as much as 70 percent.

Definitions

Aiders	Webbing or rope with loops made to step into. Commonly used to assist hunters to lessen the number of traditional climbing methods to be used (carry less climbing sticks).
Swaiders/Knaiders	Adjustable aiders to assist in climbing higher when using climbing sticks or other climbing methods. The system uses loops of rope or webbing, to step into, with carabiners or hooks connected to traditional climbing method. The system fastens to the climber's knee and opposite hip to aid in climbing.
SRT/DRT	Single Rope Technique/Double Rope Technique - The use of rope(s) as a climbing method.
Kn	Kilonewton – is a unit of measurement of force. 20Kn = 4,496lbs.
Lineman's Rope	The lineman's belt is a 10-foot length of climbing rope. On one end, the rope is tied to a D loop on your saddle belt, using a figure 8 on a bight. On the other end, a prusik friction knot is tied on the rope; or a mechanical ascender, there is a stopper knot tied at the end of the rope for security.
Tether (Tree Tether)	The tether is a length of rope with a loop at one end that's wrapped around the tree, usually about head height, and threaded through itself. A carabiner is affixed to the tether on either a Prusik knot or a commercially made ascender. The saddle hunter then hooks the bridge from his saddle into that carabiner.
Ascender	Not used to climb rope, used as a mechanical adjustment to shorten or lengthen your connection point on a rope (tree tether or Lineman's rope). Used to eliminate the need for Prusik cord, which required the use of both hands to adjust
Prusik Cord	Cord that is wrapped around climbing rope (tether/lineman's rope) that attaches to a carabiner that forms a friction hitch to adjust the length of the rope



TETHER

LINEMAN'S BELT

BRIDGE

CARABINER

SADDLE

KNEE PADS

PLATFORM