

## McLeod Hand Tool



### Overview/Characteristics:

#### 1. McLeod Tool Design:

The McLeod tool is a versatile hand tool designed for various outdoor applications, especially prescribed fires. Its distinctive features include a wide, flat blade on one side and a rake on the other. The blade is typically constructed with a durable combination of steel and wood.

#### 2. Length and Weight:

- Length: Approximately 48 to 60 inches
- Weight: Lightweight for easy handling, typically between 5 to 7 pounds

#### 3. Dual-Purpose Functionality:

- Blade Side: Designed for cutting and scraping vegetation, creating firebreaks, and removing debris.
- Rake Side: Ideal for raking and moving soil, mulch, or other materials.

### Common Uses:

#### 1. Prescribed Fire Preparation:

- Clearing vegetation to create firebreaks.
- Cutting and removing combustible materials to control fire spread.

#### 2. Trail Maintenance:

- Clearing overgrown vegetation along trails.
- Creating a fire-safe buffer around hiking paths.

#### 3. Landscaping:

- Shaping and leveling soil in gardens or outdoor spaces.

- Clearing debris and unwanted vegetation.

#### *4. Outdoor Restoration:*

- Ideal for ecological restoration projects.
- Managing and manipulating soil and vegetation in natural habitats.

### **Maintenance Tips:**

#### *1. Regular Inspection:*

- Check for any signs of wear, rust, or damage.
- Ensure the handle is securely attached to the blade.

#### *2. Cleaning:*

- Remove dirt, debris, and sap from the blade and rake after each use.
- Wipe down with a damp cloth to prevent rust.

#### *3. Sharpening:*

- Keep the blade sharp for efficient cutting.
- Use a file or sharpening stone to maintain the cutting edge.

#### *4. Lubrication:*

- Apply a light coat of oil to metal parts to prevent rust.
- Ensure the pivot point for the rake is well-lubricated.

#### *5. Storage:*

- Store in a dry, cool place to prevent rust and deterioration.
- Hang the tool or store it off the ground to maintain the blade's integrity.

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Note: Always follow safety guidelines and regulations when using any prescribed fire tools. Proper training is essential for effective and safe use of the McLeod tool.