

Firewood *or* Wildlife Tree?

Valuable habitat is lost when wildlife trees are cut down for firewood. Below you will find information about wildlife trees and why they should be protected.

Firewood

Free use permits can be obtained from the BC Forest Service to cut firewood for personal use.

- Check with your local district office to get a permit and map of locations for firewood collection.
- Always carry your permit with you when cutting or hauling firewood.



Wildlife Trees

A wildlife tree is a standing live or dead tree that provides habitat for wildlife. Important characteristics of wildlife trees include:

- large size (diameter and height)
- large limbs
- loose bark
- broken tops
- heartrot or other decay.

Larger trees are generally the most valuable to wildlife.



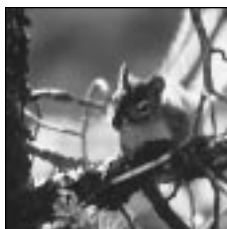
Knock! Knock! Who's Home Is It?

In BC, over 80 wildlife species depend on wildlife trees. Protection of wildlife trees is essential to maintain habitat for these species. Wildlife tree users include:

Primary cavity excavators – birds, such as woodpeckers, sapsuckers, nuthatches and chickadees excavate their own nest holes in trees.



Secondary cavity users – species such as owls, salamanders and squirrels which cannot excavate their own cavities but rely on natural cavities or abandoned nest holes for nesting and denning sites, shelter and food storage.



Platform or open nesters – birds such as eagles, osprey, hawks, herons and some owls which perch or nest in the thick branches or tops of large trees.



Fallen trees and branches also play important roles for wildlife and the forest. As the downed wood

decays it provides food and shelter for wildlife, creates growing sites for plants, and enriches and stabilizes the soil.

Check Before You Cut

Wildlife trees are attractive to firewood cutters as well as to wildlife. However, don't cut them down for firewood – let the wildlife use them! To identify wildlife trees, look for obvious signs of wildlife use, such as:

- nests
- feeding or denning holes
- wood chips around the base of the tree
- claw marks or fur on the bark
- food caches
- bat guano around or beneath loose bark.



Managed Wildlife Trees

Many harvested areas in BC contain patches of trees or single standing trees/snags purposely left behind to serve as wildlife trees. If you come across a

standing patch of trees or single trees or snags in a harvested area, **PLEASE DO NOT CUT THEM DOWN!** They were left to provide wildlife habitat!



We Need Your Help

Firewood cutting for personal use on Crown land can only occur in the areas designated by a firewood permit. Do not cut trees posted with the yellow wildlife tree sign, or those with obvious wildlife tree characteristics.



If you would like to participate in protecting wildlife habitat by helping to put up wildlife tree signs, please contact your local BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks or BC Forest Service office.

For further information about wildlife trees, contact:

The Wildlife Tree Coordinator
c/o Resource Stewardship Branch
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
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Victoria, BC V8W 9M1
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