



Managing Danger Trees



Why are danger trees along roads an issue?

Trees weakened and killed by wildfire can fall unpredictably, causing injury or death to people and damage to property.

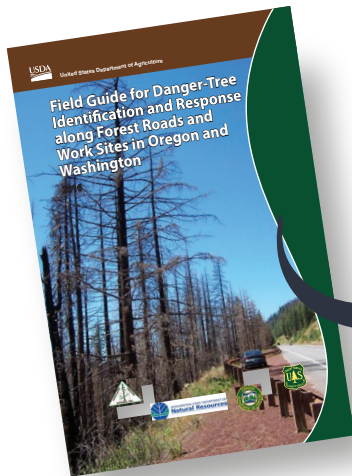
Forest roads are closed after wildfires if the risk of danger trees to human safety is unacceptable. Danger trees must be mitigated before roads can be safely reopened.



Fire-damaged trees and vehicle loss, Willamette National Forest

Who benefits from safe and open roads?

Danger tree removal allows access for wildfire suppression and recovery efforts, partner agencies, outfitter guides, emergency responders, and forest visitors and employees.



How are danger trees selected for removal?

Qualified Forest Service specialists use agency guidelines to assess danger trees. The vast majority of danger trees that do not threaten roads, property, or infrastructure are left standing.

The field guide outlines factors for danger tree removal, which include: tree species, health, and condition; striking distance to road; slope of terrain; type of activity; and duration of exposure (the longer people or property are exposed to a danger tree, the greater the opportunity for the failed tree to impact them).

What happens to danger trees after they are felled?



Left on-site

Danger trees can be felled and left on-site to assist with erosion control. Trees within riparian reserves and known cultural sites are generally left on site.



Restoration

Felled danger trees can be used for fish structure, stream enhancement, riparian restoration, and wildlife habitat logs.



Cultural or community use

Wood from danger trees can be given to Tribes for cultural use or offered to local communities through firewood permits.



Commercial use

Felled danger trees can be sold as wood to local mills. The funds from these sales can benefit wildfire recovery, watershed restoration, and reforestation projects.