

Okanogan & Wenatchee National Forests

(2007 revision date)

The Four Steps of Recreation Residence Danger Trees

As the permit holder, you are responsible for identifying danger trees and other hazards on and adjacent to your lot (Clause IV.G). It is recommended that you examine the condition of the trees within striking distance of your cabin and other improvements on each visit. Conditions can change very rapidly.

Step 1: Identify and Notify. Once a hazard is identified, it is important to distinguish between those that can be addressed without additional approval and those that must be evaluated and approved.

Approval Not Required. Dead or hanging limbs and dead trees or dead shrubs less than 20 feet tall can be cut down without specific approval. If there are multiple dead small trees, this could be an indicator of a serious problem. Please notify the Naches District Office of your situation.

Approval Is Required. Cutting of dead trees taller than 20 feet and the cutting of all live shrubs or trees does require review and written approval. To initiate formal action, obtain a danger tree form available at our office or online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/okawen>. Tie surveyor's ribbon around the tree(s) of concern, complete the form, including a sketch map indicating the location of the identified vegetation and return it to us for processing.

Bona fide Emergencies. Situations that present an immediate threat to life or property (e.g. a broken or uprooted tree lodged in another tree or leaning or resting on a cabin, outbuilding, propane tank, etc.) may be acted upon to abate the immediate danger without advance approval; however, please follow the applicable instructions in Exhibits 1 and 2 (below) until approval has been granted for further action and notify us within 5 days.

Step 2: Review. We will respond to the danger tree form by making a site visit to evaluate whether the identified trees satisfy the established danger tree criteria. In some cases, trees may be disapproved (most commonly live trees).

Step 3: Notification. You will receive written notification of the results of our site visit and the actions you are authorized to take. With very few exceptions, our recreation residence tracts are located within or adjacent to habitat for plants, animals or fish protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Consequently, there will likely be some specific requirements for how the approved trees must be treated. It is very important that these requirements be met. **Read your authorization carefully and contact us for clarification of any aspects that you do not fully understand**

Step 4: Slash Disposal. The needles, branches, trunk fragments, bark and other debris resulting from cutting the tree is referred to as “slash”. With the exception of trees felled into a stream or lake (see Exhibit 2.), you are required to dispose of the slash by mechanically chipping or burning (with proper authorizations and precautions) it. If you are unsure how to accomplish this, please ask us. Do not pile the slash on your lot for an extended period or deposit it elsewhere on the forest. Concentrations of dead, dry vegetation create an increased fire hazard.

Default Tree Cutting Specifications

(When other requirements are not specified)

Felled trees will be left in the longest segments practical. Ideally the tree would not be cut below the point where it exceeds nine inches in cross-sectional diameter (the width of the short edge of this paper) If cutting is necessary to re-establish access to or use of a portion of the lot, the tree may be cut into lengths ten feet or longer.

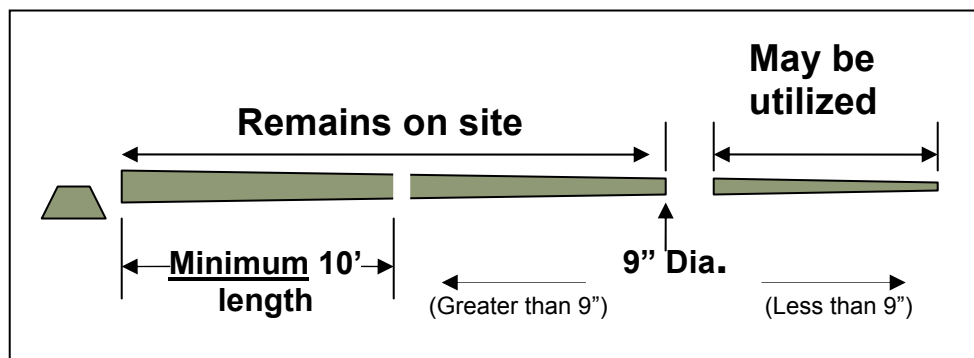


Exhibit 1. Standards for trees to be left on-site.

Danger trees on or near stream banks should be felled toward or into the stream and left intact to provide fish habitat and stream bank stability. Do not cut the limbs or trunk without specific written approval.

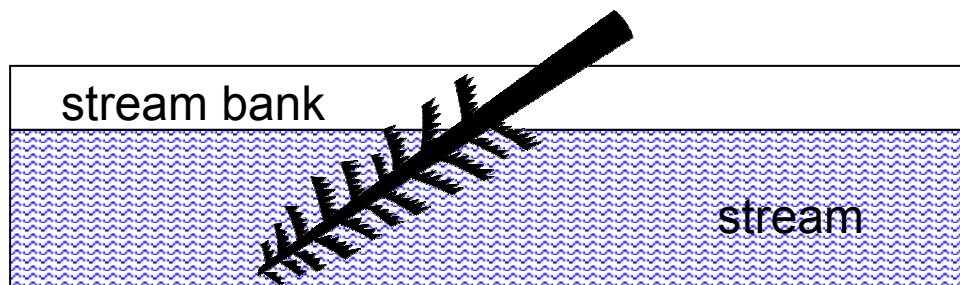


Exhibit 2. Standards for trees on stream banks.

Request to treat Hazard Trees

Summer Homes, Resorts, Summer Camps, Club sites

Tract, cabin # or camp: _____ # _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Number of trees marked for this request: _____

Color of flagging or ribbon indicating these trees: _____

REMEMBER:

- * Mark tree with survey ribbon, please, before mailing this request form to the Forest Service.
- * Include hand drawn map of tree location on your lot. We appreciated information on if the trees are alive or dead. **(Ok to draw schematic on back of this form).**
- * Portions of the tree greater than 9 inches diameter (wider than a standard page) are to be left on your lot in a minimum of 10 foot long sections.
- * The Permittee is responsible for slash treatment in all hazard tree actions.