



Wildlife Tree Committee of British Columbia

Bulletin to WDT Assessors – April 20, 2009 Wildfire Manual Updated

This bulletin summarizes the updates made to the Wildfire module by the Wildlife Tree Committee (WTC) in 2009. The updates are minor and provide better clarity and consistency across the three WDTAC modules.

Wildlife/Danger Tree (WDT) Assessors should review the revised course manuals and field cards as posted on the WTC website

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/values/wildlife/WLT/Training/index.htm>

- 1) To provide consistency across the three WDTAC modules, the course background along with the goals and objectives were added.
- 2) Wildlife Tree Classification: a more in-depth description has been added.
- 3) Wildlife Trees and the process of tree death and decay: to provide wildfire assessors with more reference material this section was added.
- 4) References made to road usage in **Table 2 (Determining LOD)** were corrected. Road travel by heavy equipment is LOD-1 if the road is permanent and has a cleared Right-of-Way (ROW), while travel on temporary roads or roads without ROW clearance is LOD 2/3
- 5) Following the WTC bulletin "**Significant Hazard Indicators for LOD-1**" July 2008, the significant hazard indicators for the LOD 1 decadence criteria (**Table 3**) was updated to utilize the tree classifications for deciduous trees and to list soft snags as an example of a decadent stem (regardless of the absence of heart rot conks). Assessors must recognize that soft snags (class 7-8 conifers and class 5 deciduous) may not have any heart rot conks present but are unstable by default.
- 6) To follow the guidance from the WTC bulletin "**Hazardous Top Defect**" July 7, 2008, the defect descriptor for "Hazardous Top" (HT) has been revised by expanding the term to include all forms of defective tops. Secondary tops are regarded as an *example* of a defective top and Tables 3A and 3B are revised accordingly. The glossary was expanded with a definition for hazardous top and the term secondary top was amended.



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7) The presence of a cavity nest indicates the presence of decay and internal stem weakness and should be considered as STEM DAMAGE and subsequently rated as Dangerous for LOD 2, 3 and 4 unless other information is available. Assessors will record their presence as a form of “Stem Damage” (SD).

8) Updates to the FS 502 B reference cards were completed to be consistent with the student handbook edits. Edits were mainly for clarifications, to remove redundancies and to create consistencies across the WDTAC modules. The sap rot threshold for Douglas fir at LOD 2/3 was corrected.