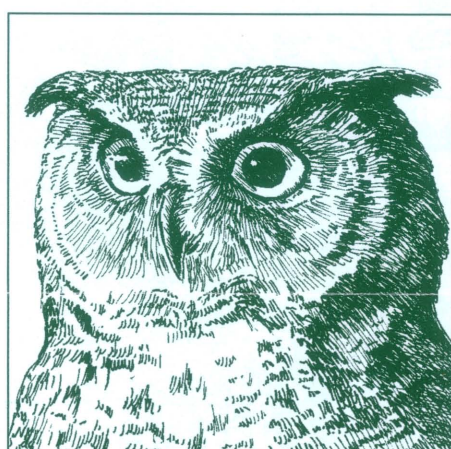


RED-TAILED HAWK



GREAT HORNED OWL



NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL



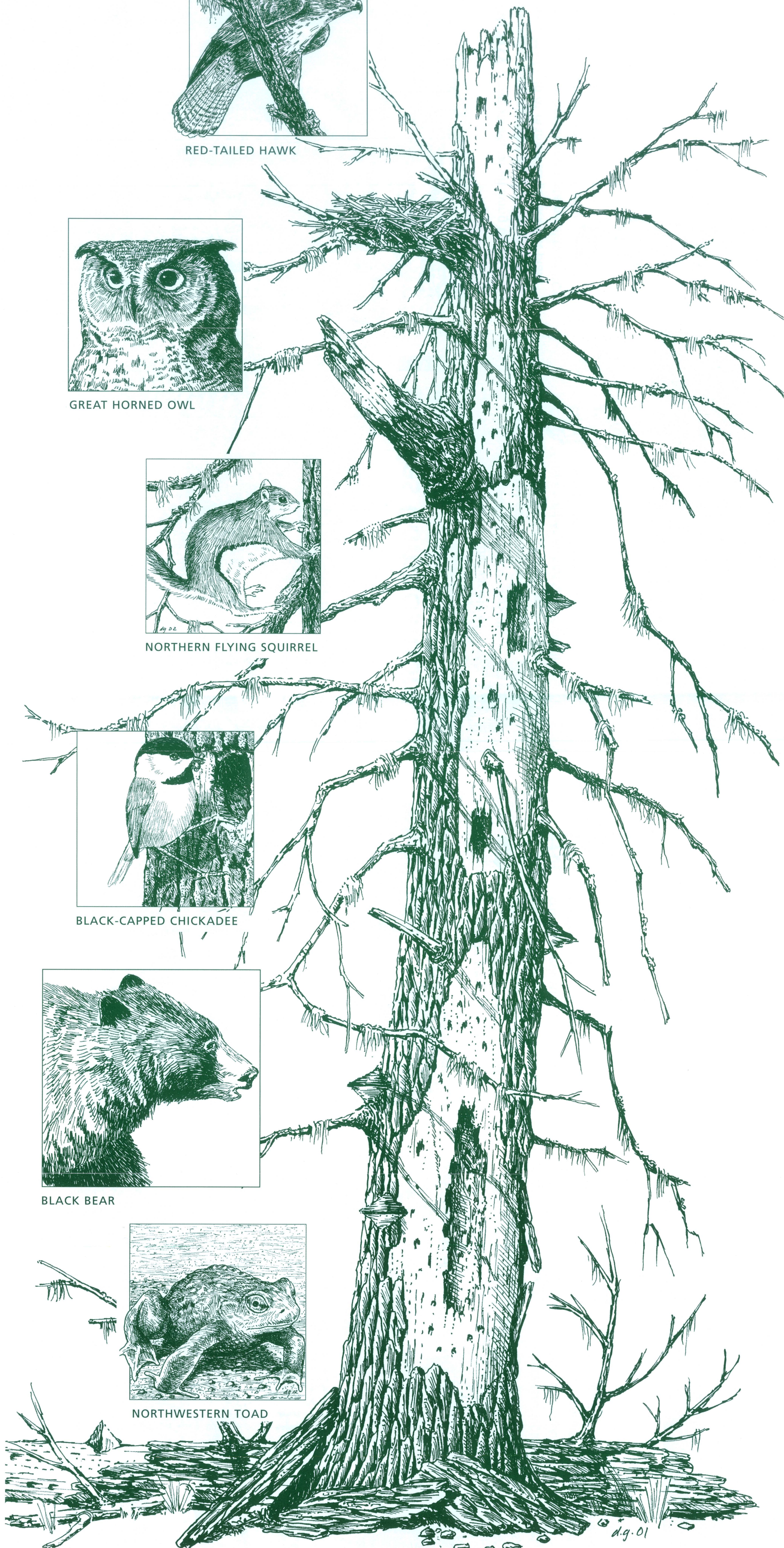
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE



BLACK BEAR



NORTHWESTERN TOAD



# Wildlife Trees

A wildlife tree is a dead or live tree that provides valuable and sometimes critical habitat for wildlife. Over 80 species of animals in BC are known to be dependent on wildlife trees.

## A High Value Wildlife Tree Has at Least 2 of These Characteristics:

- Internal decay — heart rot or cavities present
- Crevices present — loose bark or cracks suitable for bats
- Large brooms present
- Active or recent wildlife use: e.g., woodpecker holes, nests, owl pellets, discarded tree cones, fresh wood chips
- Current insect infestation
- Tree structure suitable for wildlife use (e.g., bear den, hunting perch, large nest, etc.)
- Largest tree on site (height and/or diameter) and /or veterans
- Locally important wildlife tree species

## Who Uses Wildlife Trees?

- **Primary cavity excavators** — birds that dig into decaying wood: woodpeckers.
- **Secondary cavity users** — animals that don't make their own holes but move into existing ones: owls, swallows, ducks, raccoons, marten, squirrels, mice.
- **Open nesters** — birds that build large heavy nests: Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Bald Eagle, large hawks and owls.
- **Mammals** — Bats roost and rear young under bark and in cavities, caribou feed on lichens which grow on old or dying trees, bears use large hollows to hibernate in.

- **Amphibians** — Salamanders and toads use wildlife trees for shelter, food, and as safe, moist sites to lay their eggs.
- **Insects** — ants and termites chew up wood and add nutrients to the soil

## Wildlife Tree Patches

From a habitat perspective, larger wildlife tree patches are usually more valuable than smaller patches. If possible, distribute patches throughout the cutblock.

## High Value Wildlife Tree Patches:

- contain high value wildlife trees
- are located in areas with surrounding forest cover
- have good access to food and water sources
- are windfirm
- include diverse plant communities
- have an undisturbed forest floor