

National Forest Inventory – Woody Debris, Transect 2
Surface Substrate Tally

Instructions: For every meter along woody debris transect (corrected to horizontal), to the edge of the large tree plot, check box applicable to surface substrate type. For organic and buried wood, measure and record depth in cm. Total the number of surface substrate occurrences in each category. Note: in plots where the organic layer is > 30 cm, depth measurements only need to be recorded every 2nd meter of transect. **For surface substrate definitions, see back of card.**

Data ID

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National Forest Inventory – Surface Substrate Definitions

Surface Substrate	Definition
Organic matter	Superficial accumulations of organic materials include the following: ▪ organic layers ≥ 1 cm thick overlying mineral soil, cobbles, stones or bedrock; ▪ layers of decaying wood < 10 cm thick; ▪ large animal droppings; and ▪ areas covered by mats of bunchgrasses (mats include L horizons).
Buried wood	The proportion of the ground surface covered by buried wood: ▪ class 5 woody debris with $> 50\%$ below the surrounding surface; ▪ does not include freshly fallen material that has yet to decompose; ▪ may be covered by mosses, lichens, liverworts, or other plants; ▪ if an organic layer has developed over the wood, buried wood must be > 10 cm thick otherwise it is classed as "organic matter".
Decaying wood	Fallen trees, large branches on the ground surface, and partially buried stumps with an exposed edge: ▪ does not include freshly fallen material that has not yet begun to decompose (e.g. decay class 1 and 2 logs); ▪ may be covered with mosses, lichens, liverworts, or other plants; ▪ if an organic layer has developed over the wood, decaying wood must have $> 50\%$ of its thickness above the surrounding surface, otherwise it is classed as "buried wood".
Bedrock	Bedrock includes exposed consolidated mineral material: ▪ may have a partial covering of mosses, lichens, liverworts, or other epilithic plants; ▪ does not qualify as bedrock if covered by unconsolidated mineral or organic material ≥ 1 cm in thickness.
Rock or cobbles and stones	Rock (cobbles and stones) include exposed unconsolidated rock fragments > 7.5 cm in diameter: ▪ may be covered by mosses, lichens, liverworts; or an organic layer < 1 cm in thickness; ▪ does not include gravels < 7.5 cm in diameter.
Mineral Soil	Unconsolidated mineral material of variable texture not covered by organic materials: ▪ may have a partial cover of mosses, lichens, and liverworts; ▪ often associated with cultivation, tree tip-ups, active erosion or deposition, severe fires, trails, or late snow retention areas; ▪ includes small cobbles and gravel < 7.5 cm in diameter; ▪ areas of living grass or forb cover where mineral soil is visible between stems are classed as mineral soil, as are exposed Ah or Ap horizons.
Water	Streams or areas of open water in bogs or fens.