

Appendix 6. Wildlife tree classification for coniferous trees

From: *Vegetation Resource Inventory Ground Sampling Procedures*. 2002. B.C. Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Terrestrial Information Branch for the Resource Inventory Committee.
See <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/tib/veginv/publications.htm>.

Tree class	DEAD				DEAD FALLEN				
	Hard		Spongy	Soft					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Description	Live/healthy: no decay; tree has valuable habitat characteristics such as large, clustered branches, or horizontal, thickly moss-covered branches.*	Live/unhealthy: internal decay or growth deformities (including insect damage, broken tops); dying tree.*	Dead: needles or twigs may be present; roots sound.	Dead: no needles/twigs; 50% of branches lost; loose bark; top usually broken; roots stable.	Dead: most branches/bark absent; some internal decay; roots of larger trees stable.	Dead: no branches or bark; sapwood/heartwood sloughing from upper bole; decay more advanced; lateral roots of larger trees softening; smaller ones unstable.	Dead: extensive internal decay; outer shell may be hard; lateral roots completely decomposed; hollow or nearly hollow shells.	Dead: extensive internal decay; outer shell may be hard; lateral roots completely decomposed; hollow or nearly hollow shells.	Debris: downed trees or stumps.
Uses and users	Nesting (e.g., Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron colonies, Marbled Murrelet); feeding, roosting, perching.	Nesting/roosting ¹ —strong PCEs ² (woodpeckers); SCUJs ³ ; large-limb and platform nests (Ospreys); insect feeders.	Nesting/roosting—strong PCEs; SCUJs; bats.	Nesting/roosting—PCEs; SCUJs; insect feeders.	Nesting/roosting—weak PCEs (nuthatches, chickadees); SCUJs; bats; insect feeders.	Weaker PCEs; SCUJs; insect feeders; salamanders; small mammals; hunting perches.	Insect feeders; salamanders; small mammals; occasionally used by weak cavity excavators such as chickadees.	Insect feeders; salamanders; small mammals; hunting perches; occasionally used by weak cavity excavators such as chickadees.	Insect feeders; salamanders; small mammals; drumming logs for grouse; flicker foraging; nutrient source.

¹ Large witches' brooms provide nesting/denning habitat for some species (e.g., fisher, squirrels).

³ SCUJ = secondary cavity user

² PCE = primary cavity excavator

* This classification system does not recognize root disease trees specifically. Such trees become unstable at or before death.

