

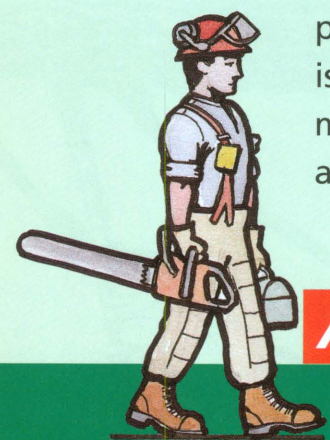
# Stand Level Biodiversity



## Species Composition

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

Maintaining the variety of native trees and understory plant communities in a stand is key to ensuring biodiversity: more types of habitat for wildlife and plants are retained.



### ACTION

- Tree species that are uncommon in a stand should be retained, singly or in clumps
- Leave some mature and immature deciduous species
- Conserve understory plant communities
- Protect rare and endangered plants, animal species and **Special Habitats**

**Biodiversity** is the variety of all living things and the processes that link them. Forest ecosystems are very complex, made up of many interdependent plant and animal species. The health and sustainability of BC's forests depends on conserving this diversity of life. This poster highlights biodiversity management and action strategies for forest workers at the stand level.

Forest workers are the "front line" in sustaining biodiversity. Your actions during layout, road-building and harvesting make a difference to BC's forests.

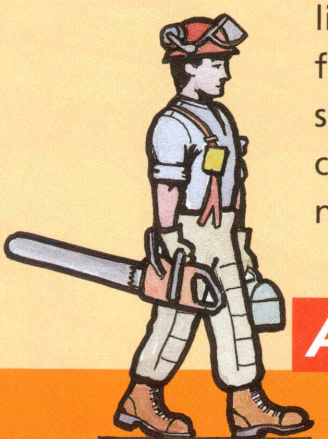


## Wildlife Trees

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION



A wildlife tree is any dead or live tree that provides habitat for wildlife. In BC, over 80 wildlife species depend on wildlife trees for critical needs such as food, shelter, nesting, denning, and hunting perches.



### ACTION

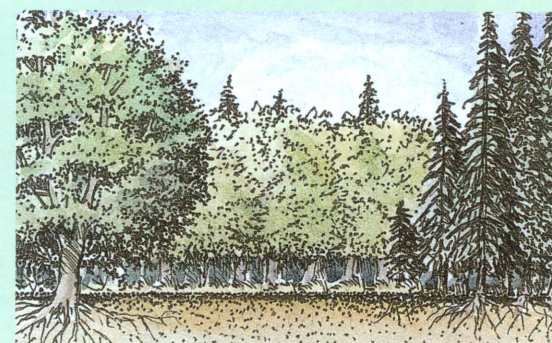
- Use a range of WTR approaches, e.g., keep several wildlife tree patch sizes and dispersed trees, and locate patches within **Special Habitats**
- Tall, large diameter trees often become the best wildlife trees
- WTR patches should be large enough to be windfirm and include diverse plant communities.

### WildLife Tree Retention (WTR)



## Vertical and Horizontal Stand Structure

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING



Stands with structural diversity such as multiple canopy layers, gaps, understory plants, and a variety of tree sizes, species and ages provide many habitats for wildlife that forage, nest and roost in the forest.



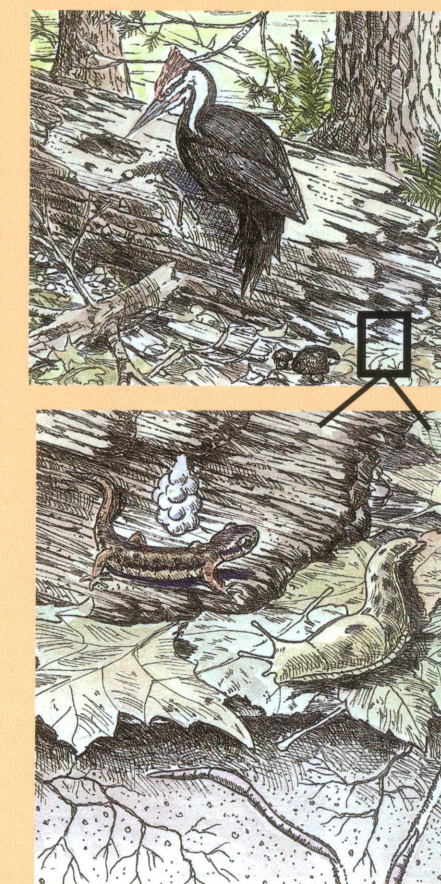
### ACTION

- Maintain multiple canopy layers and opening sizes
- Keep a wide variety of tree sizes: heights and diameters including some large, old trees (vets)
- Keep some deciduous trees, any unique species and **Wildlife Trees**.

## Coarse Woody Debris

BIGGER IS BETTER

Coarse woody debris (CWD) is sound and rotting logs, large pieces of wood, stumps and branches. It provides habitat for plants, animals and insects, soil nutrients, and retains moisture.



## Forest Floor

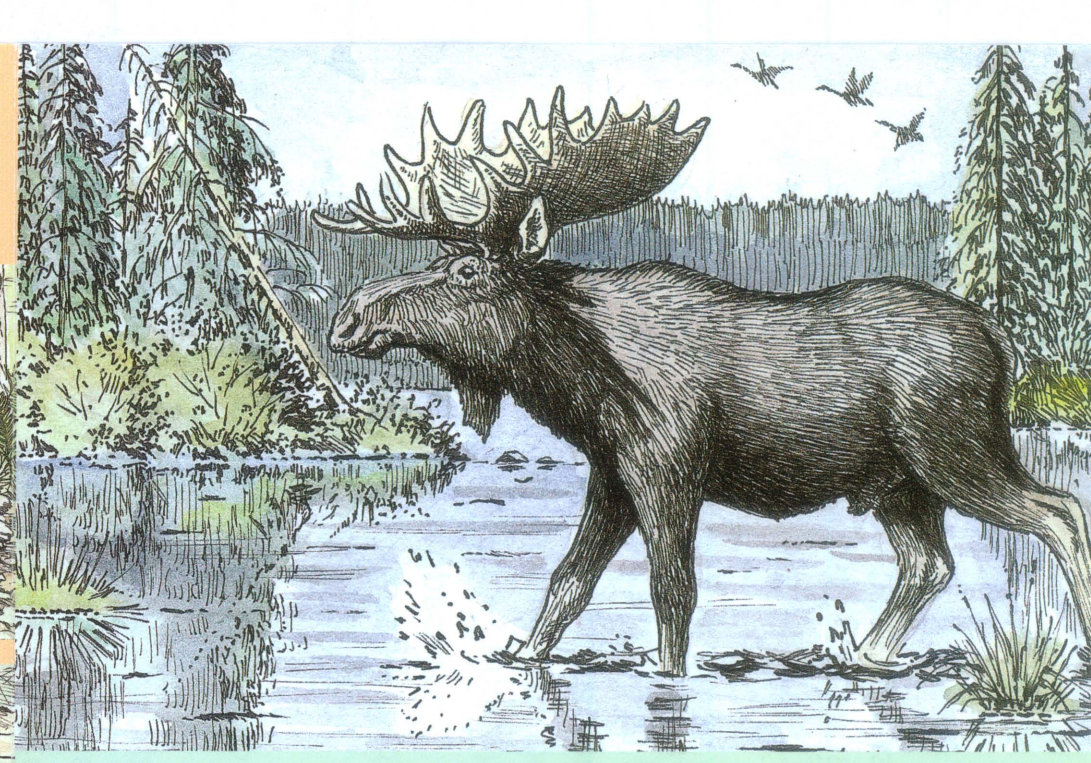
THE WORLD BENEATH YOUR FEET

Look way down. Below your feet are the greatest number and variety of living things in the forest. The forest floor is the humus, decomposing matter and fresh leaf litter above the mineral soil layer. It contains thousands of insects, worms, fungi and bacterial decomposers essential to soil nutrition, water retention and tree growth.



### ACTION

- Minimize disturbance to the **Forest Floor** especially in reserve areas: limit loss of organic matter, soil compaction and burning
- Disperse **CWD**: don't haul it to the road side. Avoid handling it, and don't drive over it
- Long, large diameter logs make the best **CWD** as they last longer, hold more moisture, and can be used by more living things.



## Special Habitats

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME



These are unique features like riparian areas, gullies, wetlands, rock outcrops and cave entrances. They provide important habitat for wildlife and plants specifically adapted to these features. They often make excellent places to centre **wildlife tree** patches.

### ACTION

- Do not disturb — leave them in reserve areas whenever possible
- Protect rare and endangered plant and animal species and habitats.

