

CULTURALLY MODIFIED TREES

This brochure is a field guide to the identification and management of culturally modified trees (CMT's). It is intended for loggers and other workers who may encounter these trees during their field work.

WHAT ARE CULTURALLY MODIFIED TREES?

The most common CMT's are trees that have been altered by aboriginal people as a part of their traditional use of the forest. However, CMT's can also be trees that have been altered by First Nations, after 1846. These younger trees are not archaeological sites, but may be an indication of First Nations use of the land.

WHY ARE THESE TREES PROTECTED?

CMT's are part of our history, and may be considered to be archeological sites subject to protection under the Heritage Conservation Act. They may also be considered to be a cultural heritage resource under legislation and therefore require appropriate management measures before continuing with operations.

WHAT DO THESE TREES LOOK LIKE?

The next page of the brochure contains photographs and descriptions of some common (but not all) culturally modified trees that you might find in a BCTS Business Area.

WHAT IF I FIND A CULTURALLY MODIFIED TREE?

If you find a culturally modified tree, you are required (by law) to do the following:

- 1) **Stop** working in the immediate vicinity of the CMT. This would generally mean 2 tree heights distance, but should be whatever distance is necessary to protect the CMT; *and*
- 2) Promptly advise your BCTS representative of what you have found, and where it is.

The penalty for not taking both of these actions can be a significant fine.

WHAT IF I CUT A CULTURALLY MODIFIED TREE?

The penalty for cutting a CMT will depend on whether it was cut accidentally, or deliberately. The Forest and Range Practices Act provides for a penalty of a monetary fine or imprisonment or both.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CMT's?

Contact your local BC Timber Sales Office for further information about culturally modified trees.



BARK-STRIPPED TREES

Bark stripping occurred predominantly on thin-bark species like Lodgepole pine, cedar, spruce and aspen. The strips were made by cutting the bark (often at breast height), and then pulling the bark downwards. Bark-strip scars, therefore, have relatively straight edges (especially at the top of the scar), and are rectangular or slightly narrow at the bottom of the tree (*natural scars tend to be wide at the bottom and narrow at the top*). Tool marks are also common on bark-strip scars, while they do not occur on natural scars. Bark-stripped trees can occur singly, or in groups, and usually near aboriginal trails or camps.

TOOL MARKS

Tool marks are the best indicator of culturally modified trees.



trapsets.

OTHER CMT's

Some of the other CMT's you may find include:

- Kindling collection trees (indicated by chop marks);
- Blazed or delimbed trees on aboriginal trails;
- Sap collection trees (indicated by cuts on the bark, or by small holes cut in trees);
- Message trees (bark-stripped trees with symbols painted or carved on the scar);
- Arborglyph (carved) or arborgraph (painted) trees; *or*
- Entwined or shaped standing trees, or trees with chopped alcoves for placing

If you think you have found a culturally modified tree, but are not sure, stop work and contact your BCTS representative!