



# Wildlife Tree Requirements

The following is required in any given 20 ha area within a harvest block or for the entire block when the block is less than 20 ha:

All requirements below include the provision 'when available'; in situations where wildlife tree requirements cannot be achieved because trees are too small, requirements will be considered to be met if suitable types of trees are retained from the largest size class available.



- **Wildlife trees must be  $\geq 10$  cm DBH and  $\geq 3$  m in height** unless 'large' wildlife trees/stubs or cavity, veteran trees or supercanopy trees are to be retained in which case the minimum DBH is  $\geq 25$  cm.
- Retain an average of  **$\geq 25$  stems/ha**
  - Wildlife trees will generally be well dispersed;
  - Retain an average of at least 15 individual stems/ha and the remaining stems may occur in clumps
- Of the  $\geq 25$  stems/ha, retain an average of  **$\geq 10$  large stems/ha**
  - Of these a minimum of **5 large living trees** on each ha;
  - **Large wildlife trees must be a minimum of  $\geq 25$  cm DBH and  $\geq 38$  cm DBH are preferred**, however supercanopy trees will generally be  $\geq 60$  cm DBH.
  - The  $\geq 10$  large trees/ha will be a mix of living cavity trees, stubs, supercanopy trees, veteran trees, mast trees, diversity trees, and safe dead trees.
- Underutilized species such as larch, cedar and birch will receive a high priority for retention. Smaller proportions of black spruce, poplar and jack pine will also be left as retention trees.
- Large hollow trees and those providing existing nesting or denning sites are preferred as cavity trees.
- When the number of large wildlife trees averages  $< 25$ /ha, additional wildlife tree requirements may be met by retaining small safe standing dead trees, small stubs or any other living trees.
- Do not stub or knock down trees retained to meet specific wildlife functions such as cavity trees, mast trees, veteran trees and supercanopy trees.
- Do not stub trees being relied upon as a seed source.
- When stubbing stub to a minimum height of  $\geq 3$  m (5 m is preferred) and have stubs scattered throughout the clearcut.



# Types of Large Wildlife Trees



## Living cavity trees

Cavity trees have existing cavities in the trunk or on main limbs, or characteristics suggesting they may develop cavities in the near future (e.g., fungal conks). In the past, these trees were sometimes referred to as 'snags' or 'snag trees'.

## Stubs

A stub is a live tree that has been cut (and killed) well above the normal stump height (i.e., 3-5 m high). In managed forests, the 'stubbing' of live trees is increasingly being used when the objective is to emulate some of the physical properties of a tree that died quickly during a catastrophic natural event (e.g., wildfire).

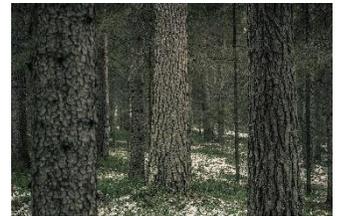


## Supercanopy trees

Supercanopy trees are large, living, individual trees that tower over the forest canopy.

## Veteran trees

Trees with characteristics (e.g., thick bark) that allow them to survive a stand initiating disturbance, such as a fire, and eventually grow to become supercanopy trees in the future mature stand.



## Mast trees

Mast trees are trees that produce edible fruits. Mast is usually described as hard mast (e.g., acorns) or soft mast (e.g., cherries).

## Diversity trees

Diversity trees are tree species that occur infrequently or are uncommon for the forest type.



## Safe dead trees

Only dead trees that are clear of roadways and work zones, or that do not pose an obvious, immediate threat to safety should be selected as safe dead trees.