



Forest Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Carson National Forest | June 2023

What is happening to the trees at Hopewell Lake Campground?



Fruiting bodies of the fungus Onnia tomentosa form during monsoon season, USDA Forest Service photo

Tomentosus root rot is a naturally occurring forest disease found across the West that spreads underground between tree roots. All the conifer tree species here at Hopewell Lake Campground have the potential to be infected by Tomentosus root rot, especially the spruce, and infection was found to be quite widespread in 2022 ground surveys. During strong winds, trees with severely weakened roots can come crashing down. To protect people and property, many trees showing signs (mushroom-like fruiting bodies growing near infected trees), symptoms, or other indications of being infected were removed from this campground and will be replaced with trees less susceptible to this root disease. Even with these trees removed, the fungus that causes the root rot will remain in the soil and surrounding roots or stumps for decades.



Honeycomb-like decay of a spruce stump caused by Tomentosus root rot, USDA Forest Service photo

Healthy trees here in Hopewell Lake Campground typically display pointed tops and full crowns. Trees infected by Tomentosus root rot may appear thinner and slightly yellow. But appearances can deceive. Sometimes these visual hints don't become obvious until the roots are severely decayed, and sometimes healthy-appearing trees will fall due to this disease. Close inspection of these fallen trees can reveal extensive, previously hidden decay. Roots weakened by Tomentosus root rot appear honeycombed.

For more information, visit:
[www.fs.usda.gov/r3/
resources/health/field-guide/
pages/RootDisease.shtml](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r3/resources/health/field-guide/pages/RootDisease.shtml)



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