

Request to Treat Hazard Trees

Naches Ranger District

Complete Form and return to: Naches Ranger District
Attn: Special Uses
10237 Highway 12
Naches, WA 98937

Location (Tract & Cabin #, Camp or Site): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of trees marked for this request: _____

Color of flagging or ribbon indicating these trees: _____

Instructions:

- ❖ Mark tree with survey ribbon before submitting this request form to the Forest Service. If possible, number the trees on the ribbon to assist with identification/evaluation.
- ❖ Include map of tree location. You can use the back of this form to draw the tree locations, please include locations of structures, utilities at risk, or other landmarks. If possible, please include pictures of identified trees.
- ❖ Portions of the tree greater than 9 inches diameter are to be left on the ground in a minimum of 10-foot-long sections.
- ❖ The Permit Holder is responsible for all hazard tree actions, including felling and clean up.

Hazard Tree Map

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Naches Ranger District

Hazard Tree Process

As the permit holder, you are responsible for identifying hazard trees on and adjacent to your permitted site. Read your permit carefully and contact us for clarification of any aspects that you do not fully understand. It is recommended that you examine the condition of the trees within striking distance of structures and other improvements on each visit. Conditions can change very rapidly.

Step 1: Identify and Notify

Approval Not Required. Dead or hanging limbs and dead trees or dead shrubs less than 20 feet tall or 7 inches in diameter may be able to be addressed without specific approval. It is advised to include them on your Hazard Tree form to better inform District staff of conditions around your permitted area. If there are multiple dead trees, regardless of size, this could be an indicator of a serious problem.

Approval Required. Cutting of trees taller than 20 feet and the cutting of all live shrubs or trees requires review and written approval. Tie surveyor's ribbon around the tree(s) of concern, complete the Hazard Tree Request form, including a sketch map indicating the location of the identified vegetation and return it to our office.

Bona fide Emergencies. In situations that present an immediate threat to life or property (e.g. a broken or uprooted tree lodged in another tree or leaning or resting on a cabin, outbuilding, propane tank, etc.) contact our office immediately. Staff can work with you to expedite the Approval process for the identified hazard.

Step 2: Review. We will conduct a site visit to evaluate whether the identified trees satisfy the established hazard tree criteria.

Step 3: Notification. You will receive written notification following our site visit with the actions you are approved to take. Please be advised that in some cases trees may not be approved, this is most common with live, healthy trees. With very few exceptions, our Permitted sites are located within or adjacent to habitat for plants, animals or fish protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Consequently, there will likely be some specific requirements for how the approved trees must be treated. It is very important that these requirements be met.

Step 4: Removal and Disposal. You may utilize the material from this project that is smaller than 9 inches in diameter. Needles, branches, trunk fragments, bark and other debris resulting from cutting the tree is referred to as "slash". Except for trees felled into a stream or lake (see Exhibit 2.), you are required to dispose of slash with proper authorizations and precautions by mechanically chipping or burning it. Burning may only be accomplished in established campfire rings or pits in compliance with any Public Use Restrictions that may be in place. You are not authorized to burn any piles on National Forest System lands outside of the previously mentioned campfire rings. If you are unsure how to accomplish this, please ask us. Do not pile the slash on your lot for an extended period or deposit it elsewhere on the forest. Concentrations of dead, dry vegetation create an increased fire hazard.

Default Tree Cutting Specifications

(When other requirements are not specified)

Felled trees will be left in the longest segments practical. Ideally the tree would not be cut below the point where it exceeds nine inches in cross-sectional diameter (approximately the width of the short edge of this paper). If cutting is necessary to re-establish access to roadways or a portion of the lot, the tree may be cut into lengths of ten feet or longer.

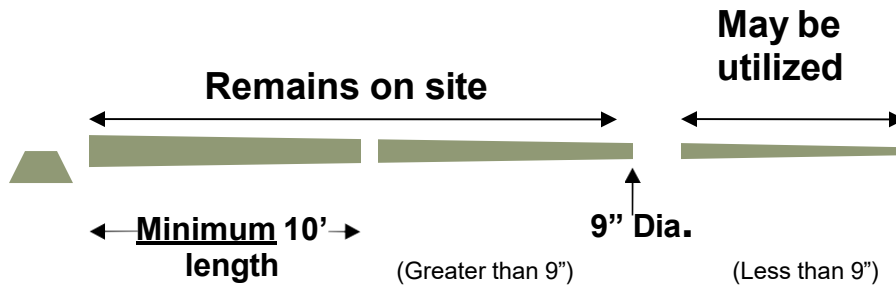


Exhibit 1. Standards for trees to be left on-site.

Hazard trees on or near stream banks should be felled toward or into the stream and left intact to provide fish habitat and stream bank stability. Do not cut the limbs or trunk without specific written approval.

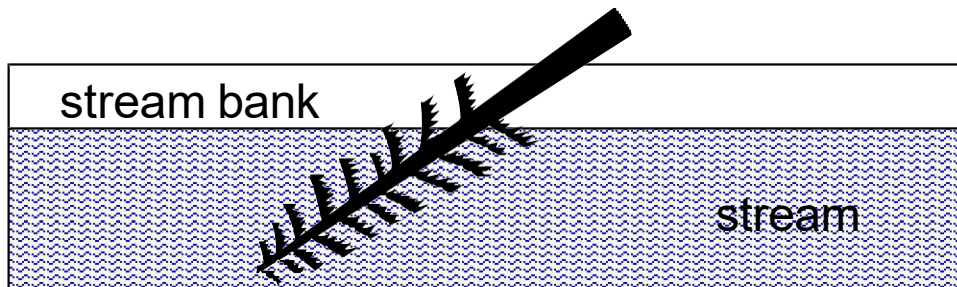


Exhibit 2. Standards for trees on stream banks.