

Appendix: Examples of Forest Structures That May Provide Wildlife Habitat

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The photos in this appendix may help identify some of the unique branching formations or bole characteristics in trees that can make a tree particularly valuable for wildlife, either for nesting, roosting, and use as hunting perches, or other uses. We have organized these following Bull et al.'s (1997)³ focus on five conditions: live trees with decay, hollows or brooms, snags, and logs. We've also included in these photos examples of understory areas with vertical diversity and hiding cover created by the retention of understory saplings, intermediate-sized trees, hardwoods, and brush.

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³ Bull, E.L.; Parks, C.G.; Torgersen, T.R. 1997. Trees and logs important to wildlife in the interior Columbia River basin. Gen. Tech. Rep. GTR-PNW-391. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 55 p.



Figure A-1—Live tree with hollow structure. The tree has an old dead top with cavity nests and a new healthy top leader grown up along side, providing some shelter. The tree is healthy overall with a high live crown ratio and no ladder fuel concern.

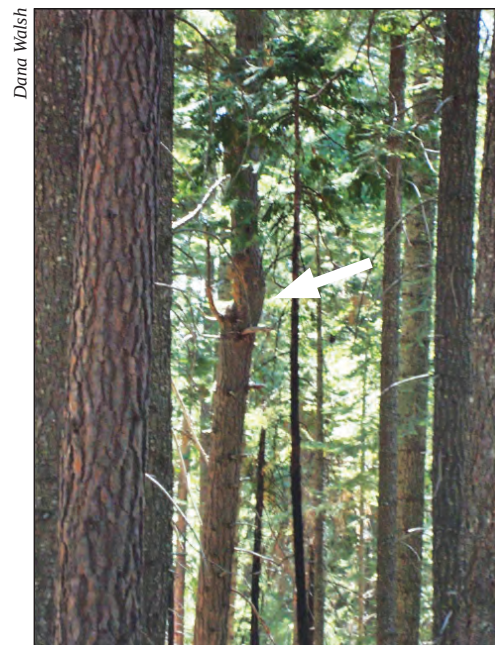


Figure A-2—Live tree with decay. The tree has a potential platform nest site that is somewhat protected by adjacent trees. This site could be used for nesting, or could break and provide a platform for nests or for roosting.



Figure A-3—Live tree with broom structure. The arrow is pointing at a potential nesting site formed by an unusual branching pattern most likely associated with an old break in the bole of the Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirbel) Franco).



Figure A-4—Live tree with broom structure. A relatively young Douglas-fir has a nest associated with its forked top.



Figure A-5—Live tree with broom structure. The tree's unique forking pattern could easily serve as a nest site for a larger bird. In some stands, these types of trees are extremely prevalent, in which case it may not be necessary to leave all trees with this characteristic.



Figure A-6—Live tree with broom structure. A medium-size tree with a snag top that may provide nesting opportunities, especially when protected by surrounding trees.

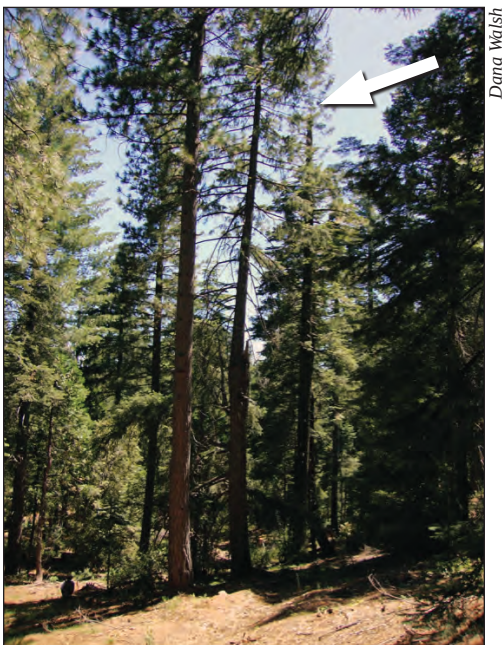


Figure A-7a—Living tree with decay. Older snag-topped trees may provide good nesting opportunities or perching locations, and a source of wood-boring insects that provide ready food sources for woodpeckers or opportunities for cavity-nesting species.



Figure A-7b—Closer view of the snag in the previous photo.

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Figure A-8—Live tree with hollow. Bayonet top trees, such as the sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana* Douglas) in the center, can provide roosting and nesting opportunities in the dead top and the “inner platform” of the arm.



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Figure A-9—Live tree with hollow. The broken-off large limb on this black oak can provide wildlife habitat.

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Figure A-10—Live tree with decay, hollow, and broom structure. Crown reiteration can occur with some broken tops providing unique habitat features.



Craig Thomas

Figure A-11—A snag with extensive cavities, probably created by pileated woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*), which may provide habitat for secondary cavity users.



Malcolm North

Figure A-12—Large logs, even when fairly well decayed, can still provide hiding and resting cover for some wildlife. A northern flying squirrel was tracked with radio telemetry to this location.



Don Errington

Figure A-13—Example of retaining understory trees to provide wildlife hiding cover and vertical diversity. This retained pocket of natural regeneration is on the Sun Dawg Fuels Project, Georgetown Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest.



Don Errington

Figure A-14—An example of retaining intermediate-size conifers and protecting hardwoods. Around a group of overstory trees, understory mixed hardwoods and intermediate-sized conifers were retained to keep an area of diversity within an otherwise relatively uniform stand treatment. The trees that have both blue and orange paint are being retained from a size class that would typically have been removed. The orange paint indicates “retention trees” so that the sale administrator understands that these trees were intentionally retained. The blue paint under it is from the original mark. The Quintette Fuel Reduction Project is on the Georgetown Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest.