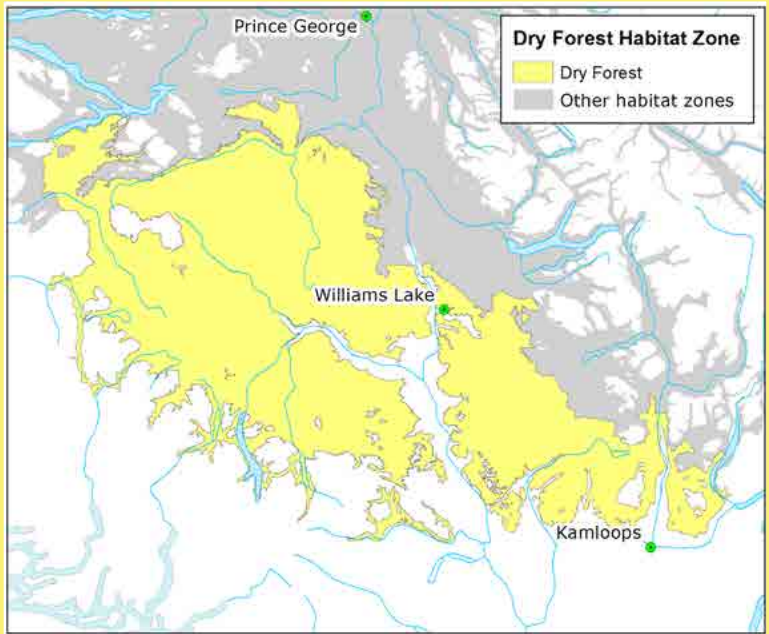


# Fisher Habitat: Dry Forest\*

## Structure Identification



Fishers need forests for 4 different life activities: **denning, resting, foraging,** and **movement.**

These field notes provide a quick reference to identify important structures for fisher denning and resting habitat.

For more information on fishers and fisher habitat visit:

**[www.BCfisherhabitat.ca](http://www.BCfisherhabitat.ca)**

## General Retention Guidelines :

- **Big and Ugly:** Select large diameter trees with some type of defect.
- **Defect:** Retain trees and snags with rot, disease, or damage.





**Denning Habitat:** Fisher are the largest animal in B.C. that requires a tree cavity for keeping babies safe. This is why den trees are often the largest examples of each tree species they use.



Best  
Trees to  
Retain for  
**Denning**

**Cottonwood:**  $\geq 90$  cm dbh

**Aspen:**  $\geq 44$  cm dbh

**Douglas-fir:**  $\geq 65$  cm dbh

**Lodgepole pine:**  $\geq 35$  cm dbh,  
Non-merchantable

- Entrance hole 5–10 cm wide by 7–15 cm tall
- Trees with cavities where bole diameter  $> \sim 40$  cm at entrance hole





**Resting Habitat (Rust Broom Sites)** provide fishers with protection from poor weather and predators.

Best  
Trees to  
Retain for  
**Resting**

**Hybrid spruce**  $\geq 27$  cm dbh

- Trees with rust brooms  $> \sim 40$  cm diameter to provide a platform for fishers







**Resting Habitat (CWD):** CWD provides rest sites for fishers and their prey, especially in winter.





### **Man-made CWD piles:**

- Creating piles through-out cutblocks will help create rest sites in the regenerating stand.
- Pieces should not be stacked neatly, but be in a jumbled pile to create spaces for fishers.

Single Piece CWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\geq 20</math> cm diameter by <math>\geq 10</math> m in length</li> <li>• Elevated 25-50 cm above ground</li> </ul>
Man-made CWD Piles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pile dimensions <math>&gt; 3</math> m wide by 5 m long by 2 m high</li> <li>• CWD piles should have <math>&gt; 30\%</math> pieces <math>&gt; 20</math> cm diameter and <math>&gt; 3</math> m long</li> </ul>



## HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

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\*The guidance in this document is intended to inform fisher habitat managers in B.C., and is not to be interpreted as direction nor is it legally binding.

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