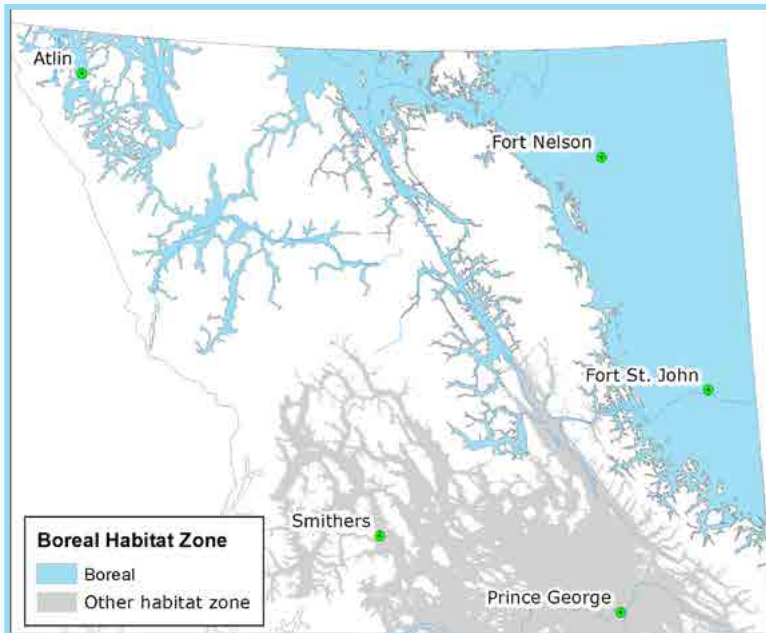


Fisher Habitat: Boreal Forest

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

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

Poplar ≥ 52 cm dbh
Aspen ≥ 40 cm dbh

- 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

White spruce ≥ 31 cm dbh
Black spruce ≥ 17 cm dbh

- Trees have 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	• ≥ 30 cm diameter by ≥ 11 m in length • Elevated 25-50 cm above ground
Man-made CWD Piles	• Pile dimensions > 3 m wide by 5 m long by 2 m high • CWD piles should have $> 30\%$ pieces > 20 cm diameter and > 3 m long



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