



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species
FOR USE TO GUIDE SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY SPECIES

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species* do not have regulatory authority. Therefore, the following are recommendations only. This abbreviated version of a chapter in *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species: Volume IV* (see http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/phs_vol4_birds.pdf) has been streamlined for easier application. Where applicable, these recommendations should be put into practice consistently across a landscape to be most effective. The following recommendations are not site-specific. Where available, a professional in a relevant field (e.g., wildlife biologist) should evaluate the site and surrounding landscape when applying these recommendations.

Attach parcel map with species location indicated if available.

General Recommendations

- Management should be conducted within use areas (home ranges) of pileated woodpeckers.
- Maintain large standing dead trees (snags) and large decaying live trees for nesting and roosting within home ranges.
- Retain large naturally formed stumps and numerous large logs in various stages of decay to improve foraging habitat within home ranges.
- Use average size standards (rather than minimums) for managing pileated woodpecker habitat (e.g., If ≥ 5 snags/acre is recommended, that does not imply that a landowner retain exactly 5 snags on every acre. In this instance, variability in the number of snags from acre-to-acre is preferred).
- A variety of snag creation techniques are available and such techniques can produce suitable snags for pileated woodpeckers in older second growth forests (e.g., removal of tree-top, girdling).

Western Washington

- Estimated nesting/breeding home ranges average 1480 ac surrounding nests west of the Cascades. Larger home ranges are estimated at just over 2100 ac on the Olympic Peninsula.
- Maintain coniferous forests (stands with >70% conifer trees) of about 60 years of age or older at >70% canopy cover. Manage these forests for an average of 2 snags/10 ac that are 30'' in diameter.
- Retain an average of 7 snags/ac $\geq 90'$ in height with diameters ranging between 61-122'' in forests used for both nesting and roosting (Note: Retained trees should consist of those within this diameter range rather than consisting entirely of trees at the minimum recommended diameter).
- In addition to snags retained for nesting and roosting, retain an average of 12 snags/ac as foraging trees in the following size classes:

<u>Size class (diameter)</u>	<u>Snags retained</u>
10-20''	$\geq 7/ac$
20-30 in''	$\geq 3/ac$
> 30''	$\geq 2/ac$

Eastern Washington

- Nesting/breeding home ranges east of the Cascades are approximately 1000 ac.
- Maintain mature forest with several canopy layers within home ranges: the uppermost comprised of large live trees 82-98' in height that can provide cover and eventual replacement of dead trees; large dead trees for nesting; and dead trees and downed wood for foraging.
- Retain 3 snags/ac with at least 20% being $\geq 20''$ in diameter for both nesting and roosting within home ranges. Also retained available snags that are at least 92' tall for nesting structures.
- Retain an average of ≥ 40 logs/ac for foraging, with a preference for logs $\geq 15''$ in diameter.

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Urban/Suburban Areas

- Some of the above recommendations may not be possible due to the availability of trees, snags, and habitat on a proposed development in urban/suburban areas. Where habitat and tree availability is sufficient, follow the western/eastern Washington guidelines above. Where availability is insufficient we recommend the following guidelines:
 - ▶ Target larger forest patches with large trees and snags for conservation during the planning process.
 - ▶ Retain forest in the largest patches available (>74 ac would be considered large). Where large patches are unavailable, smaller patches should be retained; the average size of smaller patches should be no less than approximately 7 ac. This acreage could be attained through cumulative retention by various adjacent landowners within an urban landscape.
 - ▶ Retain or create snags as well as retain live trees in the largest size classes available in the stand.

I have read and understand the above recommendations (s) placed on Parcel # _____ located in the _____ Quarter of _____ Quarter of Section _____, Township _____, Range _____ (East/West meridian) with actual street address of _____.