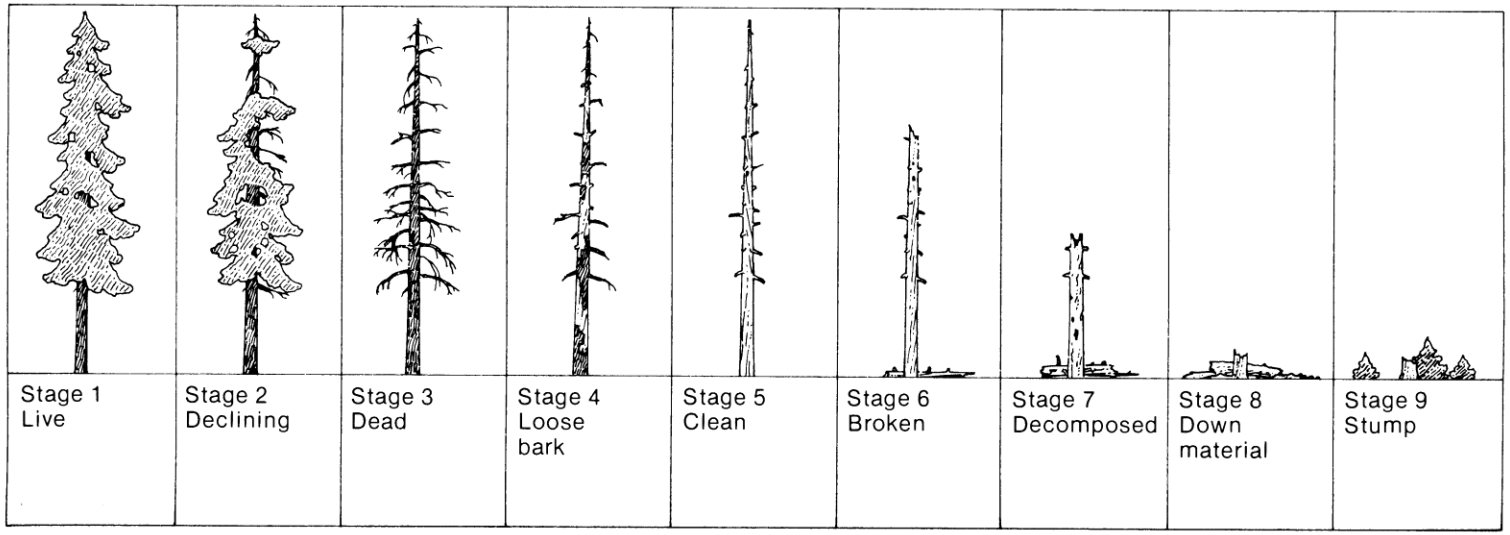
Coarse Woody Debris and Snags in Parks a Valuable Asset

Role of Snags and Woody Debris in Forested Parks

- The BC Ministry of Forests declared: A full range of CWD decay classes, diameter classes and tree species, are important for managed sites. Unmanaged forests contain CWD in all manner of sizes and decay classes and from the full suite of tree species on the site. This supports a variety of ecological processes and organisms. The higher the variability in CWD in managed stands, the higher the number of ecological functions and native species that can be maintained."
- Take Home Message: Imitate Nature.

Snags and Coarse Woody Debris



- Snags are standing dead trees that can be wildlife trees-they become woody debris over time.

The Role of Snags

- **Standing dead trees provide a variety of habitat and food sources for birds, as well as habitat for bats and small mammals.**

Leaving Forest Litter and Coarse Woody Debris While Controlling Fire Hazard.

The Forest Floor Layers

- The forest floor is composed of three layers L,F and H
- The litter layer (L): Consists of recently fallen needles and twigs.
- The fermented layer (F): The litter has decomposed but individual pieces are still recognizable.
- The humus layer (H): It is a black greasy layer –individual pieces cannot be distinguished.

LITTER AND HUMUS LAYERS


Slow Nutrient and
Moisture Release Takes
Place From Decayed Logs

Additional Benefits of Woody Debris:

Habitat for a variety of plants, invertebrates, vertebrates as well as a spectrum of fungi and microscopic organisms.

On Land or Water's Edge

Retain woody debris for future habitat for flora and fauna. Mimic the natural fall from the stand.


Remove Invasive Plants But Leave Scattered Wood and Build Up The Forest Floor.


Don't Pile -Scatter Instead

Reduce Fire Hazard: Bring Tall Dead Materials (Ladder Fuels) to the Forest Floor (Nymph Point).

Bring Dead Hanging Branches or Snags to the Ground When a Threat to the Public -Scatter Large Logs When Possible (Not as Below Formerly Shown on Right in RO Bull Park).