

Hazard Trees

What are Hazard Trees?

Many trees damaged by fire may recover and survive, while others are obviously dead or may die off within 2-6 years. Retaining fire-damaged trees that are likely to live will help mitigate for erosion, as well as preserve natural forest processes and critical habitat.

However, trees impacted by fire can also be classified as hazards and in some cases should be removed to reduce the risk to life and property. A licensed arborist should be consulted to determine stand health and guide decisions to either remove or retain fire-damaged trees.

Recommendations

It is recommended that felled hazard trees and slash be retained on site and used as erosion control measures and to retain nutrients. Other recommendation include:

- Use experienced contractors for hazard tree removal. Tree limbs and branches can be spread across the soil as an erosion control.
- Felled trees can be used to make log erosion barriers by positioning them across the contours of the landscape.
- If practical, a chipper can be used to generate wood chip mulch for use on site.
- Fuel-loading for future fire threat should be considered when using trees and slash as erosion control measures. Suggestions for retained material range from 40-60% ground coverage.
- Avoid placement of felled trees, slash, and debris in drainages that may concentrate flow and mobilize debris.



Resources

The Pure Water Partners (PWP) program is working with local partners (City of Eugene) and contractors to offer free site assessments to identify hazard trees as part of an integrated approach to erosion control on private properties impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire. As part of the site assessment, PWP can work with landowners to fell hazard trees on their property that are located along the river within the riparian area or connected upland areas that are in danger of significant erosion. Trees that are outside the identified erosion control areas will NOT be assessed through the Pure Water Partners program. Property owners should consult a licensed arborist to determine stand health and guide decisions to either remove or retain fire-damaged trees that are not addressed by PWP.

If you are interested in assistance with felling hazard trees and using them as log erosion barriers, please sign up for a PWP site assessment by visiting www.purewaterpartners.org and completing the online application form and access agreement.