

Woody debris

Coarse woody debris include all dead stumps, trunks, and branches greater than 10 cm in diameter that litter the forest floor and watercourses. They are characteristic of natural old-growth forests and contribute to the biological richness of forest stands.

ROLE OF WOODY DEBRIS

- important component of habitat for many species of fungi, wildlife and plants that use it for feeding, perching, shelter, resting or reproduction;
- contributes to the renewal of soil fertility;
- supports the regeneration of various tree species (yellow birch, eastern white cedar and red spruce) that influence the composition of forest stands;
- retains moisture, becoming a refuge in times of drought;
- creates shaded zones in watercourses;
- on slopes, helps stabilise the surface and limit erosion;
- contributes to long-term carbon sequestration.



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ASSOCIATED SPECIES

- Eastern milksnake*, Northern ring-necked snake*, Common gartersnake, Red-bellied snake
- Wood frog
- Woodland vole*
- Rock vole*
- Eastern red-backed salamander, Spotted salamander, Northern blue-spotted salamander, Northern dusky salamander*, Four-toed salamander*
- Eastern Whip-poor-will*
- Wood thrush*
- Canada warbler*

*Species in a precarious situation

THE RENEWAL OF DEAD WOOD IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT WOOD FROM ALL STAGES OF DECOMPOSITION IS PRESENT IN THE FOREST LANDSCAPE.



Leave debris scattered on paths to reduce compaction and damage to the ground.



Leave pre-existing dead wood on the ground and in watercourses.



Follow the recommendations listed in the Snags factsheet.

Illustrations : Sophie-Anne Vachon and Émilie Dumais

For references and to learn more, visit: foretrivee.ca/biodiversite



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