

Snag Decay Classes

Nine Class Method: Hunter 1990

Hunter, M.L. 1990. *Wildlife, Forests, and Forestry: Principles of Managing Forests for Biological Diversity*. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ. 370 p.

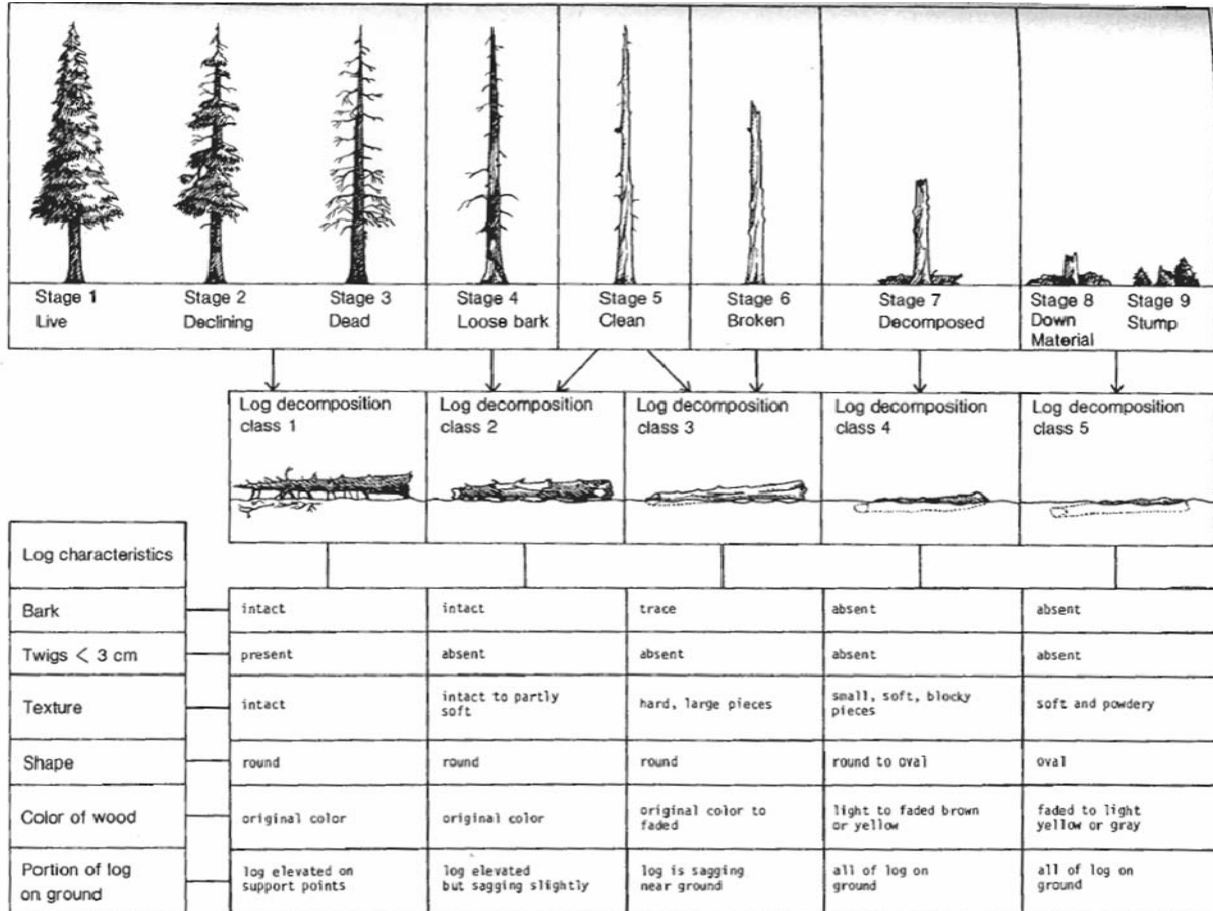


Figure 10.1 and Table 10.2 The gradual decay of snags and logs can readily be seen in many external changes. Note that when a well-decayed snag falls, it enters an advanced stage of log decomposition. (This figure and table are based on a description of the decay of Douglas-fir snags and logs as adapted by Maser et al. 1979, and Thomas et al. 1979c, from Fogel et al. 1973.)

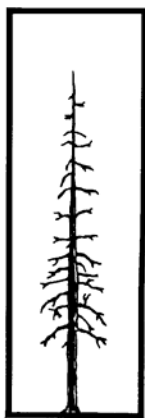
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Five-Class Method: Thomas 1979

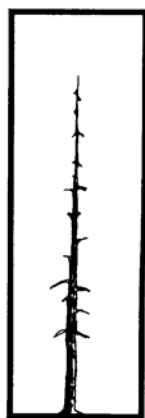
The pictures and descriptions below are adapted from: *Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests of the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington (Agriculture Handbook No. 553)*. Jack Ward Thomas. September 1979. USDA Forest Service.

SNAG DECAY Classes:

Code	Bark	Heartwood Decay	Sapwood Decay	Limbs	Top Breakage	Bole Form	Time Since Death
1	Tight, intact	Minor	None to incipient	Mostly Present	May be present	Intact	1-5 years
2	50% loose or missing	None to advanced	None to incipient	Small limbs missing	May be present	Intact	> 5 years
3	75% missing	Incipient to advanced	None to 25%	Few remain	Approx. $\frac{1}{3}$	Mostly intact	> 5 years
4	75% missing	Incipient to advanced	25% +	Few remain	Approx. $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$	Losing Form, soft	> 5 years
5	75%+ missing	Advanced to crumbly	50% + advanced	Absent	Approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ +	Form mostly lost	> 5 years



Class 1
Dead / recent



Class 2



Class 3



Class 4



Class 5