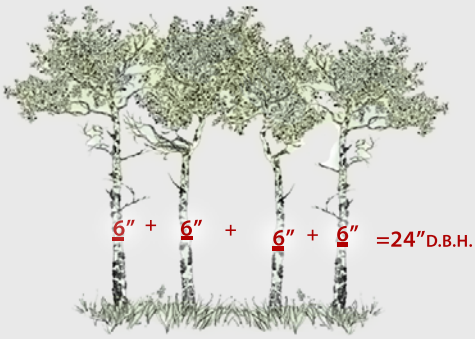
TREE REMOVAL

When is a Permit Required for Tree Removal?

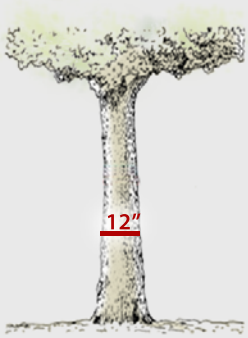
A tree removal permit is required for removing, or altering the natural character of trees 6 inches in D.B.H or greater whose total D.B.H is 24 inches or greater in a 12 month period, or for any tree 12 inches D.B.H. or greater as shown below.

Permit Required

- The total D.B.H. of trees 6" D.B.H. or greater equals 24" or more.
- The D.B.H. of one tree is 12" or more.
- If 200 square feet of vegetation or more will be removed, an earth moving permit is required instead.



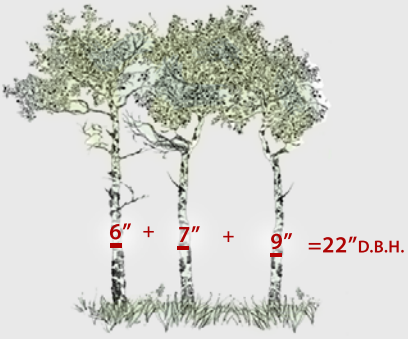
Example 1:



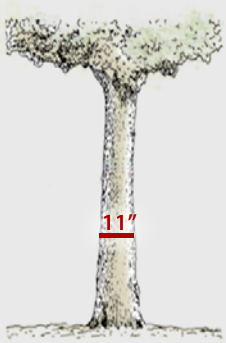
Example 2:

Permit Not Required

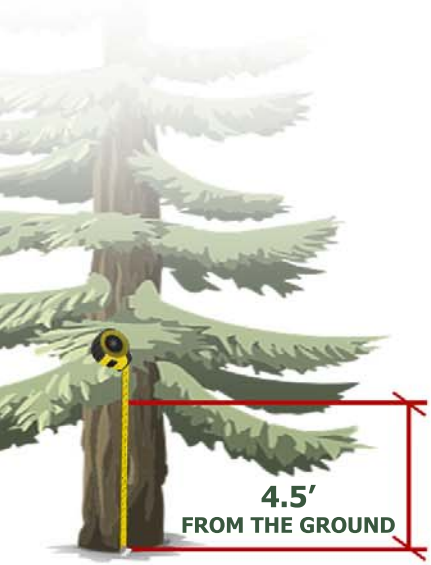
- The total D.B.H. of trees 6" D.B.H. or greater equals less than 24".
- The D.B.H. of one tree is less than 12".



Example 1:



Example 2:

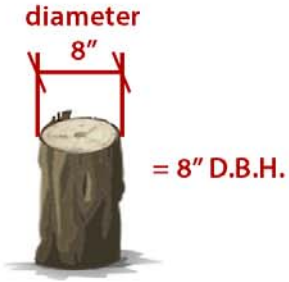


Measure the Diameter - D.B.H

Diameter at breast height (D.B.H.) is the standard for measuring trees.
D.B.H. refers to the diameter of a tree measured at 4.5 feet above the ground.

To measure the D.B.H. of a tree:

1. Measure 4.5 feet up the trunk of the tree from the ground.
2. Wrap a string around the tree trunk at the 4.5 feet mark.
3. Measure the length of string to get the circumference of the tree.
4. Calculate the diameter by dividing the circumference by pi (3.14).



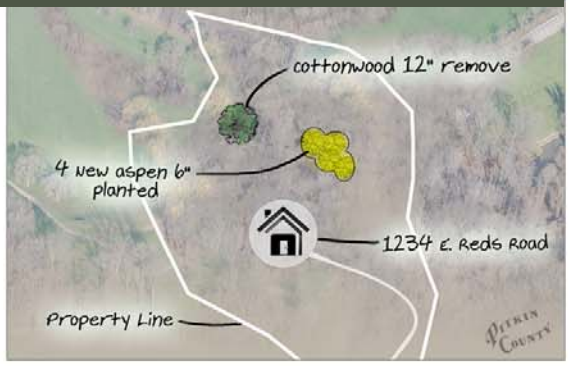
PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- Clearing more than 200 square feet of vegetation without an Earth Moving Permit.
- Removing non-hazardous trees within 100 feet of a riparian or wetland area.
- Removing non-hazardous snags that would leave less than two per acre.
- Removing non-hazardous trees within wildlife production areas.
- Removing non-hazardous trees containing significant wildlife habitat.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PERMIT APPLICATION

- ✔ Tree Removal Permit Application Form
- ✔ Wildfire Hazard or Arborist Assessment if applicable
- ✔ Photos of the site and trees to be removed
- ✔ Site Map
  - Location of property lines, structures, and roads
  - Location of waterways, riparian areas, and wetland areas if applicable
  - Location of the trees to be removed (Label the size & species of each tree)
  - Location where replacement trees will be planted (Label the size & species of each tree)

***** Base maps with property lines and aerial imagery can be created for free using the Pitkin Maps & More tool on the County Website.***



ASSESSING WILDFIRE HAZARD

Wildfires are a natural and necessary occurrence in the ecosystems of Pitkin County. To minimize the risk to property, homeowners need to be proactive with responsible wildfire mitigation.

What is responsible wildfire mitigation? Contact your local fire district or a county recognized wildfire expert to conduct an assessment on your property. If tree removal is advised for wildfire mitigation, permit application fees will be waived. A list of Pitkin County Recognized Wildfire Experts may be found on the County Website.

TREE CARE TIPS

Be aware of the critical root zone.

Do not conduct activity in this sensitive area such as storing building materials, equipment, soil and vehicles. Use tree protection fencing around trees close to construction activity.

Use proper pruning techniques and do not "top" trees.

Tree topping may expose wounds to infection, weaken structure, compromise energy storage, stimulate growth prone to breakage, and destroy a tree's appearance and value.

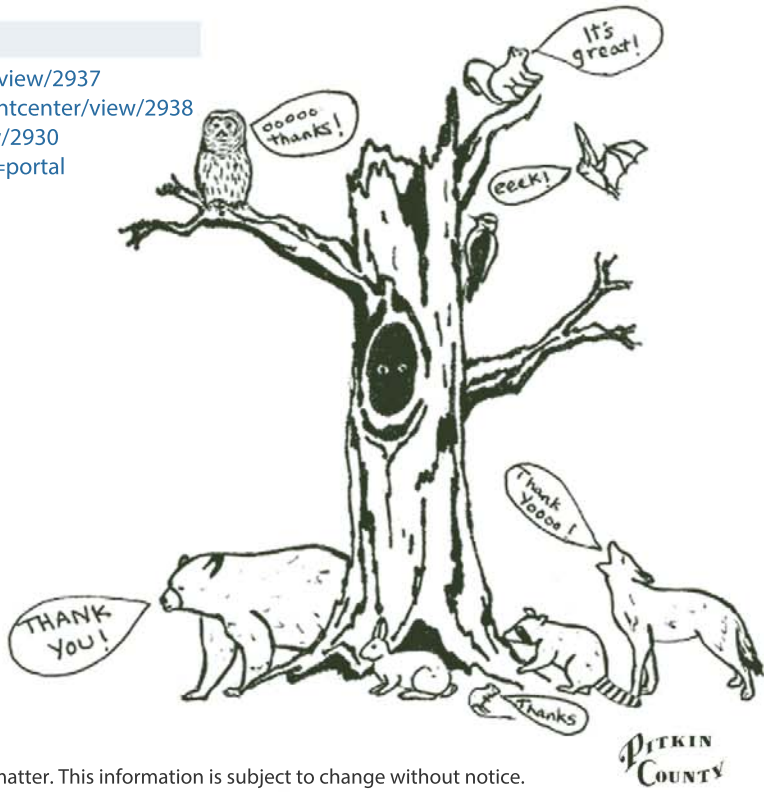
SNAGS

Snags are mature, standing dead or dying trees, and although they may seem unattractive and useless to us, the benefits snags provide to wildlife are immense.

Often these dead trees are in higher demand for wildlife than living ones. So as long as safety isn't a concern, leave a snag or two per acre for wildlife habitat. Hundreds of critters will be thankful you did!

HELPFUL LINKS

Tree Removal Permit Application: www.pitkincounty.com/pats
Pitkin County Revegetation Guide: http://pitkincounty.com/documentcenter/view/2937
Pitkin County Riparian Revegetation Guide: http://pitkincounty.com/documentcenter/view/2938
Pitkin County Wildfire Experts: http://pitkincounty.com/documentcenter/view/2930
Pitkin County GIS Mapping Tool: https://maps.pitkincounty.com/gvh/?viewer=portal
Pitkin County Land Use Code: http://pitkincounty.com/468/County-Code



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This handout is intended to provide a general overview of its subject matter. This information is subject to change without notice.
Reference the Pitkin County Land Use Code for all legal matters and information regarding specific details.