




Tree Removal

What to Consider Before Cutting a Tree

Prior to removing any trees or other vegetation within the RDCO it is important to know if your property is within an Environmental Development Permit (DP) Area. If your property is within a DP Area, a permit may be required from the RDCO before any land alteration occurs, including vegetation removal and tree cutting. You can determine if your property is located within a DPA by using the RDCO Mapping resource or by contacting the RDCO Planning Services Department:

 (250) 469-6227

 planning@rdco.com

 **Mapping:**
<https://gis-rdco.hub.arcgis.com/>

DP Areas:
<https://www.rdco.com/en/business-and-land-use/development-permit-areas.aspx>

It is also important to check the State of Title Certificate (Title) of your property to ensure

there are no restrictive covenants registered to the Title which may restrict vegetation removal. You can obtain a copy of the Title of your property as well as any restrictive covenants from the BC Land Title & Survey office website: <https://ltsa.ca/>

Requirements in Environmentally Sensitive DP Areas

Sensitive Aquatic Ecosystem and Sensitive Terrestrial Ecosystem DP Areas have specific guidelines to protect trees, including large trees, standing dead trees, snags, and logs – all of which are valuable for shelter, critical nesting habitat, and food sources for wildlife. Please refer to the applicable Official Community Plan (OCP) or Joe Rich Rural Land Use Bylaw to understand the specific guidelines and policies in your area.

Benefits of Protecting Trees

- Wildlife habitat
- Slope stability
- Biodiversity

- Air quality/filtration
- Temperature moderation
- Aesthetic value

A permit may not be required if:

- Your property is not within a DP Area;
- The removal of trees or shrubs is designated as hazardous by a Professional Forester registered in BC;
- A tree or shrub is designated as a host tree by the Sterile Insect Release Program as indicated by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) or an ISA Certified Arborist; or
- The removal of infested, diseased, or hazardous trees is in accordance with the BC Ministry of Environment Best Management Practices for Tree Topping, Limbing, and Removal in Riparian Areas, as indicated in a report by a QEP or an ISA Certified Arborist who are certified Wildlife/ Danger Tree Assessors.