

Dead wood as a small-scale structure

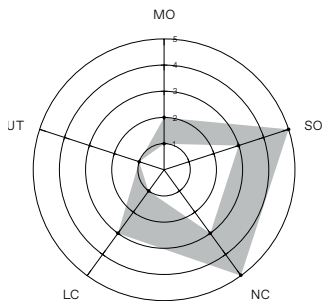
Dead wood is used as a (temporary) habitat or food source by about 5000 different animal species.



Definition

Deadwood is an umbrella term for various forms of dead wood. A distinction is made between standing and lying deadwood, tree and root stumps, and branch piles. Standing deadwood consists of whole trees, trunks, or broken crowns. Lying deadwood includes broken dead branches or fallen trunks, the condition of which mainly depends on the stage of decomposition. Tree stumps are created by felling trees or breakdown of a tree. Branch piles consist of assembled branches from trees or shrubs.

Site requirements



- Moisture (MO)

 - 1 Dry
 - 2 Fresh
 - 3 Moist
 - 4 Wet
 - 5 Always/part. inundated
- Soil (SO)

 - 1 Raw soil
 - 2 Mineral soil (gravelly)
 - 3 Medium humus content
 - 4 Rich in humus
 - 5 Litter-rich humus (duff)
- Nutrient content (NC)

 - 1 Very low
 - 2 Low
 - 3 Moderately low/rich
 - 4 Rich
 - 5 Very rich
- Light conditions (LC)

 - 1 Full sun
 - 2
 - 3 Semi-shade
 - 4
 - 5 Shade
- Utilization (UT)

 - 1 Passive nature experience
 - 2
 - 3 Active utilization temporarily possible
 - 4
 - 5 Active utilization possible

Principles

Fulfilling these guidelines promotes the biodiversity of this habitat type.

- Structure

 - Ensure stability
 - Leave space between branches and keep standing deadwood
- Maintenance

 - Regularly check standing deadwood for safety reasons
- Utilization

 - Extensive or no active use
- Site

 - Sheltered from wind

Advanced requirements

By fulfilling these requirements, the biodiversity of this habitat type is additionally promoted.

- Structure

 - Combination of standing and lying deadwood
- Minimum size

 - > 1 m wide herbaceous border



Planning

- Leave dead trees and shrubs standing when possible
- Align of creation according to maintenance work of woody species
- No use of wood from invasive alien species
- Include in utilization and design concepts of the site from the start

Implementation

- Use the potential of existing lying dead wood structures
- Install and secure standing dead wood
- Accelerate deadwood colonization through drill holes

Maintenance

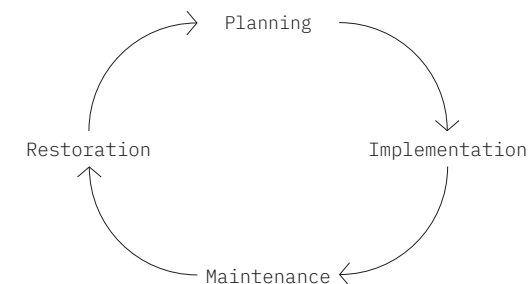
- Regular safety checks of standing deadwood
- Add new material if required
- Protect natural herbaceous border
- Remove invasive alien species

Restoration

- Reutilization of material
- Plan activities in September

Climatic requirements

No specific requirements.



Dead wood as a small-scale structure

Dead wood is used as a (temporary) habitat or food source by about 5000 different animal species.





Deadwood and stone lenses in Neuchâtel, Switzerland (Service des parcs et promenades Neuchâtel)



Deadwood structure in Cham, Switzerland (Manuela Hotz)



Great spotted woodpecker (Adobe Stock)



Nathusius's pipistrelle (Adobe Stock)