

[Return to Start Page](#)

APPENDIX B

LOGIC MATRIX (DICHOTOMOUS KEY) FOR DECIDING WHEN TO REMOVE OR KEEP A PREFERRED WOODY PLANT

DECIDING WHETHER TO REMOVE OR TO KEEP A PREFERRED WOODY PLANT

Because preferred woody plants occur on all kinds of sites and distribution patterns, a systematic protocol is needed for deciding when to remove and when to leave a particular plant. A dichotomous key is provided below a systematic procedure for deciding this issue on the basis of location and condition of plants.

“Preferred woody species” includes the following:

- All willow species (*Salix* spp.)
- Water birch (*Betula occidentalis*)
- Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
- Common chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Western serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Mountain alder (*Alnus incana*)
- Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*)

Key for Deciding Whether to Remove or to Keep a Woody Plant

Instructions – Read both parts of each couplet pair carefully before deciding which part is the better answer. Decide which side of the couplet pair is most nearly true (this may require a judgment call in some cases), and proceed to the next couplet indicated, until you arrive at an answer to remove or keep.

1. Woody plant is near the streambank (within 10 ft, approximately one mature shrub width)2
1. Woody plant is not within 10 ft of the streambank3
 2. Contaminated soils contiguous to the plant are being removed, **AND** visibly contaminated soil extends into the main root mass of the plant, **AND** bank stabilization Treatment 2, Treatment 3, or Treatment 4 is being implemented at this point along the bank.....**REMOVE**
 2. Contaminated soils contiguous to the plant are not being removed, **OR** visibly contaminated soil does not extend into the main root mass of the plant, **OR** bank stabilization Treatment 2, Treatment 3, or Treatment 4 is not necessary at this point along the bank **KEEP**
3. Woody plant is more than 10 ft from the streambank, but is within the Streambank Riparian Buffer Zone.....4
3. Woody plant is outside the Streambank Riparian Buffer Zone.....9
 4. The area that includes the woody plant is a slickens (contaminated soil will be removed)5
 4. The area that includes the plant is to have impacted soils treated *in-situ*7
5. Woody plant is isolated (10 ft or farther from other plants of preferred woody species)6

5. Woody plant is not isolated (closer than 10 ft to other plants of preferred woody species; i.e., a subpolygon can be drawn around a group of preferred woody plants, including this one, to leave undisturbed within the slickens area of contaminated soil being removed)..... **KEEP**
6. Woody plant is of seedling/sapling age class **OR** is decadent (has more than 30 percent dead wood in its upper canopy).....**REMOVE**
6. Woody plant is of mature age class **AND** is not decadent (does not have more than 30 percent dead wood in its upper canopy)..... **KEEP**
7. Woody plant is isolated (10 ft or farther from other plants of preferred woody species)**8**
7. Woody plant is not isolated (closer than 10 ft to other plants of preferred woody species; i.e., a subpolygon can be drawn around a group of preferred woody plants, including this one, to leave undisturbed within the slickens area of contaminated soil being removed.)..... **KEEP**
8. Woody plant is of seedling/sapling age class **OR** is decadent (has more than 30 percent dead wood in its upper canopy).....**REMOVE**
8. Woody plant is of mature age class **AND** is not decadent (does not have more than 30 percent dead wood in its upper canopy)..... **KEEP**
9. Woody plant is isolated (10 ft or farther from other plants of preferred woody species)**REMOVE**
9. Woody plant is not isolated (closer than 10 ft to other plants of preferred woody species; i.e., a subpolygon can be drawn around a group of preferred woody plants, including this one, to leave undisturbed within the slickens area of contaminated soil being removed)..... **KEEP**