



# City of Chehalis

Department of Community Development

1321 S Market Boulevard • Chehalis, WA 98532

www.ci.chehalis.wa.us • 360.345.2229

## HAZARD TREE – Cutting Request

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The Chehalis Critical Area Ordinance provides the minimum requirements for critical areas and their protected buffers around shorelines, lakes, streams, floodways, wetlands, and steep slopes. Native vegetation may not be harmed or removed within the resource OR within the protected buffers without permits and mitigation sequencing with the exception for trees that meet the following definition:

**Hazard Tree:** *Any tree that is susceptible to immediate fall due to its condition (damaged, diseased, or dead) or other factors, and which because of its location is at risk of damaging permanent physical improvements to property or causing personal injury.*

**Removal of hazard trees from sensitive areas and buffers that are posing a threat to public safety, or an imminent risk of damage to a permanent structure can be allowed, provided, that:**

- a. The applicant submits a report from a certified arborist or professional forester that documents the hazard; provided, that the director may waive this requirement for any trees that are clearly dead, or dying, and provides a replanting schedule for the replacement trees;
- b. Tree cutting shall be limited to pruning and crown thinning, unless otherwise justified by a qualified professional. Where pruning or crown thinning is not sufficient to address the hazard, trees should be removed or converted to wildlife snags;
- c. If native vegetation is cut or removed from a sensitive area or buffer, it shall be left within the sensitive area or buffer where practicable unless removal is warranted due to safety considerations, the presence of an established disease infestation or other hazard, or because of access or maintenance needs if the area is a utility or access right-of-way;
- d. The landowner shall replace any trees that are removed with new trees at a ratio of two replacement trees for each tree removed (2:1) within one year in accordance with an approved restoration plan. Replacement trees shall be species that are native and indigenous to the site and a minimum of one inch in diameter at breast height (dbh) for deciduous trees and a minimum of three feet in height for evergreen trees as measured from the top of the root ball; provided, that the director may allow smaller replacement trees with a higher replacement ratio;
- e. Hazard trees that constitute an emergency may be removed or pruned by the landowner prior to receiving written approval from the city; provided, that within 14 days following such action, the landowner shall submit a restoration plan that demonstrates compliance with the provisions of this chapter; and
- f. Measures to control a fire or halt the spread of disease or damaging insects consistent with the state Forest Practices Act, Chapter 76.09 RCW; provided, that the removed vegetation shall be replaced in-kind or with similar native species within one year in accordance with an approved restoration plan.

**Property Owner(s):** Fill out the backside of this form and attach a site plan showing the location of the proposed danger trees in relation to property lines and structures. Please also **submit photos** if you have them.

Please email this form with site plan and photos to [comdev@ci.chehalis.wa.us](mailto:comdev@ci.chehalis.wa.us), or mail to City of Chehalis Community Development, 1321 S Market Street, Chehalis, WA 98532

FILL OUT INFORMATION BELOW:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Site Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parcel Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

	Species (of tree)	Disease	Structural Defect	Roots Exposed >50%	Exposed to Windthrow
Tree #1				Yes / No	Yes / No
Tree #2				Yes / No	Yes / No
Tree #3				Yes / No	Yes / No
Tree #4				Yes / No	Yes / No
Tree #5				Yes / No	Yes / No
Tree #6				Yes / No	Yes / No

If, after reviewing this request, the danger is not apparent to the Community Development director, or if the trees are within 50 feet of a Landslide Hazard Area, you will be required to submit a report or letter prepared by a **professional forester or certified arborist**.

If the City determines that one or more of the trees are in a sensitive area or its buffer and do not meet the definition of danger tree, a Critical Area Review will be required to cut the tree(s). If the City determines that one or more of the trees are in a landslide Hazard Area or buffer and do not meet the definition of danger tree, a Critical Area Review and Geotechnical Report will be required to cut the tree(s).

*Chehalis Community Development Use Only:* Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Need a report/letter from a certified arborist or forester? Yes / No If yes, date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved (# of trees) \_\_\_\_\_ by (initials) \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ with the following mitigation required:

Plant \_\_\_\_\_ native trees per the requirements outlined in the CMC or approved planting plan

Leave tree trunk in ground

Additional: \_\_\_\_\_

Denied (# of trees) \_\_\_\_\_ by (initials) \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_