Living With Large Wood

Boating Safety Guidelines

- Scout the condition of the river before putting in.
- Always wear a properly fitted personal floatation device.
- Be a competent swimmer.
- Know how to handle your water craft with the proper use of paddles and oars.
- Never boat beyond your skill level.
- Always stay alert for unexpected hazards.
- Never use alcohol or drugs when boating or floating in a river.
- Children should never boat or float a river without the close supervision of an adult.
- Know and practice river rescue techniques.

Why Large Wood is Important

Fallen trees, old stumps, rootwads, and piles of branches along the edges and channel of streams and rivers are called large woody debris. Large woody debris helps to stabilize stream banks and provides vital habitat for salmon and other creatures.

To keep our rivers healthy and improve the survival of native salmon, river and habitat managers are maintaining and increasing the amounts of large wood in rivers and streams. Boaters and other recreation users of rivers should always be alert for large wood and natural river hazards.

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