



CITY OF WHITE SALMON

CITY HALL OFFICE

Tree Protection Code: What's Permitted & What's Not

To ensure the preservation of White Salmon's tree canopy and environmental health, the city has established guidelines on what is permitted and not permitted under the *NEW* Tree Protection Code.

Types of Significant & Special Trees

- **Significant Trees:** Any tree **18 inches or more in diameter** measured at 4.5 feet above grade.
 - **Special Trees:** Specific native species that meet size thresholds:
 - **Cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*)** - 8 inches diameter
 - **Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)** - 8 inches diameter
 - **Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)** - 12 inches diameter
 - **Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*)** - 8 inches diameter
-

Tree Removal Allowance by Lot Size per 12 months

- Up to 7,200 sq. ft. – 1 tree
 - 7,201 sq. ft. to 14,400 sq. ft. – 2 trees
 - 14,401 sq. ft. to 21,600 sq. ft. – 3 trees
 - 21,601 sq. ft. to 28,800 sq. ft. – 4 trees
 - 28,801 sq. ft. or greater – 5 trees
-

Permitted Actions (No Permit Required)

- Removing the allowed number of significant/special tree(s) based on lot size within a 12-month period.
 - Pruning trees (as long as pruning does not exceed 25% of the canopy per 12-month period).
 - Removing dead or fallen trees (with photo documentation for city records).
 - Planting new trees on private property.
 - Removing hazard or nuisance trees (with documentation from a certified arborist or city approval).
 - Emergency tree removal if the tree poses immediate danger to people or property (notify the city).
-

Not Permitted Without City Approval

- Removing a significant or special tree exceeding the allowed limit based on lot size or 12-month period.
 - Removing trees in protected critical areas (wetlands, riparian zones, steep slopes, etc.).
 - Topping trees (cutting the top off a tree in a way that harms its health).
 - Removing trees in an Oregon White Oak woodland.
 - Causing damage to tree roots or trunks during construction.
 - Ignoring required Tree Protection Zones (TPZ) during development projects.
 - Exceeding allowable pruning limits (over 25% canopy reduction in a year).
-

Development & Construction Restrictions

- **Tree Retention Plan Required:** Any new construction, grading, or land alteration impacting significant/special trees must include a plan for tree retention and protection.
 - **Tree Protection Fencing:** Must be installed around significant trees during construction.
-

Penalties for Non-Compliance

- Fines up to \$5,000 per illegally removed tree.
 - Mandatory replacement of removed trees.
 - Stop-work orders for development violations.
 - Tree removal without permission may result in additional legal consequences.
-

Need a Permit or Have Questions?

Visit www.whitesalmonwa.gov or call the Planning Department at (509) 493-1133 x209 for assistance with tree removal, protection guidelines, and available incentives.

Preserve our urban forest – Follow the rules and protect White Salmon's trees!

100 Main Street PO Box 2139 White Salmon, Washington 98672
Telephone: (509) 493-1133 Web Site: whitesalmonwa.gov