

# Peninsula Urban Forestry LLC

Natural Resource Consultants



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## White Salmon Downtown Sweetgum Pruning Prescription

To: City of White Salmon & Tree Board

Date: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

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White Salmon's Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) presents two strategies to manage and maintain the legacy sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) located in downtown White Salmon. Strategy 1 is to contract with an ISA-Certified Arborist to perform tree-specific pruning specifications. This memo documents those prescriptions as recommended by our Board-Certified Master Arborist who evaluated the tree.

### Primary pruning objective:

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*To retain the sweetgum's current excellent health, manage current expressions of risk, and manage its conflicts with city and building infrastructure.*

#### Pruning Specifications

- 1) Pruning shall be carried out by an ISA-Certified Arborist according to current ANSI A300 arboricultural standards and ANSI Z133-2012 Arboricultural Operations Safety Requirements.
- 2) A natural pruning system, defined as the 2018 ANSI A300 pruning standards, shall be implemented.
- 3) Both living and dead branches should be removed.
- 4) Pruning specifications should be carried out in 2019, and every two years until primary pruning objective is reached.
- 5) In all pruning scenarios use non-powered equipment, handsaws and hand pruners to perform pruning cuts less than 3-inches. Do not use chainsaws on any branch less than 3-inches in diameter.
- 6) Living branch removal is limited to those 5-inches or less in diameter. No branch greater than five inches shall be removed, unless diseased, dead, or broken.
- 7) Focus pruning on the peripheral branches. Do not prune, "clean", reduce or remove branches on the interior canopy, unless diseased, dead or broken.
- 8) Do not remove dead fine branch material. No branches less than ½ of an inch should be deliberately removed, though through the process of in-canopy navigation and positioning, and through pruning itself, these fine branches may be removed.
- 9) Pruning should occur in winter months, when tree foliage is absent.

## 10) In 2019

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- a) A maximum of 15% of the total tree foliage may be removed in 2019.
- b) Remove dead wood less than 2 inches in diameter throughout canopy.
- c) 2019 Pruning Objective 1: Create 4-foot buffer between upper canopy and nearby structures, both on building façade and building roof. Branches 4-feet above the structure roofs should not be modified.
  - i) Both reduction and removal cuts should be applied to scaffold branches.
    - (1) Heading cuts can be implemented on a branch-by-branch basis but should be limited in use.
    - (2) cuts shall only be used when no interior branch unions can sustain a branch reduction.
- d) 2019 Pruning Objective 2: Increase pedestrian clearance above Jewett Blvd, to a maximum of 10-feet.
  - i) Both reduction and removal cuts should be applied to scaffold branches.
    - (1) Heading cuts can be implemented on a branch-by-branch basis but should be limited in use.
    - (2) Heading cuts shall only be used when no interior branch unions can sustain a branch reduction.

## 11) Subsequent pruning

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- a) Every two years, a maximum of 10% of the total tree foliage may be removed in subsequent pruning operations.
- b) Subsequent Pruning Objective 1: Create or retain 8-foot buffer between structures and tree canopy. Buffer shall exist on both building façade and building roofs. Branches 8-feet above the structure roofs should not be modified.
  - i) Both reduction and removal cuts should be applied to scaffold branches
    - (1) Heading cuts can be implemented on a branch-by-branch basis but should be limited in use.
    - (2) Heading cuts shall only be used when no interior branch unions can sustain a branch reduction.
- c) Subsequent Pruning Objective 2: Maintain a low level of tree risk through adaptive pruning of large and over-extending limbs.
  - i) When dead, diseased, or broken branches are encountered within the canopy, these branches should be removed.
  - ii) When limbs are encountered that are excessively long due to photographic growth, or disease adaption, these limbs should be reduced in length.
    - (1) Limb reduction in this manner should be 5-15% of total limb length, to a prior branch union.



*Figure 1: Photograph of sweetgum tree from across Jewett Blvd.*



*Figure 2: Branches near the roof of the nearby building.*

## **CLOSING**

Work for this project was performed and this report prepared in accordance with generally accepted professional practices for the nature and conditions of work completed in the same or similar localities, at the time the work was performed. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made. Myself, nor Peninsula Urban Forestry, has any current or prospective interest in the plants or properties discussed. Acceptance of this report acknowledges receipt and agreement with Peninsula Urban Forestry's attached Assumptions & Limiting Conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to evaluate your plant and tree needs. I appreciate your business and look forward to working with you in the future. If you have questions now, or in the future, do not hesitate to contact us. Peninsula Urban Forestry appreciates answering any questions you may have.



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