

**Department of Fish and Game's Northern Region  
Interim Guidelines for Black-Backed Woodpecker  
One-Year Candidacy Period**

- Breeding Season is April 15 to July 15
- Breeding Habitat in California
  - Generally Sierras, southern Cascades, and Siskiyou Mountains from Tulare County to Oregon border – coniferous forests (e.g. Sierran mixed conifer, lodgepole, subalpine, and true fir)
  - Generally above five thousand feet from Lassen County to the Oregon border
  - Generally above six thousand feet from Plumas County south to Tulare County
- Excavates nesting cavities in hard snags with highest densities occurring in intensively burned coniferous forests (Generally  $\leq 10$  year from burn kill).
- Primary Threat
  - Sanitation/Salvage logging during the breeding season of: A) intensively burned conifer stands, or B) bug infested/diseased conifers, where most of the trees in the stand have recently died.
  - Generally, removal of hard/sound snags within their breeding habitat.
- Guidelines
  - Protect occupied nests with a 300-foot buffer during the breeding season
  - Avoid sanitation/salvage logging during the breeding season when feasible
  - If sanitation/salvage needs to occur during breeding season:
    - Propose stand searches or broadcast surveys in burns  $\geq 100$  contiguous acres to minimize likelihood of “take.”
    - Retain snags with freshly excavated cavities. BBWP excavate new cavities each year. Cavities will generally be 6 to 12 feet above the ground and  $\sim 4.5$  cm ( $2\frac{3}{4}$ ”) in diameter.
  - Retain snags where feasible (and safe per the FPRs) in all silvicultural prescriptions
  - Retain snags consistent within natural range of variability in WHR size classes 4 and 5 within the affected watershed.
  - Maintenance of high quality habitat in Sanitation/Salvage will have  $\geq 8$  snags per acre that are  $\geq 11$  inches DBH.
  - Report observations/take to Fish and Game
  - A (Pre) Consult with DFG on any of the above is encouraged