

Directions: Read the entire worksheet. Then start at the beginning. It is organized to lead you from taking an intense look at individual trees or plants to taking a broader look at various groupings of trees and plants. Your management objectives must weigh in as well for they determine your risk of real damage. Wander around and look carefully.

Consider the following variables for a representative sample of trees and plants:

- Alive or dead?
- Any dead portions (roots, top, branches)?
- Foliage color (green, yellowish, spotted or blotched)?
- Size – is the tree an appropriate size in relation to its neighbors of the same age and species? Consider height, diameter, twig growth or leaf size. What are the likely causes of observed differences?
- Any wounds or injuries? These could have biotic or abiotic causes.
- Any signs of insects or diseases (Woodpecker activity? Boring holes? Boring dust? Chewing? Galls? Fungi? Decay? Pitch?)
- Any signs of past fires?
- Other damage?
- Is the damage new or old?
- Any signs of causal agents or contributing factors?

Consider these variables for more than one tree:

Is the damage confined to just one species or size class of tree or plant?

Is there a pattern of damage across the land such as pockets or lines or an elevation relationship?

Is there a relationship with roads, trenches, construction sites, or openings?

Tree diseases usually affect one host species, but all sizes may be affected. Wind or ice storms usually affect one size of trees most intensely or break trees all at one height. Insect pests usually focus on one species and size class of tree. Forest fires are most damaging when fuel “ladders” carry the flames from the ground to the tree foliage above. Characterize the diversity of tree species and size/age ranges present as high, medium or low. Is the stand likely to all be wiped out at one time?

Consider the following variables for the whole stand:

What are the primary management objectives for this stand?

What are the major health threats to the stand?

Do they appear to be increasing, stable or decreasing?

Which situations (forest health, fire or other) threaten the achievement or maintenance of the objectives?

How/should these situations be managed?