

Arborist Notes



The owner of Parcels 2 and 3 is proposing to remove the stand of Douglas-fir trees there and the owner of Tax Lot 5300 questions the effect of increased exposure on the continuation of the stand on Tax Lot 5300. I went to the site on 3/22/2019 to evaluate the situation and the proposal.

Looking north into the east portion of Tax Lot 5300 with Tree 18 (T18) on Parcel 2 in the foreground. T18 will be removed. Trees beyond the fence (Tax Lot 5300) constitute an open stand, a continuation of the subject tree on Parcel 2. Most of Parcel 2 and all of Parcel 1 are devoid of trees, providing little or no wind break for Tax Lot 5300.

T18 on Parcel 2.



Looking north from T24 on Parcel 3 into Tax Lot 5300. Here on the west side of Tax Lot 5300 the open stand continues as mixed hardwoods and conifers. The trees on Parcel 3 do provide a wind break for Tax Lot 5300 from southerly winds. The trees on the west side of Tax Lot 5300 are fully exposed to winds from the east, north and west. The elevation is lower than Parcel 2 and this reduces wind exposure from the south.

A bigleaf maple (typical) on the west side of Tax Lot 5300. This is a very open stand of trees.



Conifers in an open stand have exposure to sun and wind. This enables them to develop a strong trunk taper and a robust live crown ratio (LCR). Tree taper is a measure of the decrease in trunk diameter as a function of height above ground. Trees with a high degree of taper are more wind firm and resistant to trunk snap caused by wind. LCR is the ratio of a tree's total height that has foliage vs. bare trunk. A conifer with high LCR is less likely to snap or uproot in a wind storm.

T18

This Douglas-fir tree in Tax Lot 5300 has a high LCR and strong trunk taper. It is characteristic of the conifers on Tax Lot 5300 and on Parcels 2 and 3. These traits indicate an open stand vs. a closed stand. In a closed stand, tree trunks grow with no noticeable taper and with live branches only at the top. Such trees are typical of plantations and the pole-like quality is

desirable in the logging industry. They rarely snap or blow down because they all support each other, and because there are edge trees that develop strong taper and LCR by virtue of growing at the edge of the closed stand, exposed to the elements. When edge trees are removed, the interior poles tend to snap and blow down in wind events. None of the subject trees here are interior trees.



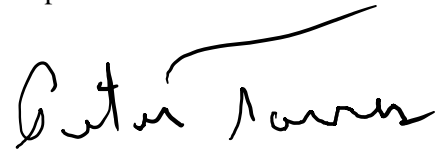
A view from Skyline Drive nearby. The mature conifers seen here are doing well as stand-alone trees. This landscape is typical of the neighborhood.

Tree removal on Parcels 2 and 3 will allow increased wind velocity from the south on the trees in Tax Lot 5300. In my opinion the adverse effect will be negligible, and I do not anticipate trunk snap or blow down to result.

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