



Hurricane Helene Disturbance Map

Historic Catastrophe

Post Storm Issues

- Landscape Scale Destruction
- Uprooted Trees and Eroded Trails
- Snap offs & Tip Overs – soil disruption
- Trees & Brush Obstructing Trail
- Suspended Trees – Very Dangerous
- Washed out Stream Crossings, Destroyed Culverts
- Landslides
- Closed Trails? Indefinitely?



Fire Risk

- Fire Risk
 - Still site specific
 - Highest risk – adjacency to roads / houses / development
 - Lower risk -In the forest, by streams, coves
- CFPOA low risk for wildfire.
 - Forested area lowest risk.
 - Greater risk near development, houses, roads, etc.
 - Increased deadwood



Fire Risk

- Finest fuels (toothpick sized)
 - often primary ignition, small and short lived
- Medium – Large fuels (wrist & thigh size)
 - requires high heat and continual flame for complete ignition
- Largest fuels (large limbs & tree trunks)
 - Good Luck!
 - often only charred on the outside, takes a lot of energy for complete ignition



Habitat

- Creating vs Natural Wildlife Habitat
- Debris Piles, Snags, Hanging Trees
- Scatter or Pile ? It Depends
- Did Helene change forest structure?
 - Canopy openings
 - Increased brushy growth
 - ESH (Early Succession Habitat)



Issues

- Clearing Trails vs Landscape Scale Destruction
 - Similarities & Differences
 - Snap offs & Tip Overs – soil disruption
- Access – Hand Crew vs Machinery
 - Hand Crew – cut and haul brush, roll logs, chainsaw safety
 - Machinery – chipper, forestry mulcher – cost, access, operator safety
- Hemlock Snags (keep or leave?)- it depends



Issues

- Baston Historic Area (landlocked)
 - Where to haul brush?
 - Access for skid steer, mini-ex, tractor
 - Haul brush away or drag to chipper & dump chips off location
- Open Trails
 - Kelly Mtn (Chagee to Ugugu)
 - Upper/Lower Ogana
 - Equestrian
 - Okanaoah
 - Lower Ecusta



Solutions

- Burn Brush Piles?
 - Smoke
 - Flame
 - Safety issues
- Along good trails (sideslopes)
 - Woody Debris Downslope
 - Reduce Fire Risk
 - Firebreak already created upslope of debris pile
 - (If fire breaks out) fire wants to run uphill



Solutions

- Pile debris in moist cove
- Ground contact
 - Increase moisture content
 - Speed rot
- Suspended wood rots slower
- Do not add extra woody debris into streams
 - **Illegal !**



Solutions

- Heavy Equipment + Dump Trucks
 - Chipper / Forestry Mulcher
 - Move Debris
 - Haul off Site
- Snagged / Pinched / Hanging Trees
 - AKA Widow Makers
 - EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!
 - If hiring contractor (Arborist / Sawyer)
 - Have good insurance



Solutions

- Always inherent risk to being in the woods.
- Signage
 - check with Legal Team
- Reroute / Close Trails –
 - Signage,
 - Caution Tape
 - Update Info
 - Apps (Alltrails), HOA Newsletter, online, etc
- Volunteers / Trail Stewards / Contractors
 - depends risk v reward



Q&A

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