

WOODY DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

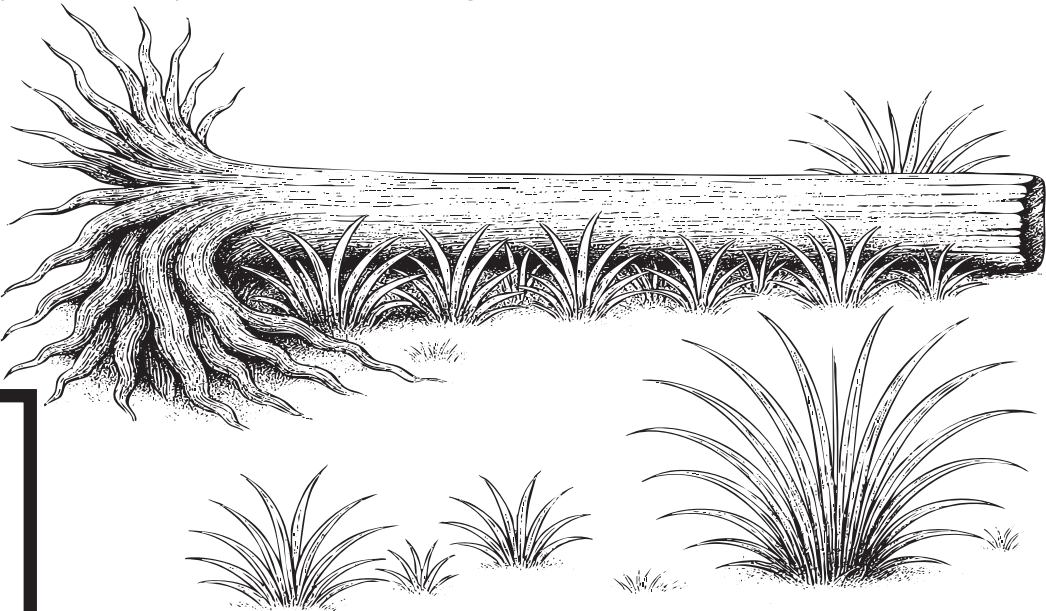
A Balanced and Selective Approach

As our community addresses the immediate needs of those affected by this disaster, there is also a widespread recognition of the significant value the River and the Land hold for our quality of life, health, and overall well-being. A coordinated effort among local, regional, and state organizations is underway to develop a comprehensive long-term plan addressing flood remediation, replanting, soil management, habitat restoration, and land conservation. It is important that landowners are provided with the autonomy to determine best management practices suitable to their individual circumstances. The following information is provided to support informed personal decision-making.

HELP RESTORE THE LAND

IN GENERAL AND WHERE POSSIBLE:

- Leave most (50% or more) of the longer, larger downed trees/logs with rootwad and at least some side branches attached
- Remove most (but not all) of the small and mid sized logs, limbs and woody debris
- After cleanup, woody debris should end up occupying at least 1/3 of the banks and adjacent floodplain
- Leave detritus in stable areas to allow propagation of redistributed seed bank



THINKING LIKE THE RIVER

IS THE DEBRIS NATURALLY ANCHORED?	Is log partially buried, wedged between rocks, or entangled with roots?	Leave in place	Anchored debris helps stabilize banks and improves habitat.
DOES IT STILL HAVE LIVING TISSUE?	Is the tree/log alive or sprouting leaves?	Leave in place	Living material stabilizes soil and promotes regrowth.
IS IT LOCATED NEAR A BEND OR AN ERODED BANK?	Will it help slow flow or trap sediment?	Leave in place	Strategic placement protects sensitive areas from erosion.
IS IT FORMING A NATURAL PILE IN A LOW OR SECONDARY CHANNEL?	Could it trap sediment and create wetland micro-habitats	Leave in place	Encourages wetland formation and nutrient cycling.
DOES THE TREE/LOG HAVE A ROOTWAD?	Is it a larger/longer tree with at least some side branches attached?	Leave in place	Crucial for stabilizing stream banks and floodplains. Encourages vegetative growth.
IS IT AT LEAST 20" IN DIAMETER AND OVER 10' LONG?	Large, slow-decaying wood adds long-term benefits.	Leave in place	Provides structural habitat and long-term soil benefits.
IS IT BELOW THE ORDINARY HIGH WATER LINE?	Debris removal within the channels of the River may require a permit	Leave in place	Consult with County officials for updates on regulatory guidance
IS IT BLOCKING INFRASTRUCTURE OR ACCESS?	Is it obstructing driveways, culverts, water crossings, or trails?	Remove carefully	May pose safety or drainage issues.
IS IT MIXED WITH TRASH OR INVASIVE PLANTS?	Does it contain plastics, wire, or harmful plants?	Remove carefully	Contaminated piles don't benefit the ecosystem.
COULD IT EASILY WASH AWAY IN THE NEXT FLOOD?	Is the debris in an active flow path, unanchored, or loose?	Remove carefully or relocate	Prevent downstream hazards or blockages. Relocate to cover exposed soil or scoured areas.

DEAD WOOD IS GOOD

DEAD WOOD:

- Is just as important to river function as living trees
- Acts as critical structural reinforcement of the channel, bank and floodplain
- Often forms new banks and becomes assimilated as sediment is trapped behind the logs
- Provides many protected niches for the subsequent establishment of new cypress, sycamore, walnut, buttonbush, sedges and grasses
- Slows and spreads surface flow on the banks and promotes groundwater infiltration

Take it Slow, Be Selective:

“Leave What Lives.”

“Keep What Covers.”

“Remove What Harms.”



Bandera County
River Authority & Groundwater District
Protecting & Preserving our Natural Resources



hill country alliance

