



**Blairvadach
Bytes**

Forest Clearing & SNAGS

Have you ever wondered why when a forest is cleared there are lots of dead trees lying on the ground or some still standing, these are called SNAGS. When part of a snag falls on the ground, it becomes a log—also very useful for wildlife habitat.



There are two main reasons for this:

Biodiversity: In order to have sustainable forests, there is a need to leave a certain quantity & quality of fallen and standing deadwood trees for insects, bird and mammals. Many species of fungi grow only on dead wood, breaking it down and returning important nutrients to the soil. It can look very ugly or that the loggers can't be bothered to remove the dead or dying wood, this is not the case, it's all about biodiversity.

Birds of Prey: Some birds of prey use snags or dead branches to get a clear view of potential prey when hunting. Similarly, certain birds that engage in fly catching (catching flying insects directly out of the air) will use these perches to launch their aerial attacks. Woodpeckers also use snags to peck into for their nests.

