Snags

- Snags are tree trunks that remain standing after the tree has died.
- Snags can stand for many years before falling to earth to become a nurselog.
- Woodpeckers make holes in snags. The holes attract insects which lay their eggs in them. The woodpecker then returns and feeds on the insect larvae.
- Woodpeckers, birds and squirrels use holes in snags to make their homes.
- The top of the snag can become hollow which makes good homes for bats, raccoons and sometimes even black bears.
- Look for scratch marks from animals climbing, hair from animals, woodpecker holes and other signs of wildlife.
- The inside of a snag can warm up to 80 degrees through decomposition, making wildlife homes very comfortable.
Stumps

- Stumps are usually left from trees cut during logging (many are from 100 years ago), blown down from windstorms and dead from old age.
- Decaying stumps are good habitat for many species of wildlife, especially insects and birds.
- Stumps are good places for plants and tiny animals that like to grow in rotting wood.
- Salal and red huckleberry are plants that especially love to grow on stumps.
- Mushrooms, lichens and moss also love to grow on stumps.
- Look for woodpecker holes in stumps.
- Stumps can be added to restoration projects and used for seating while they become wildlife habitat.
Each One Teach One- Habitat Features

**Nurse Logs**

- Nurse logs are trees that have fallen down to the ground and begun decomposing.
- Nurse logs are like a nursery for baby plants and decomposers.
- As nurse logs decompose they hold lots of water and create heat which makes them a great place for seeds to grow.
- A majority of the plants that grow in the forest grow in decomposing nurse logs in different stages of decay.
- Scientists now believe that a snag and nurse log lasts up to twice as long as the tree was alive (if a tree lives to be 500 years old, it will last as a snag and nurse log for as long as 500– 1000 years).
Thickets

- Thickets are dense groups of small shrubs that grow so closely together that they are difficult for humans and large animals to enter.
- Thickets provide a good hiding place for small birds and animals.
- Many plants that form thickets have thorns, such as wild rose and salmonberry. Thorns offer extra protection for wildlife.
- Birds often build nests in thickets and many mammals make their burrows in the ground under thickets.
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**Debris Pile**

- Debris piles are piles of branches, rocks and logs.
- Debris piles form naturally in the forest after rain, wind and snow storms.
- Debris piles make excellent habitat for birds and small animals such as chipmunks, garter snakes, lizards, weasels and skunks.
- Humans can help make debris piles by collecting fallen branches and creating a large mound.
- Debris piles eventually decompose and become soil, allowing vines and small shrubs to grow in their place.
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Bird Nests

- Birds build many different sizes and shapes of nests in many different places.
- Nests can be built from moss, spider webs, grass, twigs, feathers, hair, lichen, shredded bark, mud and other found items.
- Birds lay their eggs in nests which help protect the baby birds while they grow.
- Most nests are only used for one season, and only for raising young.
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**Wildlife Trees**

- Big leaf maple, Douglas fir and red alder trees are especially good wildlife trees.
- Animals build nests in their branches, and in hollow holes in their trunks.
- Maple seeds, Douglas fir cones and alder catkins are important wildlife food.
- Evidence of wildlife can be found at the base of wildlife trees. Look for shells from hazelnut, maple seeds and the remains of cones and other seeds.
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Decaying Wood

- A wide variety of animals use decaying wood for food and shelter.
- Beetles lay their eggs under the bark and the beetle larvae tunnel into the wood.
- Decomposers make their home in decaying wood and eat tiny pieces of it.
- Decaying wood eventually decomposes and becomes humus in the soil, helping to feed plants.

Decaying Wood

Photo by Heidi Bohan
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Water

- There are many forms of water, including dew, raindrops on leaves and puddles, in a habitat area which nourish small animals such as bird, mice, and shrews.
- Larger water features include lakes, rivers, ponds, and creeks and not only provide water for nourishment but shelter and space.
- Some water features only exist for a period of time during winter. These seasonal water features are important for the survival of certain animals including the Pacific chorus frog.
- Water can be supplied in habitats with artificial ponds and bird baths and will attract many types of wildlife.
Each One Teach One- Habitat Features

**Flowering Plants**

- Flowers attract many different wildlife to their pollen.
- Hummingbirds are attracted to red flowers such as bleeding heart, red flowering currant and red huckleberry.
- Bees feed on nectar from many shapes and colors of flowers.
- Butterflies prefer flowers that have a flat shape with many small flowers providing an easy perch from which to feed.

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**Flowering Plants**

Images: Each One Teach One– Habitat Features Cards