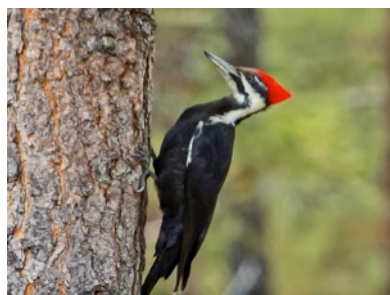


Low Elevation Forest Tanoak Zone

Pileated Woodpecker / Iktakatákaheen / *Hylatomus pileatus*



USFS Boise National Forest

Cultural Importance

The feathers of iktakatákaheen are used in Karuk regalia (Driver 1939). Iktakatákaheen is seen as an ecosystem engineer that creates cavities that can then be used by up to 20 species of birds and mammals and promotes nutrient cycling in the forest through its excavations (USFS PNRS 2003).

Life Cycle & Habitat

The largest woodpecker in North America, Iktakatákaheen typically resides in older deciduous or mixed deciduous-coniferous forests. Pileated woodpeckers mate for life, and use large snags and decadent trees to excavate nesting cavities as well as roosts in which the members of the pair roost individually to reduce the risk of predation (Bull et al. 2007). The pileated diet consists primarily of insects (with ants often comprising over 40% of their diet) as well as wild fruits and nuts (USFS PNRS 2003)

Iktakatákaheen and Fire

Iktakatákaheen depends on aging forests in which snags and large decadent trees are present for nesting and roosting. High severity fire that burns entire stands greatly reduces the presence of viable snags and trees. Additionally, fire can temporarily reduce ant and other insect populations that comprise a large percentage of the pileated diet. (Bull et al. 2005 & 2007, USFS PNRS 2003)

Effects of High Severity Fire Across Time

Immediate	2-Year	Long-Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire consumes snags and logs vital to woodpecker habitat and reduces the availability of foods like insects, nuts and berries. • Individuals may die if they can't escape flames/smoke. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snags and decadent trees on which pileated woodpeckers depend for shelter and insect excavation have been burned and are unusable, or new snags and logs are created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burned stands take time to reach forest maturity and sustain iktakatákaheen • Smaller sized patches of higher severity burns create and maintain snag/log habitat
Sources: Bull et al. 2005	Sources: Bull et al. 2007	Sources: Bull et al. 2005 & 2007

Effects of Karuk Cultural Burning Across Time

Immediate	2-Year	Long-Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be carried out in small tracts of forest to preserve adequate food supplies for woodpecker • Nesting birds can be protected from fire via local scale TEK regarding the location of nests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-intensity fire is less likely to reduce the forest of snags, logs, and decadent trees that are vital for nesting and roosting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of intermediate scales of mixed severity burn patches across the landscape that foster nesting/roosting, and foraging habitats.
Sources: Bull et al. 2005	Sources: Bull et al. 2005 & 2007	Sources: Bull et al. 2007

Effects of Federal Fire Management Strategies on Species' Climate Change and Fire Resilience

Prior to Fire	During Fire	After Fire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire excluded, dense, high fuel load stands promote nesting/roosting habitat, but also higher fire risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire suppression, snagging and fire line construction can reduce habitat trees and logs. • Frequent burns can eliminate desired woodpecker habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvage logging reduces existing and future woodpecker wood feeding and nesting habitat
Sources:	Bull et al. 2007, Swanson et al 2014	Sources: Bull et al. 2007