

Habitat Piles for Wildlife

Putting a log/stump/rockpile/ old car or something in core is good. The goal is to create long lasting interstitial space that can be used for cover by various critters. Small mammals, songbirds, grouse, snakes are particularly fond of piles with smaller material. Grouse and other ground nesting birds will use the edges of piles, tucked just into the sticks. If a machine is available, the scale can go up to 20' long, with 3-5 layers of larger stuff on lower levels.

The reason for the scale (i.e. 6-8') on the diagram is so it could be built by hand. It needs to be big enough for there to be security cover in the middle. Even a hollow pile would be good for birds and such.

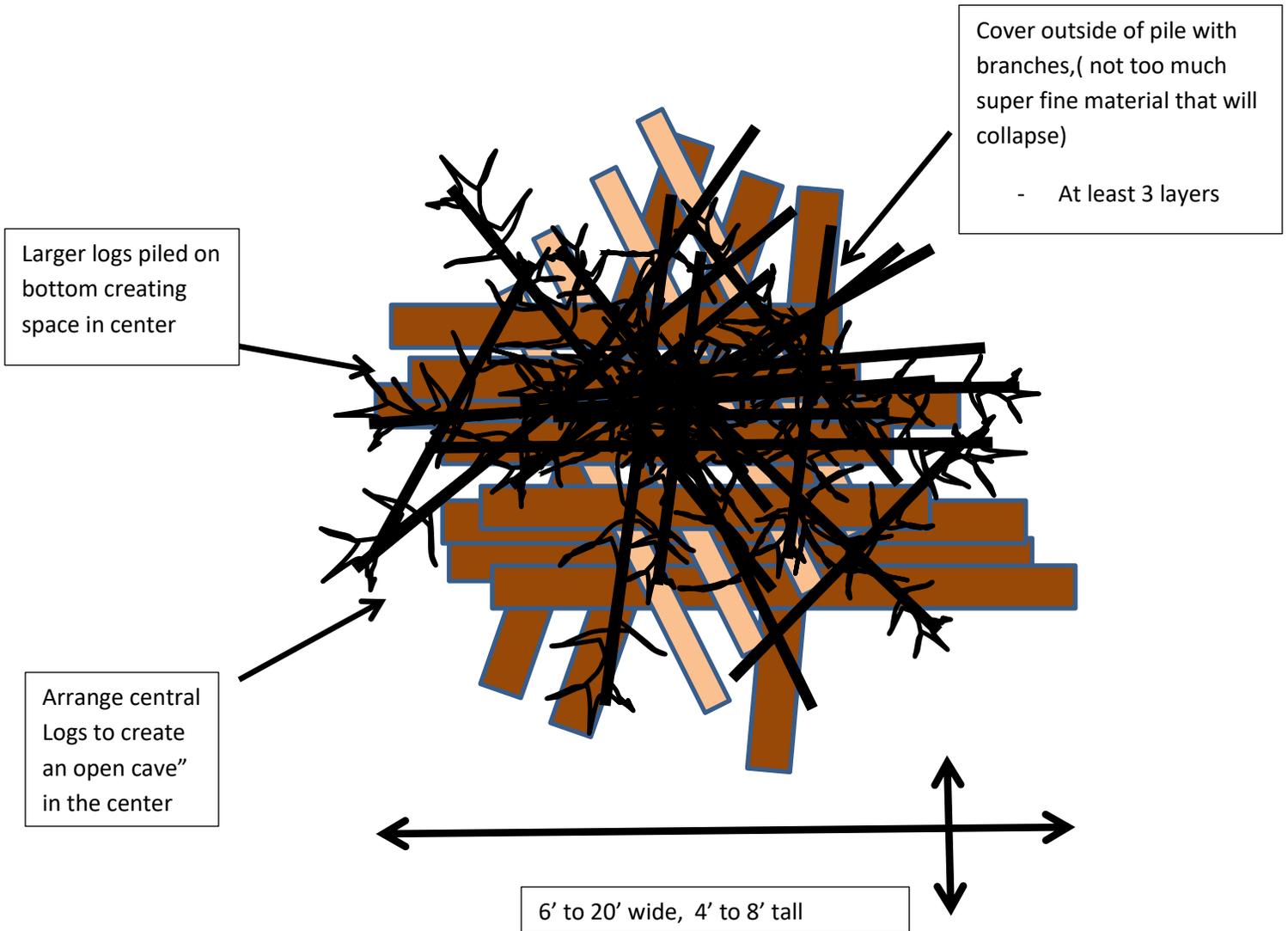
The only limitation I have found on piles is the green pine slash between Feb- Sept (? about right for bad window) that can produce an Ips flush. Otherwise, dry material is fine, and other conifer (i.e. Doug fir usually) is ok.

Ken Bevis
Stewardship Wildlife Biologist
(360) 489-4802



Constructed Habitat Pile for Wildlife

(top view)

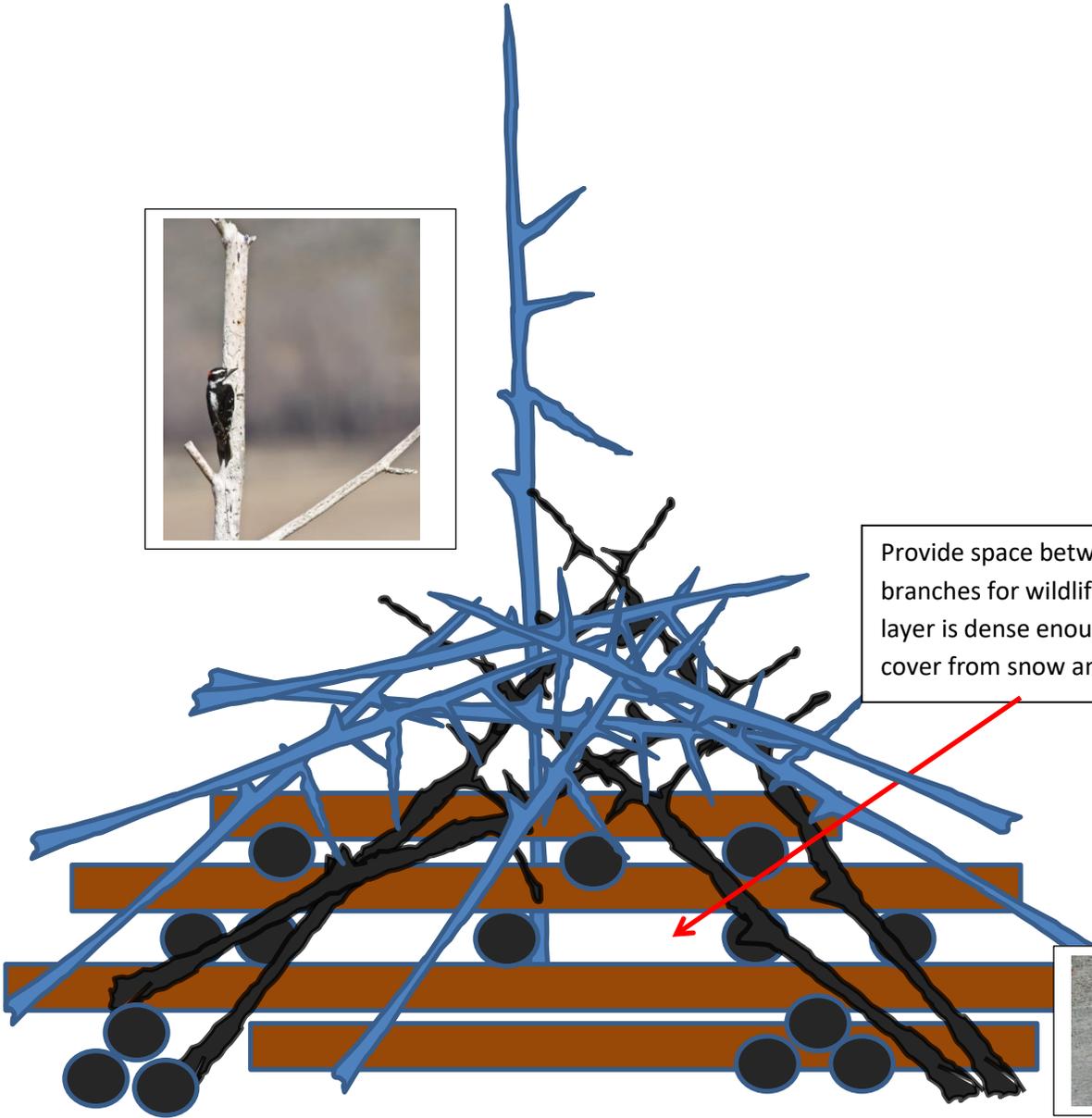


These provide habitat for birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Especially important in winter so piles need to be adequately sized. Wedge one larger branch upwards as a perch. Create internal "cave" for larger animals such as snowshoe hare.

For hand construction: Need approximately 15-18 4"-8" logs, 60-80 branches with or without foliage.

Install or maintain at least one per acre, preferably in clusters of 3-5 within 100 feet of each other.

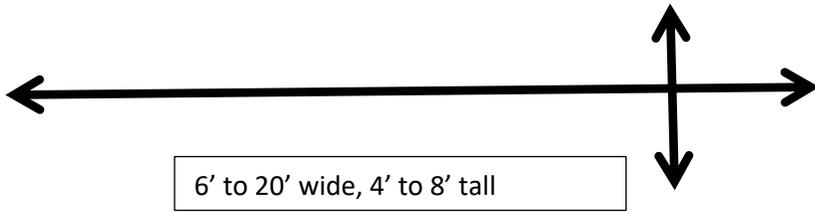
Side View with perch



Provide space between logs and branches for wildlife to hide. If top layer is dense enough it can provide cover from snow and rain.



Arrange some logs in piles of 3 to create small tunnel b/t logs



6' to 20' wide, 4' to 8' tall

By Ken Bevis, DNR
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