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STATE DNR ENCOURAGES PROPER PRUNING OF TREES; NO TOPPING

Linden Mead, Washington State Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager

(ANNOUNCER)

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program wants you to keep your trees safe and healthy.

Linden Mead, DNR's urban and community forestry specialist says there are several reasons why people top trees, but topping a tree doesn't work to make a tree shorter, healthier or to improve a view.

Mead describes topping as the drastic removal or cutting back of large branches in mature trees. She goes on to say the reason it's not good for a tree is because it loses its entire food source when it's topped and becomes stressed. It doesn't have the leaf surface anymore to take in food, which is sunlight. When a tree is stressed it opens it up to decay and insect attack. Decay causes damages to both the structure of the tree and it physically harms and weakens the tree.

Mead explains that properly pruned trees are pruned with thought and care but topping means that you're leaving big opened wounds that were not done carefully.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program is working with communities statewide to try and stop this malpractice of trees, and you can find out more about alternatives to tree topping by talking with a certified arborist or visit DNR's website at www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry.

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