An example of a landscape drawing
**Landscape Features:** Take a walk in any North Idaho Forest and notice the interesting features other than plant life. Eighty year-old stumps with spring-board notches, one hundred year-old burnt snags, beaver-gnawed stumps, woodpecker snags, logging stumps, downed timber, rotted logs, moss-covered rocks and others are all features that add interest to the landscape.

Those same features also add interest to our naturalized landscape projects. They can provide a focal point for the total landscape design or a point of interest in a planting area. Rotting logs not only provide a planting backdrop but add nutrients to the soil. Planted snags, besides adding interest, can be a habitat for birds and small mammals, creating an interactive feature. Downed timber can also act as a naturalized border to a landscape area. Another functional aspect is the use of hollow stumps and burnt snags to shield unaesthetic utilities such as wellheads, hose bibs or electric meters. Hiding those pieces of hardware gives a much more pleasing look to the naturalized landscape.
Another feature that adds a focal point is a dry stream bed. Lucky are those who have a small stream through their yards, but for most a hand-dug shallow ditch lined with appropriate-sized river rock will serve. These “streams” can be a major feature through the whole landscape site or a small feature in a planting area. They look even more convincing if placed in a natural drainage area. A beaver stump looks especially striking by a stream bed.

Large landscape rocks make very good planting backdrops and are easy to incorporate into the naturalized landscape. A hand-stacked rock wall makes a good retaining structure and gives a natural looking boundary for a planting area.

Many of these landscape features can be collected from the wild, being mindful of trespass laws. State lands that have not been recently logged are a good place to start. Idaho requires a permit for gathering on its lands. Most are also available commercially.