Forest Practices

Practice	Results	Effects on Wildlife
Clearcutting	Full sunlight to ground stimulates weeds, grass., shrubs, seedlings, sprouts; creates edges; mast and den trees lost.	Favors deer, quail, turkey, doves, rabbits, some songbirgs, butterflies, hawks, etc.; displaces squirrel, raccoon and some birds; small or irregulary shaped clearcuts best.
Thinning	Increases light reaching ground; removes low quality, low vigor trees; improves mast production.	Improvement for deer, turkey, quail, woodcock, some birds and insects; small loss of nesting and feeding sites.
Log Road Stabilization	Prevents soil erosion and stream sedimentation; sunlit, seeded corridor provides food, edges.	Protects fish and other stream animals; encourages deer, quail, turkey, rabbit, some songbirds.
Buffer Strips	Protect mast, den trees and perches; maintain stream temperature and quality; filter light, sound, dust, wind.	Sanctuary for animals displaced by clearcutting; serve as corridor between undisturbed habitats; protect fish and other stream wildlife; provide edges.
Mechanical Site Preparation	Reduces litter; stimulates sprouting, seed germination.	Favors quail, doves, turkey, deer, some songbirds and insects, good cover ± 5years.
Chemical Site Preparation	Prevents soil compaction, erosion and stream sedimentation; discourages hardwood sprouting and other food plants depending on treatment used; annual plant increase after 1 year.	Favors deer, turkey, quail hawks, woodpeckers, some songbirds and insects.
Natural Regeneration or Pine Planting	Gradually reverses effects of clearcutting	Displaces some deer, turkey, quail, songbirds, etc., after period of 5-10 years.
Prescribed Burning	Reduces litter, encourages seed germination, annual plants and succulent sprouts.	Improves habitat for quail, deer, turkey, and other wildlife; effect lasts 2-4 years

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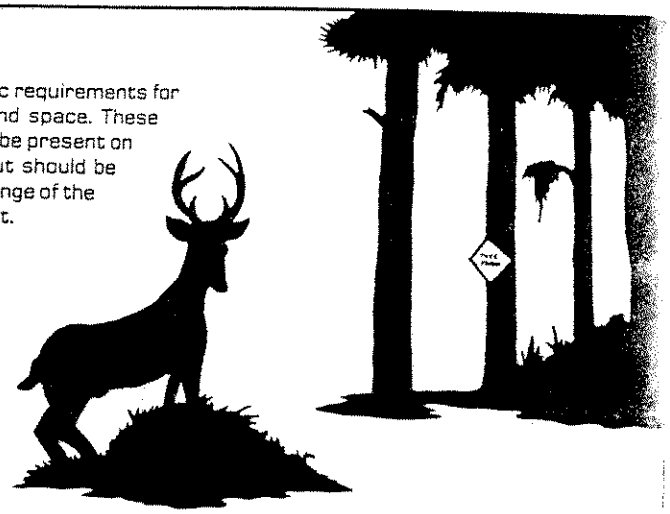
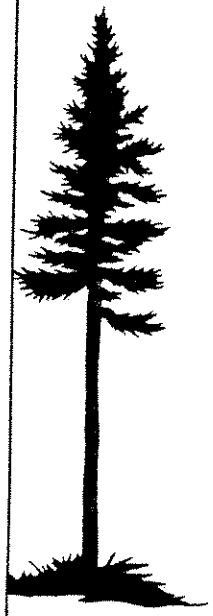
Forest Management and Wildlife

Every animal has four basic requirements for life: food, water, cover, and space. These do not necessarily need to be present on every acre of your land, but should be available within the home range of the animals you wish to attract.





When you make any kind of change in your forest, you are also changing the wildlife habitat. Since various wildlife species have different habitat needs, your forest management can be designed to encourage the species you are most interested in.

Any forest management practice has a predictable effect on wildlife, so you must advise your forester if you wish to promote certain species. Since timber harvesting, reforestation, and prescribed burning duplicate "natural" conditions, they are usually beneficial to wildlife if planned properly. By knowing your desires, your forester can help you plan for wildlife as well as timber.

Your ability to manage your forest for wildlife is affected by the size of your forest, the natural features of the property, and the available habitat on adjoining properties. Having several forest types or stands in different stages of growth usually provides the best habitat for a variety of animals.

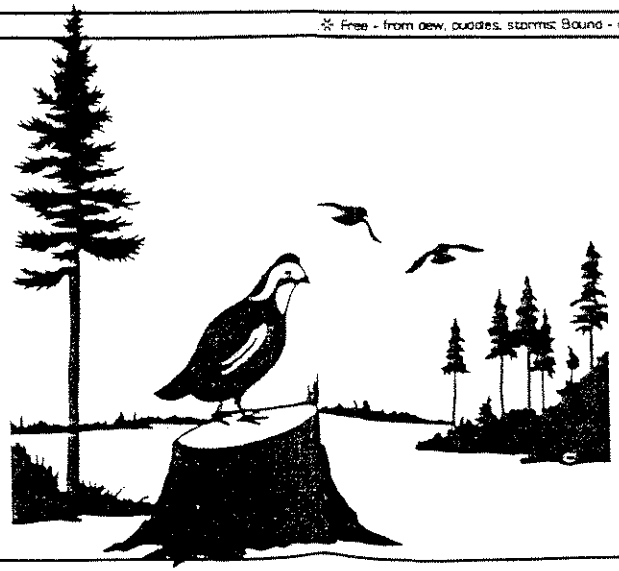
Wildlife Requirements

Species	Cover	Food	* Water	Reproductive Site	Remarks
Bluebird	Open grassland, old fields, clearcuts	Insects, berries	Bound	Cavity in tree, 3' to 7' above ground	Artificial nest boxes important
Dove	Hedgerows, edges, fields, clearcuts, young plantations	Crop gleaning, weed and grass seed, insects	Free	Nest in tree or hedge, occasionally on the ground	Adapt well to suburban conditions; some migratory
Ducks	Open water, islands with brush and grass, sheltered beaver ponds, flooded hardwoods	Aquatic plants, fruit, nuts, crop gleaning	Free	Tall shoreline plants or emergent water plants, tree cavities or nest boxes	Protect beaver ponds or create impoundments; many migratory
Quail	Grass, weeds, brush, vines	Insects, weed seeds, crop gleaning	Bound or Free	On ground near opening or edge	Best if ground level is open enough for easy travel and feeding
Wild Turkey	Mixed mature hardwoods, pine stands, edges, small openings, cutovers, river bottoms	Insects, fruit, mast, grass, and clover seed, snails	Bound or Free	On ground, in dense cover, open forest or cutovers	Can range over several square miles of forest; spring seeps are good winter feeding areas
Warblers	Ranges from tree tops to ground litter	Insects	Bound	Nest in tree, shrub, or on the ground	Some migratory
Woodcock	Thickets along small steam bottoms	Mostly earthworms	Bound	Low cover near wetlands	Need source of earthworms and soil moisture
Rabbit	Brush, briars, shrubs, edges, cutovers	Grass, buds, young stems and bark	Bound	Depression in ground lined and covered with grass	Grassy areas important
Fox	Old fields, edges, grasslands, cutovers, pine stands	Rodents, fruit, insects	Free	Den, usually below ground	Gray fox frequent woods, red fox in open fields
Gray Squirrel	Mature-overmature hardwoods, pine-hardwood mixture	Buds, mast, insects	Bound	Tree cavity or leaf nest	Adapt well to human development
Whitetail Deer	Thickets, brush, pine stands, cutovers	Buds, mast, leaves, new shoots, farm crops	Free	Bed on ground	Adapt well to broken forest and farmland
Brook Trout	Rocks, roots, debris, overhanging banks	Insects, minnows, other small organisms	Free	Gravel beds in cold flowing water	Need water temperature below 70° F
Raccoon	Mature hardwood	Agricultural crops, mast	Free	Hollow trees	Found along streams or wet areas in winter

* Free - from dew, puddles, storms; Bound - contained in food

Special Projects

Nesting Structure	Wood duck - place 6' to 10' above ground on pole or tree within one mile of pond or river. Bluebird - space nest boxes at 100-yard intervals along field edges.
Perches	Leave dead or dying trees near clearcuts or along field edges, about one for every two acres; leave clump trees and undergrowth in 4- to 5- acre opening.
Prescribed Fire	Burning is an economical way to set back plant succession, also encourages legumes and other food plants beneficial to wildlife.
Habitat Preservation	Location and protection of old house sites, spring seeps, uncommon food plants, roosts, and unusual cover will maintain important feeding, escape nesting habitat for songbirds, turkey, deer and other species.



Food Patches	Establishment of food plants can attract wildlife selectively according to the species cultivated; also benefit predators; annual plants must be reestablished yearly.
Brush Piles	Placement of slash to provide cover for rabbits, quail and other small animals can increase the local population densities of these species and their predators.
Water Holes	Excavation or blasting of water holes will improve habitats that lack free water for grouse, deer, songbirds and others; several holes per square mile is best.
Den Sites	Location and protection of hollow trees, rock retreats and other refuges will help maintain adequate reproductive sites and cover for cavity nesting birds and mammals.