

Steps to Successful Management

- 1. Identify the habitat needs
- 2. Inventory current habitat conditions
- 3. Establish a management objective / develop a plan
 - biologically sound & economically feasible
- 4. Implement management practices
- 5. Monitor results





Desirable Forest Habitat

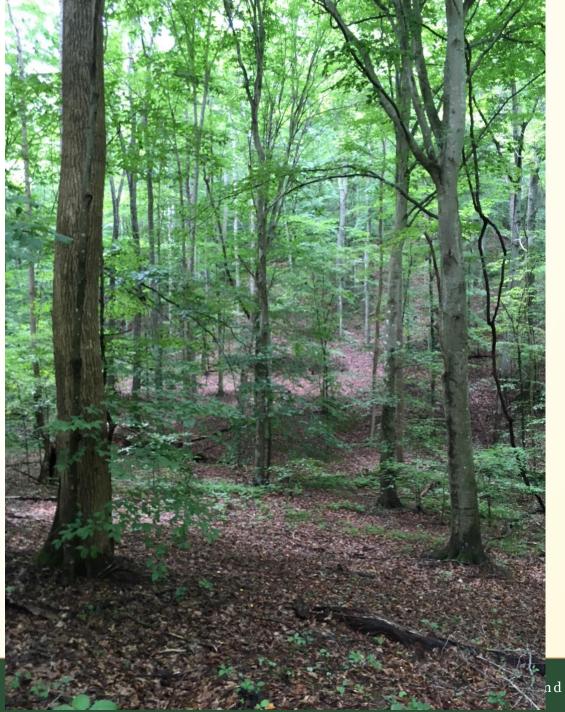
Mature forest , mixed stands
Well-developed mid-stories
-Trees and shrubs
Patchy ground vegetation
Relatively open

Management Goal

Maintain at least 20 % of property in hardwoods

50 % oaks





Mature Forest Habitat

Benefits

Mast- acorns, beechnuts, pine seeds, black gum,

Green vegetation / insects

Roosting sites / brood rearing





Hardwood Corridors

Streamside Management Zones
- mature trees / shaded understory

Link habitat components

Provide travel corridors
- around undesirable habitat,
young forest, large fields

Minimum 300 feet wide

Spring seeps, wetlands







Landscapes w/ mature forest interspersed w/ openings create ideal wild turkey habitat

Openings

Low growing grasses

Herbaceous vegetation

Scattered trees and shrubs

Vegetation height @ 20 inches

Benefits

Important foraging & brood habitat

- insects, seeds, green veg.

Nesting cover

Concealment for poults







Nesting Cover

Tall grass / old fields

Dense brush / fallen trees

Open woodlands

Uncut hayfields

Nesting Behavior

1 egg per day / 8 – 20 days
10 – 15 eggs average
Incubation period- 28 days







Forest Management

- 1. Challenge to maintain a balance of regeneration and mature stands
- 2. <u>Guidelines</u> -keep regeneration size 50 acres or less-no more than 1/3 of forest area less than 20 years old
- 3. Turkey use decreases as plant succession progresses
- 4. Hens will nest around edges of young forest areas
- 5. Dense young forest stands are barriers to turkey movement until trees mature, shade out understory



Thinning for Mast Production

Thinning enhances mast production with maximum benefits during poor mast years

Leave a variety of hard and soft mast producing trees

Encourage grape arbors

Maintain 60 - 80% of stocking





Pine Thinning

Thin loblolly pine when crowns begin to overlap Stand Age – 15 to 20 years

Thin to maintain 20 – 30% of ground in direct sunlight at noon

Prescribe burn 2 years after thinning

Conduct second thinning after 5 – 10 years

Leave a variety of hard and soft mast producing trees







Opening Management

Comprise 10 – 50 % of property

Ideal size- 1 – 5 acres

Maintain a combination of warm & cool season vegetation

Manage native vegetation

Techniques- mowing, disking, prescribed burning

What to Plant?

Cool Season Plantings

Clover- white, red, crimson

Wheat / Rye / Oats

Birdsfoot Trefoil

Warm Season Plantings

Browntop millet

Grain sorghum / corn

Chufa







Prescribed Burning

Develop a Burn Plan

Burn on a rotation- 2 – 4 years

Avoid burning April - June

Ideal time February – March

Use backing fire technique

Patchy burns ideal









