



**TIMBER PRESCRIPTION GUIDES FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT
 BY STAGES OF STAND DEVELOPMENT
 WILD TURKEY**

(NOT COMPLETELY MANAGEABLE ON SMALL TRACTS, BUT PURPOSEFUL STAND MANAGEMENT CAN HELP SUPPORT TURKEYS AND ATTRACT THEM TO SPECIFIC AREAS)

SEEDLING OR OPEN	SAPLING	POLE	YOUNG SAWTIMBER	MATURE SAWTIMBER
<p>This stage provides nesting & brood range. Plant pines at 10' x 10' or 10' x 12' spacing to aid rapid stand development & lengthen the grass & forb production period. Avoid site disturbances March - June to protect nesting & brood areas. Manage for sawtimber rotation in both pine & hardwood stands. One-fourth of each square mile should be managed to produce mast bearing species if possible.</p>	<p>In hardwood thin to favor oaks, beech & other turkey mast. In older sapling pine, burn December - February to encourage grass and forb production. (Turkeys seldom use stands of this stage.)</p>	<p>Thin to release mast producers in hardwood & pine-hardwood stands. Retain 20 to 50% of the stand in oak & beech. In pine, prescribe burn portions of the stand at 3-5 yr. Intervals in December - February. Protect shrubs bearing fruits & soft mast in selected areas, especially in transition zones between pine hills & bottoms when burning.</p>	<p>Cut to improve & maintain a variety of mast bearing trees & fruit bearing shrubs. Break up large areas of dense understory. Use fire or logging to keep pine stands open. Confine harvesting season to July-February & remove all products in same operation to reduce disturbance.</p>	<p>Apply 60-100 yr. rotation. Maintain pine in medium to fully stocked stands to prevent a heavy midstory. Burn pine stands in Dec.-Feb. on a 3-5 yr. cycle. Consider surrounding stands in selective regeneration areas to maintain diversity. At harvest & before regeneration, plan to remove all commercial & noncommercial stems to assure development of intolerant mast bearing seedlings & sprouts. Harvest July-Feb. in one operation or as quickly as possible in stand sizes up to 100 acres in size. Distribute cuts to minimize disturbance & other impacts & retain sawtimber stands needed for turkey habitat.</p>

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