

## Wildlife Management Practices

Wildlife Management Practices are efforts by private landowners and conservation organizations to enhance wildlife and the land that supports it. This works to ensure that wildlife will be maintained at healthy populations and that the natural balance that is achieved through succession is not disturbed by human interaction. Through these practices, we are able to study and understand wildlife, as well as how humans interact and utilize wildlife to ensure this balance to natural habitat is maintained. These are some Wildlife Management Practices:

### Fires and Selective Burning



Provides new growth in forests and open lands.

### Timber Sales

Selective cutting of trees opens the canopy of the forest, allowing the understory to grow. The understory becomes food and shelter for a variety of wildlife. Clearcutting opens large tracts of land and encourages browse to grow. These areas are also planted with small trees, which will provide shelter for wildlife.

### Edge Control



Creates habitat for upland birds, small game and some big game. Instead of cultivating right up to the edge of the woods, farmers leave a swath of land around the field to create shelter and food for the wildlife. It is cut every two to three years.

### Hunting

Through the sport of hunting, we can manage the population of the wildlife. Hunting maintains the correct number of specific wildlife for a given amount of habitat or area, and will also provide wildlife biologists with valuable information on species and population numbers in a given area. Using this information, hunting regulations and daily bag limits are determined each year for the duration of the season. Bag Limits are the maximum number of game animals a hunter may harvest in a given day or hunting season. Please check with your local regulations to ensure you are aware of the bag limit for the specific game you are hunting to avoid prosecution and/or fines.

### Food Plots



This creates winter feeding areas for wildlife. These plots are small areas planted with a mixture of grasses and clovers in open areas in the woods and on old logging roads.

#### Conservation Easements

Private landowners sign contracts agreeing that their land will not be developed.

#### Wildlife Refuges and Wildlife Management Areas

Government agencies and private landowners purchase land to preserve the natural beauty and the wildlife present in these areas.