

Wildlife habitat improvement techniques in addition to timber management.

Management practice	Comments
Plant small food plots containing a variety of foods, or leave a small portion of adjacent field crops unharvested.	Provides food where natural supplies are limited or during deep snow and late winter when natural supplies are inaccessible.
Encourage fruit trees – release old existing ones. Plant new trees around edge, in odd areas, etc. where enough light exists.	Provides food where natural supplies are limited or during deep snow and late winter when natural supplies are unsuccessful.
Plant or encourage shrubs on woodlot edge. Favor trees or shrubs with high wildlife value, especially heavy fruit producers like dogwood, hawthorn, crabapple, and high-bush cranberry.	Provides food, cover, and nesting habitat.
Erect nest boxes for cavity nesting species (e.g., wood duck, squirrels, woodpeckers, owls, and raccoon) where natural cavities are deficient.	This is a good option if retention of a sufficient number of cavities is inconsistent with timber management objectives. Nest boxes usually need annual maintenance to remain productive.
Save and encourage beech trees for nut production and den trees.	Beechnuts are a preferred food. Mature beech trees readily form natural cavities.
Plant adjacent areas not suited for farming to trees, shrubs, and permanent cover crops.	Prevents soil erosion and provides needed wildlife habitat (may also be most efficient use of site).
Establish and maintain openings in or adjacent to woods.	Provides required habitat component for many forest wildlife species.

Management practice	Comments
Plant grass-legume strips along woods' edge.	Provides nesting area for ground-nesting species close to "escape cover."
Cut low wildlife value or cull trees along woods edge and let lie.	Provides cover and optimizes area of low timber value for wildlife.
Leave den and potential den trees.	Important to many cavity users – bird and mammal.
Leave strip (≥ 100 -ft wide) of undisturbed vegetation adjacent to streams, wetlands, ponds, rivers, and lakes.	Water, especially if moving, is an activity center for many species. Adjacent uplands often provide nesting and feeding areas for many species of wetland wildlife.
Protect all wetlands in or near woodlands.	Wetlands are the most productive of all habitat types. Forested wetlands provide important amphibian breeding habitat.
Encourage moderate to dense understory throughout portions of the woods.	Especially important in attracting songbirds.
Strip disk dense perennial vegetation.	Creates early successional herbaceous cover critical to quail and several other species of ground-nesting wildlife.
Replace fescue or other grass monocultures with diverse cool-season or native warm-season grass/forb plantings.	Creates structural diversity in grassland habitats that support a wide array of bird and mammal species.