

ALABAMA FORESTRY FOUNDATION

Cumberland Woods

NEWSLETTER



Biodiversity in Alabama

The great state of Alabama has 22 million acres of incredible forests; from shortleaf pine-oak forests in the Cumberland Plateau to longleaf pine ecosystems in the south. Alabama's warm moist climate, great geologic diversity, and rich evolutionary past enable Alabama to be one of the most biologically diverse states in the U.S.

Understanding biodiversity is key. Biodiversity is the richness of life in all of its forms, from genes to ecosystems. Currently, Alabama ranks # 1 in aquatic diversity as well as #1 in turtle plant diversity.

One of the programs that foresters, the forest industry, and Alabama forest landowners use to protect and promote these important ecosystems is Alabama's Best Management Practices (BMPs) guidelines. These guidelines provide a resource of sound stewardship practices that will supply wood and fiber products to the country's citizens, as well as protect and enhance Alabama's diverse forested habitats. Such guidelines contribute to maintaining Alabama forest

habitats and give foresters and loggers a framework of practices which include:

- Road construction
- Stream crossings
- Harvesting
- Site preparation
- Reforestation herbicide/pesticide and fertilizer application

Whether managing your property for income, wildlife habitat, legacy, beauty or recreation, properly managing Alabama's forests can help protect our diverse forest habitats. With education, awareness, planning, and best management practices, landowners can help manage their own piece of Alabama's rich biodiverse habitats. To learn about these habitats in your forest, have one of Alabama's Forestry Foundation's natural resource professionals set up a no-cost visit with you at the Alabama Landowner Resource Center.



SPRING 2023



Upcoming Events

Clay County Learn & Burn
Date: June 26--30, 2023
[REGISTER](#)

2023 Tennessee River
Basin Network Annual
Conference
Date: August 23-24, 2023
[REGISTER](#)

[Click for More](#)

Find Us Online!

 alabamaforestryfoundation.org

 [alabamaforestryfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/alabamaforestryfoundation)

 [alaforestryfdn](https://www.instagram.com/alaforestryfdn)

Join AFA!

Connect with over 7,000 other landowners, foresters, loggers, equipment dealers, realtors, manufacturers and more in Alabama's forest network!

[Join Now - Click for More Information!](#)

Event Photos

What's Happening in the Woods? Catch up with us on Social Media to see what we've been up to!



Brad Nail

Regional Forester

bnail@alaforestry.org
(334) 481-2154

Autumn Watrous

Wildlife Biologist

awatrous@alaforestry.org
(334) 481-2138

Important Contact Information

To Obtain a Burn Permit:
(800) 392-5679

For Fire Weather Resources:
[Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

Hunt Lease Liability Insurance, Timberland Liability Insurance, or Prescribed Burn Coverage Application: [Alabama Forestry Association](#)



Improving Habitat Diversity for Wildlife

When managing for wildlife, diversity is key! Whether your goal is deer, turkey, quail, or songbirds; having diversity throughout your property can greatly improve habitat quality. Many wildlife species are generalists and rely on a variety of habitat types to survive and flourish. Turkey nests can often be found at the base of mature trees or along fallen logs in forests within a short distance of open areas that are ideal for brood rearing. Quail rely on woody growth for cover and native warm season grasses and forbs for nesting and food. Whitetail deer browse and seek cover in the healthy understory of a forest. Having a matrix of habitat types helps to meet the needs of wildlife populations and active management encourages them to utilize the areas that you desire.

There are many ways to manage for diversity both on a large and small scale. Timber stand improvement, or precommercial thinning, can both improve the health of the stand and the diversity of the habitat by removing unhealthy trees to increase resource availability for desirable trees. The added sunlight on the forest floor encourages grasses, forbs, and woody browse to grow.

Prescribed fire can be a great tool to maintain an open understory, and burning on a smaller scale in a patchwork pattern can further increase the habitat diversity. Managing forest edges provides a transitional zone between habitat types for cover and nesting.

Before harvesting a stand, take time to think of how it may affect the wildlife on your property. Leaving wider streamside management zones provides corridors and critical habitat to some aquatic species. These zones often contain hardwood tree species that produce valuable hard mast. Harvesting adjoining stands at different successional stages or ages helps ensure that varying types of habitat are located closely enough to be utilized. Thoughtful planning and active management can greatly improve forest diversity and create healthy wildlife habitat.

Interested in scheduling a site visit with a forester or wildlife biologist?

Scan the QR Code and follow the link!

