



## MAINTAIN A DIVERSE FOREST

When preserving an unbroken forest, it's important to maintain a variety of native trees, shrubs and wildflower of varying ages and sizes. This diversity not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the forest but also provides a rich habitat for a wide range of wildlife, contributing to the overall health and resilience of the ecosystem.



## TIMING OF ACTIVITIES:

To protect forest wildlife, it's best to avoid forest management activities between May and August, as this is the breeding season for many forest birds. By scheduling activities outside of this period, we can minimize disturbances to nesting birds and their young.



## SEASONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

When conducting forest activities, it's important to wait until the ground has frozen to minimize soil damage. Frozen ground can better withstand heavy equipment and foot traffic, reducing the risk of soil compaction and erosion.



## DOWNED TREES:

Leaving some fallen trees on the forest floor can provide habitat, food, cover, and nutrients for the soil. Fallen trees create microhabitats for various species, including insects, fungi, and small mammals, enriching the ecological complexity of the forest.



## LEAVE SNAGS:

Retain standing dead or dying trees (snags), which serve as critical nesting sites for some birds. These snags provide valuable habitat for woodpeckers, owls, and other cavity-nesting birds, contributing to the biodiversity of the forest.



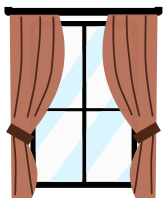
## NATIVE PLANTING:

Planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers such as red oak, red maple, serviceberry, roses, and red-osier dogwood can significantly support local ecosystems. These plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, providing food and shelter for native wildlife while enhancing the overall biodiversity of the forest.



## ENHANCE YOUR FOREST'S BIRD HABITAT: EFFECTIVE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS) FOR SPECIES PROTECTION

BMPs are recommendations designed to help manage your properties in ways that have been scientifically found to benefit and protect various species. Several BMPs can be used to help make your forest more "bird-friendly."



## WINDOW SAFETY:

To prevent bird collisions, make building windows visible to birds by closing curtains when not at home or using window stickers. These simple measures can reduce the risk of bird strikes and contribute to the protection of forest avian species.



## KEEP CATS INDOORS:

Preventing cats from roaming outdoors can significantly protect wildlife, especially birds and small mammals. By keeping cats indoors, we can reduce predation pressure on local wildlife and help maintain a healthier ecological balance.



## RESPECT ACTIVE NESTS:

When encountering an active bird nest, it's crucial to remember that it's a home. To minimize disturbance and stress to the birds, it's best to maintain a respectful distance and avoid any activities that could disrupt the nesting site.



## MINIMIZE LIGHT POLLUTION:

Turning off outdoor lights when not in use can help migrating birds navigate using the stars. Minimizing light pollution in and around the forest area can reduce disorientation and exhaustion in nocturnally migrating birds, ultimately supporting their safe passage.

## SELECTIVE HARVESTING:

Instead of clear-cutting, opt for selective harvesting to maintain a multi-aged forest. This approach allows for the retention of different tree age classes, ensuring a more diverse and resilient forest structure.



## AVOID INSECTICIDES:

Refraining from using insecticides is essential to protect wildlife and maintain the delicate balance of the ecosystem. By avoiding these chemicals, we can demonstrate our care and protection for all living beings within the forest.



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