

December Management Recommendations

Fire Ecology

- Develop burn plans
- Evaluate last year's burns on grass flowering and seeding.

Forestry

- Plan timber harvest schedule for spring. If it will not create problems with other land use priorities this can be a good month to thin pines if needed. Thinning your woods promotes valuable groundcover for wildlife.
- Continue planting longleaf or other site-specific pine trees as needed.
- This is a good month to plant mast-producing trees for attracting wildlife

Game Bird

- Supplemental Feed at 1- 2 bu/ac/yr
- Develop burn plans: high quail numbers this fall indicate need for burn plans that help to maximize quail survival rates. This includes patch burning and stretching burning out from March through April
- Disk Fields for brood habitat now through February.

Land Management

- Mow dense hardwood encroachment areas to enhance groundcover.
- Fertilize fall food plots.
- Good time to work roads.

Vertebrate Ecology

- Include snag retention in forestry harvest operations planning.
- Be on the lookout and record nesting locations for birds of prey, such as the bald eagle. Take efforts to protect nesting areas from disturbance.
- Chorus Frogs, Spring Peepers, and other winter-breeding frogs may start to call as early as mid-December and reach higher levels of activity in January.
- Christmas bird counts are underway in mid-December. The counts have provided invaluable trend information that date back to the early 1900's.
- Sapsuckers arrive in big numbers and start etching away at their sap wells. Individuals can be highly territorial, and wells are passed along from generation to generation.
- Clean out nest boxes in preparation for spring.