

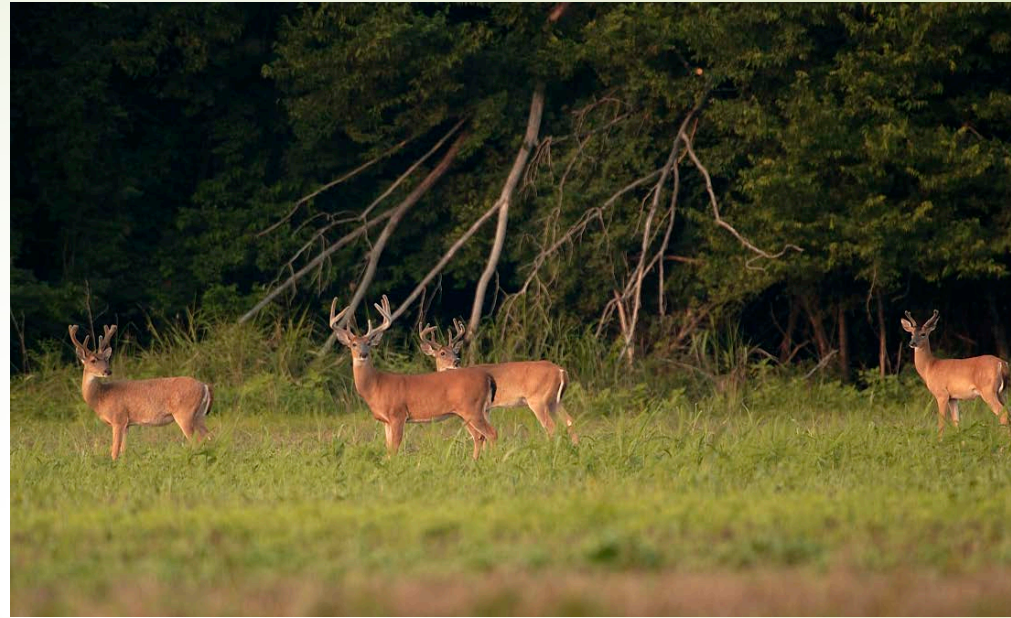
KY Master Naturalist Program

Wildlife and Wildlife Management

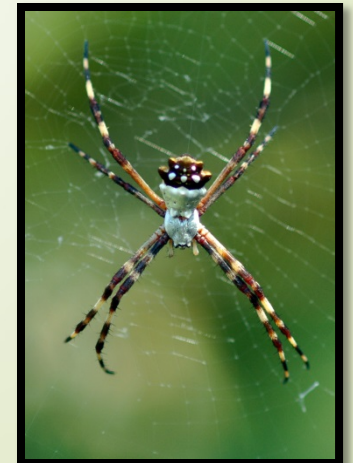
Matthew Springer, Ph.D.
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What is wildlife?



What is wildlife?



Kentucky Wildlife

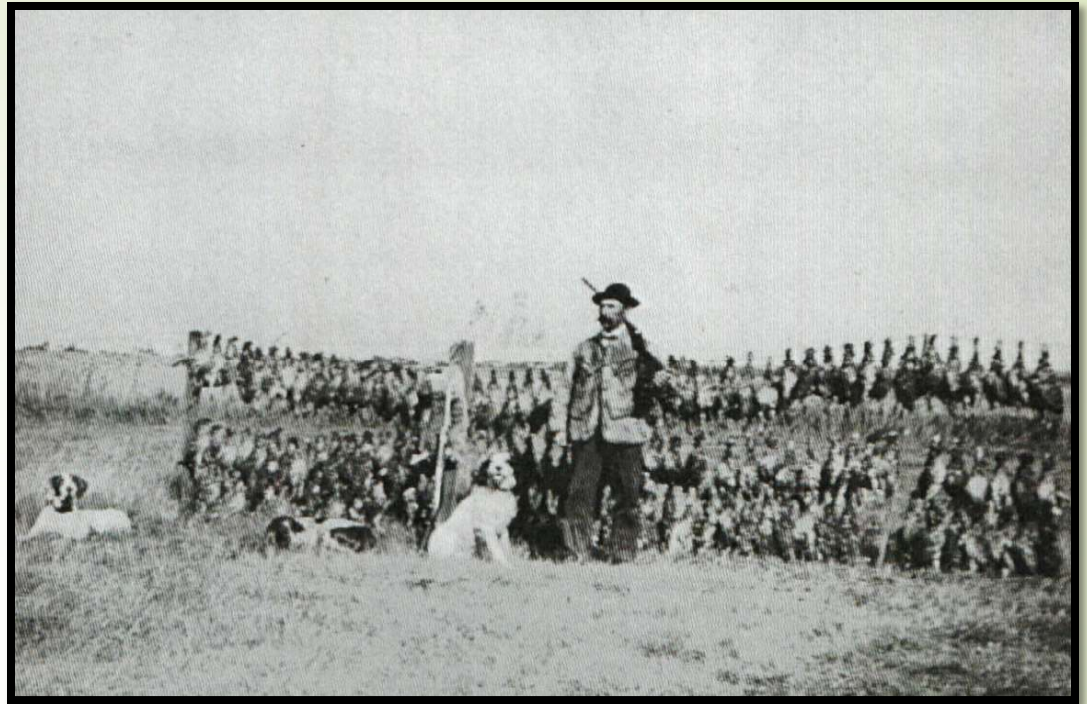
- Total of 534 wildlife species in KY
- Mammals 71: 16 bats (5 T&E), 27 small mammals
- Birds: 350 birds documented in KY, 150 breed within the state
- Amphibians 57: 35 salamanders, 22 frogs/toads
- Reptiles 56: 10 lizards, 32 snakes, 14 turtles



What is wildlife management?



Is management
necessary?



Is management necessary?



Extinct



Carolina
parakeet



Heath
hen



Passenger
pigeon

Recovered



Bald
Eagle



Peregrine
Falcon

Principles of North American Model

1. Wildlife is held in public trust.



Principles of North American Model

2. Wildlife use is allocated through law.



Principles of North American Model

3. Wildlife may be killed only for legitimate use.



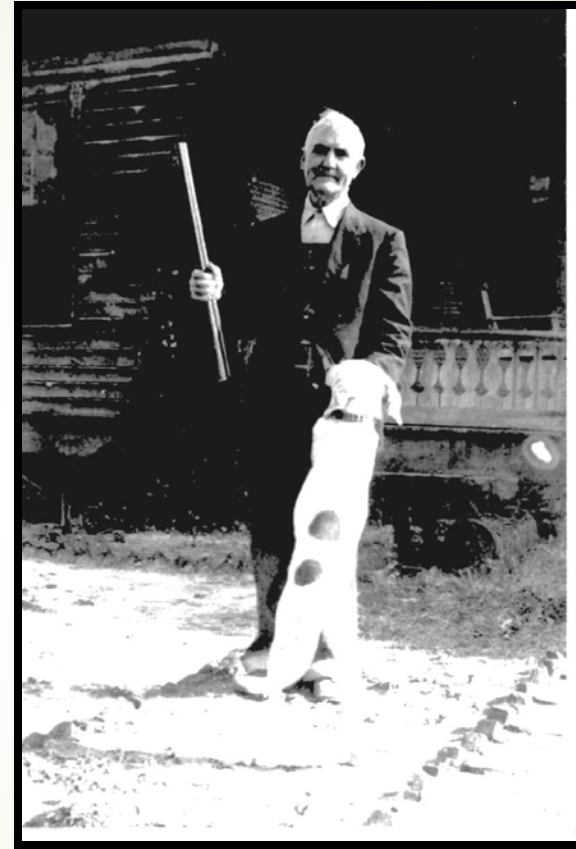
Principles of North American Model

4. Commerce in dead wildlife is eliminated.



Principles of North American Model

5. Hunting opportunity is for all.



Principles of North American Model

6. Wildlife
is an international resource.

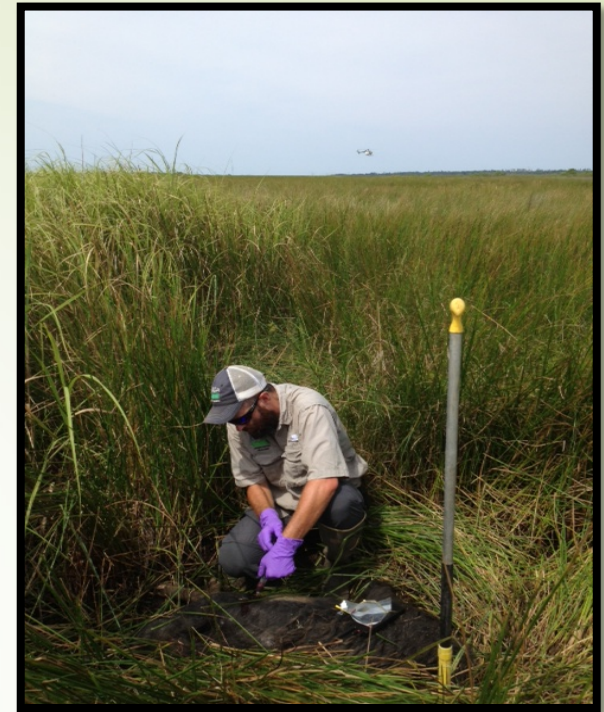


Principles of North American Model

7. Science is the basis for wildlife policy.



Wildlife Research



Public and Private Wildlife Conservation Partners



What is Wildlife Habitat:



What is Wildlife Habitat:

- It depends.....



What is Wildlife Habitat:

- Habitat is neither lost or created, it just changes form.



What is Wildlife Habitat:

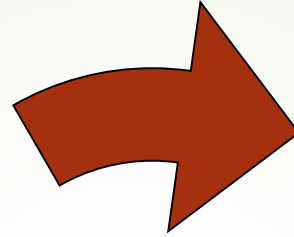
- Habitat is neither lost or created, it just changes form.
- Food
- Cover
- Water
- Reproduction



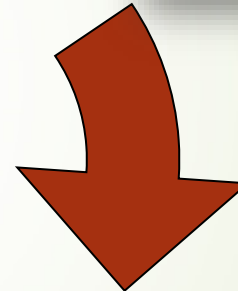
Habitat: Seasonal variation



Spring



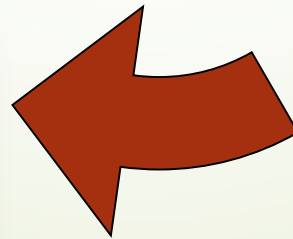
Summer



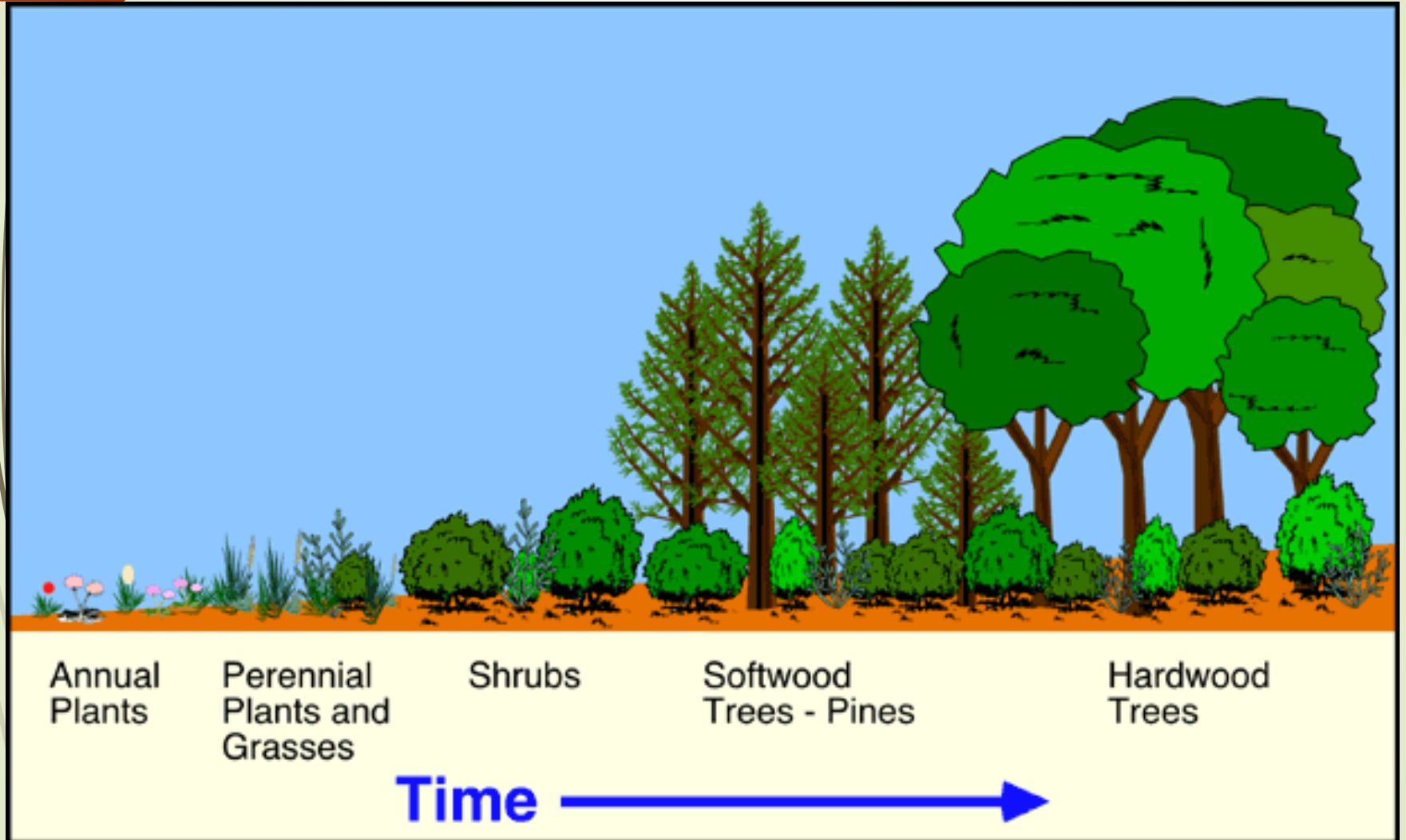
Fall



Winter



Ecological Succession



Stage 1- Bare Ground

Post -disturbance



Stage 2 - Annual forbs and grasses



short lived



seeds



bare ground

Stage 3 – Perennial Grasses and Forbs



grass-dominated



litter



less seed

Stage 4 – Shrubs



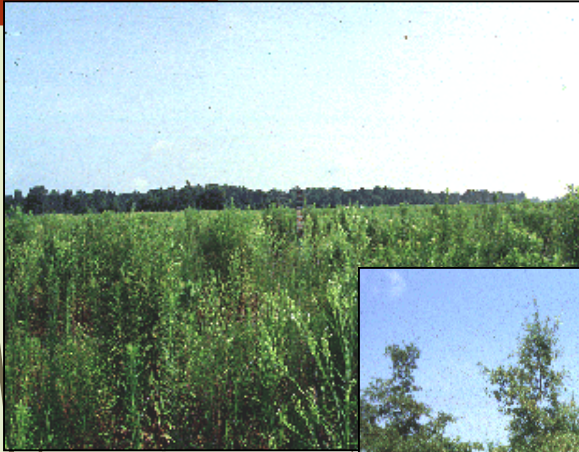
Stage 5 – Young Woodland



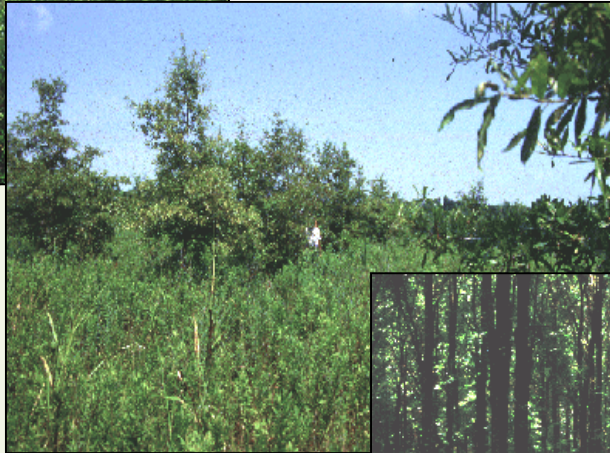
Stage 6 – Mature Forest



Wildlife Management Concepts



0-4 yrs.



7-15 yrs.

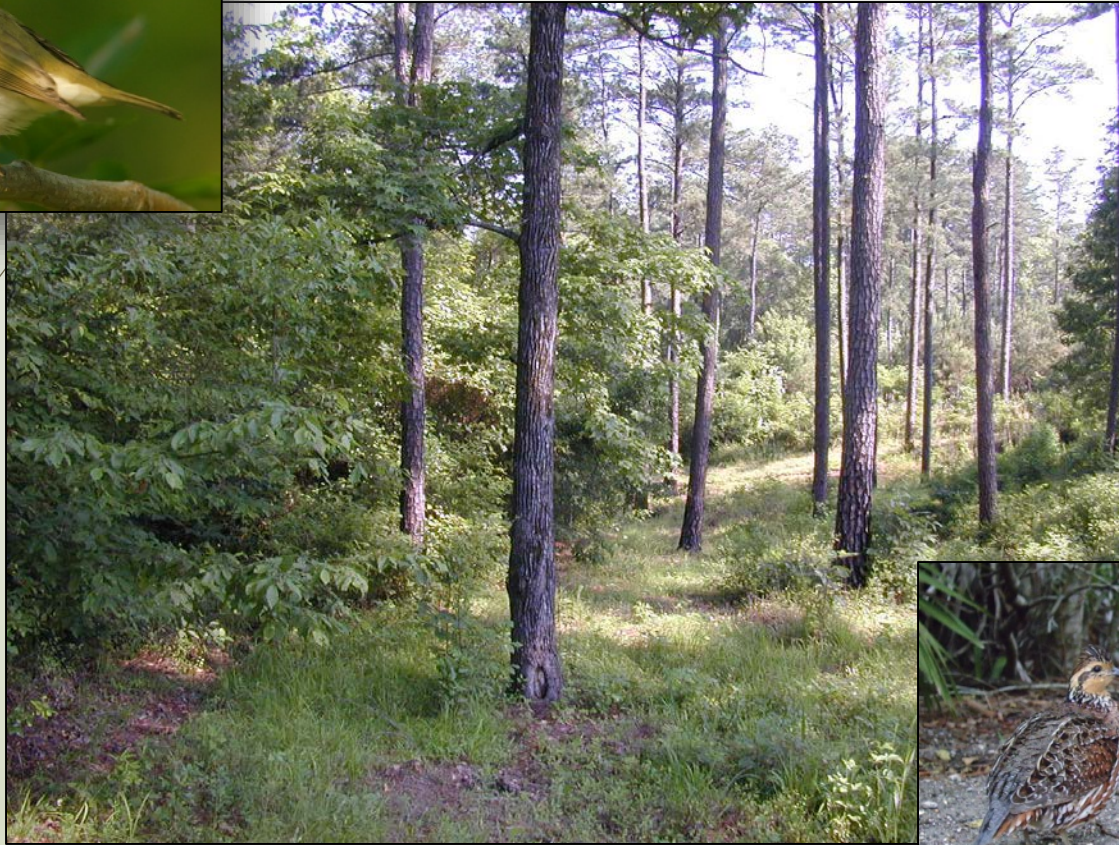


21-27 yrs.

Mature



Species change with successional stage



Prescribed Fire



Herbicide Applications



Strip Disking



When habitat management is not enough:

Carrying Capacity:

The number of a particular species a given area or landscape can sustain.



Harvest:

- Removes surplus,
- Prevents habitat destruction
- Reduces risks of disease transmission

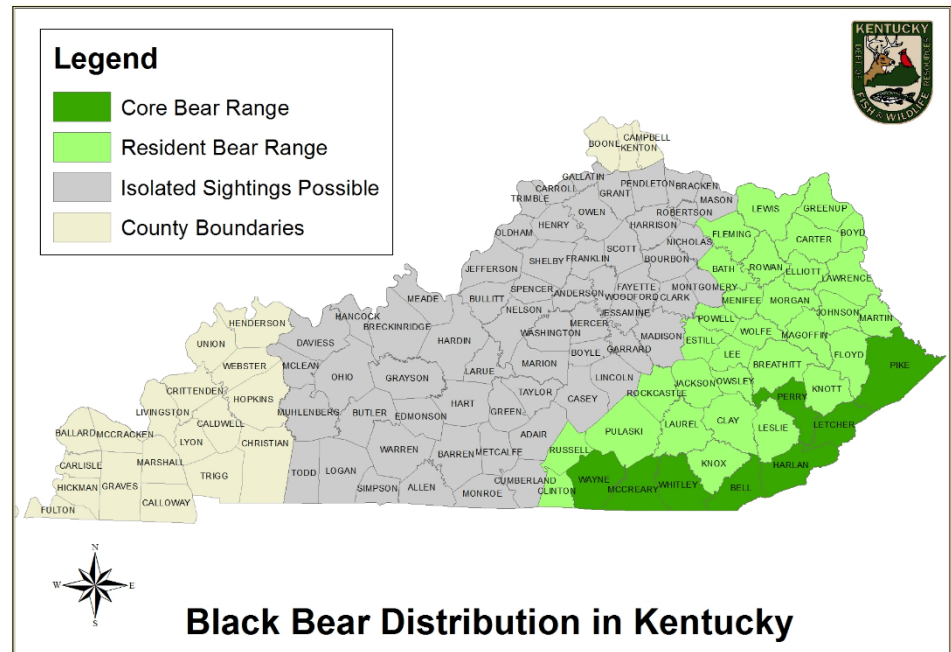


In essence, hunting plays the role of predator in the system. We should never remove ourselves from the system.

Species Presence

How can we tell what species are in a given area:

- Geographic and habitat distributions



Species Presence



How can we tell what species are in a given area:

- Geographic and habitat distributions
- Sights

Species Presence

How can we tell what species are in a given area:

- Geographic and habitat distributions
- Sights
 - Visual observation
 - Trail Camera Photos
 - Scat or Tracks
 - Damage



Species Presence

How can we tell what species are in a given area:

- Geographic and habitat distributions
- Sights
- Sounds
 - Animals establish or defend their territory
 - Especially useful with birds and frogs/toads



Relevant Resources

- Field Guides and Books
- Merlin, iNaturalist or other phone apps
- Kentucky Snake Identification Site: <http://kysnakes.ca.uky.edu/>
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources:
<https://fw.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

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