

Fig. 5: Habitat and Harvest Management Intensities for Wild Turkey

Management Practices	Low Intensity	Medium Intensity	High Intensity
Timber Harvest/ Regeneration Types	Clear-cut/Plant	Clear-cut/Plant, Shelterwood or Seedtree	Small clear-cut/Plant, Shelterwood or Seedtree
Basal Area (sq. ft./acre)	> 120	50–90	55–85
Timber Harvest Rotation Length	15–25 years	20–45 years	35–70 years
Thinnings	Once or none	Every five years	Every four or five years
Fire in uplands	None or one every three years in winter	Every two to three years in winter	Every 2–3 years in winter, summer burn every 9–10 years, ring-arounds to protect nesting habitat
Site Preparation	Shear/pile & disk, broadcast broad spectrum herbicide	Chop/burn, selective herbicide, banded or spot treatment herbicide	Fire, banded selective herbicide, release after minimal site preparation
Windrows	Burn	Leave alternate windrows	Leave unburned
Seedling Spacing	6 x 6, 6 x 8	8 x 8, 8 x 10	10 x 10, 12 x 12
Hardwoods	Retain in drains	Retain in drains and mast producing clumps	Retain all mast producers
Food Plots	1–3% of land in chufas, clovers, and small grains	3–5% of land area in chufas, clovers, and small grains	Greater than 5% of land area in chufas, clovers, and small grains
Fertilization	None/Food plots	Food plots	Food plots, mast producers
Openings	1–3% of land maintained in pastures, fields, cropland, roadsides, right-of-ways	3–10% of land maintained in pastures, fields, cropland, roadsides, right-of-ways	Greater than 10% of land area maintained in pastures, fields, cropland, roadsides, right-of- ways
Turkey Harvest	Harvest all gobblers	Harvest some jakes	Harvest only adult gobblers