



## Recommendations for Wild Turkey Management

- Do you have a forestry/ wildlife plan for your property? Utilize forestry and wildlife professional to prepare your plans. Don't be afraid to use several people for different opinions of your property. Your land mgt. plan is the 1<sup>st</sup> priority for any landowner!
- Look into various state and federal programs that will help you as a landowner cost share improvements to your land with NRCS, FSA, USDA, grants, etc.
- Use timber harvesting to set up your roads and wildlife openings.
- Utilize Utility/ pipeline ROW's for native grass and supplemental planting.
- Create brood and nesting habitat with timber thinning and prescribe burning.
- Don't be afraid to prescribe burn during dormant or growing seasons. Keep burns small in size (20-40 acres) and spread them out over property. Burn every 2-3 years.
- Supplemental food plots are usually only 2-3% of the landscape, so although important keep them in perspective with managing your timber landscape.
- Consider spring and summer food plots, as well as establishing Native Warm Season Grasses along perimeter of fields, log sets, and ROW's.
- Do not bush hog or cut hay on old fields and ROW's during nesting season (May 1<sup>st</sup>- June 15<sup>th</sup>). If cutting during this time for hay leave 30'-40' feet adjacent to the edge of the woods uncut.
- Use natural disasters (hurricane, tornado, ice storm, and insect damage) as opportunities to cost share your restoration to Longleaf pine, Native Warm Season Grasses (NWSG) installation, and Loblolly Pine or Hardwood regeneration. There are some good 5-15 year programs to consider.
- Take advantage of field days such as this or visiting other landowners to derive ideas that can be implemented onto your personal property.
- Some tips to incorporate for wildlife when logging your land. Make log landings 2-3 acres (clear cut), stump them and plant to supplemental or NWSG. These can be future log landings and by cleaning up and planting logging roads on a harvest compartment you can create both linear food plots on your roads as well as permanent wildlife openings on your log landings.
- When logging widen woods roads 30'-40' to allow sunlight to dry roads out and possibly plant road back slopes in linear food plots.