

The Young Forest Project

Wildlife Management Institute



For a Healthy Habitat

Wildlife need plenty of young forest so that they can find food, seek out shelter during bad weather, reproduce, and raise their young. It's great to be able to create **large, contiguous tracts** of young forest and shrubland: areas **50 or 100 acres** or even bigger.

It's not always possible to work on such a large scale. Another way is to divide a woodland into blocks **5 acres** and larger and treat some of those blocks every **5 years**, so that young forest constantly cycles across the land. For a healthy, wildlife-friendly mix of different-aged forest stands, keep at least **5 percent** of the woods in young forest.

Because some management actions such as brush-hogging a field or clearcutting a forest temporarily eliminate a certain amount of habitat, good land-stewards make sure **enough other habitat remains** close at hand. A thoughtful plan keeps ample good habitat over time and space so that all wildlife continues to thrive.



Qualified natural resources specialists, including state private-lands habitat biologists, employees of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and foresters with wildlife training, can help landowners and property managers decide what will work best on a given property – plus guide them toward **funding** that may pay for habitat enhancement.

Most young forest and shrubland will grow out of a usable condition after about **20 years**. Renewing young forest can be a long-term commitment, with management activities planned into the future. Landowners can cooperate with their **neighbors** to put together large projects taking in several properties.

That's thinking about wildlife in a responsible, sustainable way – and it's what the Young Forest Project is all about!

(source: www.youngforest.org/content/think-5-5-5)



For more information

- Visit the Wisconsin portion of the project: www.YoungForest.org/Wi
- Take the next step and complete this survey to get your property evaluated: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WYFP-survey
- WYFP Coordinator Contact: Randee Smith — Phone: (715) 966-5160 or Email: WiYoungForest@gmail.com
- Follow on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WiYoungForest

The WI Young Forest Partnership is made possible by the cooperating agencies and organizations represented by the logos below.

