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First Steps to Attracting Wildlife

Attracting wildlife to your property can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. If you would like to attract wildlife to your property, there are three basic steps to help determine what changes need to be made to attract the desired type of wildlife. The first step is to decide what kind of wildlife you want to attract, as different species have different needs. Next, learn the habitat requirements needed by the species you want to attract, and then incorporate these habitat requirements into your property.

When deciding what species you would like to attract, observe the types of wildlife already living in or traveling through your area, as these species will be the easiest to attract. Also, consider the size of the property you are working with. For example, a pair of eastern bluebirds need a smaller area to meet their habitat requirements than white-tailed deer.

Once you have decided what species to attract, evaluate your property to determine what habitat requirements it already provides and which ones need improvement. Habitat requirements are the food, water, cover, and space animals need to survive. However, the specifics of each of these requirements will differ for different wildlife species. For example, bob-white quail do not need water readily available to drink as they receive enough water from the food they eat, whereas white-tailed deer need surface water available to drink.

After your property becomes a destination for wildlife, it is essential to implement correct management practices, including, but not limited to, prescribed burning, grazing, tree planting, and selective tree removal to maintain wildlife habitat. Maintaining wildlife habitat on your property through these management practices will help ensure a successful long-term wildlife attraction program for your property.

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