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Appendix A: Forest Practices

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FOREST PRACTICES

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Forest management, like agriculture, has a profound influence on distribution and abundance of quail populations. Participants in the Forest Practices section of the workshop identified a broad array of issues and strategies that relate to management of quail in forest environments. There was a general consensus that a severe polarization of views exists between many wildlife and forestry professionals with respect to impacts of forest management actions on quail. A great deal of this polarization is rooted in the different educational philosophies of many contemporary forestry and wildlife programs that provide University training for professionals. Therefore, this section of the Strategic Plan is divided into 2 categories: (1) general issues relating to communication and cooperation between wildlife and forestry professionals and (2) specific problems faced by quail in particular silvicultural systems or regions.

Issue 2.1

COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE PROFESSIONALS

There are often great differences of opinion and objectives between foresters and wildlife biologists that frequently have profound bearing on quail population abundance and management opportunities in forest environments.

Strategies

2.1.1-Encourage participation in interdisciplinary meetings, workshops, and courses and the use of literature outside one's own field.

2.1.2-Offer integrative, "keystone" courses in wildlife and forestry that bring together students from different disciplines and foster future networking among professionals of different disciplines.

Issue 2.2

PROVIDING EDUCATION FOR LANDOWNERS

Landowner participation in statewide forest stewardship programs are exceeding the capacity of state wildlife agency biologists, extension personnel, and consultants to assist landowners with the development of so-called "best management practices" for wildlife and silviculture systems.

Strategies

2.2.1-Develop workshops and other continuing education and certification activities (based on end-user needs) in conjunction with state wildlife agency personnel and university professors to educate private consultants about technical aspects of quail management.

2.2.2-Increase availability of publications and extension services for landowners that increase the efficiency of technology transfer for quail population and habitat enhancement.

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Issue 2.3

SPECIFIC ISSUES IN SILVICULTURAL SYSTEMS

More information and awareness is needed regarding forest management practices, forest management areas adjacent to agricultural environments, and their influences on quail.

Strategies

2.3.1-Reevaluate timber classifications in light of quail requirements.

2.3.2-Perform research to quantify distribution, habitat use, and abundance of quail according to age classes of regenerating forest stands and under different silvicultural regimes.

2.3.3-Perform research to assess distribution and abundance of quail in forests that are managed or not managed for endangered species.

2.3.4-Perform research on topics related to satisfaction of quail hunters who use early stage forest regeneration stands and examine how different forest regeneration strategies relate to quail hunting success, and how forest regeneration techniques that provide the best quail hunting can be reconciled with maximizing timber production.

Issue 2.4

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CERTAIN SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES ON QUAIL

Some silvicultural practices adversely affect northern bobwhite populations in forest ecosystems.

Strategies

2.4.1-Develop policies and incentives that mandate multiple use values on public areas as a basis for practicing long-rotation sawlog production.

2.4.2-Determine the lowest replanting rate that is commercially viable and encourage planting rates that sustain quail.

2.4.3-Develop policy and legislation that encourage wise use of prescribed burning in relation to historic burning cycles.

2.4.4-Develop policy that encourages replacement and alternative techniques for enhancing quail habitat quality in loblolly pine stands in public areas where longleaf was historically located.

