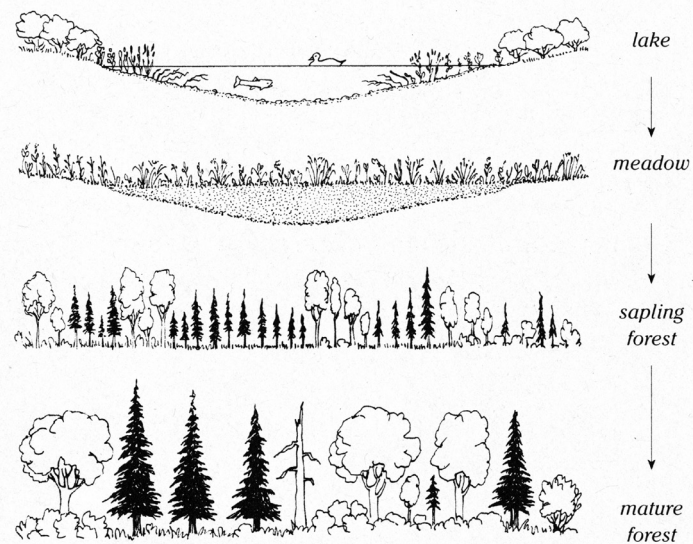


How do habitats change?

Nature is always changing. A lake fills in and becomes a meadow. Trees grow and the meadow becomes a young forest. The forest matures into old-growth. This natural “succession” happens gradually over a long time. Each stage features a different mix of trees and plants, and will support a different community of wildlife.



When we develop land, we change the natural rhythm of succession. Some animals do quite well with our influence, like deer, crows and squirrels. Many others find it difficult or impossible to keep up with the sudden loss or change of their habitat.

The Allegheny National Forest manages land to support a rich variety of animals. You can also help wildlife in your own backyard!

Create a backyard wildlife refuge!

- Plant native trees and shrubs. These are the ones your local wildlife has learned to depend on.
- Choose plants that offer a food source: berries, nuts, nectar or seeds.
- Install a pond or birdbath for wildlife drinking water.
- Build nesting boxes and bat boxes.
- Keep cats inside!
- Avoid chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

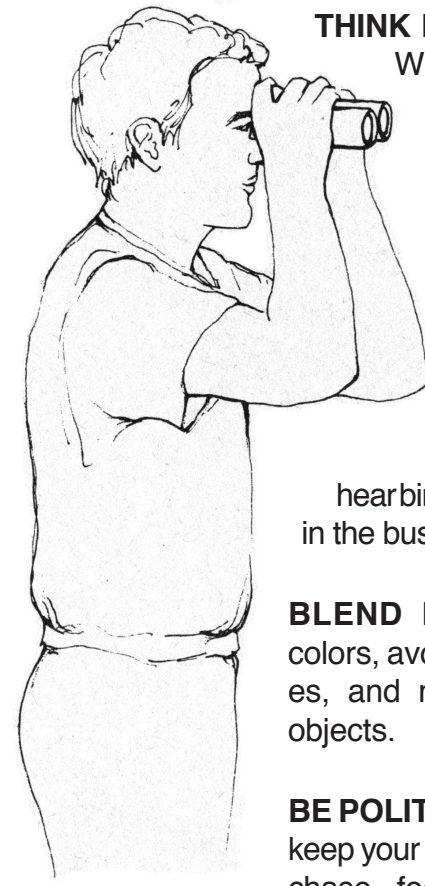
Be a wildlife watcher!



STAY QUIET and still for a few minutes and see what appears. Most animals will see you first!

USE BINOCULARS for a close-up view.

Take a look at the landscape and imagine how wildlife would use it. You'll have more success if you **LOOK IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.**



THINK LIKE AN ANIMAL.

Where would you go to look for food, water, or cover?

LOOK FOR TRACKS, scat, or other sign. Look above, below, and all around you.

LISTEN. Can you hear birds singing? Rustling in the bushes?

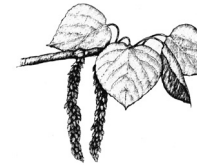
BLEND IN. Wear natural colors, avoid strong fragrances, and minimize reflective objects.

BE POLITE! Leash your pets, keep your distance, and never chase, feed, or disturb any animal. Leave nests alone.

You can learn more about the wildlife and habitats near where you live.

CONTACT:

- The U.S. Forest Service Ranger District near you
- Your state or local Fish and Wildlife Agency
- Your local organic garden association



FOR MORE INFORMATION about this and other recreation opportunities, contact:

Bradford Ranger District

29 Forest Service Drive • Bradford, PA 16701
(814) 362-4613

<http://fs.usda.gov/allegheny>

Warren County Visitors Bureau

22045 Route 6 • Warren, PA 16365
(814) 726-1222 • (800) 624-7802

www.wcvb.net

ENJOY YOUR VISIT!

Please recycle by returning your brochure to the rack when you've finished your visit, unless you want to keep it. Thank you for saving paper and helping reduce brochure expenses.

This brochure can be obtained in large print at the Allegheny National Forest, 4 Farm Colony Dr., Warren, PA 16365, (814) 723-5150.

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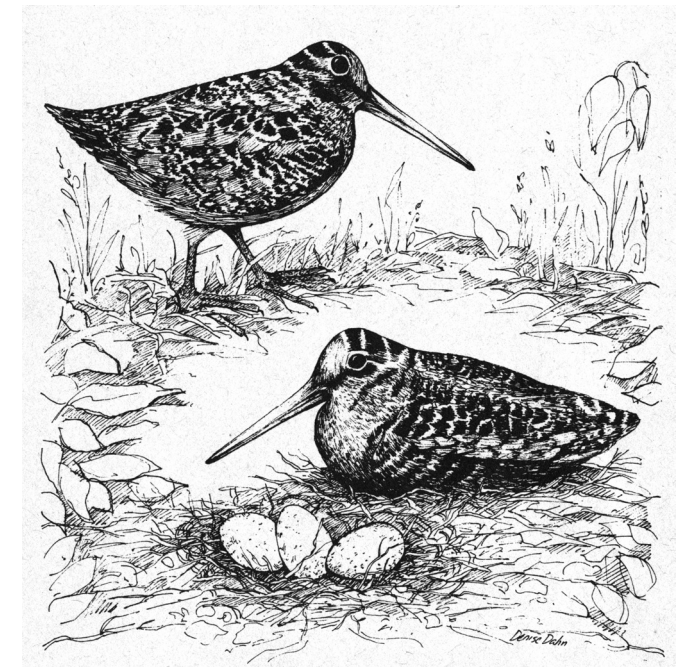


United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service

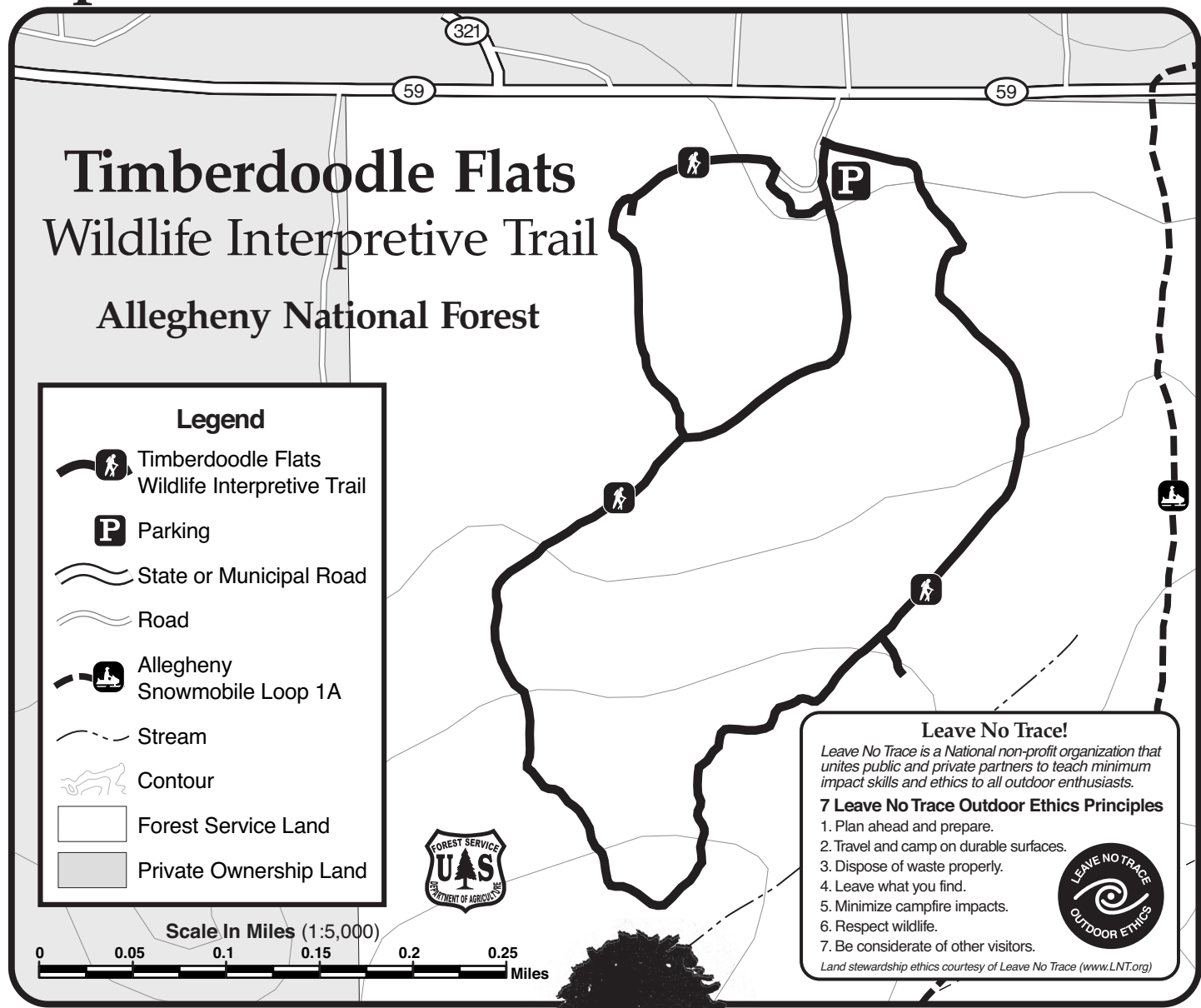
Timberdoodle Flats Wildlife Interpretive Trail



The American woodcock, affectionately known as the timberdoodle, uses the forest and open areas near here for mating and nesting.

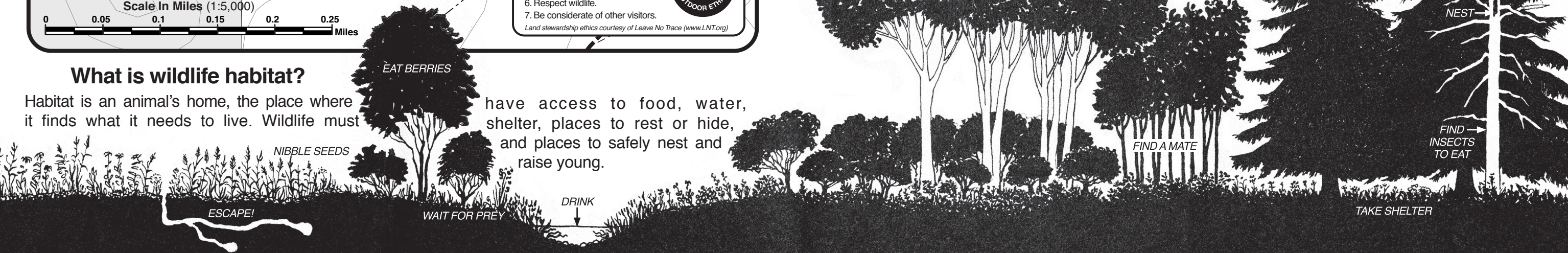
Allegheny National Forest

Explore the world of wildlife



What is wildlife habitat?
Habitat is an animal's home, the place where it finds what it needs to live. Wildlife must

have access to food, water, shelter, places to rest or hide, and places to safely nest and raise young.



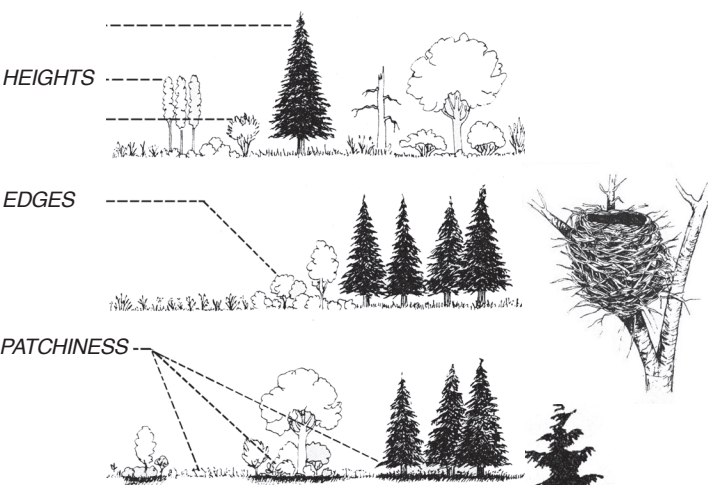
What makes a good habitat?

Wildlife habitat is a community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive. Different animals have different needs which have developed over many years of evolution.

A good habitat provides a variety of plants and landscape features that animals can use in different ways. Evergreen plants and those with edible shoots, roots, berries, or seeds are important. A tree can be a place to rest, spot prey, nest, or find food. A shrub can be a hiding spot. Flowers and grass give seeds to eat.

Vertical layers

Trees and plants of many different heights and shapes give animals a choice of places to perch, hide, or nest.



Edges

Transition zones between two areas, like the forest and the field, give wildlife extra protection as they move from one to another.

Patchiness

A variety of sunny spots, deep shade, cover, and open areas will meet more animals' special needs.

