

## Wildlife Habitat Discussion Information

**Early Successional Habitat:** Defines the ecological process based (in part) on secondary succession of abandoned farm fields (i.e. old-field succession). Relates to species composition rather than structure (i.e. dominance by pioneer species).

**Young Forest Habitat:** Describes structure more than species composition (i.e. mid to later successional species in smaller sizes and structure).

**Grassy and Herbaceous:** Wildlife openings, grassy roads, balds, and other “natural” openings where vegetation is dominated by grass or other herbaceous vegetation. Tree saplings are present. Some areas are maintained by frequent mowing, prescribed fire, or grazing. Grassy and herbaceous areas following vegetation management, intense wildfire, or other disturbance are ephemeral. *This equates roughly to the 0-1 year age class, but may vary by ecozone.*

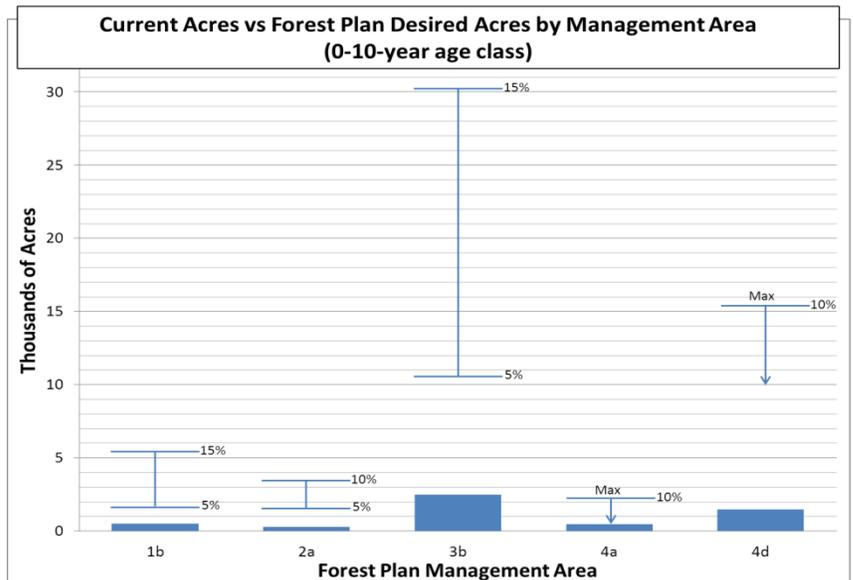
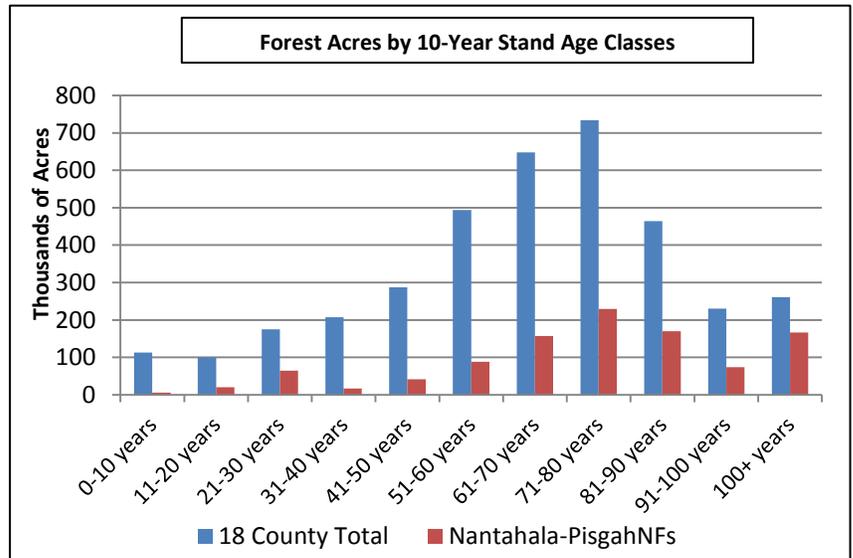
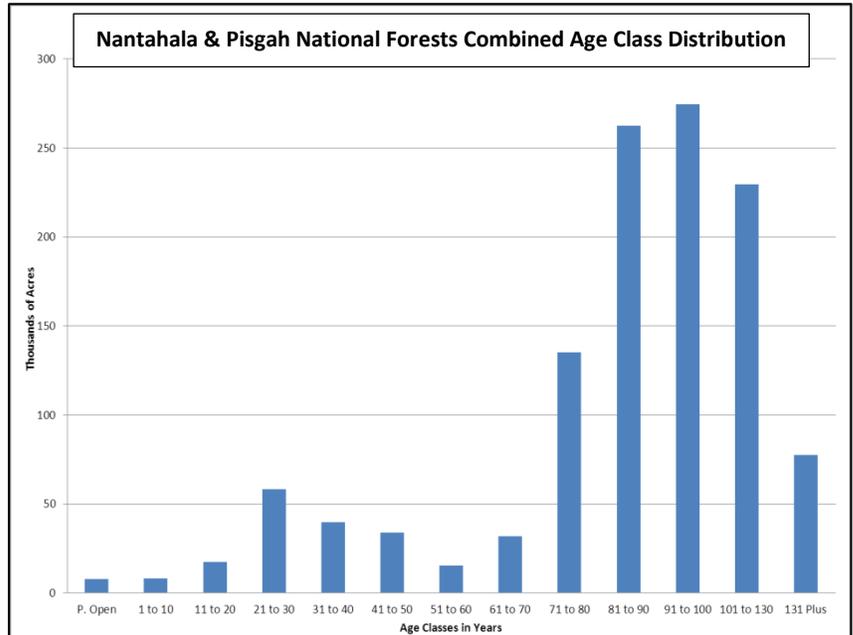
**Scrub-Shrub:** Follows vegetation management, intense wildfire, or other disturbance where the vegetation is dominated by shrubs, brush, and very young trees. These areas are ephemeral. *This equates roughly to the 1-10 year age class, but may vary by ecozone.*

**Young Trees:** Following vegetation management, intense wildfire, or other disturbance where trees have dominated shrub and mid-story layer but not reached canopy closure. These areas are ephemeral. *This equates roughly to the 11-20 year age class, but may vary by ecozone.*

Citations:

C. H. Greenberg, B. S. Collins, F. R. Thompson III eds. 2011. Sustaining Young Forest Communities. Springer, NY

C. G. Lorimer, 2001. Historical and ecological roles of disturbance in eastern North American forests: 9,000 years of change. Wildlife Society Bul., 29(2)425-439



## Nantahala & Pisgah Ecological Communities (Ecozones) Estimated Current Age and Structural Conditions

Ecozone	Young Forest	Middle - C	Middle - O
----- Acres (%) -----			
Spruce/Fir	195 (1)	682 (4)	805 (5)
Northern Hardwood	844 (2)	6,987 (13)	1,682 (3)
High Elevation Red Oak	193 (1)	2,832 (7)	759 (2)
Acidic Cove	802 (0)	166,410 (69)	----
Rich Cove	1,911 (1)	132,030 (73)	----
Dry Oak Forest	937 (2)	7,540 (13)	316 (1)
Dry/Mesic Oak	2,409 (2)	17,570 (17)	355 (0)
Mesic Oak	1,562 (1)	46,737 (25)	4,021 (2)
Pine/Oak Heath	1,381 (1)	12,595 (12)	628 (1)
Shortleaf Pine/ Oak	651 (1)	6,225 (14)	31 (0)
Alluvial & Riparian	151 (3)	546 (10)	51 (1)

Ecozone	Late - C	Late - O	Old Growth - C	Old Growth - O	No data
----- Acres (%) -----					
Spruce/Fir	4,825 (30)	5,023 (31)	2,901 (18)	831 (5)	999 (6)
Northern Hardwood	18,249 (34)	13,163 (25)	3,714 (6)	2,787 (5)	6,587 (12)
High Elevation Red Oak	13,015 (34)	12,015 (31)	3,409 (9)	3,065 (8)	3,063 (8)
Acidic Cove	32,188 (13)	19,458 (8)	2,643 (1)	4,079 (2)	15,150 (6)
Rich Cove	27,475 (15)	8,799 (5)	736 (0)	4,049 (2)	6,476 (4)
Dry Oak Forest	14,556 (24)	28,549 (48)	1,700 (3)	1,899 (3)	4,102 (7)
Dry/Mesic Oak	20,358 (19)	55,613 (52)	2,349 (2)	982 (1)	6,433 (6)
Mesic Oak	78,075 (42)	30,321 (16)	6,564 (4)	8,538 (5)	9,971 (5)
Pine/Oak Heath	33,775 (33)	16,095 (16)	17,705 (18)	14,331 (14)	4,416 (4)
Shortleaf Pine/ Oak	23,571 (53)	4,470 (10)	5,078 (11)	2,334 (5)	1,834 (4)
Alluvial & Riparian	1,889 (36)	385 (7)	497 (9)	124 (2)	1614 (31)

## Summary of Discussion Questions

What does young forest habitat (early successional) or old growth habitats look like to you?

Why do we need this?

Where do we need this? (e.g. specific places, elevations, forest types)

How much do we need? (e.g. size and distribution of openings or patches)

## **Early Successional Habitat and Young Forests Discussion**

What does young forest habitat (early successional) look like to you?

Why do we need this?

Where do we need this? (e.g. specific places, elevations, forest types)

How much do we need? (e.g. size and distribution of openings)

## **Late Successional Habitat and Old Growth Discussion**

What does old growth habitat look like to you?

Why do we need this?

Where do we need this? (e.g. specific places, elevations, forest types)

How much do we need? (e.g. size and distribution of openings or patches)