Clearcutting is probably the form of timber harvesting you are most familiar with. It is the harvesting method where all of the trees in a stand are cut down. This is a pretty straightforward method of harvesting timber, however its impacts on wildlife are quite drastic. In mature stands you can find Owls and Squirrels that use the area because it provides the habitat they need. Once cut this area is no longer suitable for them and these animals leave; They are replaced by hawks and rabbits which prefer clearcuts for their open structure and high visibility. Deer and turkey will also use these new clearcuts because of the increase in forage that occurs after harvest. As the new stand ages the hawks and rabbits will eventually leave and once conditions are right, the owls and squirrels will return. To maximize wildlife benefits, keep clearcuts to less than 50 acres. Strips of timber at least 100 yards wide should be left between clearcuts over 50 acres in size.

**Group Selection**

Group selection is a harvesting method in which small groups of trees are harvested from stands, when viewed from above this creates a patchwork pattern in the stand. The width of the groups harvested are at least one and a half times the height of the neighboring trees, so in a stand with 80 foot tall trees the area cut should be at least 120 yards wide.
feet wide (80*1.5=120).

When a group selection harvesting method is used it creates a very diverse habitat for wildlife by placing recently harvested stands right beside maturing timber. As the harvested stand is re-planted and matures, it creates a new age group in the forest that will provide a different habitat for wildlife. This harvesting method also creates a lot of edge which is beneficial to some wildlife like deer and quail.

Shelterwood

A shelterwood harvest will naturally regenerate pines by a series of two or three cuts over time rather than one single clear cut. It involves harvesting trees in strips or blocks. The first cut reduces the basal area to about 30 sqft leaving 20-40 seed-producing trees per acre. Often the trees left on the site will be called reserves or residual. Take note however, that the trees you choose to leave on the site after harvest should not be trees that are small and suppressed, they should be dominant trees with large crowns and good health; Otherwise you can create some serious problems in the future.

This system is unique in terms of its effect on wildlife habitat, it creates two age groups in the same location. As this stand ages it will have two canopy levels: the older mature timber that is tall and develops a wide crown above, and then the younger trees that will create a dense canopy closer to the ground. This is an attractive setting for a diverse group of wildlife. It provides both cover and early successional forage for wildlife.

Single Tree Selection

Single Tree selection systems differ greatly from what many consider timber harvesting, they focus on choosing only a few trees across a stand to be taken at a time. The trees to be harvested should be distributed across the entire stand and the objective is to make only a small disturbance to the forest canopy. In some ways this simulates lightning strikes in a forest, they remove very few trees in one area and they happen more or less at random across a forest.

This system will create small patches of habitat across a forest. In areas where trees are removed, younger trees will begin to grow and become established and because there is more sunlight in those areas for a time there will also be more herbaceous material. This is a great method to create patches of cover for wildlife, use single tree selection to create small thickets across a forest.

Strip Harvesting

Strip harvesting is a method of timber management that creates bands of timber in the same age group that are cut at the same time. These bands stretch across a large area and are harvested on a rotating basis, the first year one band is harvested and then replanted, and the next year the band beside it is harvested and replanted.

This creates strips timber in different age groups across an area. This creates a diverse habitat in an area however it also means that there is not a lot of any one habitat on an area at a time.