Wildlife Management Strategy

Forests are in a constant dynamic state. In situations where no management activities occur to manipulate forest structure, the natural process of ecological succession will have beneficial effects on some species and detrimental effects on others.

Wildlife populations are directly attributable to habitat quality and diversity. Across Deltic Timber Corporation's ownership in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas you find an incredibly diverse array of habitats encompassing several different ecoregions. The foundation provided by such regionally diverse habitats and our commitment to sustainable forestry practices lends itself to an equally impressive array of terrestrial and aquatic species with both biological and economic significance that can be maintained into perpetuity. The harvesting of timber exposes the bare soil of the seed bed and also allows sunlight to penetrate to the forest floor. Both of these factors contribute to the germination of a wide variety of herbaceous and woody plant species which in turn attract a diverse array of animal species.

Our intent at Deltic has always been and will continue to be to implement professional silvicultural and wildlife management practices to manage our forests in a way that conserves, protects and enhances wildlife habitat. In order to maintain a diversity of habitats, several principles are kept in mind when managing our lands. Some of those considerations are that:

1) Company tracts are composed of numerous individual stands of varying size, age, species mix, and shape that maximizes biodiversity and the amount of forest edge.
2) Streamside Management Zones (SMZ's) are left to provide additional stand diversity, increase the amount of edge, provide travel corridors for wildlife, and protect water quality. Pines may be selectively removed from SMZ's to allow for increased hardwood crown expansion, mast production, and hardwood regeneration. Chemical herbicide applications and high impact mechanical activities are not allowed in SMZ's
3) Management guidelines are in place for all known threatened and endangered species occurring on company lands. When previously undocumented or unknown species occurrences are discovered, notification is quickly given to the company's wildlife biologist or upper management. Management plans are then developed and implemented on a case-by-case basis.
4) Hollow or low quality trees as well as some dead snags are left in harvested areas. These trees are utilized by many species as roosting and foraging areas.
5) The utilization of prescribed fire is a beneficial wildlife management technique and where economically feasible is conducted to enhance habitat quality.
6) The retention of small, marginally productive areas are left in mast producing species or other hardwood species.