

Principles of Wildlife Management

The Annual Cycle of Wildlife Populations

Spring Birthing Season = Wildlife populations are at their highest

Summer = Populations remain high although there will be some mortality due to disease, predation, and the automobile.

Autumn = Populations remain relatively high although there is some mortality due to disease, predation, and the automobile. This is also a time of dispersal for young.

Winter = Population numbers decline as habitat degrades due to cold, food availability, predation, and snow. Wildlife populations tend to be there lowest just before birthing season.

Habitat Management

Habitat= Wildlife Habitat consists of food, water, cover, and space. Different species have different needs especially food and cover. Each species also needs a certain amount of space to provide for its' needs.

Habitat Quantity= The amount of available habitat

Habitat quality=generally the appropriate amount of food, water, cover, and space an area can provide during the times a species needs them.

Biological Carrying Capacity- The maximum number of a given wildlife species that an area can support.

Harvest Management

Harvest regulations allow the sustainable harvest of wild animals. Monitoring trapping harvest through harvest reports allows Biologists to make appropriate management decisions. This is the most cost effective method of monitoring wildlife populations.

People Management

Social carrying capacity – the maximum number of a given wildlife species that society desires or will tolerate. For some species, this may be lower than biological carrying capacity.

Education and outreach- As people learn about wildlife they tend to value wildlife more.