

# WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT



## IMPORTANCE

Wildlife **habitat** (where a species lives) is critical for the survival of that species. **Habitat management** (altering a landscape to meet certain goals and objectives) helps create habitat for a desired species, like **game** (hunting) or **endangered** (likely to become extinct) species.



Whooping crane, *Grus americana*

## METHODS

There are *many* different ways to conduct habitat management! The methods chosen will depend on what kind of **ecosystem** you're working in, what you want to accomplish and how much funding, expertise, and time you have. When managing a habitat, professionals often target the kinds of plant species present, as it is harder to change the physical landscape and other **abiotic** (non-living) habitat factors.

A few common methods of habitat control include: digging, mowing, cutting, flooding, **herbicide** application (chemicals used to kill plants), **prescribed fire** (safely and purposely burning a planned area usually to clear ground vegetation), and even **biological control** (using animals, plants, or fungi to control another species).



## EXAMPLES

At Buena Vista Wildlife Area in central Wisconsin, professionals are restoring open grassland habitat to provide more habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens. They do this by cutting large vegetation, applying herbicide, and conducting prescribed burns.



The University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point  
Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

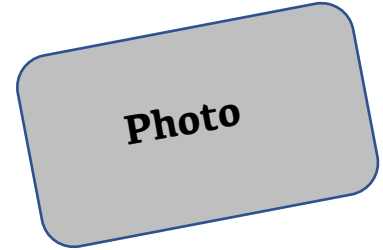


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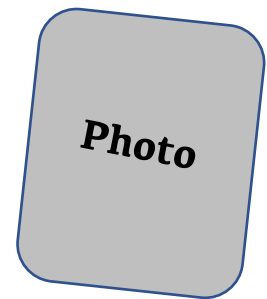
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