

## A fresh cut

Some component of Young Forest in the landscape is necessary for many species. Initially, cutting mimics a natural disturbance event like a windstorm or fire. Almost immediately, pioneering species move in taking advantage of the open structure and available food. It won't be long before they are joined by others.



## 2 to 5 years

As the forest regenerates from stump sprouts, saplings and seeds; flowering forbs (weeds to some!) provide food for a growing abundance of insects. The lush vegetation and insects are then fed on by a rapidly increasing diversity of young forest specialists, many of which are only there for a few years.



## 10 to 20 years

Increasing stem density and height closes the canopy, cooling the ground paving the way for others to join. This dense growth of vines and saplings provides protection for an abundance of ground foraging animals. Some mature forest dwellers also heavily utilize this age class of forest to raise their young.



## After 20 years

Once Young Forest matures into pole stage, species composition changes again. The Young Forest specialists have lost their competitive advantage and the older forest species begin to take over. These animals will reign until man or nature caused disturbance revisits the stand and begins the process all over again.

