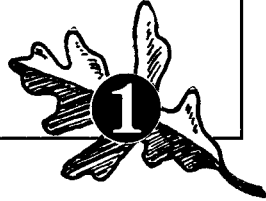


# Forest and Wildlife Benefits on Private Land



## Brushpiles

**A**ll living creatures need some form of shelter. Like people, animals need a place to raise their young, rest in safety, and escape from predators. Suitable shelter occurs in many forms, depending on the particular bird or animal. Some use hollow trees, while others use thick grass or very brushy areas. Many small mammals, ground-nesting birds, amphibians, and reptiles find shelter in brushpiles.

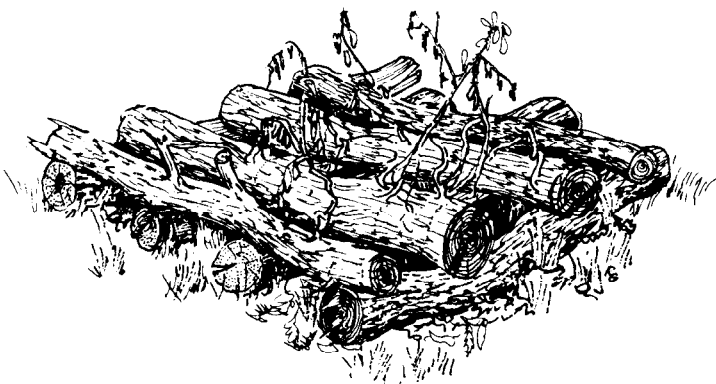
Landowners can play an important part in providing wildlife shelter by properly locating and building brushpiles. Proper placement allows wildlife to reach food safely, while having access to the surrounding area. Good locations for brushpiles are near feeding areas along field borders.

When building a brushpile, the base should be made of larger materials that will form tunnels and openings at ground level. Three types of bases work particularly well: logs, rocks and stumps.

For log bases, the poles should be at least 6 feet long and at least 6 inches in diameter. Lay four logs about one foot apart on the ground, parallel to one another. Then, lay four more across the top of the first four. For rock bases, rocks at least 12 inches in diameter should be piled about 2 feet high. Form a triangle with three stacks about 5 to 6 feet apart. Then, with either the log or rock base, stack limbs and brush (larger limbs on bottom) until the pile is 6 to 8 feet high and at least the same width. If base material isn't available, pile limbs and brush against or over a large stump.



*Brush can be stacked against stumps to provide tunnels at ground level.*



*Rock piles or poles both make good bases for brushpiles.*

“Living” brushpiles provide long-lived shelter. To build one, cut part-way through several small trees and shrubs so that the tops fall together, forming a criss-cross pattern. Enough stem should remain uncut so the tree or shrub can stay alive. Living brushpiles are more loosely formed and do not provide as good protection from harsh weather as the other types. For better protection, use the bases of the cut trees as a foundation and pile dead limbs and brush over them. Be careful not to cover the uncut tops of the trees so they will continue to grow. Any kind of tree or shrub can be used.

Regardless of the type of brushpile built, wildlife will benefit from the valuable protection and cover for many years.



*These small trees are only partially cut through and will continue to live for some time.*



*Low limbs can be broken and bent to the ground.*

