

Vegetation Management-Providing Browse for the Maryland Zoo



Browse

- What is Browse?
 - Twigs and young shoots eaten by animals
 - Strongly dependant on species



Approved Browse

- Most institutions maintain an edible browse list
- MZiB list is maintained by vet staff
 - Anyone can submit species to the vet to review
 - Cannot be toxic for any species in the collection
- MZiB also maintains a toxic browse list

Animal Diets

With Browse

- Simulates natural feeding behavior
- Nutritionally Balanced
- Enriching
- Varies the diets



Ways to acquire Browse

- Purchase browse from out of state

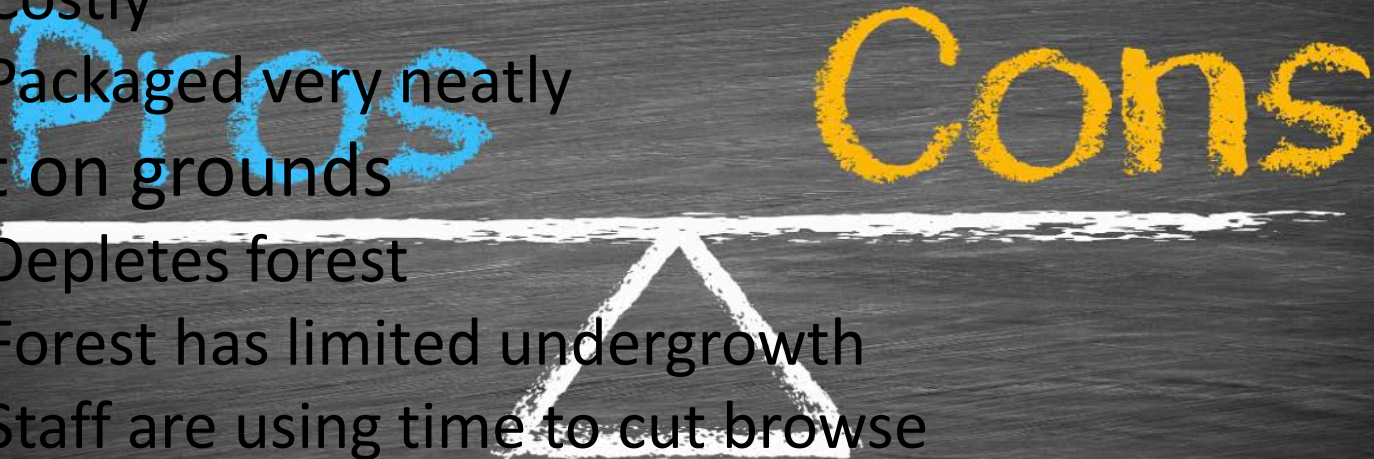
- Costly
- Packaged very neatly

- Cut on grounds

- Depletes forest
- Forest has limited undergrowth
- Staff are using time to cut browse

- BGE Partnership

- Free
- Browse is up cycled as food



BGE Partnership

- Partnership has been formed with other zoos and power companies
 - Philadelphia/PECO
 - Brookfield/ComEd
 - St Louis
- Browse must meet certain specifications to be accepted

Processing Browse

- All browse is inspected upon arrival
- Browse is hosed with cold water
- Wrapped into usable bundles
- Stored in cooler until fed out



Winter storage opportunities

- Browse can be frozen
 - Dry and tightly package for freezing
 - Thawed out and fed to animals
- Browse Silage
 - Fermented high-moisture stored
 - Stored in airtight conditions

