

WOODLAND

HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Client _____ County _____

Tract No. _____ Field No. _____ Section No. _____ Township _____ Range _____

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Enter the score for the conditions described that most closely resemble the present condition or planned condition of the site being evaluated. To meet the quality criteria requirements for wildlife habitat (food, water, cover, etc.) in Section III of the FOTG the planned system must provide a total rating of 0.5 or higher for the conservation treatment unit. For sites that are presently cropland but will be planted or otherwise converted to woodland, score the site as 0.0 (present).

Note: Woodlands that function as a savannah and provide "open stands" within an area used primarily for grazing should be scored under the Pastureland or Rangeland worksheet. Examples include bur oak or ponderosa pine savannah.

Stand Characteristics – (Age Class and Growth Form Diversity)

.3 Stand contains a diverse mixture of 3 or more age classes (e.g., seedling, sapling, young, medium, and mature trees) **and** 3 or more growth forms (e.g., herbaceous, shrub, vine, understory tree, overstory tree, etc.) to create "vertical diversity" in the woodland.

.2 Stand contains mixture of 2 age classes **and** 2 growth forms (or not 3 in **both** areas).

.1 Stand contains diversity (2 or more) in **either** age class **or** growth form but not both.

.0 Stand contains species with uniform age classes and growth habits.

A. Rating for Stand Characteristics Present _____ Planned _____

Species Composition – (Refer to Table 11 in Windbreak Interpretations in Section II of the FOTG for wildlife values.)

.2 Stand is comprised of a diverse variety (5 or more) of tree or shrub species which provide food or cover values and are rated at moderate (M) or high (H) value for wildlife.

.1 Stand provides medium diversity (2 to 4) of tree or shrub species which provide food/cover and are rated as M or H.

.0 Stand is dominated by 1 species of tree or shrub which provides food/cover and is rated as M or H for wildlife.

-.1 Stand contains significant (>50%) undesirable, invasive woody species such as Russian olive, Siberian elm, saltcedar (or red cedar on "inappropriate sites" such as riparian areas or encroachment into savannah/native prairie).

B. Rating for Species Composition Present _____ Planned _____

Woodland Configuration

.1 If woodland is at least one acre in size and is greater than 100 feet wide.

.0 If woodland is less than one acre or is less than 100 feet wide.

C. Rating for Woodland Configuration Present _____ Planned _____

Additional Habitat Components – (Minimum requirements for each component outlined below.)

Snags – Standing dead tree/trunk ≥ 6 feet tall and 6 inches or more DBH (Diameter Breast Height). A minimum of three snags per acre with at least one of those snags greater than 10 inches DBH.

Brush Piles – One or more per acre. Each brush pile should be a minimum of 15 feet in diameter and 5 feet tall.

Forest Openings/Parklands – Areas between ½ and 5 acres dominated by herbaceous vegetation. These areas must be interspersed throughout the site and comprise 10% to 25% of the total area of woodland.

Understory – A minimum of 2 shrubs and at least 2 native grasses and 1 forb that occupy 50% or more of the forest floor.

.2 Site contains adequate snags **and** brush piles **and** forest openings/parklands OR quality understory.

.1 Site contains two of the four identified habitat components.

.0 Site contains only one of the four identified habitat components.

-.1 Site does not contain any of the four identified habitat components.

D. Rating for Additional Habitat Components Present _____ Planned _____

Management

.2 Area is managed with multiple techniques including **two or more** of the following: prescribed burning, selective thinning, "interplanting" of desirable species, or creating wooded corridors to nearby woodlands.

.1 Area is managed with **one** technique identified in above list.

.0 Area receives no management to maintain diversity and integrity of the woodland.

Area receives unmanaged livestock grazing resulting in damage to woody species (e.g. browse line, hedged shrubs).

E. Rating for Management Present _____ Planned _____

COMPOSITE RATING - (A+B+C+D+E) Present _____ Planned _____