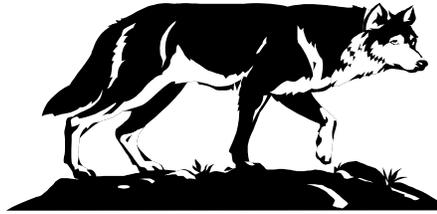


Kansas Wildlife Habitat Assessment Guide



Definition of Wildlife Habitat: For the purpose of this assessment, wildlife habitat includes game habitat, non-game habitat, and aquatic habitat.

Background: This Kansas Wildlife Habitat Assessment Guide (KWHAG) was developed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks with the concurrence of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for use as a tool to identify conservation practice management options that have the potential to improve habitat.

Criteria: Minimum assessment values are identified in the KWHAG for the Resource Management System (RMS) level of treatment. The values are approximately 30 percent of the potential practice values for a field.

Training: A minimum of one hour of classroom and seven hours of field experience is suggested before a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employee is considered trained. For a list of qualified trainers contact the NRCS State Biologist.

Other Assessments: The Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (Technical Note 99-1) and the Water Quality Indicators Guide (SCS-TP-161) are separate and compatible with the KWHAG. Conservation practices that are implemented to benefit upland wildlife can also improve aquatic habitat conditions.

Electronic documentation sheets (pages 3 and 4 of this assessment):

1. Enter practices values, modifiers values, and interspersions for each field on the Benchmark Summary Sheet and Planned Treatment Sheet. Values are automatically calculated.
2. Compare values to quality criteria and enter the result manually.

Instructions for manual filling of KWHAG:

1. Enter practices values, modifiers values, and interspersions on the Benchmark Summary Sheet and Planned Treatment Sheet. Total each column.
2. Calculate the following: Present value X acres = benchmark value. Planned value X acres = planned value.
3. Divide value X acres, sum, by acres in assessment area, sum, to determine assessment average (combined weighted average).
4. Compare combined weighted average to the quality criteria and document results.