

Wildlife Interpretations

General

Soils directly affect the kind and amount of vegetation that is available to wildlife as food and cover. They also affect the development of water impoundments. The kind and abundance of wildlife that populate an area depend largely on the amount and distribution of food, cover, water, and living space. If any one of these elements is missing, inadequate, or inaccessible, wildlife will be scarce or will not inhabit the area. If the soils have the potential, wildlife habitat can be created or improved by planting appropriate vegetation, properly managing the existing plant cover, and fostering the natural establishment of desirable plants.

Soils are rated according to their potential for providing habitat for various kinds of wildlife. This information can be used in planning parks, wildlife refuges, nature study areas, and other developments for wildlife. It can also be used in selecting soils that are suitable for establishing, improving, or maintaining specific elements of wildlife habitat.

Suitability Ratings

Good - means that the element of wildlife habitat or the kind of habitat is easily created, improved, or maintained. Few or no limitations affect management, and satisfactory results can be expected if the soil is used for the designated purpose.

Fair - means that the element of wildlife habitat or kind of habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places. Moderately intensive management is required for satisfactory results.

Poor - means that limitations are severe for the designated element or kind of wildlife habitat. Habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places, but management is difficult and requires intensive effort.

Wildlife Habitat Suitability

Description of Wildlife Habitat Elements

Grain and seed crops are seed-producing annuals used by wildlife. Examples are corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, millet, buckwheat, and sunflowers.

Grasses and legumes are domestic perennial grasses and herbaceous legumes that are planted for wildlife food and cover. Examples are fescue, bluegrass, brome grass, timothy, orchardgrass, clover, alfalfa, trefoil, reed canarygrass, and crownvetch.

Wild herbaceous plants are native and naturally established herbaceous grasses and forbs, including weeds, that provide food and cover for wildlife. Examples are bluestem, indiagrass, blueberry, goldenrod, lambsquarters, dandelions, blackberry, ragweed, wheatgrass, fescue, and nightshade.

Hardwood trees and the associated woody understory provide cover for wildlife and produce nuts or other fruit, buds, catkins, twigs, bark, or foliage that wildlife eat. Examples of native plants are oak, poplar, cherry, apple, birch, beech, maple, ash and viburnum. Examples of fruit-bearing shrubs that are commercially available and suitable for planting on soils rated good are hawthorn, sumac, silky dogwood, highbush cranberry, and crabapple.

Coniferous plants are cone-bearing trees, shrubs, or ground cover that furnish habitat or supply food in the form of browse, seed, or fruitlike cones. Examples are pine, spruce, hemlock, fir, yew, cedar, larch, and juniper.

Wetland plants are annual and perennial wild herbaceous plants that grow on moist or wet sites, exclusive of submerged or floating aquatics. They produce food or cover for wildlife that use wetland as habitat. Examples of wetland plants are smartweed, wild millet, rushes, sedges, reeds, wildrice, arrowhead, waterplantain, pickerelweed, and cattail.

Shallow water areas are bodies of surface water that have an average depth of less than 5 feet and are useful as habitat for wildlife. They can be naturally wet areas, or they can be created by dams or levees, or by water-control devices in marshes or streams. Examples are muskrat marshes, waterfowl feeding areas, wildlife watering developments, beaver ponds, and other wildlife ponds.

Kinds of Wildlife Habitat

Openland habitat consists of croplands, pastures, meadows, and areas that are overgrown with grasses, herbs, shrubs, and vines. These areas produce grain and seed crops, grasses and legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. The kind of wildlife attracted to these areas include Bobolinks, meadowlark, field sparrow, killdeer, cottontail rabbit, red fox, and woodchuck.

Woodland habitat consists of hardwood or conifers, or a mixture of these and associated grasses, legumes and wild herbaceous plants. Examples of wildlife attracted to this habitat are wild turkey, woodcock, thrushes, woodpeckers, owl, tree squirrels, , porcupine, raccoon, deer, and black bear.

Wetland habitat consists of water-tolerant plants in open, marshy or swampy, shallow water areas. Examples of wildlife attracted to this habitat are ducks, geese, herons, bitterns, rails, kingfishers, muskrat, otter, mink, and beaver.

See the National Soil Survey Handbook, Part 620, for criteria used in rating specific uses.

WILDLIFE HABITAT SUITABILITY

Knox and Lincoln County

The information in this table indicates the dominant soil condition but does not eliminate the need for onsite investigation. Absence of an entry indicates that no rating is applicable.

Soil name and map symbol	grain and seed crop	wild herb- aceous plants	grasses and legumes	hard- wood trees	conife rous plants	wetland plants	shallow water area	open land wild life	wood land wild life	wet land wild life
AdB ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
AdC ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
AdD ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
AgA ALLAGASH	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
AgB ALLAGASH	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
AgC ALLAGASH	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
Be BEACHES	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
Bg BIDDEFORD	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good

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BoB BOOTHBAY	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BoC BOOTHBAY	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BoD2 BOOTHBAY	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
Bp BOROSAPRISTS	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
BsB BRAYTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
BtB BRAYTON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
BuB BUXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BuC BUXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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BuD2 BUXTON	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
Ch CHARLES	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Dp DUMPS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
PITS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
EgB ELDRIDGE	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
HeB HERMON	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
HeC HERMON	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
HtB HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor

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HtC HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
HtD HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
HxB HERMON	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
HxC HERMON	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
Le LOVEWELL	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor
LmB LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
BRAYTON VARIANT	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Poor	Fair	Fair
ROCK OUTCROP	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor

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LrB										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
ROCK OUTCROP	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
TUNBRIDGE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
LrC										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
ROCK OUTCROP	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
TUNBRIDGE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
LrE										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
ROCK OUTCROP	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor

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LrE TUNBRIDGE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
MaB MADAWASKA	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
MrB MARLOW	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
MrC MARLOW	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
MrD MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
MsB MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
MsC MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
MsD MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor

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MtB										
MARLOW	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BERKSHIRE	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
MtC										
MARLOW	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BERKSHIRE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
MwB										
MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
BERKSHIRE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
MwC										
MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
BERKSHIRE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor

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MwD										
MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
BERKSHIRE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
MxB										
MASARDIS	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
MxC										
MASARDIS	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
MxD										
MASARDIS	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
My										
MEDOMAK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
Na										
NAUMBURG	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good
PaB										
PERU	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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PaC PERU	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
PbB PERU	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
PbC PERU	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
Pg PITS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
Rc ROCK OUTCROP	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
RmC ROCK OUTCROP	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
RmE ROCK OUTCROP	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor

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RmE LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
Sc SCANTIC	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Sp SEARSPORT	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
StB SHEEPSCOT	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor
Su SULFIHEMISTS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
SULFAQUENTS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
Sw SWANVILLE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
TrB TUNBRIDGE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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TrB										
LYMAN	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TrC										
TUNBRIDGE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
LYMAN	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TrD										
TUNBRIDGE	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
LYMAN	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor