

## 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.

### **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, orchard grass, clover, alfalfa, trefoil, reed canary grass, and crown vetch.

Wild herbaceous plants are native and naturally established herbaceous grasses, forbs, and 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, hickory, hazelnut, black walnut, and viburnum. Examples of fruit-bearing shrubs that are

commercially available and suitable for planting on soils rated good are hawthorn, honeysuckle, sumac, silky dogwood, highbush cranberry, autumn olive, 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 fruit-like 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, water plantain, pickerelweed, and cattail.

Shallow water 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***

Open land 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 bobwhite quail, pheasant, 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, gray fox, porcupine, raccoon, and deer.

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.

*This subsection includes:*

- **(a) Wildlife Management Ratings (one or two tables)**

Lewis County, Missouri: Detailed Soil Map Legend

Wildlife Habitat

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Map symbol and soil name	Grain and seed crops (for use as food and cover)		Domestic grasses and legumes (for use as food and cover)		Upland wild herbaceous plants		Upland shrubs and vines		Upland deciduous trees	
	Rating class and limiting features	Value	Rating class and limiting features	Value	Rating class and limiting features	Value	Rating class and limiting features	Value	Rating class and limiting features	Value
1: Arbela-----	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00
	~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60	~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60						
	~percs slowly (slightly limited)	0.13	~percs slowly (slightly limited)	0.13						
2: Chariton-----	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00
	~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.39	~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.39						
3: Blackoar-----	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00
	~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60	~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60						
4: Darwin-----	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00
	~percs slowly (very limited)	1.00	~percs slowly (very limited)	1.00	~too clayey (moderately limited)	0.38	~too clayey (moderately limited)	0.38		
	~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60	~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60						
5: Fatima-----	Moderately limited ~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60	Moderately limited ~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60	Not limited		Not limited		Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.01

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6: Kickapoo-----	Limited ~flooding (limited) ~droughty (slightly limited)	0.90  0.04	Limited ~flooding (limited)	0.90	Not limited		Not limited		Not limited	
7C2: Gifford-----	Very limited ~percs slowly (very limited) ~wetness (limited) ~high erodibility (limited)	1.00  0.81  0.80	Very limited ~percs slowly (very limited) ~wetness (limited) ~high erodibility (limited)	1.00  0.81  0.80	Limited ~wetness (limited)	0.81	Limited ~wetness (limited)	0.81	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00
8B: Vigar-----	Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited) ~percs slowly (slightly limited)	0.28  0.13	Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited) ~percs slowly (slightly limited)	0.28  0.13	Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.28	Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.28	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.45
9: Westerville----	Moderately limited ~flooding (moderately limited) ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.60  0.44	Moderately limited ~flooding (moderately limited) ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.60  0.44	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.59
10C2: Leonard-----	Limited ~wetness (limited) ~high erodibility (limited) ~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.81  0.80  0.39	Limited ~wetness (limited) ~high erodibility (limited) ~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.81  0.80  0.39	Limited ~wetness (limited) ~too clayey (slightly limited)	0.81  0.05	Limited ~wetness (limited) ~too clayey (slightly limited)	0.81  0.05	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00

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11C2: Armstrong-----	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~wetness (moderately limited) ~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.80  0.44  0.39	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~wetness (moderately limited) ~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.80  0.44  0.39	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.59
12C: Gorin-----	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.80  0.39	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.80  0.39	Not limited		Not limited		Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.29
13E: Lindley-----	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~slope (slightly limited) ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.80  0.15  0.13	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~slope (slightly limited) ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.80  0.15  0.13	Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.13	Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.13	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.37
13F: Lindley-----	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~slope (limited) ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.80  0.72  0.13	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~slope (limited) ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.80  0.72  0.13	Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.13	Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.13	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.37

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14: Chequest-----	Moderately limited ~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60	Moderately limited ~flooding (moderately limited)	0.60	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.59
	~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	~too clayey (slightly limited)	0.10	~too clayey (slightly limited)	0.10		
	~percs slowly (slightly limited)	0.13	~percs slowly (slightly limited)	0.13						
15B: Kilwinning-----	Very limited ~percs slowly (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~percs slowly (very limited)	1.00	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.60	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.60	Limited ~wetness (limited)	0.99
	~wetness (moderately limited)	0.60	~wetness (moderately limited)	0.60						
	~moderate erodibility (moderately limited)	0.50	~moderate erodibility (moderately limited)	0.50						
18: Putnam-----	Very limited ~percs slowly (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~percs slowly (very limited)	1.00	Limited ~wetness (limited)	0.99	Limited ~wetness (limited)	0.99	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00
	~wetness (limited)	0.99	~wetness (limited)	0.99						
20D2: Keswick-----	Limited ~high erodibility (limited)	0.80	Limited ~high erodibility (limited)	0.80	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	Moderately limited ~wetness (moderately limited)	0.59
	~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	~wetness (moderately limited)	0.44	~too clayey (slightly limited)	0.12	~too clayey (slightly limited)	0.12		
	~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.39	~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.39						

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21B: Weller-----	Moderately limited ~moderate erodibility (moderately limited) ~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.50  0.39	Moderately limited ~moderate erodibility (moderately limited) ~percs slowly (moderately limited)	0.50  0.39	Not limited		Not limited		Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.29
22B: Menfro-----	Moderately limited ~moderate erodibility (moderately limited)	0.50	Moderately limited ~moderate erodibility (moderately limited)	0.50	Not limited		Not limited		Not limited	
23C2: Winfield-----	Moderately limited ~moderate erodibility (moderately limited)	0.50	Moderately limited ~moderate erodibility (moderately limited)	0.50	Not limited		Not limited		Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.22
23D2: Winfield-----	Limited ~high erodibility (limited)	0.80	Limited ~high erodibility (limited)	0.80	Not limited		Not limited		Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.22
23E: Winfield-----	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~slope (moderately limited)	0.80  0.30	Limited ~high erodibility (limited) ~slope (moderately limited)	0.80  0.30	Not limited		Not limited		Slightly limited ~wetness (slightly limited)	0.22
24E: Vanmeter-----	Very limited ~percs slowly (very limited) ~droughty (limited) ~high erodibility (limited)	1.00  0.81  0.80	Very limited ~percs slowly (very limited) ~high erodibility (limited) ~slope (moderately limited)	1.00  0.80  0.30	Not limited		Not limited		Not limited	

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	Rating class and limiting features	Value	Rating class and limiting features	Value	Rating class and limiting features	Value	Rating class and limiting features	Value	Rating class and limiting features	Value
25: Moniteau-----	Very limited ~wetness (very limited) ~percs slowly (slightly limited)	1.00  0.13	Very limited ~wetness (very limited) ~percs slowly (slightly limited)	1.00  0.13	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00	Very limited ~wetness (very limited)	1.00
26B: Jasper-----	Moderately limited ~moderate erodibility (moderately limited)	0.50	Moderately limited ~moderate erodibility (moderately limited)	0.50	Not limited		Not limited		Not limited	
27: Udipsamments---	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	
M-W: Water-----	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	
W: Water-----	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	