

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)**

Table 15.--Wildlife Habitat

(The information in this table indicates the dominant soil condition but does not eliminate the need for onsite investigation. The numbers in the value columns range from 0.01 to 1.00. The larger the value, the greater the potential limitation. See text for further explanation of ratings in this table.)

Map symbol and soil name	Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees		Riparian herbaceous plants		Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees		Freshwater wetland plants		Irrigated freshwater wetland plants	
	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
40000: Barden-----	Moderately limited wetness (moderately limited)	0.45	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (limited)	0.80 0.60	Not limited		Limited deep to water (limited)	0.60	Not limited	
40011: Barco-----	Slightly limited depth to bedrock (slightly limited)	0.30	Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
40015: Eldorado-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
40016: Eldorado-----	Limited droughty (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	0.83 0.17	Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.80 0.17	Very limited deep to water (very limited) droughty (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.83 0.17	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) slope (limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.66 0.45
40017: Maplegrove----	Limited wetness (limited)	0.91	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (moderately limited)	0.80 0.33	Not limited		Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.33	Slightly limited seepage (slightly limited)	0.18

Table 15.--Wildlife Habitat--Continued

Map symbol and soil name	Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees		Riparian herbaceous plants		Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees		Freshwater wetland plants		Irrigated freshwater wetland plants	
	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
40018: Medoc-----	Very limited wetness (very limited)	1.00	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.80 0.09	Not limited		Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.09	Not limited	
40019: Newtonia-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
Eldorado-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
40020: Newtonia-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
Eldorado-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
40021: Opolis-----	Very limited wetness (very limited)	1.00	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.80 0.28	Not limited		Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.28	Very limited slope (very limited)	1.00
Hepler-----	Limited wetness (limited)	0.99	Moderately limited infrequent flooding (moderately limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.50 0.30	Not limited		Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.30	Slightly limited seepage (slightly limited)	0.15

Table 15.--Wildlife Habitat--Continued

Map symbol and soil name	Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees		Riparian herbaceous plants		Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees		Freshwater wetland plants		Irrigated freshwater wetland plants	
	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
40022: Opolis-----	Very limited wetness (very limited)	1.00	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.80 0.28	Not limited		Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.28	Not limited	
40023: Opolis-----	Very limited wetness (very limited)	1.00	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.80 0.28	Not limited		Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.28	Not limited	
40024: Opolis-----	Very limited wetness (very limited)	1.00	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.80 0.28	Not limited		Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.28	Not limited	
40026: Sylvania-----	Limited wetness (limited)	0.79	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (moderately limited)	0.80 0.37	Not limited		Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.37	Slightly limited seepage (slightly limited)	0.18
40027: Sylvania-----	Moderately limited wetness (moderately limited)	0.32	Limited deep to water (limited) infrequent flooding (limited) small stones (slightly limited)	0.96 0.80 0.01	Slightly limited small stones (slightly limited)	0.01	Limited deep to water (limited)	0.96	Limited slope (limited) seepage (slightly limited)	0.66 0.18
40028: Sylvania-----	Slightly limited wetness (slightly limited)	0.20	Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.11	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Limited slope (limited) seepage (slightly limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.66 0.18 0.11

Table 15.--Wildlife Habitat--Continued

Map symbol and soil name	Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees		Riparian herbaceous plants		Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees		Freshwater wetland plants		Irrigated freshwater wetland plants	
	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
40029: Sylvania-----	Limited wetness (limited)	0.79	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (moderately limited)	0.80 0.37	Not limited		Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.37	Very limited slope (very limited) seepage (slightly limited)	1.00 0.18
44000: Cherokee-----	Very limited wetness (very limited)	1.00	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.80 0.09	Not limited		Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.09	Not limited	
44002: Carl-----	Very limited wetness (very limited)	1.00	Limited infrequent flooding (limited)	0.80	Not limited		Not limited		Not limited	
44004: McCune-----	Limited wetness (limited)	0.99	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.80 0.30	Not limited		Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.30	Not limited	
46001: Verdigris-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
46002: Hepler-----	Moderately limited wetness (moderately limited)	0.59	Moderately limited infrequent flooding (moderately limited) deep to water (moderately limited)	0.50 0.45	Not limited		Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.45	Slightly limited seepage (slightly limited)	0.15
46004: Osage-----	Very limited wetness (very limited)	1.00	Moderately limited infrequent flooding (moderately limited)	0.50	Not limited		Not limited		Not limited	

Table 15.--Wildlife Habitat--Continued

Map symbol and soil name	Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees		Riparian herbaceous plants		Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees		Freshwater wetland plants		Irrigated freshwater wetland plants	
	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
46005: Verdigris-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (moderately limited)	1.00 0.50	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
70006: Creldon-----	Moderately limited wetness (moderately limited)	0.51	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (moderately limited)	0.80 0.53	Not limited		Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.53	Slightly limited seepage (slightly limited) slope (slightly limited)	0.18 0.08
70012: Hoberg-----	Moderately limited wetness (moderately limited)	0.59	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (moderately limited)	0.80 0.45	Not limited		Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.45	Moderately limited seepage (moderately limited)	0.45
70045: Keeno-----	Very limited droughty (very limited) wetness (moderately limited)	1.00 0.59	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (moderately limited)	0.80 0.45	Very limited droughty (very limited)	1.00	Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.45	Limited slope (limited) seepage (moderately limited)	0.91 0.45
70056: Crackerneck---	Very limited droughty (very limited) wetness (moderately limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.46 0.17	Limited small stones (limited) deep to water (moderately limited) large stones (slightly limited)	0.68 0.58 0.17	Very limited droughty (very limited) small stones (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.68 0.17	Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.58	Very limited slope (very limited) seepage (slightly limited)	1.00 0.07
70057: Crackerneck---	Very limited droughty (very limited) wetness (moderately limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.46 0.17	Limited small stones (limited) deep to water (moderately limited) large stones (slightly limited)	0.68 0.58 0.17	Very limited droughty (very limited) small stones (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.68 0.17	Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.58	Very limited slope (very limited) seepage (slightly limited)	1.00 0.07

Table 15.--Wildlife Habitat--Continued

Map symbol and soil name	Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees		Riparian herbaceous plants		Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees		Freshwater wetland plants		Irrigated freshwater wetland plants	
	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
70058: Crackerneck---	Limited droughty (limited) wetness (moderately limited)	0.88 0.46	Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited) small stones (slightly limited)	0.58 0.30	Limited droughty (limited) small stones (slightly limited)	0.88 0.30	Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.58	Limited slope (limited) seepage (slightly limited)	0.66 0.07
70059: Goss-----	Limited droughty (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	0.61 0.17	Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.80 0.17	Very limited deep to water (very limited) droughty (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.61 0.17	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited slope (very limited) deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 1.00 0.45
70060: Hoberg-----	Moderately limited wetness (moderately limited) droughty (slightly limited)	0.59 0.23	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (moderately limited)	0.80 0.45	Slightly limited droughty (slightly limited)	0.23	Moderately limited deep to water (moderately limited)	0.45	Not limited	
Eldorado-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
Pomme-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
70061: Pomme-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45

Table 15.--Wildlife Habitat--Continued

Map symbol and soil name	Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees		Riparian herbaceous plants		Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees		Freshwater wetland plants		Irrigated freshwater wetland plants	
	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
70062: Pomme-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
Rueter-----	Limited droughty (limited)	0.79	Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited) small stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.80 0.24	Very limited deep to water (very limited) droughty (limited) small stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.79 0.24	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (limited)	1.00 0.79
70063: Rueter-----	Limited droughty (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	0.99 0.17	Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.80 0.17	Very limited deep to water (very limited) droughty (limited) large stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.99 0.17	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited slope (very limited) deep to water (very limited) seepage (limited)	1.00 1.00 0.79
70064: Rueter-----	Limited droughty (limited)	0.79	Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited) small stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.80 0.24	Very limited deep to water (very limited) droughty (limited) small stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.79 0.24	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (limited)	1.00 0.79
70065: Rueter-----	Limited droughty (limited)	0.79	Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited) small stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.80 0.24	Very limited deep to water (very limited) droughty (limited) small stones (slightly limited)	1.00 0.79 0.24	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (limited) slope (limited)	1.00 0.79 0.66

Table 15.--Wildlife Habitat--Continued

Map symbol and soil name	Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees		Riparian herbaceous plants		Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees		Freshwater wetland plants		Irrigated freshwater wetland plants	
	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
70066: Winnipeg-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
71751: Bearthicket---	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (moderately limited)	1.00 0.50	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
73031: Gerald-----	Limited wetness (limited)	0.99	Limited infrequent flooding (limited) deep to water (slightly limited)	0.80 0.30	Not limited		Slightly limited deep to water (slightly limited)	0.30	Not limited	
75376: Cedargap-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.45
99000: Pits-----	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	
Quarries-----	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	
99001: Water-----	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	
99002: Borrow areas--	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	
99003: Miscellaneous water-----	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	

Table 15.--Wildlife Habitat--Continued

Map symbol and soil name	Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees		Riparian herbaceous plants		Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees		Freshwater wetland plants		Irrigated freshwater wetland plants	
	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
99005: Landfill-----	Not limited		Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited slope (very limited) deep to water (very limited)	1.00 1.00
99010: Dumps-----	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	
Pits-----	Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated		Not rated	
99011: Kanima-----	Slightly limited droughty (slightly limited)	0.09	Very limited deep to water (very limited) infrequent flooding (limited)	1.00 0.80	Very limited deep to water (very limited) small stones (limited) droughty (slightly limited)	1.00 0.73 0.09	Very limited deep to water (very limited)	1.00	Very limited deep to water (very limited) slope (limited) seepage (moderately limited)	1.00 0.91 0.45