

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

York 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	coniferous 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	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
AgB ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
AlB ALLAGASH	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
AlC ALLAGASH	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
Ba BEACHES	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor

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BcB BECKETT	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor
BcC BECKETT	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor
BcD BECKETT	Poor	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
BeB BECKETT	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
BeC BECKETT	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
BeD BECKETT	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
Bm BIDDEFORD	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
BrB BRAYTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor

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BrB WESTBURY	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
BsB BRAYTON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
WESTBURY	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
BuD BUXTON	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
Ch CHOCORUA	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
CoB COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor

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CoC COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
CoD COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
CoE COLTON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
CrB CROGHAN	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
CuB CROGHAN	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
Dm DUMPS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
EmB ELMWOOD	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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EmC ELMWOOD	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	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
HeD HERMON	Poor	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
HmB HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
HmC HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
HmD HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
HnC HERMON	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor

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HnE HERMON	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
LnB LYMAN	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
LnC LYMAN	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
LnD LYMAN	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
LyB 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
LyC 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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LyE 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
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
MrC2 MARLOW	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
MrD2 MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
MvB MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
MvC MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor

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MvD MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
Na NAUMBURG	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good
On ONDAWA	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
PeB PERU	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	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
Po PODUNK	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor
WINOOSKI	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor
Ra RAYNHAM	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair

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RoC										
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
RoE										
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
Ru										
RUMNEY	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Sa										
SACO	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
Sc										
SCANTIC	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
SeB										
SCIO	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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SeC SCIO	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
SeD SCIO	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
Sg SEBAGO	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
SkB SKERRY	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
SkC SKERRY	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
SrB SKERRY	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
SrC SKERRY	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
Su SULFIHEMISTS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good

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Ud										
UDIPSAMMENTS	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Very poor
DUNE LAND	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
UsA										
URBAN LAND										
SCANTIC	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Va										
VASSALBORO	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair
Vp										
VASSALBORO	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
Wa										
WASKISH	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good

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