

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

Somerset County, Southern Part

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
AaB ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
AaC ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
AaD ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
BaB BANGOR	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BaC2 BANGOR	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BgB BANGOR	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
BgC BANGOR	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
BgD BANGOR	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor

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BhB BERKSHIRE	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BhC BERKSHIRE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BkB BERKSHIRE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
BkC BERKSHIRE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
BkE BERKSHIRE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
Bo BIDDEFORD	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
BuB BUXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BuC2 BUXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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CnC COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
CnD COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
CnE COLTON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
DxB DIXMONT	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
DxC DIXMONT	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
DyB DIXMONT	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
DyC DIXMONT	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
Dz DUNE LAND	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor

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Ha HADLEY	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
Lc LEICESTER	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Fair	Good
Lk LIMERICK	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
LyB LYMAN	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
LyC LYMAN	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
LzC LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
LzE LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
MbB MADAWASKA	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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MeB MELROSE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
Mn MIXED ALLUVIAL	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
Mo MONARDA	Poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
Mr MONARDA	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
Pa PEAT	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
MUCK	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
PcB PERU	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
PdB PERU	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor

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PdC PERU	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
PgB PLAISTED	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
PgC PLAISTED	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
PrB PLAISTED	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
PrC PLAISTED	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
PrD PLAISTED	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
RtC ROCK LAND	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor

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RtC										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
RtE										
ROCK LAND	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
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
Sk										
SKOWHEGAN	Poor	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
StB										
STETSON	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
SuC2										
SUFFIELD	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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SuD2 SUFFIELD	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
TkC THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TkD THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TpB THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
PLAISTED	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
TpC THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
PLAISTED	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
TpD THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor

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TpD PLAISTED	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
TtB THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
BANGOR	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
TtC THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
BANGOR	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
TtD THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
BANGOR	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
Wa WALPOLE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good

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Wn WINOOSKI	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor