

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

Hancock County Area

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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
Bd BIDDEFORD	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
BfB BRAYTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
BgB BRAYTON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
BhB BRAYTON	Very poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
BSB BRAYTON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
COLONEL	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor

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BTB										
BRAYTON	Very poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
COLONEL	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
BwC										
BUXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
BwD										
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
CoB										
COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
CoC										
COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
CoE										
COLTON	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor

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CRE										
COLTON	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
ADAMS	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
CSC										
COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
SHEEPSCOT	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor
DaB										
DIXFIELD	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
DaC										
DIXFIELD	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
DbC										
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor

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DsB										
DIXFIELD	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
COLONEL	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor
DtB										
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
COLONEL	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
DWB										
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
COLONEL	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
TUNBRIDGE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
Go										
GOULDSBORO	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good

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Gt										
GOULDSBORO	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
BEACHES	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
HcC										
HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	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
HmB										
HERMON	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
MONADNOCK	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
HmC										
HERMON	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor

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HmC MONADNOCK	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
HtB HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MONADNOCK	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
HtC HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MONADNOCK	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
HtE HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MONADNOCK	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
HVC HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor

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HVC										
MONADNOCK	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
HVE										
HERMON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MONADNOCK	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
Kn										
KINSMAN	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
KW										
KINSMAN	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
WONSQUEAK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good

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LaB										
LAMOINE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
LbB										
LAMOINE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
SCANTIC	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
LCB										
LAMOINE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
SCANTIC	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
BUXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
LgB										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
BRAYTON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair

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LHC										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
BRAYTON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair
SCHOODIC	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
LsE										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
SCHOODIC	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
LTE										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
SCHOODIC	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very 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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LuC										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TUNBRIDGE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
LWC										
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TUNBRIDGE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
SCHOODIC	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
MaC										
MARLOW	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
MaD										
MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
MbC										
MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor

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MbE MARLOW	Very poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
McC MARLOW	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
McE MARLOW	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MDC MARLOW	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
MDE MARLOW	Very poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
MGC MARLOW	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor

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MGC										
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MGE										
MARLOW	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MhC										
MONADNOCK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor
HERMON	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MhE										
MONADNOCK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor
HERMON	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MXC										
MONADNOCK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor

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MXC										
HERMON	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MXE										
MONADNOCK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor
HERMON	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
NaB										
NASKEAG	Very poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair
SCHOODIC	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
NBB										
NASKEAG	Very poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor

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NBB										
SCHOODIC	Very poor	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
NcB										
NICHOLVILLE	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
NcC										
NICHOLVILLE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
Ps										
PITS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
Sa										
SCANTIC	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
SB										
SCANTIC	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
BIDDEFORD	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good

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sdB										
SCANTIC	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair
LAMOINE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
SEB										
SCANTIC	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair
LAMOINE	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
DIXFIELD	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
sfc										
SCHOODIC	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very 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
sfe										
SCHOODIC	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor

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SfE										
ROCK OUTCROP	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
SGE										
SCHOODIC	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very 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
LYMAN	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
SKC										
SCHOODIC	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very 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
NASKEAG	Very poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
SmB										
SHEEPSCOT	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor

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SoB SHEEPSCOT	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
SoC SHEEPSCOT	Very poor	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
SrB SHEEPSCOT	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor
ROCK OUTCROP	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
ThC THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
WINNECOOK	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
TuB TUNBRIDGE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
LYMAN	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor

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TuC 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
TWC 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
MARLOW	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
Ud UDORTHENTS										
URBAN LAND										

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WA										
WASKISH	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
SEBAGO	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
WkC										
WINNECOOK	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
Wo										
WONSQUEAK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good
Ws										
WONSQUEAK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good
BUCKSPORT	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
WT										
WONSQUEAK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good

WILDLIFE HABITAT SUITABILITY**Hancock County Area**

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
WT										
BUCKSPORT	Very poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
SEBAGO	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good