

Missouri
Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide
Forest Community Model

Applicant(s):**Date:****Farm Number:****Tract Number:****Field Number(s):****County:**

Instructions: Answer each of the questions (1 - 7) below by circling the appropriate points for both the existing and planned conditions. R.O.T. (Rules of Thumb) - For decision on use of model for "old field" or "idle areas" - if tree canopy coverage is >25% = forest model; if tree canopy is equal to or less than 25% = prairie/grassland, savanna, glade, or early successional vegetation model, as appropriate.

Points if Existing**Points if Planned**

Forest Composition

(1)	Tree species composition of the stand under evaluation.		
	Good mix of native forest species (oak, hickory, ash, shortleaf pine, etc...)	10	10
	Oak, hickory with few (<10 sq. ft/ac basal area) other species	6	6
	Community containing a dominance of elm, ash, Osage orange, locust, cedar, persimmon and/or maple, etc...	4	4
	Plantation planting containing fewer than 3 hard mast producing species	1	1

Forest Composition Points

Proximity To Dependable Water Source

(2)	Distance to surface water supply.		
	Surface water sources available within every 40 acres or generally no more than ¼ mile apart from each other.	5	5
	Surface water sources available within every 160 acres or generally no more than ½ mile apart from each other.	3	3
	Surface water sources generally unavailable	0	0

Proximity To Dependable Water Source Points

Forest Structure

(3)	Evaluate the vegetative structure of the stand.		
	Multiple "layered" forest with good quality overstory, midstory, shrub, and ground herbaceous layers	10	10
	Closed canopy with limited understory layers	5	5
	Closed canopy with little to no understory layers due to intense shade or understory is dominated by invasive plants (hard maple, eastern red cedar, honey-suckle, autumn olive, garlic mustard, buck brush, etc...)	0	0

Forest Structure Points

Permanent Forest Openings and Edge Habitat

(4)	Distribution of open areas and amount of edge.		
	Forest openings of at least ¼ acre in size present throughout large blocks of contiguous forest (>40 acres) OR forest habitat is in smaller blocks and mixed with wildlife friendly open ground with a minimum of 0.10 acre of good quality forest edge per 40 acre block or field.	10	10
	Scattered or limited forest openings of at least ¼ acre in size within large blocks of contiguous forest (>40 acres) OR forest habitat is in smaller blocks and mixed with wildlife-friendly open ground but lacking good quality forest edge.	5	5
	Large blocks of monotypic forest habitat lacking openings OR smaller blocks of forest surrounded by low quality open ground.	0	0

Permanent Forest Openings and Edge Habitat Points

Forest Age/Size Class Diversity

(5)	Determine age and size class of stand.		
	Mixed uneven aged forest, having all the following size classes: regeneration (<2" DBH), small trees (2-5" DBH), Poles (6-11" DBH), sawtimber (12-19"), and large sawtimber (20"+), OR even-aged with at least 1 acre in stands of each of the above size classes	10	10
	Mixed, but may be lacking stands of one or more size classes	5	5
	Entire forest in a single age/size class	0	0

Forest Age/Size Class Diversity Points

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Grazing Pressure

(6)	Is grazing present?		
	None	10	10
	Grazed, (automatically scores <0.5 final score)	0	0

Grazing Pressure Points

Snags/Den trees

(7)	Estimate the number of snags and den trees observed in stand - minimum 12" dbh.		
	>5, at least 1 greater than or equal to 20" dbh	5	5
	>5 all <20" dbh	3	3
	3 - 5	1	1
	<3	0	0

Snags/Den trees Points

Total Points Planned and Existing (Maximum score possible is 60) =

Scoring

(8) Existing Index = Total Existing Points/60 (60 is the maximum possible score)
Total existing points = _____

Existing Index =

(9) Planned Index = Total Planned Score/60 (60 is the maximum possible score)
Total planned score = _____

Planned Community Type Index =

_____ _____
Planner: Date:

_____ _____
Landowner: Date:

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