

Missouri
Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide
Prairie and Grassland Community Model

Applicant(s):

Date:

Farm Number:

Tract Number:

Field Number(s):

County:

The use of "Edge" vs. "Openland" will be based on landowner's objectives and the landscape situation in which the tract is located. Quail management is the midst of 2000 acres of grassland may not be appropriate, as is prairie chicken management in the midst of 80 to 120 acre mixed cover types. As always, professional judgment is needed to tailor the plan to fit landscape needs and ensure likelihood of success.)

If using this model for "old field" or "idle areas" tree canopy coverage must be less than 25%.

Instructions: Answer each of the questions (1 - 6) below by circling the appropriate points for both the existing and planned conditions. CSG = Cool Season Grasses, WSG = Warm Season Grasses

Points if Existing

Points if Planned

Field Size

(1)	Percent of the field within 660 feet of dense shrubby cover, tree line, shelterbelt, woodlot, woody draw, etc.			
	Edge Species	Openland Species (Do not count shrubby cover)		
	75% or more	Less than 10%	5	5
	61-74%	10 to 24%	4	4
	41-60%	25 to 50%	3	3
	21-40%	51-74%	2	2
	Less than 20%	75% or more	0	0
Field Size Points				

BONUS POINTS Percent of the field within 660 feet of dense shrubby cover. Add bonus points for useable shrubby cover (30' width of ungrazed shrubby cover; 3-12' tall dense shrub thickets 30'X50', etc), downed tree structures, edge feathering or covey headquarters.	75% or more	5	5
	61-74%	4	4
	41-60%	3	3
	21-40%	2	2
	Less than 20%	0	0

Total Bonus Points

Desirable Forb/Legume Diversity(See WHAG Instruction Sheet)

(2)	More than 20 species	10	10
	11 to 20 species	6	6
	5 to 10 species	4	4
	Less than 5 species	0	0

Desirable Forb Diversity Points

Desirable Forb/Legume Canopy Coverage

(3)	Percent of field covered by desirable broadleaf plants		
	26 to 50%	10	10
	10 to 25% or 51 to 75%	5	5
	Less than 10% or more than 75%	0	0

Forb Canopy Coverage Points

Grassland Management

(4)	For Hayland, unmown strips or patches must equal 10% of the field to be considered.			
	Hayland	Pastureland		
	Idle, or mow/hay 7/15 - 8/15 with unmown strips	Rotational Grazing - light to moderate use (meets NRCS 528, Table 1, Column 5, Minimum Pastures Needed)	8	8
	Mow or hay 4/1 - 7/15 with unmown strips	Continuous grazing - light to moderate use	6	6
	Mow or hay 7/15 - 8/15	Rotational Grazing - heavy use	4	4
	Mow or hay after 8/15	(blank)	2	2
	Mow or hay 4/1 - 7/15	Continuous grazing - heavy use	0	0
Add points for periodic burning included in the grassland management plan or 10% of evaluated grassland is rested May 1- July 15.			7	7

Grassland Management Points

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Grassland Composition

(5)	Mixed native WSG and forbs (at least 2 species mix) and less than 25% introduced CSG	15	15
	Mixed wildlife friendly grasses with legumes and forbs.	12	12
	Mixed grasses with legumes and forbs	8	8
	Mixed CSG or native grass monotype or predominant legumes and/or fescue-legume mix.	4	4
	Fescue monotype or non-native WSG	0	0

Grassland Composition Points

Introduced Species

(6)	Abundance of one or all: Sericea lespedeza, Reed canarygrass, Musk thistle, Canada thistle, spotted knapweed or teasel		
	None	5	5
	Rare to Occasional	3	3
	Common to Abundant	0	0

Introduced Species Points

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

Scoring

(7) Existing Index = Total Existing Points Plus Bonus Points/60 (60 is the maximum possible score before adding bonus points)

Total existing points =

Existing Index =

(8) Planned Index = Total Planned Score Plus bonus Points/60 (60 is the maximum possible score before adding bonus points)

Total planned score =

Planned Community Type Index =

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