

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 in 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

(1a)	Percent of the field within 660 feet of dense shrubby cover, tree line, shelterbelt, woodlot, woody draw, etc.			
	Edge Species	Openland Species		
	75% or more	Less than 10%	4	4
	61-74%	10 to 24%	3	3
	41-60%	25 to 50%	2	2
	21-40%	51-74%	1	1
	Less than 20%	75% or more	0	0
Field Size Points				

Shrubby Cover

(1b)	Percent of the field within 660 feet of dense shrubby cover. 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.			
	Edge Species	Openland Species		
	75% or more	Less than 10%	10	10
	61-74%	10 to 24%	8	8
	41-60%	25 to 50%	6	6
	21-40%	51-74%	3	3
	Less than 20%	75% or more	0	0
Shrubby Cover Points				

Desirable Forb/Legume Diversity(See WHAG Instruction Sheet)

(2)	More than 40 species	5	5
	21 to 40 species	3	3
	10 to 20 species	2	2
	Less than 10 species	0	0
Desirable Forb Diversity Points			

Desirable Forb/Legume Canopy Coverage

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

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Grassland Management

(4)	For Hayland, unmown strips or patches must equal 10% of the field to be considered. Idle/unmowed areas are to be left unused (year round) on an annual basis. They may be rotated in the field in subsequent years.			
	Hayland	Pastureland		
	Idle, or mow/hay 7/16 - 8/15 with unmown strips	Rotational Grazing - light to moderate use (meets NRCS 528, Table 1 with minimum pastures needed, proper stocking, and Min/Max grazing days followed)	8	8
	Mow or hay 4/1 - 7/15 with unmown strips	Continuous grazing - light to moderate use	6	6
	Mow or hay 7/16 - 8/15	Rotational Grazing - heavy use	4	4
	Mow or hay after 8/15		2	2
	Mow or hay 4/1 - 7/15	Continuous grazing - heavy use	0	0
	Add points when at least 10% of evaluated grassland is rested May 1 - July 15		3	3
	Add points for annual burning, annual disking, or annual grass suppression (spraying) on more than 20% of evaluated acre. OR		9	9
	11 to 20% of the evaluated acres OR		7	7
5 to 10% of the evaluated acres .		5	5	
Grassland Management Points				

Grassland Composition

(5)	Mixed native WSG and forbs/legumes (at least 3 species mix) and less than 25% non-wildlife friendly vegetation	15	15	
	Mixed wildlife friendly grasses with legumes and forbs and less than 25% non-wildlife friendly vegetation.	12	12	
	Mixed grasses with legumes and forbs or native grass monotype, less than 40% non-wildlife friendly veg.	8	8	
	Mixed CSG or predominant legumes and/or fescue-legume mix.	4	4	
	Monotypes of fescue, bermuda, reed canarygrass, brome, old world bluestems or non-native WSG	0	0	
Grassland Composition Points				

Introduced or Undesirable Species

(6)	Abundance of one or all in the evaluated area: Sericea lespedeza, Reed canarygrass, Musk thistle, Canada thistle, spotted knapweed or teasel. If any of these species represents 10% or more in the evaluated area, score zero points.			
	None	6	6	
	Rare to Occasional	3	3	
	Common to Abundant	0	0	
Introduced Species Points				

Total Points Planned and Existing (Maximum score possible is 65) =

Scoring

(7) Existing Index = Total Existing Points /65
Total existing points =

Existing Index =

(8) Planned Index = Total Planned Score /65
Total planned score =

Planned Community Type Index =

Planner: _____ Date: _____

Landowner: _____ Date: _____

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