

RIPARIAN HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Client _____ County _____

Tract No. _____ Field No. _____ Section No. _____ Township _____ Range _____

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Enter the score for the conditions described that most closely resemble the present condition or planned condition of the site being evaluated. To meet the quality criteria requirements for wildlife habitat (food, water, cover, etc.) in Section III of the FOTG the planned system must provide a total rating of 0.5 or higher for the conservation treatment unit.

Note: Riparian areas with greater than 20% canopy cover of trees shall be scored as a Riparian Forest Buffer by substituting the score from the "Stand Characteristics" category of the Woodland Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Worksheet (NE-CPA-36) for the "Species Composition" category from this worksheet. In addition, if the site scores a (.1) or less on the Stand Characteristics category and 2 or more woody species with wildlife value are present, add (.1) to Stand Characteristics score. (Refer to Table 11 in Windbreak Interpretations in Section II of the FOTG for woody species that have medium and high wildlife values.) If the site contains significant (>50%) undesirable, invasive woody species, score as a -0.1.

(Attach copy of Woodland Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Worksheet when completing a forested riparian buffer evaluation!)

Species Composition – Areas with a diverse mixture of grasses and forbs must contain a minimum of two native or beneficial introduced grasses and one perennial forb or native shrubs. Each species must be at least 10% of the stand and invasive grasses (e.g. Kentucky bluegrass, smooth brome, reed canarygrass, etc.) must not comprise more than 10% of the stand. Beneficial introduced grasses include orchardgrass, intermediate and pubescent wheatgrass.

*(For sites with greater than 20% canopy cover of trees, see note above and attach a copy of the "Woodland Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Worksheet" NE-CPA-36.)

.3 Site contains a diverse mixture of native or beneficial introduced grasses and perennial forbs and/or woody cover (primarily native shrubs) on 75% or more of the site.

.2 Site contains a diverse mixture of native or beneficial introduced grasses, perennial forbs, and/or woody cover (primarily native shrubs) on 50%-74% of the site

.1 Site contains a diverse mixture of native or beneficial introduced grasses, perennial forbs, and/or woody cover (primarily native shrubs) on 25%-49% of the site.

.0 Site contains a diverse mixture of native or beneficial introduced grasses, perennial forbs, and/or woody cover (primarily native shrubs) on less than 25% of the site **OR** contains more than 10% invasive grasses but is managed to create and sustain vegetative diversity using appropriate methods outlined under "Buffer Management" below.

-.1 Site is primarily a monoculture of invasive grasses with no other diversity **OR** is woodland dominated by an invasive tree species as noted under "Species Composition" on the Woodland Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Worksheet.

A. Rating for Species Composition Present _____ Planned _____

Buffer Width – (measured perpendicular from the top of the streambank or edge of the shoreline out to buffer edge) Filter Strips must be 20' for slopes <3%; 25' for slopes 3%-10%; and 30' for slopes >10% - at all points along the buffer. Riparian Forest Buffers must be 35' and require a Filter Strip in addition if eroding cropland is up-gradient of the trees. (More width may apply to meet the 30:1 ratio for Filter Strips or the 30% of active floodplain for Riparian Forest Buffers.)

.2 Buffer width is two or more times the minimum required by applicable standard (Filter Strip or Riparian Forest Buffer).

.1 Buffer width meets minimum requirements of applicable standard (Filter Strip or Riparian Forest Buffer).

-.1 Buffer width is less than required by applicable standard (Filter Strip or Riparian Forest Buffer).

B. Rating for Buffer Width Present _____ Planned _____

