

FARM POND 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 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. For sites where a farm pond does not currently exist but will be constructed, score the site as 0.0 (present).

Note: This worksheet is intended to address habitat quality on "constructed" ponds including those formed by dams (embankments) and those created as dugouts (excavated). Do not use for naturally occurring ponds (wetlands).

Depth – Percent of surface area in deep, shallow, and intermediate water depths.

Give a rating of:

- .2 If 25% or more is \geq 12 feet deep **and** 25% or more is \leq 3 feet deep with remainder at intermediate depths.
- .1 If the majority is of intermediate depths but at least 10% is \geq 12 feet deep **and** at least 10% is \leq 3 feet deep.
- .0 If the farm pond is shallow and intermediate water (90% or more of the surface area) with little or no deep water.
- .1 If the farm pond is deep and intermediate water (90% or more of the surface area) with little or no shallow water.

A. Rating for Depth Present _____ Planned _____

Size – Hydrology analysis should be used to determine water storage capabilities for constructed farm pond sites.

Give a rating of:

- .2 If the farm pond is five acres or larger (average surface acres of water).
- .1 If the farm pond is larger than one acre but smaller than five acres (average surface acres of water).
- .0 If the farm pond larger than one-half acre up to one acre (average surface acres of water).
- .1 If the farm pond is one-half acre or smaller (average surface acres of water).

B. Rating for Size Present _____ Planned _____

Buffer – A minimum of five species (native grasses, forbs, and/or legumes) with at least one forb/legume with each comprising 10% or more of the stand and excluded from haying/grazing except for specific management purposes.

Give a rating of:

- .3 If a buffer area 15.0 acres or larger immediately surrounds the farm pond ($>100'$ wide).
- .2 If a buffer area 10.0 acres to 14.9 acres immediately surrounds the farm pond ($\geq 100'$ wide).
- .1 If a buffer area 5.0 acres to 9.9 acres immediately surrounds the farm pond ($\geq 100'$ wide).
- .0 If a buffer area is a minimum of 100 feet wide but less than 5.0 acres and immediately surrounds the farm pond.
- .1 If the buffer area is less than 100 feet wide or does not meet species diversity or management requirements.

C. Rating for Buffer Present _____ Planned _____

Aquatic Habitat and Watershed Treatment – Aquatic habitat components should include desired emergent vegetation or rock reefs on a minimum of 25% of the shoreline **or** submerged trees/brush piles and/or islands across 10% of the surface area. A minimum of 75% of the watershed should be treated with appropriate soil erosion/water quality measures **or** a sediment retention facility should be installed immediately upstream of the farm pond.

Give a rating of:

- .2 If at least one aquatic habitat component **and** watershed treatment are addressed for the farm pond.
- .1 If only watershed treatment considerations are addressed for the farm pond.
- .0 If only aquatic habitat components are addressed for the farm pond.
- .1 If the farm pond does not provide any aquatic habitat components and watershed treatment is not addressed.

D. Rating for Aquatic Habitat/Watershed Treatment Present _____ Planned _____

Water Control

Give a rating of:

- .1 If a water control structure is present to allow for water level manipulations for management purposes.
- .0 If no water level manipulations can be conducted to facilitate management.

E. Rating for Water Control Present _____ Planned _____

COMPOSITE RATING (A + B + C + D + E) Present _____ Planned _____