

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION INVENTORY WORKSHEET FOR GRAZED RANGE

Client: _____ Date: _____ Farm No.: _____
 Tract(s): _____ Field(s): _____ Acres: _____
 Conservationist: _____

This Wildlife Habitat Evaluation inventory worksheet lists a number of habitat considerations/elements related to wildlife values for rangeland. The inventory worksheet user makes a rating for each habitat element based primarily on visual observations and a few measurements.

The rangeland pasture(s) evaluated must score a rating of 0.5 for each habitat consideration/element listed in the Habitat Index to substantiate reporting conservation practice Upland Wildlife Management (Code 645).

WILDLIFE HABITAT INDEX (GRAZED RANGE)

HABITAT CONSIDERATION	HABITAT POINTS	PRESENT	PLANNED	APPLIED
ECOLOGICAL SITE SIMILARITY INDEX (Refer to NV-ECS-01)				
<i>Similarity Index is not an indicator of the quality of habitat for a particular species. Various ecological sites have value for a particular wildlife species depending upon the kinds and amounts of plant species and the specific habitat requirements of the animal. A very high Similarity Index for a given ecological site may not represent the best habitat for a particular species. However, a Similarity Index of 60 or more for a given ecological site typically indicates a diversity of plant life forms and infers a relatively greater range in vegetative structure than the same ecological site having a lower Similarity Index.</i>				
Similarity Index greater than 60 as recorded on NV-ECS-01 for rangeland pasture being evaluated	0.7 to 1.0			
Similarity Index greater than 35 and less than 60 as recorded on NV-ECS-01 for pasture being evaluated	0.5 to 0.6			
Similarity Index less than 35 as recorded on NV-ECS-01 for rangeland pasture being evaluated	0 to 0.4			
APPARENT TREND IN RANGE CONDITION (Refer to NV-ECS-01)				
<i>Range trend indicates if the range is improving or degrading and is an indicator of the health of the range ecosystem. Management is usually directed toward obtaining an improving trend.</i>				
Improving Trend as recorded on NV-ECS-01 for rangeland pasture being evaluated	0.7 to 1.0			
Trend Not Apparent (stable) as recorded on NV-ECS-01 for rangeland pasture being evaluated	0.5 to 0.6			
Declining Trend as recorded on NV-ECS-01 for rangeland pasture being evaluated	0 to 0.4			
GRAZING MANAGEMENT (Refer to NRCS conservation practice Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) standard and specifications)				
Grazing management meets NRCS practice standard and specifications. <i>(i.e., periods of grazing and rest are identified; minimum levels for herbaceous plant utilization established and maintained; browse utilization levels and recruitment objectives established and attained).</i>	0.5 to 1.0			
Grazing management does <u>not</u> meet NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications.	0 to 0.4			

HABITAT CONSIDERATION	HABITAT POINTS	PRESENT	PLANNED	APPLIED
WATER SOURCE				
<i>Distance to water measured from any point in rangeland pasture</i>				
Average distance to water is $\leq 1/2$ -mile	0.8 to 1.0			
Average distance to water is $> 1/2$ -mile and ≤ 1 -mile	0.5 to 0.7			
Average distance to water is > 1 -mile	0 to 0.4			

WATERING FACILITIES (TROUGH AND TANKS)				
<i>Wildlife species easily drown in livestock watering facilities when adequate escape ramps are absent</i>				
Escape ramps present that meet NRCS-approved specifications <u>and</u> access is available for all wildlife <u>including</u> bats	0.8 to 1.0			
Escape ramps present that meet NRCS-approved specifications <u>and</u> access is available for most wildlife	0.5 to 0.7			
Escape ramps not present <u>or</u> escape ramps present but do not meet NRCS-approved specifications	0 to 0.4			

Total Grazed Range Habitat Points (5 points maximum)

Grazed Range Habitat Index (Total Points/5)

NOTES: