

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION INVENTORY WORKSHEET FOR FOREST

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

This index is used to evaluate areas with at least a 10 percent canopy cover of overstory trees. Very small wooded areas may be considered more as escape cover associated with cropland, hay, or pasture and should not be evaluated separately from these land uses.

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

The forest site(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 (FOREST)

HABITAT CONSIDERATION	HABITAT POINTS	PRESENT	PLANNED	APPLIED
OVERSTORY DIVERSITY				
<i>Forest land managed for a diversity of trees, both in terms of size classes and tree species, provide the best general wildlife habitat. When evaluating diversity, consider both the number of size classes (sapling, understory, pole, mature, vines, etc.) present, as well as the number of different species present. Diversity in forest overstory is a reflection of both past and current management.</i>				
More than 7 tree species with several size classes present	0.8 to 1.0			
3 to 6 tree species and/or only 1 size class present	0.5 to 0.7			
2 tree species and only 1 size class present	0.2 to 0.4			
1 tree species and only 1 size class present	0 to 0.1			

SNAGS, CAVITY TREES, NEST BOXES				
<i>Snags, cavities, and nest boxes provide shelter for many types of wildlife. Snags and cavity trees should be at least 12-inches in diameter.</i>				
More than 4 snags, cavity trees, or nest boxes per acre	0.8 to 1.0			
2 to 3 snags, cavity trees, or nest boxes per acre	0.5 to 0.7			
1 snag, cavity tree or 1 nest box per acre	0.2 to 0.4			
No snags, cavity trees, or nest boxes present	0 to 0.1			

HABITAT CONSIDERATION	HABITAT POINTS	PRESENT	PLANNED	APPLIED
UNDERSTORY COMPOSITION				
<i>Understory vegetative composition is evaluated as the average cover (shrub canopy and herbaceous foliar) on a per acres basis.</i>				
More than 75% total cover (shrub canopy cover plus foliar cover of herbaceous plants)	0.8 to 1.0			
25 to 74% cover of shrubs and herbaceous plants (foliar + canopy)	0.5 to 7.0			
Less than 25% cover of shrubs and herbaceous plants (foliar + canopy)	0.2 to 0.4			
Forest understory is primarily bare ground and/or forest litter	0 to 0.1			
FOREST OPENINGS				
More than 5, ½-acre (<i>minimum-sized area</i>) openings per 100 acres of forest cover	0.8 to 1.0			
2 to 5, ½-acre (<i>minimum-sized area</i>) openings per 100 acres of forest cover	0.5 to 7.0			
One, ½-acre (<i>minimum-sized area</i>) opening per 100 acres of forest cover	0.2 to 0.4			
No openings, closed canopy	0 to 0.1			
GRAZING MANAGEMENT (<i>Refer to NRCS conservation practice Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) standard and specifications</i>)				
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			

Total Forest Habitat Points (*5 points maximum*) =

Forest Habitat Index (*Total Points/5*) =

NOTES: