

## WILDLIFE INTERPRETATIONS

### GENERAL

Wildlife habitat suitability interpretations provide a tool for habitat management. Soils vary in their capacity to produce various plants for use as wildlife habitat. The ratings are for soils in their natural condition and do not consider present land use, existing vegetation, water sources, and the presence or absence of wildlife in the area. Management for wildlife habitat may involve part or all of one or more soil components. Size, shape and management will vary depending on the targeted species. Ratings reflect the suitability of the soil for specific wildlife habitat elements. Restricting soil features guide the user in predicting how the soil will respond to management.

### SUITABILITY RATINGS

**Well Suited** – means that soils have no restrictions for use and are favorable for locally adapted annual vegetation species that are used for wildlife habitat. Adapted species may be grown individually or in combinations with other adapted species.

**Suited** – means that the soil is suitable for the growth of climatically adapted vegetation species for habitat and that some restrictive features may limit the full potential of plant growth.

**Poorly Suited** – means that the soil characteristics are such that they may limit establishment, growth, maintenance, or performance and thus, affect the value as wildlife habitat.

### REFERENCES

- (1.) National Soil Survey Handbook, Part 622.  
<http://soils.usda.gov/technical/handbook/detailedtoc.html>
- (2.) Soil Data Mart  
<http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Survey.aspx?State=WV>
- (3.) Web Soil Survey  
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
- (4) Soil Survey Manual  
<http://soils.usda.gov/technical/manual/contents/chapter6c.html#25>