

**TABLE 2 - RUFFED GROUSE  
WILDLIFE HABITAT RATING CRITERIA - QUALITY OF HABITAT ELEMENTS**

Wildlife Species	Habitat Element	Plant Species Available	Management	Component Score <sup>1</sup>		Applicable Score <sup>2</sup>		Applicable Practice(s) or Job Sheet(s) <sup>3</sup>
				Existing	Planned	Existing	Planned	
Ruffed Grouse (Statewide)	Grain and Seed Crops	(LITTLE OR NO BENEFIT)	-	-	-	-	-	
	<b>Domestic Grasses and Legumes</b>	<p><b>A</b> - Alfalfa, Crownvetch, Orchard Grass, Flatpea, Bluegrass and Clovers (Alsike, Ladino, Red and White Dutch)</p> <p><b>B</b> - In addition to species listed in "A", at least one acre of warm season grasses are available including one or more of the following: Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Big or Little Bluestem.</p> <p><b>C</b> - Species other than those listed in "A".</p>	<p><b>A-1</b> Occurs on skid and haul roads, road shoulders, log landings, woodland fire access roads; and is maintained by: (a) removing woody plants which become established, and (b) applying fertilizer, lime and trace elements to soil test results.</p>	A-1	4			342 382 386 390 472 511
<p><b>A-2</b> Occurs as in "A-1" but is not maintained.</p>			A-2	0			512	
<p><b>A-3</b> Occurs as hayland or in orchards and receives normal agronomic treatments.</p>			A-3	2			528A 590	
<p><b>A-4</b> Occurs as pasture and receives normal agronomic treatments.</p>			A-4	1			Warm Season Grass Job Sheet	
<p><b>B-1</b> Occur in established pure stands in field(s) adjacent to the cool season species listed in "A"; and is part of a managed rotational grazing system where stand height is maintained at a minimum of 6". Livestock is removed thirty days prior to the first killing frost. Stand(s) receives normal agronomic treatments.</p> <p align="center"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Is managed under an <u>approved</u> prescribed burning plan.</p>			B-1	5			Cool Season Grass Job Sheet	
<p><b>B-2</b> Occur in pure stands and are maintained by haying between July 15 and September 1 and receive normal agronomic treatment.</p>			B-2	4				
<p><b>B-3</b> Occurs as in "B-1" and utilized as pasture but management differs.</p>			B-3	3				
<p><b>B-4</b> Occurs as in "B-2", utilized as hayland except management differs.</p>			B-4	2				
<p><b>B-5</b> Stands are mowed or rotary brush cut at least once annually between July 15 and September 1.</p>			B-5	1				
<p><b>C-1</b> As in "A-1"</p>			C-1	2				
<p><b>C-2</b> As in "A-3" or "A-4"</p>			C-2	1				
<p><b>C-3</b> As in "A-1" but is not maintained.</p>			C-3	0				

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				Existing	Planned	Existing	Planned	
Ruffed Grouse (Continued)	Domestic Grasses and Legumes (Continued)	D - Species listed in "A".	<b>D-1</b> Occurs in woodland openings of one-half acre to one acre in size and is maintained by removal of woody plants which become established and applications of lime, fertilizer and trace elements as recommended by soil test.	D-1	4			
			<b>D-2</b> Occurs as in "D-1" but is not maintained.	D-2	0			
		E - Occurs in woodland and are species other than those listed in "A".	<b>E-1</b> Occurs as in "D-1" and is maintained.	E-1	2			
			<b>E-2</b> Occurs as in "D-1" but is not maintained.	E-2	0			
		F - No domestic grasses and legumes.	-	F	0			
	Wild Herbaceous Upland Plants	<b>A</b> - A wide variety of wild herbaceous plants are available. At least five of the following are present: Sheepsorrel, various Nightshades, Sedges, Hawkweed, Dandelion, Clovers, Ferns, Asters, Ragweed, American Bittersweet and Cinquefoil.	<b>A-1</b> On a rotational basis, one-third of the total area is mowed or rotary brush cut at least once every three years in mid-summer. Of the remaining two thirds, one third is spring plowed (prior to April 15) to encourage early succession wild herbaceous growth. The remaining one-third should be fallow.	A-1	3			<b>314</b>  <b>511</b>  <b>590</b>  <b>647</b>  <b>Fallow Disking Job Sheet</b>
		<b>A-2</b> As in "A-1" except no spring plowing or disking.	A-2	2				
		<b>A-3</b> Not mowed or rotary brush cut; will succeed to woody species.	A-3	0				
	<b>B</b> - At least three of the species listed in "A" are present.	<b>B-1</b> As in "A-1".	B-1	2				
		<b>B-2</b> As in "A-2".	B-2	1				
		<b>B-3</b> As in "A-3".	B-3	0				
	<b>C</b> - Dominated by only a few species. Two or less of those species listed in "A" are present.	<b>C-1</b> As in "A-1".	C-1	1				
		<b>C-2</b> As in "A-2".	C-2	0				
	<b>D</b> - No wild herbaceous upland plants.	-	C	0				
	Deciduous Trees and Shrubs	<b>A</b> - A wide variety of deciduous early succession plants available. Important species include Aspens, Hazelnut, Birches, Greenbrier, Sumac, Wild Grape, Apple, Hawthorne, Blackberry, Raspberry, Wild Cherry, Blueberry, Gray Dogwood, Serviceberry and Arrowwood.	<b>A-1</b> Shrub thicket occupies 6 to 30 acres and maintenance cuttings are performed to maintain shrub thickets by removing all trees which exceed 15 feet in height. Apple and Aspen are retained and released regardless of height.					
		<b>OR</b>						

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				Existing	Planned	Existing	Planned	
Ruffed Grouse (Continued)	Deciduous Trees and Shrubs (Continued)		The woodland is managed in small tracts of 5 to 20 acres of like age stands and when a tract is harvested the clear cut method is used. With this type of timber and wildlife management, a checkerboard forest develops in which one block of shrub thicket growth will always be present. The forest is in a rotation cutting type of management and is comprised of many tracts of forest cover in various ages of development.	A-1	5			Forest Opening Job Sheet  Cut-back Border Job Sheet
				A-2	4			
				A-3	3			
				B-1	2			
				B-2	0			
				C-1	1			
				C-2	0			
				D-1	1			
				D-2	0			
				E	0			
	Coniferous Trees and Shrubs	A - Conifers are White Pine, Scotch Pine, Virginia Pine, Norway Spruce, Red Cedar or Hemlock.	A-1 Occurs as scattered trees or clumps of trees less than 15 feet high and located in low density shrub thicket. Stands are maintained as to allow for branches to lie low along the ground and removal of all trees exceeding 15 feet in height.	A-1	2			314  612  666  Wildlife Conifers Job Sheet
			A-2 Occur as scattered trees or clumps of trees in existing hardwood stands.	A-2	1			

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					Existing	Planned	
Ruffed Grouse (Continued)	Coniferous Trees and Shrubs (Continued)	<p><b>B</b> - Conifer species consist of one or more of the following: Black Pine, Red Spruce, Table Mountain Pine or Virginia Pine.</p> <p><b>C</b> - Other species; <b>OR</b> No coniferous trees or shrubs.</p>	<p><b>A-3</b> Occur as block plantings or plantation stands of low density (8 feet or greater spacing) and are maintained at a height of less than 15 feet.</p>	A-3	1		
			<p><b>A-4</b> Occur as in "A-1" or "A-3" except no maintenance will be conducted.</p>	A-4	0		
			<p><b>B-1</b> Are maintained as in "A-1"</p>	B-1	1		
			<p><b>B-2</b> Are not maintained as in "A-1".</p>	B-2	0		
			<p><b>B-3</b> Occur as block plantings or plantation stands of low density (10 feet or greater spacing) and are maintained at a height of less than 15 feet.</p>	B-3	1		
			<p><b>B-4</b> Occur as block plantings or plantations of low density (&gt;10 foot spacing) and are not maintained.</p>	B-4	0		
			-	C	0		
<b>TABLE 2 TOTAL SCORE</b>							

**ELEMENT QUALITY RATING KEY**

**Total Score is:** 0 - 6 = Poor  
 7 - 9 = Fair  
 10 - 12 = Good  
 13 - 15 = Excellent

<sup>1</sup> Component Score - This is the value of the Habitat Element with certain species composition and under a certain management.

<sup>2</sup> Applicable Score - To determine the proper rating, use the "highest" component score for the line entry which applies most closely or where all conditions have been met. Only one component score may be used per habitat element.

<sup>3</sup> Applicable Practice(s) or Job Sheet(s) - These are relevant practice codes in Section IV of the FOTG, or additional references that could potentially be utilized to achieve management objectives for the particular habitat element.