

Missouri Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide Early Successional Vegetation Community Model

Applicant(s): _____ **Date:** _____

Farm Number: _____ **Tract Number:** _____ **Field Number(s):** _____ **County:** _____

The use of "Edge" vs. "Openland" will be based on landowner's objectives and the landscape situation in which the tract is located. Quail management in the midst of 2000 acres of grassland may not be appropriate, as is prairie chicken management in the midst of 80 to 120 acre mixed cover types. As always, professional judgment is needed to tailor the WHDP to fit landscape needs and ensure likelihood of success.)

If using this model for "old field" or "idle areas" and tree canopy coverage is more than 25% use the Woodland or Savanna Community Model. If tree canopy is equal to or less than 25%, use the Prairie/Grassland Model. If area is managed to maintain a seral stage early in succession, the Early Successional Vegetation Model will be used.

Instructions: Answer each of the questions (1 - 7) below by circling the appropriate points for both the existing and planned conditions. N/A = Not Applicable in the Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP), CSG = Cool Season Grasses, WSG = Warm Season

	Points if Existing	Points if Planned
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Field Size

(1)	Percent of the field within 660 feet of a tree line, shelterbelt, woodlot, woody draw, etc., or woodland occurring on prairie soils.		
	Edge Species	Openland Species	
	More than 75%	Less than 10%	10 10
	50 to 75%	10 to 25%	6 6
	25 to 50%	25 to 50%	4 4
	10 to 25%	50 to 75%	2 2
	Less than 10%	More than 75%	0 N/A
Field Size Points			

Woody Invasion

(2)	Percent of the field occurring as trees, shrubs, and vines		
	Edge Species	Openland Species	
	10 to 25%	Less than 5%	10 10
	5 to 10 %	5 - 15%	5 5
	Less than 5% or more than 25%	More than 15%	0 N/A
Woody Invasion Points			

Desirable Forb Diversity

(3)	More than 20 species	10	10
	10 to 20 species	6	6
	5 to 10 species	4	4
	Less than 5 species	0	N/A
Desirable Forb Diversity Points			

Forb Canopy Coverage

(4)	Percent of field covered by desirable broadleaf plants		
	25 to 50%	10	10
	50 to 75%	5	5
	Less than 25% or more than 75%	0	N/A
Forb Canopy Coverage Points			

Vegetative Cover

(5)	Vegetation 6 to 18" tall; herbaceous and shrub cover, consider vegetation thickness		
	25 to 50%	10	10
	5 to 25% or 50 to 75%	5	5
	Less than 5% or more than 75% or all vegetation is less than 6" tall or more than 6" tall and very thick	0	N/A
Grassland Management Points			

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Periodic Maintenance (area is disturbed by fire or periodic disking)

(6)	If only ranking woody draws, woody fencelines, or other similar areas, score 10 points.		
	1/3 of the field is burned or lightly disked annually	10	10
	Entire field is burned or lightly disked at least every third year	6	6
	Disturbance of field occurs every 3 to 5 years	4	4
	Disturbance of field is greater than 5 year cycle or no disturbance occurs	0	N/A
Periodic Maintenance Points			

Problem Introduced Species

(7)	Abundance of one or all: Sericea lespedeza, Reed canarygrass, Musk thistle, Canada thistle, or teasel		
	None	10	10
	Rare to Occasional	5	5
	Common to Abundant	0	N/A
Problem Introduced Species Points			

Total Points Planned and Existing (Maximum score possible is 70) =

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Scoring

(8)	Existing Index = Total Existing Points/70 (70 is the maximum possible score) Total existing points =
	Existing Index =
(9)	Planned WHIP Contract Index = Total Planned Score/70 (70 is the maximum possible score) Total planned score =
	Planned Community Type Index =

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