WILDLIFE HABITAT APPRAISAL GUIDE-MISSOURI

Landowner _____ Appraiser _____

Location T R S _____ Date _____

Total Acres Appraised _____ County _____

Habitat Characteristics / Field No. / Acres	Ruffed Grouse							
	Woodland							
	Regeneration (<2" dbh)				Sap.-Sawtimber (>2" dbh)			
Average Density of Shrub and Tree Reproduction >3 Feet Tall (Stems/sq. yard)								
1. >4	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. 3-4	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
3. 2-3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
4. <2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodland Size Class and Canopy Coverage								
1. Sapling (2-4" dbh)					10	10	10	10
2. Pole (4-9" dbh) or Sawtimber (>9" dbh) Open Canopy (<50% Coverage)					8	8	8	8
3. Sawtimber Closed Canopy (>50% Coverage)					4	4	4	4
4. Pole Closed Canopy					1	1	1	1
Woodland Tree Species (Overstory species)								
1. Oaks dominant with black oak group and white oak group 25-75% of trees					5	5	5	5
2. Oaks dominant with >75% of trees in either black or white oak groups					3	3	3	3
3. Other tree species dominant					1	1	1	1
Forest Openings or Regeneration Cuts <2 Acres (% of stand)								
1. 15-30% well distributed (Most <2 acres)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. 5-15% well distributed (Most <2 acres)	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
3. 15-30% not well distributed	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
5-15% not well distributed	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
<5% or >30%	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grazing Pressure (Degree of use)								
1. No grazing	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. Grazed	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Concealment Cover (Dense brush, fallen logs, brushpiles)								
1. Covers >5% of Woodland	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2. Covers 1-5% of Woodland	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3. Zero	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Herbaceous Canopy Coverage (%)								
1. 75-90% (Percent of ground covered by all herbaceous vegetation (grasses and broadleaf plants))	10	10	10	10				
2. >90%	7	7	7	7				
3. 50-75%	4	4	4	4				
4. <50%	1	1	1	1				
Aspect								
1. North-Northwest-Northeast or Bottomland	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. Mixed North-South	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
3. Neutral (<3% slope)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
4. South-Southeast-Southwest	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Distance to Conifers (Natural or planted pines and cedar >2 ac.)								
1. <1/2 mile	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2. 1/2-1 mile	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3. >1 mile	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Distance to Reproduction Size Class Forest Tract (dbh <2")								
1. Less than 1/8 mile	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. 1/8-1/4 mile	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
3. More than 1/4 mile	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Distance to Old Field								
1. <1/8 mile	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2. 1/8-1/4 mile	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3. >1/4 mile	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Percent Woodland within 660' of Reproductive Size Class (>2 acres) Stand								
1. >75%					10	10	10	10
50-75%					6	6	6	6
25-50%					3	3	3	3
<25					1	1	1	1
Subtotal								

Habitat Planning Key

Ruffed Grouse O -Existing ⊕ -Planned ● -Applied

Habitat Characteristics	Regeneration (<2" dbh)				Sap.-Sawtimber (>2" dbh)			
Subtotal								
Field No.								
Acres								
Number of Important Food Plants (See list)								
1. >7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2. 4-7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3. <4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Percent Woodland with 2 Mile Wide (2000 ac.) Circle [1]								
1. >75% (>1500 ac.)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. 50-75% (2000-1500 ac.)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
3. 25-50% (500-1000 ac.)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
4. <25% (<500 ac.)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodland Use in 2 Mile Wide (2000 ac.) Circle								
1. >75% woodland ungrazed	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. 50-75% woodland ungrazed	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
3. 25-50% woodland ungrazed	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
4. <25% woodland ungrazed	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Existing Total								
Planned Total								
Applied Total								
Check Footnote								
Maximum Possible Score	100	100	100	100	115	115	115	115
Existing Index								
Planned Index								
Applied Index								

Habitat Type Index = $\frac{\text{Total Actual Score}}{\text{Max. Possible Score}}$

Farm Habitat Index = $\frac{\Sigma[\text{Habitat Type Indexes x Acres}]}{\text{Total Acres Appraised}}$

Existing Farm Index = _____

Planned Farm Index = _____

NOTE:
1. If Percent Woodland within 2 Mile Wide Circle scores 1, enter .1 as Index.

Habitat Quality	Score Rating	0.75-1.0 Excellent	0.50-0.75 Good	0.25-0.50 Fair	0-0.25 Poor
Acres per Bird		<30-50	50-75	75-100	>100

IMPORTANT RUFFED GROUSE FOOD PLANTS

__Acorns
__Alder
__Apple
__Birch
__Blackberries
__Cherries
__Clovers
__Crabapple
__Dogwoods
__Grapes
__Greenbrier
__Hawthorns
__Hazelnut
__Insects
__Hophornbeam
__Mulberry
__Partridge berry
__Plantain
__Sedges
__Strawberry
__Sumacs
__Willows

Missouri Department of Conservation

U.S.D.A.
Soil Conservation Service
Columbia, Mo.

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