WILDLIFE HABITAT APPRAISAL GUIDE—MISSOURI

Landowner _____ Appraiser _____

Location T_____ R_____ S_____ County _____

Total Acres Appraised _____

Completed by WSB____ Con.Ag____ SCS____ Other____

Bobwhite Quail

Habitat Characteristics		Habitat Types: Cropland				Past/Hay				Woodland				Old Field		
	Field No.															
	Acres															
Edge Configuration and Border Extent																
1. Irregular—Border around >50%	Irregular = <20 ac. one side irregular; or >20 ac. two sides irregular Border must be at least 5' wide	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. Straight—Border around >50%		8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	5	5	5
3. Irregular—Border around 25–50%		6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Score only Edge Config.		
4. Straight—Border around 25–50%		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
5. Irregular—Border around <25%		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
6. Straight—Border around <25%; or border >50% fescue		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Concealment Cover (Dense brush, rock piles, fallen logs, rock crevices, brushpiles, etc.)																
1. Covers >5% of Woodland or Field	Score 5 points if <10 acres with border >75%	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2. Covers 1–5% of Woodland or Field		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3. Zero		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vegetative Cover (% Area 6"–18" occupied by herbaceous and shrub canopy-vegetation thickness)																
1. 25–50%						5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2. 5–25% or 50–75%						3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3. <5% or >75% (all vegetation <6" tall or >6" tall & very thick)						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodland Size Class and Canopy Coverage																
1. Sawtimber—Open Canopy (<50% Coverage)										10	10	10	10			
2. Reproduction—Open Canopy										8	8	8	8			
3. Pole—Open Canopy										5	5	5	5			
4. Sawtimber or Reprod. Closed Canopy (>50% Coverage)										3	3	3	3			
5. Pole—Closed Canopy										1	1	1	1			
Cropping Practices																
1. >4 ac. per 40 ac. food plot or unharvested grain		10	10	10	10											
2. 1–4 ac. per 40 ac. food plot or unharvested grain		7	7	7	7											
3. 1/4–1 ac. per 40 ac. food plot or unharvested grain		5	5	5	5											
4. Completely harvested little herbicide (weedy)		3	3	3	3											
5. Completely harvested heavy herbicide (no weeds)		1	1	1	1											
Cropfield Management																
1. No fall tillage, residues undisturbed		10	10	10	10											
2. Chisel plowing once in fall; or no-till winter wheat		8	8	8	8											
3. Crop residues grazed, chopped or baled		6	6	6	6											
4. Fall discing; or winter wheat (conventional tillage)		4	4	4	4											
5. Fall moldboard plowing		1	1	1	1											
Crop Rotation																
1. Small grains—row crop-legume (meadow)		5	5	5	5											
2. Small grains—row crop		3	3	3	3											
3. Continuous row crop; or continuous small grain		1	1	1	1											
Grazing or Haying Pressure (Degree of use)																
1. Light, or none (woods)	Moderate = 3–6" CSG winter height; 8–10" WSG winter height; light also periodic burn					10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			
2. Moderate						5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5			
3. Heavy; or grass >6" & thick						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Legume Canopy Coverage (Percent)																
1. 25–50%						10	10	10	10					10	10	10
2. 5–25% or 50–75%						5	5	5	5					5	5	5
3. <5% or >75%						1	1	1	1					1	1	1
Grassland Composition																
1. Mixed warm-season grass and forbs						10	10	10	10							
2. Cool- and warm-season grasses						8	8	8	8							
3. Mixed cool-season grasses; or cool-season grasses & legumes						6	6	6	6							
4. Native grass or other bunch grass monotype						4	4	4	4							
5. Fescue Monotype (>75%); or other sod forming grass monotypes						1	1	1	1							
Bobwhite Quail	**Subtotal**															

Date _____ _____ _____

Habitat Planning Key ◯ — Existing ⊕ —Planned ● —Applied

	Cropland				Past/Hay				Woodland				Old Field		
Subtotal															
Field No.															
Distance to Old Field															
1. <1/8 mi.	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5			
2. 1/8–1/4 mi.	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			
3. >1/4 mi.; or >50% canopy coverage of fescue	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Distance to Woody Cover or Woodland															
1. <1/8 mi. ungrazed woodland or dense woody cover	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5					5	5	5
2. 1/8–1/4 mi. ungrazed woodland or dense woody cover	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3					3	3	3
3. <1/4 mi. to a grazed woodland or grazed woody cover	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					2	2	2
4. >1/4 mi. to any woodland or woody cover	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1
Distance to Pasture/Hayland															
1. <1/8 mi. light-moderate use, good plant diversity (Good plant diversity = grasses, forbs and legumes)	5	5	5	5					5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2. 1/8–1/4 mi. light-moderate use, good plant diversity	4	4	4	4					4	4	4	4	4	4	4
3. <1/8 mi. light-moderate use, moderate plant diversity	3	3	3	3					3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4. Heavy use; poor plant diversity; or >1/4 mi. to pasture/hayland	1	1	1	1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Distance to Cropland or Food Plot															
1. <1/8 mi. No fall tillage					10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. 1/8–1/4 mi. No fall tillage					8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
3. <1/8 mi. Fall disced or chiseled or winter wheat					6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
4. 1/8–1/4 mi. Fall disced or chiseled or winter wheat					4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5. >1/4 mi. to cropfield or cropfield fall plowed					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Number of Important Food Plants (See list)															
1. >7					10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. 4–7					5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
3. <4					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Field Size (% Field within 660′ of concealment cover, ungrazed woodland or dense woody cover)[1] Enter Percent Above Column															
1. 75–100%	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10					10	10	10
2. 50–75%	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6					6	6	6
3. 25–50%	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4					4	4	4
4. 0–25%	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1
Woodland Size (% woodland within 660′ of any other habitat type)[2] Enter Percent Above Column															
1. 75–100%									10	10	10	10			
2. 50–75%									6	6	6	6			
3. 25–50%									4	4	4	4			
4. 0–25%									1	1	1	1			
Habitat Type Index = Existing Total															
Total Actual Score / Planned Total															
Maximum Possible Score / Applied Total															
Check Footnotes Before Calculating Indexes															
Maximum Possible Score	75	75	75	75	90	90	90	90	80	80	80	80	70	70	70
Farm Habitat Index = Existing Index															
Σ(Habitat Type Indexes x Acres) / Total Acres Appraised — Planned Index															
Applied Index															

Existing Farm Index = _____ Planned Farm Index = _____

Habitat Quality	Score	0.75–1.0	0.50–0.75	0.25–0.50	0–0.25
	Rating	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Acres per Bird		<3	3–5	5–8	>8

NOTE:
1. If Field Size scores less than 10, multiply Habitat Type Index by the percent of field within 660′ of ungrazed woodland or dense woody cover.
2. If Woodland Size scores less than 10, multiply Habitat Type Index by the percent of woodland within 660′ of any other habitat type.

Examples of Important Quail Food Plants

___Acorns
___Agricultural Crops
___Asters
___Bedstraws
___Beggar ticks
___Blackberry
___Cinquefoil
___Clovers
___Crotons
___Dandelion
___Foxtails
___Goldenrods
___Grapes
___Korean lespedeza
___Multiflora rose
___Poison ivy
___Ragweeds
___Sedges
___Sheep sorrel
___Smartweeds
___Strawberry
___Sunflowers
___Tick trefoils
___Wild geranium
___Wood sorrel
___Yellow nutgrass
___Other

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

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Missouri Department of Conservation