WILDLIFE HABITAT APPRAISAL GUIDE - MISSOURI

Landowner _____ Appraiser _____

Location T _____ R _____ S _____ Date _____

Total Acres Appraised _____ County _____

COTTONTAIL RABBIT

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.	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. Straight-Border around >50%	one side	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	5	5	5
3. Irregular-Border around 25-50%	irregular; or >20	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	Score		
4. Straight-Border around 25-50%	ac. two sides	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Only		
5. Irregular-Border around <25%	irregular	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Edge		
6. Straight-Border around <25%		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Config.		
Concealment Cover (Dense brush, rock piles, fallen logs, rock crevices, brush piles, etc.)																
1. Covers >10% of woodland or field	Score 10 points	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. Covers 1-10% of woodland or field	if <10 acres with	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
3. Zero	border >75%	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vegetative Cover (% Ground covered by herbaceous and shrub canopy 6" - 18")																
1. 25-50%						5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2. 10-25% or 50-75%						3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3. <10% or >75%						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodland Size Class and Canopy Coverage																
1. Reproduction - Open Canopy										10	10	10	10			
2. Sawtimber - Open Canopy (<50% coverage)										8	8	8	8			
3. Pole - Open Canopy										6	6	6	6			
4. Sawtimber or Reprod. Closed Canopy (>50% coverage)										4	4	4	4			
5. Pole-Closed Canopy										1	1	1	1			
Cropping Practices																
1. >4 ac. per 40 ac. (>10%) food plot or unharvested grain		10	10	10	10											
2. 1-4 ac. per 40 ac. (1-10%) food plot or unharvested grain		7	7	7	7											
3. <1 ac. per 40 ac. food plot or unharvested grain		5	5	5	5											
4. Completely harvested little herbicide		3	3	3	3											
5. Completely harvested heavy herbicide		1	1	1	1											
Cropfield Management																
1. No fall tillage, residues undisturbed; or winter wheat		10	10	10	10											
2. Chisel plowing once in fall		8	8	8	8											
3. Crop residues grazed, chopped or baled; or residues <3" tall		6	6	6	6											
4. Fall discing		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. None to light	Moderate = 3-6" overwinter height CSG					10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			
2. Moderate	8-10" overwinter height WSG					5	5	5	5	1	1	1	1			
3. Heavy						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%						5	5	5	5					5	5	5
3. <5% or >50%						1	1	1	1					1	1	1
Grassland Composition																
1. Mixed cool-season grasses; or predominately legumes						10	10	10	10							
2. Cool and warm-season grasses						8	8	8	8							
3. Mixed warm-season grasses and forbs						6	6	6	6							
4. Native grass or bluegrass monotype						4	4	4	4							
5. Fescue monotype (>50% fescue)						1	1	1	1							
Distance to Woodland or Woody Cover																
1. <250 ft. ungrazed woodland or dense woody cover		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10					10	10	10
2. 250-500 ft. ungrazed woodland or dense woody cover		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5					5	5	5
3. <500 ft. to grazed woodland or sparse woody cover		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					2	2	2
4. >500 ft. to any woodland or woody cover		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1
	Subtotal															

Cottontail Rabbit Habitat Planning Key ◯-Existing ⊕-Planned ●-Applied

Habitat Characteristics															
Subtotal															
Field No.															
Acres															
stance to Pasture/Bayland															
<250 ft. light-moderate use, good pland diversity (Good plant diversity = grasses, forbs and legumes	5	5	5	5					5	5	5	5	5	5	5
2. 250-500 ft. light-moderate use, good plant diversity	4	4	4	4					4	4	4	4	4	4	4
3. <250 ft. light-moderate use, moderate plant diversity	3	3	3	3					3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4. 250-500 ft. light-moderate use, moderate plant diversity	2	2	2	2					2	2	2	2	2	2	2
5. Heavy use; poor plant diversity; or >500 ft. to pasture/hayland	1	1	1	1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Distance to Cropland or Food Plot															
1. <250 ft. no fall tillage or winter wheat					10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	5	5
2. 250-500 ft. no fall tillage or winter wheat					8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	4	4	4
3. <250 ft. fall disced or chiseled					6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	3	3	3
4. 250-500 ft. fall disced or chiseled					4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	2
5. >500 ft. to cropfield; or cropfield fall plowed					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Distance to Old Field															
1. <250 ft.	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5			
2. 250-500 ft.	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			
3. >500 ft.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Number of Important Food Plants (See list)															
1. >9					10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
2. 5-9					5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
3. <5					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Field Size (% Field within 250' of 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 250' 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			
Existing Total															
Planned Total															
Habitat Type Index = Applied Total															
Check Footnotes															
Total Actual Score / Maximum Possible Score — Maximum Possible Score	80	80	80	80	100	100	100	100	85	85	85	85	75	75	75
Existing Index															
Farm Habitat Index = Planned Index															
Σ[Habitat Type Indexes x Acres] / Total Acres Appraised — Applied Index															

Existing Farm Index = _____ Planned Farm 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 Rabbit		< 1	1-2	2-5	>5

NOTE:

1. If Field Size scores less than 10, multiply Habitat Type Index by the percent of field within 250' 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 250' of any other habitat type.

IMPORTANT FOOD PLANTS

__Agricultural crops
__Asters
__Bluegrass
__Buckhorn
__Chess
__Cinquefoil
__Clovers
__Crabgrass
__Dandelion
__Fall panic grass
__Fleabanes
__Foxtails
__Horse nettle
__Knotweed
__Korean lespedeza
__Multiflora rose
__Plantains
__Poison ivy
__Prickly mallow
__Ragweeds
__Roses
__Sedges
__Smartweeds
__Strawberry
__Sumacs
__Tall thistle
__Tick trefoils
__Timothy

Missouri Department of Conservation

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

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