



Date: _____ Track No.: _____

Project Sponsor _____ Site No: _____

Evaluator (s): _____

FIELD KEY FOR SUBJECTIVE EVALUATION OF TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE HABITATS

Each habitat type or community present within the evaluation area will be rated. The rating will be a numerical value between 0.0 and 10.0, with a score of 10.0 representing optimal habitat conditions (i.e. reference site) for the geographical area in question. The criteria keys are only guides to obtain uniformity in evaluating different tracts. The criteria key will serve as a standardized checklist for identifying habitat communities and placing a value on their quality. When professional judgement determines that the habitat characteristics are different than those indicated, a narrative description can be developed in the field and a quality rating made. Qualitative thresholds for habitat ratings: **Excellent. = 8.0 - 10.0; Good = 5.6 - 7.9; Fair = 3.1 - 5.5; Poor = 1.0 - 3.0**

WOODLAND KEY

Estimated Canopy Cover (minimum 25%) _____ %	
<u>Species Groups</u>	<u>Points</u>
All 5 species groups (Nut, Mast, Fruit, Seed, Evergreen)	6 to 10
4-5 species groups	3 to 6
Nut or mast + 2 other spp. groups	1 to 3
2-3 spp. groups	1 to 3
1 species group	1

<u>Plant Form</u>	<u>Score each plant form as</u>
Trees over 12" dbh	Abundant = 3 points
Trees over 25' tall	Common = 2 points
Trees 3'-25' tall	Sparse = 1 point
Trees up to 3' tall	Absent = 0 points
Shrubs	
Vines	
Grass	
Forbs	
Debris and/or Standing Dead, Snags	
Den Trees	

Total Points + IV = R
4

Circle adjacent habitat types:
Rangeland Pasture Impoundment
Cropland Wetland Odd Area Stream

Trees

Shrubs

Vines

Grass

Forbs

RANGELAND KEY

	<u>Component Points</u>
A. Decreasers reproducing stand	9.0 - 10.0
B. Plants in healthy condition	
C. Herbaceous increasers not conspicuous	
D. Woody increasers are not conspicuous	

A. Decreasers conspicuous, can recover	6.0 - 8.9
B. Woody invaders may be established, others	
C. reproducing markedly	
D. Woody increasers may be conspicuous	

A. Decreasers not conspicuous	3.0 - 5.9
B. Annuals/invasers conspicuous	
C. Increasers established	
D. Broadcast herbicide use evident	

A. Decreasers absent	0 - 2.9
B. Invaders established – Trees mature and extensive	
C. Desirable wildlife food/cover nearly absent	

Tract is continuous for >1 square mile _____ + 1.5
 Tract is continuous for > 2 square mile _____ + 2.5
 Tract is fragmented by woody invasion, windbreaks, roads, crop fields, etc. _____ - 1.5 to - 2.5
 Rare or unique plant life (list and provide appropriate points) _____

Total Points + IV = R

Circle adjacent habitat types:
Woodland Pasture Impoundment
Cropland Wetland Odd Area Stream

PASTURE KEY

	<u>Component Points</u>
Grass in good-excellent condition with desirable forbs present:	
A. Warm season pasture	9
B. Cool season pasture	8
Grass in poor-fair condition with desirable forbs present:	
A. Warm season	7
B. Cool season	6
Grass in good-excellent condition with undesirable forbs abundant:	
A. Warm season	5
B. Cool season	4
Grass in poor condition with undesirable forbs present	
All pastures	3
Grass in fair-good condition with no forbs present (herbicide use evident)	
All pastures	2
Grass in poor condition with no forbs present (herbicide use evident)	
All pastures	1
Any of the above with some established woody:	+ 1

Total Points + IV = R

Circle adjacent habitat types:
Rangeland Woodland Impoundment
Cropland Wetland Odd Area Stream

ODD AREA KEY

	Component Points
<u>Woody Vegetation</u>	
Abundant trees, shrubs, vines; all age; excellent food/cover	5
Woody spp. abundant; even-all age; food/cover good/excellent	4
Woody spp. common; even-all age; food/cover good	3
Woody spp. sparse, even-all age; food/cover fair	2
Woody spp. sparse; cover poor	1
<u>Herbaceous Vegetation</u>	
Abundant perennial native grass & forbs; food/cover excellent	5
Abundant native vegetation; food/cover good	4
Native vegetation common; annuals/increasers established; food/cover fair	3
Native vegetation sparse; introduced grasses may be established; food/cover fair-poor	2
Introduced vegetation abundant; food/cover poor	1
<u>Other cover</u>	
Large brush piles, quarries, farm equipment/outbuildings, junk piles, silos, etc.	+1

Total Points + IV = R

Circle adjacent habitat types:

Rangeland Pasture Impoundment
Cropland Wetland Woodland Stream

CROPLAND KEY

Crop Type	Component Points
A. Milo, feed grain, corn	7
B. Alfalfa, small grain	4
C. Soy beans, sunflower	2
D. Cotton	1
E. Clean till	0
D. Other (describe)	evaluator assign points
<u>Management</u>	
A. Organic w/green manure & crop rotation	10
B. Mechanical tillage only (no pesticides)	7
C. Conservation tillage	5
D. Spring tillage	3
E. Fall tillage	2
F. Fall plowing	0
<u>Other Factors</u>	
A. Field size	+1 to -1
B. Crop rotation	+1 to -1
C. Unharvested crop left	0 to +1

(Total Points ÷ 2) + IV = R

Circle adjacent habitat types:

Rangeland Pasture Impoundment
Woodland Wetland Odd Area Stream

WETLAND KEY

_____ 1987 Delineation necessary?

	Component Points
A. Isolated & natural with no hydrology manipulation. Emergent vegetation present	8.0 - 10.0
B. Riverine and adjacent wetlands subject to US Army COE jurisdiction	7.9 - 8.0
C. Restored wetland w/native plants and enhanced hydrology possible	5.0 - 6.9
D. Naturally farmed w/ disturbance to native plant community	3.0 - 4.9
E. Hydrology manipulated for farming ("PC", "FW" or "FWP")	2.0 - 2.9
F. Wetland w/invasive & exotic plant life	0.0 - 1.9

Total Points + IV = R

Circle adjacent habitat types:

Rangeland Pasture Impoundment
Cropland Woodland Odd Area Stream

INTERSPERSION (IV) = value added to each habitat type to assess the diversity of adjacent habitat types. Used in determining the habitat's quality rating (R). **Regardless of the interspersions value no R-value score should exceed 10.0.**

Number of Adjacent Habitat Types

Adjacent Habitat Types: (woodland, rangeland, pasture, wetlands, cropland, odd area, stream, and impoundment)	0	1	2	3	4+
Use the following IV scores for all habitats	-0.5	0	+0.5	+1.0	+1.5

NOTES:
