

**Missouri**  
**Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide**  
**Early Successional Vegetation Community Model**

Applicant(s):

Date:

Farm Number:

Tract Number:

Field Number(s):

County:

If using this model for "old field" or "idle areas" tree canopy coverage must be less than 25%. 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 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.

Points if Existing

Points if Planned

**Shrubby Cover Quantity and Quality**

1	Percent of the field within 150 feet of usable, dense shrubby cover (30' width of ungrazed shrubby cover; 3-12' tall dense shrub thickets 30'X50', etc), downed tree structures, edge feathering or covey headquarters.		
	75% or more	10	10
	61-74%	7	7
	41-60%	5	5
	21-40%	2	2
	Less than 20%	0	0

**Shrubby Cover Quantity and Quality Points**

**Grassland Composition**

2	Woody draws/fencelines with existing fescue/brome treated once every three years with herbicide, or mixed native WSG and forbs/legumes (at least 2 species mix) and less than 25% introduced CSG	10	10
	Mixed wildlife friendly grasses with legumes and forbs.	7	7
	Mixed grasses with legumes and forbs	5	5
	Mixed CSG or native grass monotype or predominant legumes and/or fescue-legume mix.	2	2
	Fescue monotype or non-native WSG	0	0

**Grassland Composition Points**

**Desirable Forb/Legume Diversity (See WHAG Instruction Sheet)**

3	More than 20 species	10	10
	11 to 20 species	6	6
	5 to 10 species	4	4
	Less than 5 species	0	0

**Desirable Forb Diversity Points**

**Desirable Forb/Legume Canopy Coverage**

4	Percent of field covered by desirable broadleaf plants		
	26 to 50%	10	10
	10 to 25% or 51 to 75%	5	5
	Less than 10% or more than 75%	0	0

**Forb Canopy Coverage Points**

**Vegetative Cover**

5	Evaluate percent of the vegetation that is greater than 8 inches tall, consider vegetation thickness and percent bareground underneath.		
	30% or more of vegetation is 8 inches tall or greater with 26 to 50% bareground underneath	10	10
	30% or more of vegetation is 8 inches tall or greater with 5 to 25% or 51 to 75% bareground underneath	6	6
	Less than 30% of vegetation is 8 inches tall	3	3
	Less than 5% or greater than 75% bareground underneath, regardless of vegetation height.	0	0

**Vegetative Cover Points**

## Missouri

### Early Successional Vegetation Community Model

#### Periodic Maintenance

6	If only ranking woody draws, woody fence lines, or other similar areas, score 10 points		
	1/3 of field is burned, lightly disked or chemically treated annually or woody draws, fence lines, etc...	10	10
	Entire field is burned, lightly disked or chemically treated 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	0
<b>Periodic Maintenance Points</b>			

#### Introduced Species

7	Abundance of one or all: Sericea lespedeza, spotted knapweed, Reed canarygrass, Musk thistle, Canada thistle, or teasel		
	None	5	5
	Rare to Occasional	3	3
	Common to Abundant	0	0
<b>Introduced species points</b>			

**Total Points Planned and Existing (Maximum score possible is 65) =**

#### Scoring

8	Existing Index = Total Existing Points/65 (65 is the maximum possible score) Total existing points =
<b>Existing Index =</b>	
9	Planned Index = Total Planned Score/65 (65 is the maximum possible score) Total planned score =

**Planned Community Type Index =**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Planner:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

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