

Missouri Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide Prairie and Grassland Community Model

Applicant(s): _____ **Date:** _____

Farm Number: _____ **Tract Number:** _____ **Field Number(s):** _____ **County:** _____

The use of "Edge" vs. "Openland" will be based on landowner's objectives and the landscape situation in which the tract is located. Quail management in the midst of 2000 acres of grassland may not be appropriate, as is prairie chicken management in the midst of 80 to 120 acre mixed cover types. As always, professional judgment is needed to tailor the WHDP to fit landscape needs and ensure likelihood of success.

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 tree canopy is equal to or less than 25%, use the Prairie/Grassland 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. N/A = Not Applicable in the Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP), CSG = Cool Season Grasses, WSG = Warm Season Grasses

	Points if Existing	Points if Planned
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Field Size

(1)	Percent of the field within 660 feet of a tree line, shelterbelt, woodlot, woody draw, etc., or woodland occurring on prairie soils.			
	Edge Species	Openland Species		
	More than 75%	Less than 10%	10	10
	50 to 75%	10 to 25%	6	6
	25 to 50%	25 to 50%	4	4
	10 to 25%	50 to 75%	2	2
	Less than 10%	More than 75%	0	N/A

Field Size Points

Woody Invasion

(2)	Percent of the field occurring as trees, shrubs, and vines			
	Edge Species	Openland Species		
	5 - 10%	Less than 5%	10	10
	1 - 5%	5 - 15%	5	5
	Less than 5% or more than 10%	More than 15%	0	0

Woody Invasion Points

Desirable Forb Diversity

(3)	More than 20 species	10	10
	10 to 20 species	6	6
	5 to 10 species	4	4
	Less than 5 species	0	N/A

Desirable Forb Diversity Points

Forb Canopy Coverage

(4)	Percent of field covered by desirable broadleaf plants			
	25 to 50%	10	10	
	50 to 75%	5	5	
	Less than 25% or more than 75%	0	N/A	

Forb Canopy Coverage Points

Grassland Management

(5)	For Hayland, unmown strips must equal 1/3 of the field to be considered.			
	Hayland	Pastureland		
	Idle, or mow/hay 7/15 - 8/15 with unmown strips	Rotational Grazing - light to moderate use	8	8
	Mow or hay 4/1 - 7/15 with unmown strips	Rotational Grazing - heavy use	6	N/A
	Mow or hay 7/15 - 8/15	Continuous grazing - light to moderate use	4	N/A
	Mow or hay after 8/15	Continuous grazing - heavy use	2	N/A
	Mow or hay 4/1 - 7/15	More than 75%	0	N/A

BONUS: Add points for periodic burning included in the grassland management plan

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Grassland Management Points

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Prairie and Grassland Community Model**

Grassland Composition

(6)	Mixed native WSG and forbs (at least 4 species mix) and less than 25% introduced CSG	10	10
	Mixed native WSG and forbs (at least 2 species mix) and less than 25% introduced CSG	8	8
	Mixed grasses with legumes and forbs	6	6
	Mixed CSG or native grass monotype or predominant legumes	4	4
	Fescue monotype (More than 50% fescue) or non-native WSG	0	N/A

Grassland Composition Points

Problem Introduced Species

(7)	Abundance of one or all: Sericea lespedeza, Reed canarygrass, Musk thistle, Canada thistle, or teasel		
	None	10	10
	Rare to Occasional	5	5
	Common to Abundant	0	N/A

Problem Introduced Species Points

Total Points Planned and Existing (Maximum score possible is 70) =

Scoring

(8)	Existing Index = Total Existing Points/70 (70 is the maximum possible score) Total existing points =
	Existing Index =
(9)	Planned WHIP Contract Index = Total Planned Score/70 (70 is the maximum possible score) Total planned score =
	Planned Community Type Index =

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