## Sage Grouse Habitat Assessment Worksheet - Breeding Habitat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Project or Allotment Name/#:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pasture Name/#:</td>
<td>Site #:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Description: T. R. Section , 1/4, 1/4, 1/4</td>
<td>GPS File #:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Location Info:**

| Evaluator(s): | HUC #: |

**Cover Type (circle one):** Sagebrush, Perennial Grassland (native, introduced), Annual Grassland with Sagebrush, Annual Grassland, Juniper Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat Indicator</th>
<th>Suitable Habitat</th>
<th>Marginal Habitat</th>
<th>Unsuitable Habitat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Big Sagebrush Canopy Cover</td>
<td>$\geq 15%$ but $\leq 25%$</td>
<td>10-14% or 26-35%</td>
<td>$&lt;10%$ or $&gt;35%$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Big Sagebrush Height</td>
<td>12-30&quot;</td>
<td>10-14&quot; or 31-40&quot;</td>
<td>$&lt;10&quot;$ or $&gt;40&quot;$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big sagebrush growth form</td>
<td>Spreading form, few, if any, dead branches for most plants</td>
<td>Mix of spreading and columnar growth forms present</td>
<td>Tall, columnar growth form with dead branches for most plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average herbaceous grass and forb height</td>
<td>$\geq 7&quot;$</td>
<td>5 - 7&quot;</td>
<td>$&lt;5&quot;$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average grass canopy cover</td>
<td>$\geq 15%$</td>
<td>5 - 14%</td>
<td>$&lt;5%$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average forb canopy cover</td>
<td>$\geq 10%$</td>
<td>5 - 9%</td>
<td>$&lt;5%$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forb richness(^1)</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Site Evaluation**

Comments:

---

\(^1\)Relative to site potential and site guides.
General Directions:

1. Sites should be located on flat to slightly sloping lands. Slopes greater than 40% are unsuitable nesting habitat.

2. Breeding habitat must be evaluated as close to the end of nesting as possible (May- June). For low elevation areas this will be May, for higher elevation areas it will be June.

3. Precipitation can affect annual forb growth—if precipitation is an interpretation factor then this should be noted in the comment section.

4. Good nesting habitat may be provided disproportionately in small inclusions of big sagebrush surrounded by low sagebrush. In these situations nesting conditions should be measured in the big sagebrush patches. However, the low sagebrush community likely provides important pre-nesting and early brood-rearing habitat and should be evaluated for the forb composition indicators (canopy cover and diversity).

Worksheet Directions:

Fill out all site location information at top of sheet.

**HUC #:** Use 5th field hydrologic unit.

Each indicator must be marked as suitable, marginal or unsuitable. Numeric values should be written when quantitative data are collected. Qualitative evaluations should only have a ✓ in the box.

If site potential is a factor for an indicator being either marginal or unsuitable put an asterisk (*) by the indicator and discuss in the comments section. Referencing site potential as per the site guides is recommended.

Overall site evaluation is based on professional judgement, not all indicators need to be in the suitable range for an overall suitable evaluation. Where needed, explain rationale in comments section.

If site potential is a factor for an overall evaluation of marginal or unsuitable put an asterisk(*) after “Overall Site Evaluation” in the last row. Explain rationale in notes section.

Complete the **Site Forb Abundance Form.**

Attach field data sheet(s) used for this site evaluation.

Worksheet should be filled out for areas identified as important late brood-rearing habitats during fine-scale review.

Riparian areas and wet meadows located in deep canyon should not be considered brood-rearing habitat. Evaluation sites should not be located in designated livestock stream crossings or water gaps.

Appendix B
## Sage Grouse Habitat Assessment Worksheet - Late Brood-rearing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Project or Allotment Name/#:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pasture Name/#:</th>
<th>Site #:</th>
<th>FO:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Description: T. R. Section , 1/4, 1/4, 1/4</th>
<th>GPS File #:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluator(s):</th>
<th>Other Location Info.:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Description:</th>
<th>HUC #:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Habitat Indicator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat Indicator</th>
<th>Suitable Habitat</th>
<th>Marginal Habitat</th>
<th>Unsuitable Habitat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riparian and wet meadow plant community</td>
<td>Mesic or wetland plant species dominate wet meadow or riparian area</td>
<td>Xeric plant species invading wet meadow or riparian area</td>
<td>Xeric plant species along water’s edge or near center of wet meadow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riparian and wet meadow stability</td>
<td>No erosion evident; some bare ground may be evident but vegetative cover dominates the site</td>
<td>Minor erosion occurring and bare ground may be evident but vegetative cover dominates the site</td>
<td>Major erosion evident; large patches of bare ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forb availability in uplands and wetland areas</td>
<td>Succulent forbs are readily available in terms of distribution and plant structure</td>
<td>Succulent forbs are available though distribution is spotty or plant structure limits effective use</td>
<td>Succulent forbs are not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity of sagebrush cover</td>
<td>Sagebrush cover is adjacent to brood-rearing area (&lt;100 yards)</td>
<td>Sagebrush cover is in close proximity (&gt; 100 yards but &lt; 300 yards) of brood-rearing areas</td>
<td>Sagebrush cover is unavailable (&gt; 300 yards)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overall Site Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Worksheet Directions:

**Site Description:** Identify what type of habitat is being evaluated: riparian area, wet meadow, lakebed, sagebrush area adjacent to agricultural field, etc.

**HUC #:** Use 5th field hydrologic unit (watershed).

Put a ✓ in the appropriate suitability category for each indicator that best describes the site.

**Forb availability and plant structure:** In some cases forbs may be present on the site but trampling or grazing intensity may affect availability.
### Sage Grouse Habitat Assessment Worksheet - Winter Habitat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Project or Allotment Name/#:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pasture Name/#:</td>
<td>Site #:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Description: T. R. Section, 1/4, 1/4, 1/4</td>
<td>GPS File #:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluator(s):</td>
<td>Other Location Info.:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Site Description:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat Indicator</th>
<th>Suitable Habitat</th>
<th>Marginal Habitat</th>
<th>Unsuitable Habitat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sagebrush canopy cover</td>
<td>10-30%</td>
<td>5-9%</td>
<td>&lt;5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagebrush height (availability during the winter)</td>
<td>Generally tall or a diversity of sagebrush heights present relative to species and site potential</td>
<td>Some tall plants but generally more moderate to short plants relative to species and site potential</td>
<td>Poor height diversity with generally short plants relative to species and site potential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overall Site Evaluation

| Comments: |

### General Directions:

Form should be completed for areas that were identified as winter areas during the fine-scale review.

### Worksheet Directions:

**Site Description:** provide a brief description of the site.

**HUC #:** Use 5th field hydrologic unit.

**Sagebrush Canopy Cover:** Insert the canopy cover into the appropriate suitability box. If it was measured using line intercept or line point transect put in the measured value. If you visually estimated the percent then use the ✓.

**Sagebrush Height:** Measuring sagebrush heights above the snow during the winter would be difficult for many areas. Since the evaluation site is located in a known or suspected wintering area sagebrush heights in the area relative to sagebrush species and ecological site is an important habitat indicator. Put a ✓ in the appropriate suitability category that best describes the site.