

Missouri
Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide
Savanna and Open Woodland Community Model

Applicant(s):		Date:				
Farm Number:	Tract Number:	Field Number(s):	County:			
Instructions: Answer each of the questions (1 - 10) below by circling the appropriate points for both the existing and planned conditions.			Points if Existing	Points if Planned		
Native Herbaceous Ground Cover						
(1)	Calculate the % of the savanna or open woodland covered by native herbaceous vegetation - grasses, forbs, legumes, sedges					
	Foliage covers more than 50% of the ground			10	10	
	Foliage covers 25 to 50% of the ground			5	5	
	Foliage covers less than 25% of the ground. Automatically score the WHAG below 0.50 if the existing ground flora is greater than 50% non-native herbaceous vegetation.			0	0	
Native Herbaceous Ground Cover Points						
Tree Size Class						
(2)	Determine size class of trees within the savanna or open woodland being evaluated.					
	Greater than 50% sawtimber (12-19" DBH) or larger.			10	10	
	Greater than 50% pole timber (6-11" DBH) or small trees (2-5" DBH) with some sawtimber or large sawtimber scattered through the area.			5	5	
	Greater than 50% small trees (2-5" DBH) or regeneration (<2" DBH).			2	2	
Tree Size Class Points						
Woody Canopy Coverage						
(3)	Consider tree canopy coverage within the savanna or open woodland area being evaluated. Circle whether the area being evaluated is savanna or woodland.					
	Savanna		Open Woodland			
	10 to 30%		30 to 50%		5	5
	31 to 50% (applies only to existing conditions)		51 to 80%		3	3
	More than 50% (applies only to existing conditions)		More than 80% (applies only to existing conditions)		0	0
Woody Canopy Coverage Points						
Savanna or Open Woodland Composition						
(4)	Tree species composition within the savanna or open woodland area being evaluated					
	Good mix of characteristic savanna/woodland trees (oak, hickory, shortleaf pine, etc...). More than 2 characteristic savanna or woodland trees.			10	10	
	Characteristic woodland/savanna tree canopy dominated by a single specie (oak, hickory, shortleaf pine, etc...)			6	6	
	Savanna or open woodland made up of predominately cedar, elm, Osage orange, locust, maple, persimmon, cherry, sassafras and some oak, hickory or shortleaf pine.			3	3	
	Plantation planting dominated by a single specie, or savanna/woodland tree canopy made up of Osage orange, elm, locust or other pioneer species.			0	0	
Savanna Composition Points						
Grazing or Haying Pressure						
(5)	None, includes periodic burns			10	10	
	Light to moderate use (at least 3 to 6" CSG winter height, 8 to 10" NWSG winter height), includes periodic burns			5	5	
	Heavy use/all other (no prescribed burning)			0	0	
	Grazing or Haying Pressure Points					
Grassland Composition						
(6)	Native grasses (at least 3 species) and forbs/legumes and less than 25% nonnative herbaceous vegetation			10	10	
	Native grasses (at least 3 native grasses and native forbs/legumes) but with 25 to 50% nonnative herbaceous vegetation			4	4	
	Grassland with greater than 50% nonnative herbaceous vegetation or native grass monotype with less than 10% native forbs or native legumes. Automatically score the WHAG below 0.50 if the existing ground flora is greater than 50% non-native herbaceous vegetation.			0	0	
	Grassland Composition Points					

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Native Forb Diversity

(7)	More than 40 species		10	10
	21 to 40 species		6	6
	10 to 20 species		4	4
	Less than 10 species		0	0
Desirable Forb Diversity Points				

Understory Woody Canopy Coverage

(8)	Evaluate woody specie understory canopy coverage (3 to 20' in height).			
	Savanna		Woodland	
	Less than 15%	10 to 50%	10	10
	15 to 25 %		5	5
	More than 25%	Less than 10% or greater than 50%	0	0
Understory Woody Canopy Coverage Points				

Problem Introduced Species

(9)	Sericea lespedeza, Reed canary grass, Musk thistle, Canada thistle, teasel, spotted knapweed, Japanese or Amur honeysuckle, autumn olive, winter creeper or other non-native, invasive plant species - abundance of one or all non-native invasive species)			
	None		5	5
	Rare to occasional		3	3
	Common to abundant		0	0
Problem Introduced Species Points				

Managed Savanna or Open Woodland Size

(10)	Evaluate size of area being managed as savanna or open woodland			
	More than 20 continuous acres of managed savanna or open woodland		5	5
	More than 20 contiguous acres of managed savanna or woodland or a combination of savanna/woodland and other natural communities being managed.		3	3
	Less than 20 contiguous acres of managed savanna or woodland or a combination of other natural communities being managed.		0	0
Managed Glade Size Points				

Total Points Planned and Existing (Maximum score possible is 85) =

Scoring

(11) Existing Index = Total Existing Points/85 (85 is the maximum possible score)
 Total existing points = _____
Existing Index = _____

(12) Planned Index = Total Planned Score/85 (85 is the maximum possible score)
 Total planned score = _____
Planned Community Type Index = _____

Planner: _____

Date: _____

Landowner: _____

Date: _____

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