

WV WHET

Directions for Using Tables 1-3

1. Refer to Table 1.
2. Select the wildlife species for which the landuser desires to manage.
3. Evaluate the operating unit (entire land area or part of land owned by the person or group you are assisting).
 - a. For those operating units larger than the home range of the species you are managing, divide the operating unit into contiguous parcels of the size of the species home range.
 - b. If the size of the operating unit is less than the home range of the species, evaluate additional acreage adjoining the operating unit to meet the specified home range of the species.
 - c. If the home range acreage does not exist in a contiguous parcel, the area is unsuited to the species desired and may not be evaluated further. Primary roads, interstates, water, urban, and sometimes suburban, lands are examples of potential boundaries to habitat ranges.
4. Rate the habitat elements for the species by acreage composition, quality and distribution using Tables 1-3.
 - a. Tables 1-3 should be completed by placing the corresponding score for each habitat element in the "existing" column. This score represents the habitat in a benchmark state and without improvements implemented.
 - b. Utilize various practices to improve habitat scores for each element and place the appropriate scores in the "planned" column. Compare these scores to the rating key at the end of each table.
5. Both the acreage composition and quality of the habitat elements must rate "good" or "excellent" and element distribution must rate fair or better for the evaluated parcel before this practice may be reported. This should be reflected in the "planned" column of Tables 1-3.
 - a. If the inventory indicates that the existing habitat earned a satisfactory rating on all of the home range parcels in the entire operating unit, 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management may be reported on the entire tract when plans are developed and agreed upon by the landowner to maintain this condition.
 - b. If the inventory indicates one or more of the essential habitat elements are deficient on one or more home range parcels, corrective measures must be planned and applied to correct these deficiencies before Upland Wildlife Habitat Management may be reported on those parcels.
 - c. In situations where the home range size necessitated including some lands adjoining the operating unit in the evaluation, only the land owned or under the management of the landuser may be reported.