

Missouri Flooded Cropfield Community WHAG Model Instructions

Use this model when crop fields are purposefully flooded during the dormant season to provide waterfowl and other wetland birds habitat during the fall and spring migrations.

- 1) **Surface Water Present:** The longer surface water is present, the better. Surface water is particularly important not just in the fall and winter (during waterfowl seasons), but also into the early spring as migrants head back north. Fields with artificial water supplies available and tight soils (of the D and C Hydrologic Groups) score higher than fields on lighter soils without artificial water available, for the same length of planned flooding. ANY field with planned flooding less than one month, or precipitation driven flooding on A and B soils, will not meet the minimum quality criteria and will NOT be acceptable to meet 0.5 on the WHAG.
 - Soil Hydrologic Groups can be found in the county Thunderbook.
 - An A/D soil group or similar grouping should be scored based on current hydrologic conditions. If hydrology has been restored then the soil group is likely a "D". If hydrology is still artificially altered (drained or channelized) than score an "A".
 - Score according to the number of consecutive days, from October 15—February 15, that surface water is present. For northern watersheds, this date may be extended to March 15—contact your Area Biologist.
 - The dates can be changed to reflect harvest conditions. Use a long-term average. Growing season rice flooding does not count towards days flooded.
 - Dependable artificial water means that flooding for the time period stated is guaranteed by pumping or other means.

- (2) **Crop Field Management:**
 - This category describes potential food sources. Note that burning reduces points to 2, regardless of tillage.
 - If the field is disked or plowed with <10% residue, the overall WHAG will not meet minimum requirements.
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- (3) **Flooding Frequency:**
 - Frequency with which a minimum of 33% of the field floods during the October 15-February 15 window. For northern watersheds, this date may be extended to March 15—contact your Area Biologist.
 - At a minimum 1/3 of the field must be flooded to use this model for the whole field. If less than 1/3 of the field is flooded, use the Cropfield WHAG for the area not flooded.
 - Do not use this model if the field is only flooded 1 of 3 years.

(4) Flooded Area Size:

- Based on total acres flooded at full pool during the dormant season. On sites where pool size fluctuates dramatically from year to year, use the long-term average.

(5) Erosion and Sediment Control:

- If permanent structures are in place, (levees and stoplog structure for example) then score 10 points. Sites that hold water due to natural topography and where there is no active erosion would also score in this category.
- If there is no permanent structure, and the 'levee' used to hold water is a temporary berm, score five points. Sites that hold water due to natural topography, but where there is streambank erosion taking place, would score in this category.
- All other sites would score one point.