

MARYLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEETS

INTRODUCTION

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy of assistance on private lands requires that conservation practice installation be accomplished with consideration for wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Application of conservation practices is generally considered to be beneficial for wildlife. Practices such as farm ponds, grassed waterways, proper grazing management, and conservation tillage generally increase food, water, and/or cover and improve habitat diversity for most wildlife species. On the other hand, practices such as critical area planting, tile drainage, and timber stand improvement can reduce wildlife food and cover when applied without consideration for wildlife habitat. The effect of conservation practice installation on wildlife habitat largely depends on practice selection and design.

Conservation practices are often designed and installed with little thought given to their effects on wildlife unless the landowner indicates a specific wildlife interest. Persons who provide technical assistance to land users need to assess the impact of practice installation and explain to their clients what effect a planned system of conservation practices will have on wildlife resources. When provided with this information, clients are able to make informed decisions about their land.

Adoption of the total resource management policy (SWAPA) in conservation planning provides that emphasis be directed to plants, air, and animals, in addition to soil and water. The animal component is comprised of all species and includes non-game as well as game species. Quality criteria are established for each of the five resources. Resource management systems, consisting of various conservation practices, are measured against these quality criteria to determine if acceptable levels of conservation are being met.

In order to measure the degree to which the resource management systems meet the quality criteria; a method of evaluation is needed. The attached evaluation procedure is designed to be used when planning a resource management system where wildlife is a concern. This evaluation procedure is based primarily on diversity to give a general rating applicable to many different wildlife species. It is intended to assist the decision maker to understand the effects of various agricultural practices on wildlife and to provide documentation of the effects on wildlife resources. This habitat evaluation is simplified to limit data input and the time required to complete it. It cannot be used to make detailed management recommendations required for intensive management or for individual wildlife species.

Habitat development and management in Maryland will be based on the results of this wildlife habitat evaluation. This appraisal shall be used to determine a quality rating or Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) for an individual field, management unit, or ecological community.

If the evaluation determines that the current habitat quality is less than 0.5 (on a scale of 0 to 1), recommendations will be made to improve the existing habitat so that the planned (future) condition will have a quality rating of 0.5 or more.

If the evaluation determines that the existing condition is equal to or greater than 0.5, recommendations will be made to maintain the existing habitat in its present condition or to improve it toward optimum conditions, if habitat improvement is the client's objective.

Instructions

1. Select the appropriate worksheet for the land use type, area, or resource concern for which one or more conservation practices are planned.

- Use one worksheet per management system, which may include one or more fields.
- Fields with the same cover type and management practices can be grouped together for habitat evaluation.
- Fields that are managed primarily as permanent hayland should be evaluated on a separate worksheet from fields managed primarily for pasture.
- Evaluate hedgerows, riparian areas, streambanks and shorelines, and shallow water and wetland areas separately from other land uses.

2. Evaluate the existing condition (current condition without the proposed practices) and the planned condition (with the proposed practices).

- Record the point score that most closely fits each item.
- Add up the points for the existing condition and the planned condition.
- Divide by the maximum possible score to obtain the existing and planned index values for the system.

3. If you are evaluating more than one system, record the results from each worksheet on the summary worksheet.

- Use the summary worksheet to calculate the net effect of the wildlife management plan (overall planned index minus the overall existing index).

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

CROPLAND (includes hay in rotation)

Name:	Farm No.:
	Tract No.:
Address:	Tax Map:
	Parcel:
Date:	Field No.:
Evaluated by:	Acres:

RESOURCE COMPONENTS FOR CROPLAND HABITAT	POINTS	EXISTING	PLANNED
A. Crop Rotation			
1. Row crops or small grain, with hay	10		
2. Row crops-fallow	7		
3. Row crops-small grain	5		
4. Continuous row crops (no small grain or hay)	1		
B. Over-Winter Cropland Cover			
1. Over-winter crop residue >50% (cropping system with no fall tillage)	10		
2. Over-winter crop residue 10-50% (e.g., corn - double-crop SG/SB), with a fall cover crop	7		
3. Over-winter crop residue 10-50%, no fall cover crop	5		
4. Over-winter crop residue <10% (e.g., vegetables), with a fall cover crop	3		
5. Over-winter crop residue <10% (e.g., vegetables), no fall cover crop	1		
C. Crop Management			
1. >10% of the acreage of each field is unharvested crops or food plots	10		
2. 5-10% of the field is unharvested crops or food plots	7		
2. 1-4% of the field is unharvested crops or food plots	5		
4. Entire crop is harvested, no food plots	1		
D. Non-Cropland Vegetative Cover			
<i>What percentage of the field perimeter has a wildlife-friendly (see definition below) field edge border (riparian forest buffer, hedgerow, field border, and/or filter strip) or non-cropped area (woodland, tidal or non-tidal wetland, and/or shrubby idle area)?</i>			
1. 75-100% of the field perimeter has a "wildlife friendly" buffer or adjacent non-cropped area	20		
2. 50-74% of the field perimeter has a buffer or adjacent non-cropped area	15		
3. 25-49% of the field perimeter has a buffer or adjacent non-cropped area	10		
4. <25% of the field perimeter has a buffer or adjacent non-cropped area	1		
E. Plant Composition of Non-Cropland Vegetative Cover			
1. All buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix of predominantly native species (trees, shrubs, grasses, and/or forbs). Herbaceous volunteer "weeds," if present, will be considered in this category.	20		
2. At least half of the buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix of predominantly native species, including herbaceous "weeds" (if present). The remainder of the buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix of planted introduced species, with <30% tall fescue.	15		
3. Most of the buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix of predominantly planted introduced species, with <50% tall fescue.	10		
4. Most of the buffers and other non-cropped areas are predominantly tall fescue, invasive plants, or no buffers/non-cropped areas.	1		

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

CROPLAND (includes hay in rotation)

F. Distance to Nesting and/or Protective Cover			
<i>What is the minimum distance, measured from the center of the field, to the nearest wildlife cover habitat?</i>			
1. <100 feet	10		
2. 100 – 329 feet	7		
3. 330 – 660 feet	5		
4. >660 feet	1		
(A) Total Cropland Habitat Points	(Maximum 80 points)		
(B) Cropland Habitat Score (Total Points/80)	(Max. 1.0)		

Important factors for wildlife habitat are plant diversity, summer food sources, and nesting and protective cover on field edges. Availability of food and cover during the winter are also important.

Undisturbed vegetative cover adjacent to crop fields is especially important. Wildlife cover can include woodlands, wetlands, shrubby idle areas, hedgerows, and habitat buffers. Native plants and most weeds are important wildlife foods. Introduced plants include grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, most fescues, orchardgrass, timothy, and ryegrass, and legumes such as red, white, or ladino clover. Buffers and non-cropped areas must meet the following criteria to qualify as "wildlife friendly":

- At least 35 feet wide if herbaceous, or at least 20 feet wide if wooded or shrubby; and,
- Not mowed, grazed, or significantly disturbed by human activities during the nesting season (April 15 to August 15). Significant disturbance includes use for farm lanes, and for recreation with 4-wheelers and dirt bikes.

The crop rotation evaluated does not have to match the order listed, but should contain all elements listed. Residue management reflects the importance of grain and crop residue that remains on the soil surface over winter. Crop management primarily indicates amount of food sources, both in summer and winter. Unharvested grain at field edges, in wet spots, or as food plots in odd areas provides winter food and cover.

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

GRASSLAND, PASTURE, and HAYLAND

Name:	Farm No.:		
	Tract No.:		
Address:	Tax Map:		
	Parcel:		
Date:	Field No.:		
Evaluated by:	Acres:		
RESOURCE COMPONENTS FOR GRASSLAND, PASTURE, AND HAYLAND HABITAT	POINTS	EXISTING	PLANNED
A. Plant Composition of Pasture or Hayland			
1. Mixture of native grasses and forbs	10		
2. Mixture of introduced grasses (less than 50% tall fescue), with forbs or legumes	7		
3. Single species native grass, not mixed with forbs or legumes	5		
4. Single species introduced grass (not tall fescue), not mixed with forbs or legumes; <u>or</u> forbs or legumes planted alone (no grasses)	3		
5. Predominantly tall fescue (\geq 50% tall fescue)	1		
B. Mowing or Haying Management			
1. Not mowed/cut April 15 to August 15, and at least 8" winter height	10		
2. Not mowed/cut April 15 to August 15, and <8" winter height	7		
3. Mowed/cut occasionally between April 15 & August 15, and at least 8" winter height	5		
4. Mowed/cut occasionally between April 15 & August 15, and <8" winter height	3		
5. Mowed/cut frequently April 15 to August 15, and <8" winter height	1		
C. Use by Livestock and Humans			
1. No or minimal disturbance, or only occasional grazing; >95% cover	10		
2. Light grazing pressure, with minimum grazing height of 6 inches; 85 - 95% cover	8		
3. Moderate grazing pressure; 75 - 84% cover	5		
4. Heavy grazing pressure; <75% cover	3		
5. Frequent human disturbance (e.g., lawn, ballfield)	1		
D. Non-Pasture/Hayland Vegetative Cover			
<i>What percentage of the field perimeter has a wildlife-friendly (see definition below) field edge border (riparian forest buffer, hedgerow, field border, and/or filter strip) or non-pastured/hayed area (woodland, tidal or non-tidal wetland, and/or shrubby idle area)?</i>			
1. 75-100% of the field perimeter has a "wildlife friendly" buffer or adjacent non-	20		
2. 50-74% of the field perimeter has a buffer or adjacent non-pastured/hayed area	15		
3. 25-49% of the field perimeter has a buffer or adjacent non-pastured/hayed area	10		
4. <25% of the field perimeter has a buffer or adjacent non-pastured/hayed area	1		
E. Plant Composition of Non-Pasture/Hayland Vegetative Cover			
1. All buffers and other non-pastured/hayed areas contain a mix of predominantly native species (trees, shrubs, grasses, and/or forbs). Herbaceous volunteer "weeds," if present, will be considered in this category.	20		
2. At least half of the buffers and other non-pastured/hayed areas contain a mix of predominantly native species, including herbaceous "weeds" (if present). The remainder of the buffers and other non-pastured/hayed areas contain a mix of planted introduced species, with	15		
3. Most of the buffers and other non-pastured/hayed areas contain a mix of predominantly planted introduced species, with <50% tall fescue.	10		
4. Most of the buffers and other non-pastured/hayed areas are predominantly tall fescue, invasive plants, <u>or</u> no buffers or non-pastured/hayed areas.	1		

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

GRASSLAND, PASTURE, and HAYLAND

F. Distance to Nesting and/or Protective Cover			
<i>What is the minimum distance, measured from the center of the field, to the nearest wildlife cover habitat?</i>			
1. <100 feet	10		
2. 100 – 329 feet	7		
3. 330 – 660 feet	5		
4. >660 feet	1		
(A) Total Pasture/Hayland Habitat Points	(Maximum 80 points)		
(B) Pasture/Hayland Habitat Score (Total Points/80)	(Max. 1.0)		

This habitat index includes hayland, pastureland, idle areas and other lands that are maintained in grass/forb cover. An important characteristic of this habitat is the cover provided during the nesting season. Other values include winter cover and food supplies.

Pasture and hayland management that avoids disturbance during the nesting season, yet allows time for sufficient regrowth to provide winter cover, is preferred. Sites with several plant species provide better food and cover, but it is not necessary for species to be completely intermixed.

Undisturbed vegetative cover adjacent to pasture or hayland fields is especially important. Wildlife cover can include woodlands, wetlands, shrubby idle areas, hedgerows, and habitat buffers. Native plants and most weeds are important wildlife foods. Introduced plants include grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, most fescues, orchardgrass, timothy, and ryegrass, and legumes such as red, white, or ladino clover.

Buffers and other non-pastured/hayed areas must meet the following criteria to qualify as "wildlife friendly":

- at least 35 feet wide if herbaceous, or at least 20 feet wide if wooded or shrubby; and,
- not mowed, grazed, or significantly disturbed by human activities during the nesting season (April 15 to August 15). Significant disturbance includes use for farm lanes and for recreation with 4-wheelers and dirt bikes.

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET			
WOODLAND			
Name:	Farm No.:		
	Tract No.:		
Address:	Tax Map:		
	Parcel:		
Date:	Field No.:		
Evaluated by:	Acres:		
<u>RESOURCE COMPONENTS FOR WOODLAND HABITAT</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>PLANNED</u>
A. Diversity			
1. >5 native tree species predominate; several size classes	10		
2. 3 - 5 native tree species predominate; several size classes	6		
3. 2 native tree species predominate	3		
4. 1 tree species predominates, or cut-over woodland	1		
B. Snags or Cavity Trees (cavity trees at least 12 inches DBH)			
1. >4 snags or cavity trees per acre	10		
2. 2-4 snags or cavity trees per acre	6		
3. 1 snag or cavity tree per acre	3		
4. No snags or cavity trees present	1		
C. Understory Composition			
1. >50% cover of native shrubs, vines, and/or herbaceous plants (total of at least 3 species)	10		
2. 25-49% cover of native shrubs, vines, and/or herbaceous plants (total of at least 3 species)	6		
3. <25% cover of native shrubs, vines, and/or herbaceous plants, with the remainder unvegetated (Score as 10 if depressional wetland)	3		
4. Primarily invasive species (e.g., multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, etc.)	1		
D. Use by Livestock and Humans			
1. No or minimal disturbance; >95% ground cover	10		
2. Light grazing pressure; 85-95% ground cover	8		
3. Moderate grazing pressure; 75-84% ground cover	6		
4. Heavy grazing pressure; <75% ground cover	2		
5. Frequent human disturbance (e.g., recreational area)	1		
E. Size of Woodland			
1. 100 acres or greater	10		
2. 50 – 99 acres	7		
3. 25 – 49 acres	5		
4. <25 acres	1		
(A) Total Forest Habitat Points	(Maximum 50 points)		
(B) Forest Habitat Index (Total points/50)	(Max. 1.0)		

This index includes areas with at least 10% canopy cover of woody species. Very small wooded areas do not need to be evaluated separately. Woodland managed so there is a diversity of tree species and size classes provides the best general habitat. This is a reflection of both past and current management. Grazing or intensive human use affects the understory, soil compaction, and duff layer. **Woods that are cut over or are currently not grazed but still show effects will be evaluated according to the past disturbance.**

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

HEDGEROW

Name:	Farm No.:		
	Tract No.:		
Address:	Tax Map:		
	Parcel:		
Date:	Field No.:		
Evaluated by:	Acres:		
<u>RESOURCE COMPONENTS FOR HEDGEROW HABITAT</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>PLANNED</u>
A. Plant Diversity			
1. Mix of hardwoods, conifers, and shrubs	20		
2. Mix of hardwoods and conifers, with few or no shrubs	15		
3. Mix of hardwoods or conifers or shrubs	10		
4. Single species of hardwoods or shrubs	5		
5. Single species of conifers	1		
B. Width (or number of rows)			
1. >50 feet wide (or more than 4 rows, if planted)	10		
2. 35-50 feet wide (or 4 rows, if planted)	7		
3. 25-34 feet wide (or 3 rows, if planted)	5		
4. 20-24 feet wide (or 2 rows, if planted)	3		
5. <20 feet wide (or 1 row, if planted)	1		
C. Winter Cover			
1. At least 25% conifers, in blocks at least 400 SF in size	10		
2. At least 25% shrubs, in blocks at least 400 SF in size	6		
3. At least 25% conifers and/or shrubs, scattered, not in blocks	3		
4. Less than 25% conifers or shrubs	1		
D. Proximity of the Hedgerow to Nearest Wildlife Cover Habitat (area that provides suitable habitat for nesting and/or protective cover)			
1. <100 feet	10		
2. 100 – 329 feet	7		
3. 330 – 660 feet	3		
4. >660 feet	1		
E. Hedgerow Connects Two or More Areas That Provide Suitable Habitat for Nesting and/or Protective Cover			
1. Yes	10		
2. No	1		
(A) Total Hedgerow Habitat Points	(Maximum 60 points)		
(B) Hedgerow Habitat Index (Total points/60)	(Max. 1.0)		

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

Name:	Farm No.:		
	Tract No.:		
Address:	Tax Map:		
	Parcel:		
Date:	Field No.:		
Evaluated by:	Acres:		
<u>RESOURCE COMPONENTS FOR RIPARIAN CORRIDOR HABITAT</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>PLANNED</u>
A. Condition of Stream Channel and Banks			
1. Minimally disturbed: generally stable channel & banks; mostly natural conditions and natural vegetation.	10		
2. Moderately disturbed: some streambank erosion, and/or replacement of natural vegetation with non-native species.	5		
3. Significantly disturbed: severe bank erosion/gullies, streambanks poorly vegetated, streambanks armored, and/or stream recently channelized.	1		
B Water Quality			
1. Good: minimal pollution by sediment, nutrients, contaminants, etc.	10		
2. Fair: moderate sediment loading & turbidity during storm events; some algae during low flows.	5		
3. Poor: pollution by sediment, nutrients, contaminants are evident (e.g., heavy sedimentation, excessive algae, chemical spills).	1		
C. Plant Composition in the Riparian Buffer (min. 35 feet wide)			
1. Predominantly trees and/or shrubs.	10		
2. Predominantly perennial herbaceous plants.	5		
3. Predominantly row crops, other annual plants, or bare ground.	1		
D. Management of the Riparian Buffer			
1. Generally undisturbed by humans or domestic animals.	10		
2. Not mowed/disturbed April 15 to August 15.	7		
3. Mowed/disturbed occasionally between April 15 and August 15.	4		
4. Mowed/disturbed frequently between April 15 and August 15, <u>or</u> no permanently vegetated buffer.	1		
E. Buffer Width			
1. 300 feet wide, or more.	10		
2. 100-299 feet wide.	7		
3. 35-99 feet wide.	4		
4. <35 feet wide, <u>or</u> no permanently vegetated buffer.	1		
(A) Total Riparian Corridor Habitat Points (50 maximum)	(Maximum 50 points)		
(B) Riparian Corridor Habitat Index (Total points/50)	(Max. 1.0)		

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET
STREAMBANKS AND SHORELINES

Name:	Farm No.:		
	Tract No.:		
Address:	Tax Map:		
	Parcel:		
Date:	Field No.:		
Evaluated by:	Acres:		
<u>RESOURCE COMPONENTS FOR STREAMBANK/SHORELINE HABITAT</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>PLANNED</u>
A. Condition of Streambank or Shoreline			
1. Minimally disturbed: generally stable banks or shorelines; mostly natural conditions.	10		
2. Moderately disturbed: some natural bank or shoreline erosion, and/or disturbance by people or domestic animals.	5		
3. Significantly disturbed: severe bank or shoreline erosion/gullies, banks/shorelines poorly vegetated, armored (riprap, concrete), and/or stream recently channelized.	1		
B. Water Quality			
1. Good: minimal pollution by sediment, nutrients, contaminants, etc.	10		
2. Fair: moderate sediment loading & turbidity during storm events; some algae during low flows.	5		
3. Poor: pollution by sediment, nutrients, contaminants are evident (e.g., heavy sedimentation, excessive algae, chemical spills).	1		
C. Plant Composition on the Streambank or Shoreline			
1. Predominantly native species (trees, shrubs, grasses, and/or forbs).	10		
2. Mix of native and introduced species.	7		
3. Predominantly introduced species.	4		
4. Predominantly invasive plants, <u>or</u> not vegetated.	1		
D. Presence of a Permanently Vegetated Buffer Adjacent to the Streambank or Shoreline			
1. Buffer is 300 feet wide, or more.	10		
2. 100-299 feet wide.	7		
3. 35-99 feet wide.	4		
4. <35 feet wide, <u>or</u> no permanently vegetated buffer.	1		
E. Proximity of the Site to Nearest Wildlife Cover Habitat (area that provides suitable habitat for nesting and/or protective cover)			
1. <100 feet	10		
2. 100 – 329 feet	7		
3. 330 – 660 feet	3		
4. >660 feet	1		
(A) Total Streambank/Shoreline Habitat Points (50 max.)	(Maximum 50 points)		
(B) Streambank/Shoreline Habitat Index (Total points/50)	(Max. 1.0)		

**WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET
SHALLOW WATER HABITAT**

Name:	Farm No.:		
	Tract No.:		
Address:	Tax Map:		
	Parcel:		
Date:	Field No.:		
Evaluated by:	Acres:		
<u>RESOURCE COMPONENTS FOR SHALLOW WATER HABITAT</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>PLANNED</u>
A. Presence of Surface Water 1-18 inches Deep			
1. Surface water usually present from early October until April 1, or longer	10		
2. Surface water usually present for 2-5 months, consecutively	5		
3. Surface water usually present for less than 2 consecutive months, <u>or</u> no surface water	1		
B. Habitat Diversity in the Water Area			
1. Irregular bottom (hummocks) <u>and</u> large woody debris (tree trunks, limbs, etc.)	10		
2. Irregular bottom (hummocks) <u>or</u> large woody debris (tree trunks, limbs, etc.)	5		
3. Generally smooth bottom	1		
C. Size of the Water Area, at Seasonal High Water			
1. Greater than 5 acres	10		
2. 3-5 acres	7		
3. 1-2.9 acres	5		
4. Less than 1 acre, <u>or</u> no surface water	1		
D. Composition and Management of Vegetation in the Water Area			
1. Naturally-occurring wetland plants; occasional mowing to control woody vegetation, or little to no management	10		
2. Naturally-occurring wetland plants; moist soil management (disking every 2-3 years to encourage the re-establishment of seed-producing annuals)	7		
3. Annual planting of grain crops (e.g., corn, soybeans, sorghum, millets, etc.); crop is not harvested	5		
4. Annual planting of grain crops; entire crop harvested (active cropland)	3		
5. Predominantly unvegetated, <u>or</u> non-wetland plants with minimal seed production	1		
E. Presence of a Permanently Vegetated Buffer (min. 35' wide) around the Water's Edge			
1. 75-100% of water's edge is buffered	5		
2. 50-74 % buffered	4		
3. 25-49% buffered	2		
4. <25% buffered, <u>or</u> no permanently vegetated buffer	1		
F. Management of a Permanently Vegetated Buffer			
1. Generally undisturbed by humans or domestic animals	5		
2. Not mowed/disturbed April 15 to August 15	4		
3. Mowed/disturbed occasionally between April 15 & August 15	2		
4. Mowed/disturbed frequently April 15 to August 15, <u>or</u> no buffer	1		
G. Proximity of the Site to Nearest Wildlife Cover Habitat (area that provides suitable habitat for nesting and/or protective cover)			
1. <100 feet	10		
2. 100 – 329 feet	7		
3. 330 – 660 feet	3		
4. >660 feet	1		
(A) Total Shallow Water Habitat Points (60 maximum)	(Maximum 60 points)		
(B) Shallow Water Habitat Index (Total Points/60)	(Max. 1.0)		

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

WETLAND HABITAT

Name:	Farm No.:		
	Tract No.:		
Address:	Tax Map:		
	Parcel:		
Date:	Field No.:		
Evaluated by:	Acres:		
RESOURCE COMPONENTS FOR WETLAND HABITAT	POINTS	EXISTING	PLANNED
A. Site Characteristics			
1. 100% of site is a natural wetland, or is restored to the wetland type that naturally occurred on the site	10		
2. Up to 30% of the site is shallow open water, with the remainder as a natural wetland type	7		
3. 31-50% of the site is open water, with the remainder as a natural wetland type	5		
4. >50% of the site is open water, with the remainder as a natural wetland type	3		
5. No open water and no wetland vegetation (area is neither water nor wetland)	1		
B. Size of the Wetland			
1. Greater than 10 acres	10		
2. 5-10 acres	7		
3. 1-4.9 acres	5		
4. Less than 1 acre, or not a wetland	1		
C. Diversity of Water Regimes			
1. 3 or more water regimes (e.g., permanent, semipermanent, seasonal, saturated)	10		
2. 2 water regimes	7		
3. 1 water regime	4		
4. No wetland hydrology	1		
D. Composition and Management of Vegetation in the Wetland			
1. Natural wetland plant community; little to no mgt.; natural succession allowed	10		
2. Natural wetland plant community; occasional management to suppress natural succession (such as periodic removal of woody vegetation)	7		
3. Natural wetland plant community; frequently disturbed, such as by mowing/grazing	5		
4. Natural plant community dominated by upland species	3		
5. Veg. dominated by introduced upland species (such as cropland, pasture, lawn)	1		
E. Presence of a Permanently Vegetated Buffer (min. 35' wide) around the Wetland's Edge			
1. 75-100% of wetland's edge is buffered	5		
2. 50-74 % buffered	4		
3. 25-49% buffered	2		
4. <25% buffered, or no permanently vegetated buffer	1		
F. Management of a Permanently Vegetated Buffer			
1. Generally undisturbed by humans or domestic animals	5		
2. Not mowed/disturbed April 15 to August 15	4		
3. Mowed/disturbed occasionally between April 15 & August 15	2		
4. Mowed/disturbed frequently April 15 to August 15, or no buffer	1		
G. Proximity of the Site to Nearest Wildlife Cover Habitat (area that provides suitable habitat for nesting and/or protective cover)			
1. <100 feet	10		
2. 100 – 329 feet	7		
3. 330 – 660 feet	3		
4. >660 feet	1		
(A) Total Wetland Habitat Points (60 maximum)	(Maximum 60 points)		
(B) Wetland Habitat Index (Total points/60)	(Max. 1.0)		

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET
CONTROLLING INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Name:	Farm No.:		
	Tract No.:		
Address:	Tax Map:		
	Parcel:		
Date:	Field No.:		
Evaluated by:	Acres:		
<u>CONTROLLING INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>PLANNED</u>
A. Extent of Susceptible Habitat (on Landowner's Property) Dominated by Invasive Species of Concern			
1. <1% of susceptible habitat	20		
2. 1 - 5% of susceptible habitat (planned condition for Phragmites control)	15		
3. 6 - 15% of susceptible habitat	10		
4. 16 - 25% of susceptible habitat	5		
5. >25% of susceptible habitat	1		
B. Plant Diversity in Affected Area			
1. > 3 desirable species present, or tidal wetland restored	10		
2. 2 - 3 desirable species present	7		
3. 1 desirable species present	3		
4. No desirable species present (all invasives)	1		
C. Extent of Affected Area (on Landowner's Property) Treated			
1. >95% of affected area	20		
2. 75 - 95% of affected area	15		
3. 30 - 74% of affected area	10		
4. 10 - 29% of affected area	5		
5. 0 - 9% of affected area	1		
(A) Total Invasive Species Control Points	(Maximum 50 points)		
(B) Invasive Species Control Index (Total points/50)	(Max. 1.0)		

Controlling invasive species with herbicides and/or mechanized equipment in Waters of the State (including streams, wetlands, and the 100-year floodplain) may require one or more permits from MDE. Landowners are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits before work begins.

