

Wildlife Project Priority *for*

1) This plan or application is for Fish and Wildlife Habitat practices. Does the project include proposed practices of sufficient size, configuration or management approach to address a fish or wildlife habitat priority or resource concern identified in the current Vermont WHIP Plan to benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)? Examples of projects where the answer would be NO are provided in Right Sidebar below and right. If answered NO, the application will be labeled "low" priority in ProTracts. The status of the application will remain eligible.

Answer:

2) Are the site conditions suitable for the proposed practices?

Answer no if the site conditions are problematic and are not suitable or advisable. If site conditions are unsuitable answer No. If answered NO, the application will be labeled "low" priority in ProTracts. The status of the application will remain eligible. See Examples for this Question on Right Sidebar.

Answer:

Planner Documentation

I have documented the landowner's objectives, resource concerns and potential practices. The answers above are answered using my best professional judgment.

When answering No to any of the questions above, print out a copy of this sheet, sign it and file it with the landowners application as justification for a 'Low Priority' classification in Protracts.

Planner Name

Planner(s) Signature

The intent of this evaluation is to determine if the proposed project meets minimum requirements for funding and then to adjust the priority of the project in Protracts.

It is expected that a site visit is necessary to determine the answers to these questions. The minimum requirements include addressing a priority habitat concern, having suitable site conditions for the proposed practices, and finally the willingness and ability to address habitat needs of species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). Answer with a Yes or No below the Question. If you answer No to any of these questions, document the reason why and then change the status of the landowner from 'High Priority' to 'Low Priority' in Protracts.

Question 1 Examples where 'No' would be the answer:

- The landowner is only willing to consider or the site can only support a ½ acre early successional opening. This would not meet the needs of SGCN.
- The landowner only has a 2 acre field to brush hog, with half a dozen apple trees to release. The benefits are likely too small to warrant a contract and will provide limited benefits to SGCN.
- The landowner only has the land associated with their house lot and could only complete 0.1 acre of invasive control and some soft mast shrub plantings.
- Landowner does not want to follow mgt. recommendations for optimum habitat improvement. For instance, landowner wants to heavy brush hog field every year even with NRCS/VTFWD recommendations for rotational mowing for fall/winter cover, food and structure.
- The landowner wants to delay mow yearly a 4 acre hayfield surrounded by forest for grassland birds. This would not meet the needs of grassland birds.

Question 2 Examples where 'No' would be the answer:

- Early successional opening planned in a clay plain forest fragment or another rare natural community.
- Invasive plant control in a suburban setting with no habitat value
- Invasive plant control on a site with a severe infestation (75% or greater cover) over many acres surrounded by properties with similar conditions. In other words successful control is unlikely.
- Fish passage is proposed with no supporting geomorphic and biological evaluations or if it has been found to be not suitable after review
- Patch cut planned in productive sawtimber size Acceptable Growing Stock (AGS) dominated stand.
- Forest stand improvement (mast tree release) or patch cut planned on a site with invasive plants in the understory of the treatment area where no invasive control is planned.