

**NJ WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET  
GRASSLAND, PASTURELAND, OR HAYLAND**

Client \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Field No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evaluated by \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_

<u>GRASSLAND, PASTURELAND, or HAYLAND HABITAT INDEX</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>BENCHMARK</u>	<u>PLANNED</u>
<b>Plant composition</b>			
Mixture of native grasses and native forbs	10		
Mixture of native and non-native grasses and forbs	8		
Predominantly single species native and non-native grass w/ forbs	7		
Predominantly single species grass w/ no forbs, or legumes alone	5		
Predominantly invasive grasses and forbs	1	_____	_____
<b>Mowing or haying management</b>			
Not mowed/cut April 1 to July 15, and at least 8" winter height	20		
Not mowed/cut April 1 to July 15, and <8" winter height	15		
Mowed/cut once between April 1 & August 15, and at least 8" winter height	10		
Mowed/cut once between April 1 & August 15, and <8" winter height	5		
Mowed/cut more than once April 1 to August 15, and <8" winter height	1	_____	_____
<b>Use by livestock or humans</b>			
No or minimal disturbance; >95% cover	10		
Light grazing pressure, with min. grazing height 6"; 85 - 95% cover	8		
Moderate grazing pressure; 75 - 84% cover	7		
Heavy grazing pressure; <75% cover	4		
Frequent human disturbance (e.g., lawn, ballfield)	1	_____	_____
<b>Percent of field perimeter with a wildlife habitat border (min. 35' wide) of trees, shrubs or grasses not mowed, grazed, burned or disturbed btw. 4/1 &amp; 7/15</b>			
75-100%	20		
50-74	15		
25-49%	10		
<25%, <u>or</u> no border	1	_____	_____
<b>Wildlife habitat border plant composition</b>			
Predominantly native species	20		
All buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix if predominately native species (trees, shrubs, grasses and/or forbs). Herbaceous volunteer "weeds," if present, will be considered in this category.	15		
At least half of the buffers and non-cropped areas contain mix of predominately native species, including herbaceous "weeds," (if present). The remainder of the buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix of planted introduced species.	10		
Most of the buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix of predominately planted introduced species.	1	_____	_____

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## NJ WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET (Continued)

### GRASSLAND, PASTURELAND, OR HAYLAND

Answer Section A or B (one only)

**A.) Non Grassland bird habitat:** Proximity of the field to nearest wildlife cover habitat (area that provides suitable habitat for nesting and/or protective cover), measured from center of field

<b>&lt;100 feet</b>	20		
<b>100 – 300 feet</b>	15		
<b>301 – 600 feet</b>	10		
<b>&gt;600 feet</b>	1	_____	_____

**B.) Early Successional/ Area Sensitive Grassland bird species:** Proximity to predator perch of nest predators

<b>&gt;600 feet</b>	20
<b>301-600 feet</b>	15
<b>100-300</b>	10
<b>&lt;100 feet</b>	1

(A) Total Grassland/Hayland Habitat Points (100 maximum) \_\_\_\_\_

(B) Total increase in points (Planned minus Benchmark) \_\_\_\_\_

This habitat index includes hayland, pastureland, idle areas and CRP lands that are maintained in grass/forb cover. It also includes cropland that will be completely converted to grassland. Important characteristics of this habitat are plant diversity, summer food sources, and nesting and protective cover in the field and on field edges. Other values include winter cover and food supplies.

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 that is adjacent to pasture or hayland fields is especially important in providing food and undisturbed cover. Native plants and most weeds are important wildlife food. Introduced plants such as Kentucky bluegrass, most fescues, orchardgrass, timothy, and ryegrass and legumes such as red, white or ladino clover, and alfalfa

Wildlife habitat border includes riparian forest buffer, hedgerow, field border and or filter strip, woodland, wetlands and/or shrubby idle area. **These areas cannot be used for turn rows, farm lanes or crop/equipment storage.**