

WILDLIFE INTERPRETATIONS
Osage County, Kansas

Use and Explanation of Wildlife Interpretations

Soils directly affect the kind and amount of vegetation that is available to wildlife as food and cover. They also affect the development of water impoundments. The kind and abundance of wildlife that populate an area depend largely on the amount and distribution of food, cover, water, and living space. If any one of these elements is missing, inadequate, or inaccessible, wildlife will be scarce or will not inhabit the area. If the soils have the potential, wildlife habitat can be created or improved by planting appropriate vegetation, properly managing the existing plant cover, and fostering the natural establishment of desirable plants.

In the Wildlife Interpretations table, the soils in the survey area are rated according to their potential for providing habitat for various kinds of wildlife. This information can be used in planning parks, wildlife refuges, nature study areas, and other developments for wildlife; in selecting soils that are suitable for establishing, improving, or maintaining specific elements of wildlife habitat; and in determining the intensity of management needed for each element of the habitat.

Suitability Ratings

The potential of the soil is rated good, fair, poor, or very poor.

Good - means that the element of wildlife habitat or the kind of habitat is easily created, improved, or maintained. Few or no limitations affect management, and satisfactory results can be expected if the soil is used for the designated purpose.

Fair - means that the element of wildlife habitat or kind of habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places. Moderately intensive management is required for satisfactory results.

Poor - means that limitations are severe for the designated element or kind of wildlife habitat. Habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places, but management is difficult and requires intensive effort.

Very Poor - means that limitations are very severe for the designated element or kind of wildlife habitat. Habitat is difficult to create, improve, or maintain in most places, and management is difficult and requires intensive effort.

Description of Wildlife Habitat Elements

Openland habitat consists of croplands, pastures, meadows, and areas that are overgrown with grasses, herbs, shrubs, and vines. These areas produce grain and seed crops, grasses and legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. The kind of wildlife attracted to these areas include bobwhite quail, pheasant, meadowlark, field sparrow, killdeer, cottontail rabbit, red fox, and coyote.

Woodland habitat consists of hardwood or conifers, or a mixture of these and associated grasses, legumes and wild herbaceous plants. Examples of wildlife attracted to this habitat are wild turkey, thrushes, woodpeckers, owl, tree squirrels, raccoon, and deer.

Wetland habitat consists of water-tolerant plants in open, marshy or swampy, shallow water areas. Examples of wildlife attracted to this habitat are ducks, geese, herons, bitterns, rails, kingfishers, shorebirds, muskrat, mink, and beaver.

The elements of wildlife habitat are described in the following paragraphs.

Grain and seed crops are domestic grains and seed-producing herbaceous plants. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of grain and seed crops are depth of the root zone, texture of the surface layer, available water capacity, wetness, slope, surface stoniness, and flooding. Soil temperature and soil moisture also are considerations. Examples of grain and seed crops are corn, wheat, oats, and barley.

Grasses and legumes are domestic perennial grasses and herbaceous legumes. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of grasses and legumes are depth of the root zone, texture of the surface layer, available water capacity, wetness, surface stoniness, flooding, and slope. Soil temperature and soil moisture also are considerations. Examples of grasses and legumes are fescue, lovegrass, bromegrass, clover, and alfalfa.

Wild herbaceous plants are native or naturally established grasses and forbs, including weeds. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of these plants are depth of the root zone, texture of the surface layer, available water capacity, wetness, surface stoniness, and flooding. Soil temperature and soil moisture also are considerations. Examples of wild herbaceous plants are bluestem, goldenrod, beggarweed, wheatgrass, and grama.

Hardwood trees and woody understory produce nuts or other fruit, buds, catkins, twigs, bark, and foliage. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of hardwood trees and shrubs are depth of the root zone, available water capacity, and wetness. Examples of these plants are oak, poplar, cherry, sweetgum, apple, hawthorn, dogwood, hickory, blackberry, and blueberry. Examples of fruit-producing shrubs that are suitable for planting on soils rated good are Russian-olive, autumn-olive, and crabapple.

Coniferous plants furnish browse and seeds. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of coniferous trees, shrubs, and ground cover are depth of the root zone, available water capacity, and wetness. Examples of coniferous plants are pine, spruce, fir, cedar, and juniper.

Shrubs are bushy woody plants that produce fruit, buds, twigs, bark, and foliage. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of shrubs are depth of the root zone, available water capacity, salinity, and soil moisture. Examples of shrubs are fragrant sumac, chokecherry, American plum, sand plum, and gorden currant.

Wetland plants are annual and perennial wild herbaceous plants that grow on moist or wet sites. Submerged or floating aquatic plants are excluded. Soil properties and features affecting wetland plants are texture of the surface layer, wetness, reaction, salinity, slope, and surface stoniness. Examples of wetland plants are smartweed, wild millet, saltgrass, cordgrass, rushes, sedges, and cattails.

Shallow water areas have an average depth of less than 5 feet. Some are naturally wet areas. Others are created by dams, levees, or other water-control structures. Soil properties and features affecting shallow water areas are depth to bedrock, wetness, surface stoniness, slope, and permeability. Examples of shallow water areas are marshes, waterfowl feeding areas, and ponds.

The habitat for various kinds of wildlife is described in the following paragraphs.

Habitat for openland wildlife consists of cropland, pasture, meadows, and areas that are overgrown with grasses, herbs, shrubs, and vines. These areas produce grain and seed crops, grasses and legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. Wildlife attracted to these areas include bobwhite quail, pheasant, meadowlark, field sparrow, cottontail, red fox and coyote.

Habitat for woodland wildlife consists of areas of deciduous and/or coniferous plants and associated grasses, legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. Wildlife attracted to these areas include wild turkey, thrushes, woodpeckers, squirrels, gray fox, raccoon, and deer.

Habitat for wetland wildlife consists of open, marshy or swampy shallow water areas. Some of the wildlife attracted to such areas are ducks, geese, herons, shore birds, muskrat, mink, and beaver.

Habitat for rangeland wildlife consists of areas of shrubs and wild herbaceous plants. Wildlife attracted to rangeland include antelope, deer, cottontail rabbit, prairie chicken, meadowlark, quail, and pheasant.

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	Grain and seed crops	Grasses and legumes	Wild herba- ceous plants	Hard- wood trees	Conif- erous plants	Shrubs	Wetland plants	Shallow water areas	Open- land wild- life	Wood- land wild- life	Wetland wild- life	Range- land wild- life
045KC: KENNEBEC-----	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Good	---	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Poor	---
045MO: MARTIN-----	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Good
OSKA-----	Fair	Good	Good	---	---	Good	Poor	Poor	Fair	---	Poor	Good
045OE: OSKA-----	Fair	Good	Good	---	---	Good	Poor	Poor	Fair	---	Poor	Good
045SW: SOGN-----	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	---	---	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	---	Very poor	Poor
VINLAND-----	Poor	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair
045SX: ROCK OUTCROP----	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
VINLAND-----	Poor	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair
045VM: VINLAND-----	Poor	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair
MARTIN-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
045WS: WOODSON-----	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair	Poor	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
059CM: CLARESON-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Fair
ERAM-----	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	---	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	---
059EA: ERAM-----	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	---	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	---
LEBO-----	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Good	---	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor	---
059EC: ERAM-----	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	---	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	---
LULA-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	---	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	---
111CA: CHASE-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Good
111EA: ELMONT-----	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
111EF: ERAM-----	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Good
BATES-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Good
177AN: KENNEBEC-----	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Good	---	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Poor	---
177BK: MARTIN-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
KENNEBEC-----	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Poor	Good
177BR: FLUVENTS-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
177DM: DWIGHT-----	Fair	Fair	Fair	---	---	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	---	Poor	Fair

WILDLIFE INTERPRETATIONS--Continued
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	Grain and seed crops	Grasses and legumes	Wild herba- ceous plants	Hard- wood trees	Conif- erous plants	Shrubs	Wetland plants	Shallow water areas	Open- land wild- life	Wood- land wild- life	Wetland wild- life	Range- land wild- life
MARTIN-----	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Good
177DW: DWIGHT-----	Fair	Fair	Fair	---	---	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	---	Poor	Fair
177EN: ELMONT-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
177LB: LABETTE-----	Fair	Good	Fair	---	---	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair	---	Poor	Fair
177LC: LABETTE-----	Fair	Good	Fair	---	---	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair	---	Poor	Fair
177LD: LADYSMITH-----	Fair	Good	Good	---	---	Good	Poor	Fair	Good	---	Poor	Good
177LM: LADYSMITH-----	Fair	Good	Good	---	---	Good	Poor	Fair	Good	---	Poor	Good
177LS: LADYSMITH-----	Fair	Good	Good	---	---	Good	Poor	Fair	Good	---	Poor	Good
177MF: MARTIN-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
177RE: READING-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	---
177SU: SIBLEYVILLE-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
177SV: SOGN-----	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	---	---	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	---	Very poor	Poor
VINLAND-----	Poor	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair
177SW: STONY STEEP LAND	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
VINLAND-----	Poor	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor	Fair
197CE: CHASE-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	---
197CS: CLIME-----	Fair	Fair	Good	---	---	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	---	Very poor	Fair
SOGN-----	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	---	---	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	---	Very poor	Poor
197IB: IRWIN-----	Good	Good	Good	---	---	Fair	Poor	Poor	Good	---	Poor	Fair
197WE: WAMEGO-----	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Fair
AED: ARENTS, EARTHEN DAM-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Bd: BATES-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Good
Cm: CLARESON-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Fair
ERAM-----	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	---	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	---
Cs: CLIME-----	Fair	Fair	Good	---	---	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	---	Very poor	Fair

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SOGN-----	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	---	---	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	---	Very poor	Poor
Dn: DENNIS-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	---	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	---
Ds: DWIGHT-----	Fair	Fair	Fair	---	---	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	---	Poor	Fair
Ed: ELMONT-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
EL: ELMONT-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
En: ERAM-----	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Good
Er: ERAM-----	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	---	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	---
INT: AQUOLLS-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
KB: KENNEBEC-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	---	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	---
Ke: KENOMA-----	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Fair
LA: LABETTE-----	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair
Ln: LEBO-----	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Good	---	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor	---
ROCK OUTCROP----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ls: LEBO-----	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor	Fair
SUMMIT-----	Fair	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor	Good
LU: LULA-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Good
M-W: MISCELLANEOUS WATER-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MA: MARTIN-----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
Mb: MASON-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Good
Oe: OLPE-----	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
KENOMA-----	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Fair
Op: ARENTS-----	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Poor
Os: OSAGE-----	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	---	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	---
Ov: OSAGE-----	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	---	Poor	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	---

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Ow: OSAGE-----	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	---	Poor	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	---
Pt: Pits, quarries--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
SI: SIBLEYVILLE----	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor	Good
Sn: SUMMIT-----	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Good
So: SUMMIT-----	Fair	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor	Good
Vb: VERDIGRIS-----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Good
Vc: VERDIGRIS-----	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Poor	Good
W: WATER-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Wo: WOODSON-----	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair	Poor	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair

