

OBSERVER:

DATE:

LOCATION:

WILDLIFE HABITAT/USE EVALUATION SCORE SHEET

To assess the existing and/or potential wildlife habitat use of the subject wetland, the applicant must first complete this score sheet. The attached documentation provides examples of each scoring parameter.

A separate sheet must be completed for each wetland. The wetland system as a whole must be considered. If the wetland extends off-site, aerial photographs, observations from public access areas (roads, etc.) should be considered in the evaluation sheet.

Applicants must document their basis for scoring decisions with field surveys followed by current photographs, and other appropriate information.

A. Utilization by Wildlife

<u>Wildlife Use</u>	<u>Score</u>
Significant	3
Evident	2
Low	1
Occasional	0.5
<u>Non-Existent</u>	<u>0</u>

SUB-TOTAL =

Observations/Notes: _____

B. Interspersion of Vegetative Cover

<u>Interspersion</u>	<u>Score</u>
High	3
Medium	2
<u>Low</u>	<u>1</u>

SUB-TOTAL=

Community Type _____ % Cover

Emergent _____

Scrub Shrub _____

Wet Meadow _____

Forested _____

Aquatic _____

Other _____

C. Vegetative Cover to Open Water

<u>Cover</u>	<u>Score</u>
>95% Cover	0.5
76%- 95% Cover, Peripheral	1.5
76%- 95% Cover, Various	2.5
26%- 75% Cover, Peripheral	2.0
26%- 75% Cover, Patches	3.0
5%- 25% Cover, Peripheral	1.0
<u><5% Cover</u>	<u>0.5</u>

SUB-TOTAL=

TOTAL SCORE (A+B+C) = _____

Total score \geq 5.00 wetland receives CRITICAL status

Total score < 5.00 wetland receives REGULATORY status

Wildlife habitat use evaluation of any particular wetland should consider both the actual wildlife uses and an analysis of the habitat values related to wildlife. Habitat evaluation provides consideration of conditions for species of wildlife that may not be currently using a wetland, but preferred habitat for feeding, nesting, rearing of young, or cover is present.

Wildlife habitat/use, ideally, should be analyzed over an entire year and for some wetlands, several years' conditions should be documented. However, obvious time constraints do not allow this. Therefore, if the evaluator does not have personal knowledge of the wetland during other seasons/years and does not have training in wildlife, a degreed wildlife biologist or ecologist should be requested to complete this section of the evaluation.

A. Utilization by Wildlife

Complete the table on the evaluation form for each wildlife group for the uses listed across the top of the table using the following point system. Consider all seasons of the year in this evaluation.

Use by wildlife group within each habitat is significant in that loss or reduction of the habitat would have an adverse effect (i.e., loss of individuals) on the population of the species or overall wildlife population in the general area (township). **SCORE = 3**







Use by wildlife group within each habitat is evident or probable and loss or reduction of the habitat would have an adverse effect (i.e., loss of individuals) on the local wildlife population (surrounding sections). **SCORE = 2**

Use by wildlife group within each habitat is incidental or low in that loss or reduction of the habitat would have a negligible effect (i.e., loss of individuals) on the local wildlife population. **SCORE = 1**

Use by wildlife group within each habitat is nonexistent at any time during any year. NOTE: Use 0.5 to signify occasional use. **SCORE = 0**

B. Interspersion of Vegetative Cover

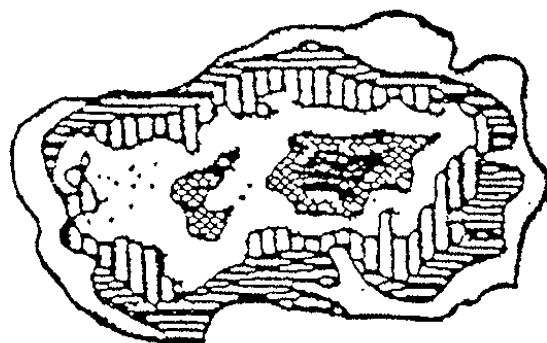
From recent aerial photographs of the wetland, determine which of the following criteria best describes the vegetative forms of the site. Determine from conditions at the peak of the growing season.

	COMMUNITY TYPE 1
	COMMUNITY TYPE 2
	COMMUNITY TYPE 3
	COMMUNITY TYPE 4
	COMMUNITY TYPE 5
	COMMUNITY TYPE 6

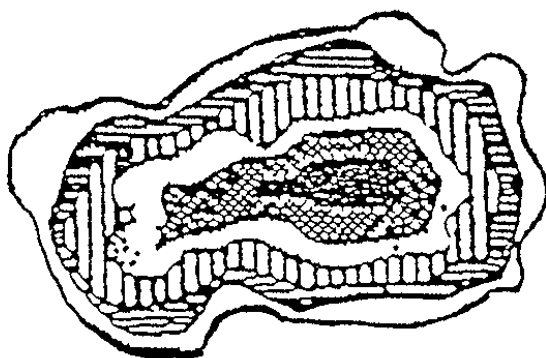
High interspersions of vegetation. Edge is abundant and consists of several species. Life form zones of vegetation are broken into segments of variable size and shape. Subforms of vegetation are small and scattered. **SCORE = 3**



Moderate interspersions of vegetation. Edge is moderate in length and diversity with some irregularity in the distribution of subform stands, but vegetation life forms remain largely intact. **SCORE = 2**



Low interspersions of vegetation. Length and types of edge are at a minimum. The wetland consists of concentric life forms and subforms. Subform stands are large and continuous. **SCORE = 1**



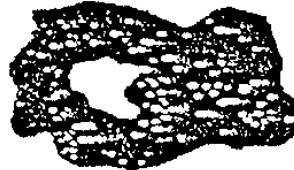
C. Vegetative Cover to Open Water

From a recent aerial photograph of the wetland, determine which of the following criteria best describes the vegetation/open water characteristics of the wetland. NOTE: Wetland cover types: white areas indicate water (with or without surface plants); black areas indicate emergents, shrubs, or trees.

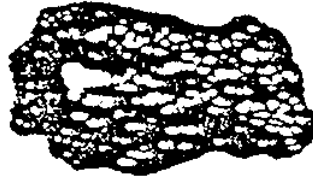
Cover occupies more than 95% of wetland **SCORE = 0.5**



Cover occupies 76 - 95% of wetland occurring in peripheral band **SCORE = 1.5**



Cover occupies 76 - 95% of wetland with scattered open water **SCORE = 2.5**



Cover occupies 26 - 75% of wetland occurring in peripheral band **SCORE = 2.0**



Cover occupies 26 - 75% of wetland occurring in dense patches or diffuse in open stands **SCORE = 3.0**



Cover occupies 5 - 25% of wetland occurring in peripheral band or diffuse in open stands **SCORE = 1.0**



Cover occupies less than 5% of wetland **SCORE = 0.5**

