Lesson 4: Wildlife Management   Name _____

Habitat Evaluation

Objective: Evaluate the value of a grassland for wildlife.

Directions: The form provided can be used to evaluate the value of a grassland for wildlife. It lists factors that are less favorable to wildlife on the left and factors that are more favorable on the right. The central numbered columns indicate the degree to which conditions in the area match the statements in that row. If they closely match the statement on the left, place a check mark in the "1" column. If they match the statement on the right, check the "5" column. Indicate partial agreement by checking the appropriate column.

When each factor has been evaluated, count the number of checks in each column and multiply by the number of the column. Add the totals of all the columns, and use this sum as the numerator over 60 to form a ratio. Reduce the fraction to its lowest form. This indicates the degree to which the area approaches the ideal (60/60 or 1/1 would be ideal).

Key Questions:

1. What is the overall rating of the grassland? Would it be valuable for wildlife?

2. In which areas did the grassland receive low scores?

3. What could be done to improve a grassland in these areas?

	1	2	3	4	5	
1. Large patches of bare soil between grass plants						1. Ground nearly covered with grasses or smaller plants
2. All grass alike; other plants absent or nearly so						2. Wide variety of broad-leaved plants growing among a variety of grasses
3. Soil hard and packed						3. Topsoil loose and easily probed by finger
4. Topsoil thin, with much small gravel throughout soil						4. Topsoil deep, with few rocks in most of area
5. Little evidence of small animals using the area						5. Many small animal burrows in soil and tunnels through grass
6. Grass forms an unbroken, uniform-height stand						6. Grass "clumpy;" several types with different heights
7. Much of soil exposed to direct sunlight						7. Dead grass and leaves shade most of ground
8. Topsoil light brown, yellow, or red						8. Topsoil dark brown
9. Insects absent, or with one type very numerous						9. Variety of insects (butterflies, bees, grasshoppers, beetles) with no species greatly dominating
10. Rock outcrops absent or composed of small, rounded rocks						10. Outcroppings of large flat rocks along hilltops and waterways
11. Land very flat; no relief from wind and sun						11. Land somewhat hilly; north side gives relief from sun and wind
12. No trees in area, even along waterways						12. Variety of trees along major waterways
Column Totals						(Sum) _____ = _____ 60