

White-tailed Deer Habitat Evaluation Worksheet

Name: _____

Location: _____

Date: _____

A. Habitat Description

1. Habitat Type (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Row crop field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate aged forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mature forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Hay field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pond | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stream | <input type="checkbox"/> Forested wetland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> River | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland meadow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orchard | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mowed Lawn | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park |

2. Provide a brief description of habitat:

B. Food

1. Abundance of woody browse available (twigs and leaves):

None or very rare	Isolated seedlings	Scattered seedlings	Abundant seedlings	Available over all of site
----------------------	-----------------------	------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------

2. Abundance of plants that produce soft mast (berries, fruit):

None or Very rare	Isolated individuals	Scattered small patches	Abundant in patches	Available over most of site
----------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------

3. Abundance of trees that produce hard mast (nuts and acorns):

None or Very rare	Isolated individuals	Scattered small patches	Abundant in patches	Available over most of site
----------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------

4. Agricultural crops:

Corn Soybeans Alfalfa Other: _____

5. Describe any other sources of food:

C. Cover

1. List and describe sources of cover for:

Fawn protection _____

Winter weather _____

Escape from hunters _____

2. Evergreens

Evergreen cover from both trees and shrubs is extremely important during winter.

Record the abundance of both evergreen tree and shrub cover:

None or Very rare	Isolated individuals	Scattered small patches	Abundant in patches	Available over most of site
----------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------

D. Water

1. List the water sources present and describe size (ex. stream, pond, wetland, vernal pool):

E. Sign

1. Note all deer sign observed while making habitat evaluation and describe:

___ tracks - _____

___ droppings - _____

___ rubs - _____

___ scrapes - _____

___ feeding activity - _____

F. Score

On a scale of 1-4 rate the habitat for white-tailed deer:

1 – Poor, the species would have a difficult time surviving here

2 – Fair, habitat provides some of the necessary food, cover, water, and space

3 – Good, habitat provides almost all of the necessary food, cover, water, and space

4 – Excellent, habitat provide all the necessary food, cover, water, and space

	Habitat Score	Explanation
White-tailed deer	_____	_____