

White-tailed Deer Habitat Evaluation Worksheet

Name _____

Location _____

Date _____

Weather _____

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. 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 on 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 at 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 at most of site

4. Agricultural crops:

- Corn
- Soybeans
- Alfalfa
- Other _____

5. Describe any other sources of food:

 **student handout**

 **C. Cover**

1. List and describe sources of cover for the following:

Fawn protection _____

Winter weather _____

Escape from hunters _____

2. Evergreen cover from both trees and shrubs is extremely important during winter. Record the abundance of both evergreen trees and shrub cover:

___ None or very rare

___ Isolated individuals

___ Scattered small patches

___ Abundant in patches

___ Available at most of site

 **D. Water**

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

 **E. Signs**

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

___ Tracks _____

___ Droppings _____

___ Rubs _____

___ Scrapes _____

___ Feeding activity _____

___ Other _____

 **F. Score**

On a scale of 1 to 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 provides all the necessary food, cover, water and space.

Habitat score for white-tailed deer: _____

Explain how you arrived at the rating for the habitat that you evaluated: