

Management Plan

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Project
Rural Management Plan
Field Condition Sheet
2003

The Henry County Parks Department desires to make wildlife habitat improvements to a portion of their property. They want to improve the fishing in the pond and increase the wildlife diversity in anticipation of increasing nature hikes. Fishermen report catching many small bluegill, mostly in the 3-5 inch range.

The species to be managed include:

- largemouth bass/bluegill
- wood duck
- great-horned owl
- brown thrasher
- hairy woodpecker

The parks department desires to see more native waterfowl using the pond, especially the colorful wood duck. Park staff plan to schedule both evening and day time nature walks. Owls are always a favorite during evening walks. The brown thrasher is a colorful and noisy songbird which catches attention during day hikes.

The area to be managed lies inside the blue line. Assume the tennis court area is a flat, mown lawn. Keep expenses \$10,000 or less.



***** Notes from the critique *****

Critique by chair: Dean Zimmerman and Brian Miller. Rod Williams also evaluated the management plans.

General instructions for writing a wildlife management plan

Evaluate the area for the animals that you are managing. The whole site must be evaluated, not just what you can see from standing in one place. Make sure you get around and look at the entire area to see what is there.

Look at the score sheet. A lot of you are not doing everything it says in the manual that are covered on the written recommendations. The score sheet lists 5 major categories that you must discuss in your plan. The categories, and the possible points for each, are:

1. List species to be managed (5 points) If your plan is going to make any sense, you need to let the reader know what species you are managing for.
2. List the management objectives for the property for each species (5 points)
3. Plan development – Be sure to assess the habitat. Look at what is there and what is missing. Talk about the good features that were there that need to be kept and the essential habitat elements that are missing. (5 points) Then recommend wildlife management practices that will correct the deficient habitat components. (5 points).
4. Plan implementation (10 points) For each species, list the management practices you will apply and explain where and how they will be implemented. (5 points) Explain the expected effects these practices will have on the habitat. (5 points)
5. Evaluations – how are you going to assess the impact your management practices have had? (10 points)
6. Neatness and overall quality (10 points)

Specific features we were looking for

The species – bass and blue gill, conditions they were catching 3-5 “bluegill (no big ones, no bass). Question: What does that mean? Answer: We need to add bass and to remove some blue gill, or remove all the fish and start fresh. You might shock the pond or use a seine to see what fish are there before deciding what to do.

Wood ducks – need to get rid of some of the domestic birds, put up bird boxes, plant cattails or shrubby species (so branches overhang the water) and to provide insects around the shoreline - around the pond to provide brood habitat

Thrasher – Question: what does it need? Answer: Stage 4 – shrubby areas, (like cardinals, catbirds), plant berry-bearing shrubs - dogwoods, cranberries, nesting sites, etc.

Owls – this property was really quite good – a lot of nesting cavities, & fairly open, what they needed the most was grassy areas – tall bluegrass

Woodpecker – pretty good as it is – manual mentions logs, they like to ... maybe some thorny piles.

Note: This site had a high number of snags and cavities. Think about what an area has and what is needed. It is a good idea to note this in your plan and explain the benefits to wildlife.

Do not forget to check out pp 131 through 139 of your manual.