

Sample Oral Reasons

(The following sample of oral reasons was adapted from the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program National Invitational, 1999. The actual photos used are not available.)

Species:	Ranking/Cuts and Comments
Greater prairie chicken	<p>Ranking: 4-3-2-1 Cuts: 2-3-7</p> <p>Requires unbroken blocks (160 acres minimum) of vegetation in stage 3 that is relatively free of shrubs. Crops are not necessary but can furnish important food.</p> <p>Photo 4 has the greatest amount of unbroken stage 4 with 3 then 2 ranked closely behind. The large cut between 2 and 1 is because photo 1 is totally unsuitable in terms of cover</p>
Wild turkey	<p>Ranking: 4-1-3-2 Cuts: 2-5-7</p> <p>Requires ½ to ¾ of range in stages 5 and 6 interspersed with stages 3 and 4. Requires water frequently. Usually nests within ¼ mile of water. Often will not travel over ¼ to ½ mile for water.</p> <p>Photo 1 clearly has the greatest percentage of stages 5 and 6, which provide both roosting cover and possibly mast, with a considerable amount of well interspersed 3 and 4. It also has adequate water visible in several places on the photo. Photo 1 has less 5 and 6 but more stage 4. It has very little water. Photo 3 has less stage 5 and 6 but does have some water. Photo 2 ranks last because it has not stage 5 or 6 and only a small amount of 4.</p>
Mourning dove	<p>Ranking: 2-3-4-1 Cuts: 3-4-3</p> <p>Requires stages 2 and 3 of plant succession with some shrubs and trees nearby. Often uses agriculture areas for feeding. Prefers tall shrubs and trees for nesting and loafing. Requires water daily. Prefers shorelines and banks without vegetation. Eats waste grain from cropland and a variety of grass and forb seeds.</p> <p>Photo 2 is the highest in ranking because it has the highest percentage of stage 2 and 3, plus it has cropland in several areas. It has a large lake plus numerous ponds with shorelines devoid of vegetation. It also has some tall shrubs and a few scattered trees for loafing and nesting. Photo 3 does not have any cropland although it does have large open areas with native vegetation for feeding and nesting and limited stage 5 and 6 for loafing and nesting. It does have some nice water holes with banks devoid of vegetation. Photo 4 has more stage 5 and 6 than needed, but does have several ponds and part of a lake with shorelines devoid of vegetation. The presence of water and the appropriate open banks make it more suitable than photo 1.</p>

