

Form S-5: Sage-Grouse Site-Scale Habitat Suitability Worksheet – Riparian Summer/Late Brood-Rearing Habitat Directions

1. Use this worksheet to interpret field data collected using the forb diversity method outlined in this appendix and summarized on the “Sage-Grouse Site-Scale Seasonal Habitat Data Summary” (form S-1).
2. Complete all location information at the top of the form. Be sure to list all UTM coordinates or other identifying feature of all sites being summarized. Most of the information should be self-explanatory except the following:

Population: Identify the population with which the habitat is associated. This definition also includes small populations. Population names are found in figure 3.

Home Range Name: Identify the home range area using a major drainage area or other distinguishing land feature (e.g., Little Lost River home range).

Land Cover Type (Optional): Identify the wetland (Cowardin et al. 1979) or riparian type (regional classification systems) of the habitat sampled. This data may be important to record when more detailed descriptions of summer habitats are desired (i.e., with sites stratified by cover type).

Site Type: Identify the type of habitat sites sampled.

Number of Transects: Record the number of 50-m transects or sites measured within the land cover type.

Area or Distance Sampled: Record the total area (indicating ha/ac) or distance for riparian areas (indicating km/mi) of the site type or land cover type sampled.

3. Transfer data from the “Sage-Grouse Site-Scale Seasonal Habitat Data Summary” (form S-1) to this form. Enter the appropriate mean (\bar{x}) and number (n) values and PFC data where appropriate for the indicators in the column under \bar{x} .

Riparian Stability: Record the number of sampling sites that were in proper functioning condition (PFC), functional–at risk (FAR), or nonfunctional (NF) (Prichard et al. 1998, 2003). Current PFC data can be used, if available. If PFC data cannot be obtained from other sources or collected directly, then the other two indicators should be used to assess habitat suitability. Include lotic and lentic riparian habitats.

Preferred Forb Availability: Check the appropriate suitability category based on data derived using the “Sage-Grouse Forb Diversity Data Form.” The suitability evaluation must be relative to abundance, diversity, and availability relative to ecological site potential.

Availability of Sagebrush Cover: Distance is measured from the edge of the riparian area to the edge of the nearest stand of mature sagebrush of sufficient extent to provide protective cover.

4. Determine the appropriate suitability category and mark (✓) each indicator as suitable, marginal, or unsuitable.
5. Determine **site-scale suitability**. Overall suitability takes into consideration the relationship between the indicators and their relative importance. This evaluation is based on professional judgment using the indicators for guidance. Explain overall site suitability in the rationale section.
6. Indicate **drought condition** using local weather station data or as reported for the region of concern on the National Weather Service website: www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/us-drought-monthly.html.
7. Attach field data sheet(s) and photographs used for this site-scale description.
8. Provide a copy of this form to the state wildlife agency’s coordinator for sage-grouse conservation.