4-H Habitat Data Sheet

A record is part of your 4-H project. Keep your record neat, clean, and up-to-date. It's best to use a pencil. Write clearly. If you need help, ask your parents or leaders. If you need more space, add notebook paper to your record.

Date _____ Crew members _____

Location _____ Plot no. _____ Elevation _____ Percent of slope _____

Season _____ Temperature _____ Annual precipitation _____ Soil type _____

Type of habitat study area *(check one)*

❑ Temperate forest ❑ High desert forest ❑ Marsh/wetlands

❑ Temperate grassland/meadow ❑ High desert grassland/meadow ❑ Pond/lake/stream

❑ Cultivated land ❑ High desert shrub land ❑ Marine/tidal area

❑ Other:

Record general characteristics of the habitat related to wildlife needs.

1. Vegetation: Habitat type, vegetation name, general structure, and distribution.

Example: dense conifer forest (habitat type) of Douglas-fir and western redcedar, with a sparse understory of vine maple and red elderberry, and an abundance of sword fern, trillium, and ivy on the forest floor.

Habitat type: _____

Vegetation (name)	General structure *(check one)*			Distribution *(check one)*		
	canopy	understory	ground cover	sparse	moderate	dense

2. List and describe water sources. Note if they are permanent or seasonal.

_____

_____

3. List non-living structures in the habitat (such as downed logs, snags, caves) which might provide cover and/or shelter.

_____

_____

4. Note climate and seasonal changes.

_____

_____

5. How large is the habitat area? _____

6. Is it connected to other natural areas, or is it isolated? _____

Human impact

Describe human activities that might impact habitat quality in a positive (+) or negative (-) way.
(Examples: development, urban setting, near a major traffic area, lots of human use of area, nesting boxes)

Human activity	Impact +	-	Why? (Reason for positive or negative impact)

Wildlife observations

Look for animal trails, scat, chew marks on plants, tracks, feathers, sounds, or actual sighting. List animal name, evidence of animal sign, how many, and how often seen.

Animal name	Evidence of animal sign	How many?	How often?

Total number of species _____

List abundant food sources (include plant and animal).

_____

_____

Using the list of animals and plants found in the habitat area, draw or outline a possible food chain for this habitat.

What, if anything, could be done to improve the habitat for the greatest diversity of native wildlife species or to improve the habitat for a specific species identified as desirable?

_____

_____