

WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION

Eligibility

- A. Read general rules
- B. Members may be enrolled in any 4-H project
- C. Two, four- (4) member teams made of Novice and Two-, four- member team of Juniors members per county. Novices may be moved up to a junior team.

Resource:

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program Manual <http://www.whep.org/>

4-H Projects:

- 03101 Wildlife I: Discovering
- 03102 Wildlife II: Small Game
- 03103 Wildlife III: Waterfowl Management
- 03104 Wildlife IV: Big Game (N-06)

Wildlife Identification

Wildlife ID: 25 slides 2 points per Power Point Slide. Total of 50 points Objective: To be able to identify wildlife species listed in the WHEP manual.

***Juniors will be asked to identify no more than 5 birds; Novice will be asked to identify no more than 3 birds.**

Wildlife managers must be able to identify the species for which they are managing. Photos of the species used in WHEP are readily available from a number of sources, including many field guides and websites. In this portion of the judging event contestants will be asked to identify wildlife species that are listed in the WHEP manual. A complete list is found in the manual on page C2. There will be twenty-five species represented by a clear photograph of either the male or female in either the juvenile or adult stage. The format of this portion of the test is to write the number of the slide in the appropriate blank. If the judges cannot read the intent of the contestant, the answer will be considered incorrect. Contestants are not allowed to have any electronic devices including cell phones, palm pilots, blackberries, mp3players, etc. with them. Each correct answer is worth two points.

General Knowledge

General Wildlife Knowledge: 25 questions 2 points each. Total of 50 points Objective: To demonstrate knowledge of the wildlife species in the Hot Desert, Urban and Wetlands regions to be judged.

Understand the biology and behaviors of the wildlife species found within the regions, and the use of aerial photos in wildlife management.

Questions can include information for any of the following in the WHEP manual:

- Wildlife species identification
- Wildlife foods
- Aerial photos
- Wildlife habitat requirements for a species
- Region specific questions (Hot desert or Urban)
- Wildlife management concepts and terms
- Wildlife management practices (WMP's)
- Glossary

The general knowledge portion tests the ability of participants to demonstrate their knowledge in these areas. The format will be set up as a practicum, with 25 stations worth 2 points apiece. Wildlife Foods definitions are provided in appendix A of this manual. For the purpose of WHEP, foods have been placed in groups. Participants should be prepared to indicate which foods are eaten by specific wildlife species and be familiar with the food group definitions. Foods charts are contained in the Eco-Regions portion of the text, and further information on foods can be found in the Species section under the individual wildlife species.

Learning to interpret aerial photos allows participants to view areas of the country where they may not have a chance to visit personally. From the photos they can see the topography, get an idea of the amounts and kinds of cover available, and see the availability of water. Looking closer at the photos can show the amount and type of edge available, any barriers to migration that might exist, agricultural fields, grassland and forest lands. Programs like Google Earth, TerraServer and Google Maps can be helpful in understanding photos as a useful tool. In the "Species" section of the manual, each species has information on habitat requirements, management practices, habitat preferences and some incidental facts listed.

Scoring the Contest

Wildlife Identification

Total of 50 points 2 points per Power Point Slide. Incorrect answers, or illegible answers will be marked wrong.

General Knowledge

The practicum general knowledge activity is worth a total of 50 points with each station worth 2 points apiece.

The wildlife contest is worth a total of 100 points.

Tie Breakers

Individual

- **Wildlife Identification**
- **General Knowledge**

Birds (86)

American bittern
 American black duck
 American kestrel
 American robin
 American wigeon
 American woodcock
 barred owl
 black-backed woodpecker
 black-bellied whistling duck
 black-capped chickadee
 black-throated sparrow
 blue-winged teal
 Brewer's sparrow
 broad-winged hawk
 brown thrasher
 California quail
 California thrasher
 Canada goose
 common nighthawk
 crested caracara
 crissal thrasher
 dickcissel
 dusky grouse
 eastern bluebird
 eastern meadowlark
 European starling
 ferruginous hawk
 Gambel's quail
 golden eagle
 golden-cheeked warbler
 golden-fronted woodpecker
 golden-winged warbler
 grasshopper sparrow
 great horned owl
 greater prairie-chicken
 greater roadrunner
 greater sage-grouse
 hairy woodpecker
 house finch
 house sparrow
 house wren
 ladder-backed woodpecker
 lark bunting
 Lawrence's goldfinch
 loggerhead shrike
 long-billed thrasher
 mallard
 marbled murrelet
 mountain bluebird
 mourning dove
 northern bobwhite
 northern flicker
 northern goshawk
 northern harrier
 northern pintail

Nuttall's woodpecker
 ovenbird
 peregrine falcon
 prairie falcon
 prothonotary warbler
 pyrrhuloxia
 red-cockaded woodpecker
 red-eyed vireo
 red-tailed hawk
 redhead
 ring-necked pheasant
 rock pigeon
 ruby-throated hummingbird
 ruffed grouse
 sage thrasher
 scaled quail
 sharp-tailed grouse
 song sparrow
 sooty grouse
 southwest willow flycatcher
 spotted sandpiper
 spotted towhee
 Virginia rail
 western bluebird
 western kingbird
 white-tailed ptarmigan
 white-winged dove
 wild turkey
 Wilson's snipe
 wood duck
 yellow-rumped warbler

Mammals (34)

American beaver
 American marten
 big brown bat
 black bear
 black-tailed jackrabbit
 black-tailed prairie dog
 bobcat
 Brazilian free-tailed bat
 collared peccary
 Columbian black-tailed deer
 common muskrat
 coyote
 desert cottontail
 eastern cottontail
 eastern fox squirrel
 eastern gray squirrel
 elk
 fisher
 gray fox
 Indiana bat
 mink
 moose
 mountain cottontail

Mountain Lion
 New England Cottontail
 Pronghorn
 Raccoon
 Red Fox
 Red Squirrel
 River Otter
 Rocky Mountain
 Mule Deer
 Snowshoe Hare
 White-Tailed Deer
 Wild Pig

Reptiles (9)

Eastern Box Turtle
 Eastern Indigo Snake
 Eastern Snapping Turtle
 Gila Monster
 Gopher Tortoise
 Plains Hog-Nosed Snake
 Texas Horned Lizard
 Timber Rattlesnake
 Western Diamond-Backed Rattlesnake

Amphibians (7)

American Bullfrog
 Crawfish Frog
 Monterey Salamander
 Northern Red-Legged Frog
 Rough-Skinned Newt
 Tiger Salamander
 Wood Frog

Fish (6)

Bluegill
 Channel Catfish
 Coho Salmon
 Cutthroat Trout
 Largemouth Bass
 Rainbow Trout

Index to Wildlife Species

Note: Refer to this list for the correct spelling and capitalization of species for Activity.