Indiana Wildlife Habitat Education Program CDE

1. **Purpose**
   The primary purpose of this event is to increase youth understanding of wildlife ecology and management practices. Several other skills will also be enhanced. These include team work, oral and written communication, decision making, leadership, and interpersonal social skills.

2. **About WHEP and Registration**
   - **Participant Age** – High School age (9th-12th grade) at the time of the event.
   - **Individual participation** – Youth may register and participate as an individual at the Regional Invitational only. Individual participants cannot advance to the State Contest.
   - **Teams** must designate 4-H or FFA division at time of registration and must meet eligibility rules as defined in the Indiana 4-H/FFA Ag Judging Handbook.
   - **Dates, registration instructions, and deadlines** are listed on the Indiana 4-H/FFA career development event website, [www.four-h.purdue.edu/cde](http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/cde).

3. **Regional Invitational**
   - **The regional invitational will be the second Saturday in April.**
   - **Contest Locations** – Regional invitational will be held concurrently in the northern, central and southern parts of the state.
   - **Activities:** Wildlife Management Practices and Wildlife Challenge
   - **Equipment:** Each participant must bring their own pencils and a clipboard. No storage clipboards are allowed.
   - **Pre-registration** is required two weeks prior to the regional invitational contest. Payment can be submitted with registration or the day of the contest. Payment will be required for all registered contestants, even if they do not compete.

4. **State Contest**
   - **Participants** – The top two (2) teams from each regional invitational will automatically qualify for the state contest, regardless of division. The next three (3) highest scoring teams from all regional invitational events combined will automatically qualify for the state contest, regardless of division. If a regional invitational is not represented by both 4-H and FFA in these nine (9) qualifying teams, the highest placing team in that division from that particular regional invitational may compete at the state contest in order to have each regional invitational represented by 4-H and FFA.
   - **The state contest will be the second Saturday in May.**
   - **Location** – Wright Center, Martell Forest, Purdue University
   - **Activities:** Wildlife Management Practices, Written Wildlife Management Plan, and Wildlife Challenge
   - **Equipment:** Each participant must bring their own pencils and a clipboard. No storage clipboards are allowed. Colored pencils are allowed for the Written Management Plan.
   - **Contest dates and registration deadlines** are listed on the Indiana 4-H/FFA judging website, [www.four-h.purdue.edu/cde](http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/cde).

5. **Activities**
   Participants complete three activities in the Indiana WHEP CDE. The *Wildlife Management Practices* and *Wildlife Challenge* activities are completed by individuals working on their own. The *Wildlife*
Indiana Wildlife Habitat Education Program CDE

Management Plan activity is done as a team of three or four individuals working together. These activities are described below.

- **Wildlife Management Practices** (individual event) —Youth will recommend Wildlife Management Practices (WMP’s) for wildlife and habitat on a given site. For the Indiana WHEP CDE, only those practices recommended for species listed under the Eastern Deciduous Forest Region of the National Manual will be considered. See the National WHEP manual (Activity I) for more information. Procedure:
  
  o Habitat options will be Eastern Deciduous Forest, Urban, or Wetland. The type of habitat will be determined by the committee and coaches will be notified by February 1 that year’s habitat. Unless otherwise noted, habitat will be the same for both the Regional Invitational and State Contest.
  
  o Youth will be given a scenario (verbally or written) about the site to describe field conditions. Participants will mark an ‘X’ in the box for each WMP recommended based on the information given.
  
  o Each species should be listed separately and WMPs should be recommended as if each species was the only species considered on the site.
  
  o All boxes are counted in the scoring. Participants receive credit for putting an X in a box of a recommended WMP and for leaving the boxes blank where no WMP is recommended.
  
  o The Regional Invitational will consist of 5 species, and 8 species at the State Contest.
  
  o Participants will have a maximum of 60 minutes to complete this activity at the Regional Invitational and State Contest.

- **Wildlife Challenge** (individual event) —The objective of the Wildlife Challenge is to demonstrate knowledge of wildlife identification, wildlife management concepts, wildlife management terminology, wildlife management practices, foods, and the biology and ecology of wildlife species. This activity has two separate components — Wildlife Identification and General Knowledge.

  **Wildlife Identification**
  
  o Participants will rotate among up to 20 stations.
  
  o At each station, an animal specimen or portion of specimen, photo, or animal sign (for example, track).
  
  o Participants will have 15 minutes total at the Regional Invitational and 10 minutes total at the State Contest to look at the items presented at each station and write down the wildlife species name.
  
  o Participants may not touch specimens. Supervisors will be on hand to pick up specimens for closer inspection.
  
  o Participants will complete a Scantron form using multiple choice answers at the Regional Invitational. Correct spelling and capitalization of species must be used at the State Contest in order to receive 10 points per specimen. Incorrect spelling and/or capitalization answers will result in a 2 point deduction per specimen. Refer to the WHEP Manual for proper spelling and capitalization. For example, “beaver”, “deer”, “woodduck”, or “Eastern cottontail” will be marked incorrect. These species should be written as American beaver, white-tailed deer, wood duck, and eastern cottontail, respectively.
  
  o The 51 wildlife species listed in the Eastern Deciduous Forest, Urban, and Wetland ecoregions of the national WHEP manual may be used for this activity. A combined
Indiana Wildlife Habitat Education Program CDE

list is provided at the end of this document for your convenience (some species are listed in multiple ecoregions).

General Knowledge
- Questions for this portion of the Wildlife Challenge may be from information within Concepts and Terms and the Glossary of the WHEP Manual; and information in the Eastern Deciduous Forest, Urban, and Wetland Ecoregions, and the Wildlife Species and Wildlife Management Practices associated with that ecoregion.
- Participants will be allowed 30 minutes maximum to complete their exam at the Regional Invitational and State Contest.

- Wildlife Management Plan (team event, State Contest Only) —Participants are given landowner objectives for a specific area. The area may include Eastern Deciduous Forest, Urban, and Wetland habitats. Teams work together to write a wildlife management plan and sketch how the area should look when managed for specific wildlife species. See the National WHEP manual (Activity II) for more information.
  - This activity will only be completed at the State Contest.
  - Youth will be scored on their plan Background, Development, Implementation, Evaluation, and Neatness and Overall Format.
  - Coaches will be notified by February 1 that year’s habitat.
  - The ecoregion used for this activity will be the same as is used for the Wildlife Practices activity.
  - Each team will be supplied a field condition sheet and 2 pieces of white paper, 8 ½” x 11”. One is to be used for their written plan and one for their map.
  - Each team will be supplied 1 piece of color paper for notes.
  - Each team will be allowed to keep their notes, but must turn in their completed written plan and map (white papers).
  - Teams will have a maximum of 60 minutes to complete this activity.

6. Event Scoring
   Regional Invitational Contest Weights
   - Wildlife Practices – 50%
   - Wildlife Challenge – 50%
   Individual scores will be summed for each event and weighted. For each team, the average individual score total will be calculated for the final total team score.

   State Contest Weights
   - Wildlife Practices – 30%
   - Wildlife Challenge – 30%
   - Management Plan – 40%

7. Resources
   - Indiana Wildlife Habitat Education CDE website: www.four-h.purdue.edu/WHEP/
   - National 4-H WHEP Handbook, available on-line only at www.whep.org
   - Indiana Wildlife Habitat Education CDE website: www.four-h.purdue.edu/WHEP/
   - The following publications are available at The Education Store. Visit www.edustore.purdue.edu and enter the curriculum title in the Store Search box (upper right).
Indiana Wildlife Habitat Education Program CDE

- Wildlife Habitat Education Program – Learning and Teaching Wildlife Management Plans (XXX-W)
- Wildlife Habitat Education Program – Learning and Teaching Wildlife Challenge (XXXX)

8. National Event

4-H Teams: The top 4-H team qualifies to attend the National 4-H/FFA Wildlife Habitat Education Contest. The national 4-H event is held in late July/early August at various locations across the country. The highest scoring 4-H team from the WHEP CDE may represent Indiana at the national event. If the first place team is unable to attend, the next highest placing 4-H team will be offered the trip. Participants must be enrolled in 4-H and aged 14-19. Youth may attend the national contest only once. See the National Website for contest information, www.whep.org

FFA Teams: The top FFA team qualifies for and may choose from the National FFA Organization's Environmental & Natural Resources Management Career Development Event or the National 4-H/FFA Wildlife Habitat Education contest. The second place FFA team may attend the remaining contest.

Teams competing in the National WHEP Contest should be prepared for all Activities outlined in the manual, including Activity II-B: Oral Defense of Written Plan. Activity II-B requires each team member to demonstrate their understanding of the written plan. Team members will be called individually into a room with two judges where they will be asked a series of questions relating to the written plan. The National WHEP Contest will also include sound files in the Wildlife Challenge, including bird, frog, toad, and mammal calls. Team members will be responsible for knowing calls for species in the ecoregion in which the National WHEP Contest is being held plus the Urban and Wetland ecoregions.
## Indiana Wildlife Habitat Education Program CDE

Potential species for the Wildlife Identification portion of the Wildlife Challenge activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birds</th>
<th>Mammals</th>
<th>Reptiles and Amphibians</th>
<th>Fish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American bittern</td>
<td>American beaver</td>
<td>American bullfrog</td>
<td>bluegill</td>
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<td>American robin</td>
<td>big brown bat</td>
<td>crawfish frog</td>
<td>largemouth bass</td>
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<td>bobcat</td>
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