

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Survey

Participants in 2001 Indiana Wildlife Habitat Evaluation (WHEP) contest were asked a number of questions to evaluate the benefits of this event.

Q - Why do students participate in this CDE?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested in wildlife -37% • Thought it would be fun- 24% • Potential trip to National contest -17% • Other - 12% • Good for future career/college plans - 10% <p>Student quotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Because I like wildlife and to be outdoors •I thought it would be fun •Because it interests me 	<p>Student quotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I thought it would be fun •To give me a basic training of what my future occupation so that I know what I will be getting into •To learn how to attract certain wildlife •I love wildlife. I always have •For the experience •Because I love the outdoors, I hunt, fish, and trap also •The trip for winners
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Q - Why do coaches participate?

- Students are interested - 29%
- Student advancement - 29%
- Enjoy the outdoors - 29%
- Follows natural resource management curriculum -14%

Interest/knowledge in wildlife
(0-none, 10 high)

	Before the CDE	After the CDE
Student reported interest in wildlife	7.9	8.3
Coaches evaluation of students knowledge of wildlife	6.0	8.5

Coaches appraisal of what students gain from this CDE:

•Greater interest and knowledge about wildlife	33%
•Personal motivation	17%
•Public speaking, self-confidence and goal setting	17%
•Practical application	17%
•Career interests (wildlife management and environmental studies)	17%

Q - Will students be able to use the WHEP practices you learned in the future?

- Yes – 83%
- Maybe – 10%
- No – 7%

Note: Many students reported that they have used wildlife habitat practices that they learned through this contest:

- 83% feel they will be able to apply skills learned in the future

Note: when asked how they would use these skills, students said: next year at this contest and at home on the farm; on Grandpa’s farm; now & in the future; for when I go into conservation law enforcement; to manage my own property; I hope to have my own farm in a couple of years so I can practice wildlife management on it; in my college studies (Environmental Biology) also at my home in the future; my Grandfather is going to manage his property for wetland animals

- 47% have applied at least one management practice learned in the wildlife habitat evaluation contest

Note: Some of the practices that they reported were: Bird feed plots, feeder for deer, bird houses, stock & provide spawning in pond, artificial feeders for many different kinds of birds

- Written a wildlife plan – 21% (affecting 280 Indiana acres)

<p><u>Student Demographics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avg. age – 16 years old • Grade level (high school) • Academic level – 74% have a B average or higher • Academic Honors studies – 39% • Plan to attend college - 95% • 38% of the participants were currently taking a natural resource or natural resource management course 	<p><u>College Plans</u></p> <p>Future study plans include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering/Math – 29% • Agriculture – 16% • Wildlife Biology/Natural Resource Management – 13% • Biology/Science – 13% • Medical/Vet Medicine – 10% • Business – 10% • Other - 10% <p>19% of participants said the WHEP contest affected their college or career plans.</p>
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Surveyed 43 high school participants

Surveyed 9 coaches

Summary

Average student participant - has at least a B average and is college bound. They are generally from rural areas and plan to study one of the sciences in college. Most students have been active in 4-H and/or FFA and participated in the contest because they were interested in wildlife or thought the WHEP contest would be fun.

Using what they learn - Most student participants have already applied some wildlife management concepts they have learned in WHEP or expect to apply these concepts in the future. Nineteen percent (19%) feel that this contest has influenced their future college or career plans.