

Activity IV: Wildlife Habitat Practices

Objective

Contestants will be able to describe which habitat management practices benefit specific wildlife species.

Overview

Contestants work as a team to complete a scorecard indicating which wildlife management practices will improve habitat for up to eight wildlife species. To achieve this, contestants need a thorough understanding of the habitat practices and which practices apply to each wildlife species in the announced region.

Study the habitat practices table for wildlife species in the announced region. A description of each practice is provided in this section. The descriptions of wildlife species (Activity I) include habitat practices benefiting each species. Be able to identify which practice is required for each species. If the practice is needed, clearly mark an "X" in the box on the scorecard. If the practice is not needed for the particular wildlife species, the box is not marked.

Contest Rules

1. Contestants will complete this activity as a team.
2. Only one region (the announced region) and associated wildlife species will be used for this activity.
3. Contestants will correctly mark on the scorecard the management practices for improving wildlife habitat for a particular species. A list of no more than eight wildlife species will be provided.
4. Contestants can use the following equipment only: pencil and clipboard, scorecard (provided).
5. Contestants will be given 30 minutes to complete this activity.
6. Scoring: This event is worth 100 points. One point will be given for each correct answer. One point will be deducted for each incorrect answer. If a contestant marks a box that is not supposed to be marked, it is counted as wrong. Likewise, if a contestant does not mark a box that is supposed to be marked, it is counted as wrong.

Study Materials

Five tables in this section describe the appropriate habitat practices for wildlife species in the five regions. For each contest, study the one table corresponding to the announced region. Only species occurring in the announced region will be tested in this activity. Additional information about habitat practices for each wildlife species can be found in Activity I.

Use the scorecard for the announced region to practice working as a team and answering this portion of the contest.

Following the tables and scorecards are descriptions of the various practices used to manage wildlife habitat listed in alphabetical order. The descriptions are brief and general and are not meant to be comprehensive. Additional reading, research, and guidance from wildlife management professionals are suggested.

Some of the practices may seem contradictory. For example, the practice “Ponds, Deepen Edges” discourages the growth of emergent aquatic vegetation, while the practice “Water Level Manipulation Techniques” encourages growth. In reality, landowner objectives will determine which practices to implement. Note that some practices may not be applied to all regions, even though you may be dealing with the same wildlife species. For example, “Rooftop/Balcony Gardens” only applies to the urban region, even though butterflies appear in both the urban and grassland regions.

Wildlife Management Practices	Eastern Deciduous Forest Wildlife Species																		
	Black bear	Bluegill	Bobcat	Box Turtle	Brown thrasher	Eastern bluebird	Eastern cottontail	Eastern gray squirrel	Eastern towhee	Elk	Great-horned owl	Largemouth bass	Mourning dove	Northern bobwhite	Ovenbird	Ruffed Grouse	White-tailed deer	Wild turkey	Wood duck
2. Decrease Harvest	X	X	X				X	X		X		X	X	X			X	X	X
3. Increase Harvest	X	X	X				X	X		X		X	X	X			X	X	X
4. Do Not Disturb Nesting Sites						X													
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs				X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X			X	X	
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Forest Management Techniques	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Grain: Leave Unharvested	X						X	X					X	X			X	X	X
9. Harvest Timing of Crops							X						X	X			X	X	
10. Manipulation of Succession	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11. Nesting Structures						X		X											X
13. Plant Food Plots	X						X						X	X			X	X	
14. Plant Shrubs	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
15. Plant Trees	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
16. Ponds: Construction		X										X							
17. Ponds: Deepen Edges		X										X							
18. Ponds: Fertilize		X										X							
19. Ponds: Reduce Turbidity/Reseed Watershed		X										X							
20. Ponds: Repair Spillway		X										X							
21. Ponds: Restock		X										X							
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material	X		X			X	X	X			X		X			X			X
24. Soil Test	X						X			X			X	X			X	X	
26. Tillage Management							X	X					X	X			X	X	
27. Use Pesticides Carefully						X													
28. Water Developments for Wildlife										X			X				X	X	X
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques		X										X							X
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques	X		X				X	X		X	X						X	X	

Wildlife Management Practices	Grasslands – Tallgrass/Mixed Prairie Wildlife Species																		
	American kestrel	Bluegill	Blue-winged teal	Box turtle	Butterflies	Coyote	Dickcissel	Eastern cottontail	Eastern hognose snake	Grasshopper sparrow	Largemouth bass	Mourning dove	Northern bobwhite	Northern harrier	Prairie vole	Red-tailed hawk	Spotted skunk	White-tailed deer	Wild turkey
1. Decrease Harvest		X	X			X		X			X	X	X					X	X
2. Increase Harvest		X	X			X		X			X	X	X					X	X
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Forest Management Techniques	X			X		X		X					X			X		X	X
8. Grain: Leave Unharvested			X				X	X				X	X		X		X	X	X
9. Harvest Timing of Crops							X	X		X		X	X	X				X	X
10. Manipulation of Succession	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11. Nesting Structures	X															X			
12. Plant Flowers					X														
13. Plant Food Plots			X					X				X	X					X	X
14. Plant Shrubs	X			X	X	X		X				X	X		X		X	X	X
15. Plant Trees	X				X							X			X	X	X	X	X
16. Ponds: Construction		X									X								
17. Ponds: Deepen Edges		X									X								
18. Ponds: Fertilize		X									X								
19. Ponds: Reduce Turbidity/Reseed Watershed		X									X								
20. Ponds: Repair Spillway		X									X								
21. Ponds: Restock		X									X								
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material	X							X				X		X		X	X		
24. Soil Test			X					X				X	X					X	X
26. Tillage Management			X				X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X
27. Use Pesticides Carefully	X				X												X		
28. Water Developments for Wildlife			X		X							X						X	X
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques		X	X								X								
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques						X		X							X		X	X	X

Wildlife Management Practices	Southeast Mixed and Outer Coastal Plain Forest Wildlife Species																				
	American kestrel	Black bear	Bluegill	Brown thrasher	Coyote	Eastern bluebird	Eastern cottontail	Eastern gray squirrel	Great-horned owl	Hairy woodpecker	Largemouth bass	Mallard (winter)	Mourning dove	Northern bobwhite	Prothonotary warbler	Raccoon	Red-Eyed vireo	White-tailed deer	Wild turkey	Wood duck	
2. Decrease Harvest		X	X		X		X	X			X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
3. Increase Harvest		X	X		X		X	X			X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
4. Do Not Disturb Nesting Sites						X															
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs	X				X	X	X		X			X	X	X		X		X	X		
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Forest Management Techniques	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
8. Grain: Leave Unharvested		X					X	X				X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
9. Harvest Timing of Crops							X						X	X				X	X		
10. Manipulation of Succession	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11. Nesting Structures	X					X		X												X	
13. Plant Food Plots		X					X					X	X	X				X	X		
14. Plant Shrubs	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
15. Plant Trees	X	X		X		X		X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
16. Ponds: Construction			X								X										
17. Ponds: Deepen Edges			X								X										
18. Ponds: Fertilize			X								X										
19. Ponds: Reduce Turbidity/Reseed Watershed			X								X										
20. Ponds: Repair Spillway			X								X										
21. Ponds: Restock			X								X										
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material	X	X				X	X	X	X	X			X		X					X	
24. Soil Test		X					X					X	X	X				X	X		
26. Tillage Management							X	X				X	X	X				X	X		
27. Use Pesticides Carefully	X					X															
28. Water Developments for Wildlife												X	X		X	X		X	X	X	
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques			X								X	X				X				X	
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques		X			X		X	X	X							X		X	X		

Wildlife Management Practices	Urban Wildlife Species																
	American robin	Big brown bat	Butterflies	Common or lesser nighthawk	Eastern bluebird	Eastern cottontail	Eastern fox squirrel	European starling	Frogs	House finch	House sparrow	House wren	Hummingbird	Northern flicker	Raccoon	Rock dove	Song sparrow
1. Artificial Feeders			X		X		X			X			X	X		X	X
4. Do Not Disturb Nesting Sites	X	X		X	X		X			X		X	X	X			X
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs			X		X	X			X	X					X		X
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10. Manipulation of Succession (Mowing)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				X	X	X	X
11. Nesting Structures	X	X			X		X					X					
12. Plant Flowers			X										X				
13. Plant Food Plots						X											
14. Plant Shrubs	X		X	X	X	X				X		X	X		X		X
15. Plant Trees	X	X	X	X	X		X			X		X	X	X	X		X
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material		X			X	X	X			X		X		X			
23. Rooftop/Balcony Gardens			X										X				
25. Streams: Dams, Boulders or Logs									X								
27. Use Pesticides Carefully	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		X	X	X			X
28. Water Developments for Wildlife	X	X	X		X		X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques									X						X		
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques		X				X	X	X			X			X	X	X	

Wildlife Management Practices	Wetland Wildlife Species															
	American alligator	American beaver	Black bear	Bluegill	Bullfrog	Canada goose	Largemouth bass	Mallard (winter)	Mink	Muskrat	Northern harrier	Raccoon	Redhead	Red-winged blackbird	River otter	Wood duck
2. Decrease Harvest	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
3. Increase Harvest	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs	X					X		X			X	X				
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Forest Management Techniques			X									X				X
8. Grain: Leave Unharvested			X					X				X		X		X
9. Harvest Timing of Crops											X					
10. Manipulation of Succession		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11. Nesting Structures						X										X
13. Plant Food Plots			X					X								
14. Plant Shrubs		X	X									X		X	X	X
15. Plant Trees		X	X									X		X	X	X
16. Ponds: Construction				X			X									
17. Ponds: Deepen Edges				X			X									
18. Ponds: Fertilize				X			X									
19. Ponds: Reduce Turbidity/Reseed Watershed				X			X									
20. Ponds: Repair Spillway				X			X									
21. Ponds: Restock				X			X									
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material	X		X								X					X
24. Soil Test			X					X								
26. Tillage Management								X			X					
28. Water Developments for Wildlife	X	X			X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques	X	X	X			X			X	X		X		X	X	

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

Activity IV: Wildlife Habitat Practices (JUNIORS)

Wildlife Management Practices – Eastern Deciduous Forest	Wildlife Species							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2. Decrease Harvest								
3. Increase Harvest								
4. Do Not Disturb Nesting Sites								
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs								
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey								
7. Forest Management Techniques								
8. Grain: Leave Unharvested								
9. Harvest Timing of Crops								
10. Manipulation of Succession								
11. Nesting Structures								
13. Plant Food Plots								
14. Plant Shrubs								
15. Plant Trees								
16. Ponds: Construction								
17. Ponds: Deepen Edges								
18. Ponds: Fertilize								
19. Ponds: Reduce Turbidity/Reseed Watershed								
20. Ponds: Repair Spillway								
21. Ponds: Restock								
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material								
24. Soil Test								
26. Tillage Management								
27. Use Pesticides Carefully								
28. Water Developments for Wildlife								
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques								
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques								
Number Correct								
<p>Score = (total number correct / total number boxes) X 30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total Correct: _____ Total Score: _____</p>								

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

Activity IV: Wildlife Habitat Practices (JUNIORS)

Wildlife Management Practices – Grasslands – Tallgrass/Mixed Prairie	Wildlife Species							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Decrease Harvest								
2. Increase Harvest								
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs								
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey								
7. Forest Management Techniques								
8. Grain: Leave Unharvested								
9. Harvest Timing of Crops								
10. Manipulation of Succession								
11. Nesting Structures								
12. Plant Flowers								
13. Plant Food Plots								
14. Plant Shrubs								
15. Plant Trees								
16. Ponds: Construction								
17. Ponds: Deepen Edges								
18. Ponds: Fertilize								
19. Ponds: Reduce Turbidity/Reseed Watershed								
20. Ponds: Repair Spillway								
21. Ponds: Restock								
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material								
24. Soil Test								
26. Tillage Management								
27. Use Pesticides Carefully								
28. Water Developments for Wildlife								
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques								
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques								
Number correct								
Score = (total number correct / total number boxes) X 30								
Total Correct: _____ Total Score: _____								

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

Activity IV: Wildlife Habitat Practices (JUNIORS)

Wildlife Management Practices – Southeast Mixed and Outer Coastal Plain Forest	Wildlife Species							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2. Decrease Harvest								
3. Increase Harvest								
4. Do Not Disturb Nesting Sites								
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs								
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey								
7. Forest Management Techniques								
8. Grain: Leave Unharvested								
9. Harvest Timing of Crops								
10. Manipulation of Succession								
11. Nesting Structures								
13. Plant Food Plots								
14. Plant Shrubs								
15. Plant Trees								
16. Ponds: Construction								
17. Ponds: Deepen Edges								
18. Ponds: Fertilize								
19. Ponds: Reduce Turbidity/Reseed Watershed								
20. Ponds: Repair Spillway								
21. Ponds: Restock								
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material								
24. Soil Test								
26. Tillage Management								
27. Use Pesticides Carefully								
28. Water Developments for Wildlife								
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques								
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques								
Number correct								
Score = (total number correct / total number boxes) X 30								
Total Correct: _____ Total Score: _____								

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

Activity IV: Wildlife Habitat Practices (JUNIORS)

Wildlife Management Practices – Urban	Wildlife Species							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Artificial Feeders								
4. Do Not Disturb Nesting Sites								
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs								
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey								
10. Manipulation of Succession (Mowing)								
11. Nesting Structures								
12. Plant Flowers								
13. Plant Food Plots								
14. Plant Shrubs								
15. Plant Trees								
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material								
23. Rooftop/Balcony Gardens								
25. Streams: Dams, Boulders or Logs								
27. Use Pesticides Carefully								
28. Water Developments for Wildlife								
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques								
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques								
Number correct								
Score = (total number correct / total number boxes) X 30								
Total Correct: _____ Total Score: _____								

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

Activity IV: Wildlife Habitat Practices (JUNIORS)

Wildlife Management Practices – Wetlands	Wildlife Species							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2. Decrease Harvest								
3. Increase Harvest								
5. Establish Native Grasses and Forbs								
6. Fish or Wildlife Survey								
7. Forest Management Techniques								
8. Grain: Leave Unharvested								
9. Harvest Timing of Crops								
10. Manipulation of Succession								
11. Nesting Structures								
13. Plant Food Plots								
14. Plant Shrubs								
15. Plant Trees								
16. Ponds: Construction								
17. Ponds: Deepen Edges								
18. Ponds: Fertilize								
19. Ponds: Reduce Turbidity/Reseed Watershed								
20. Ponds: Repair Spillway								
21. Ponds: Restock								
22. Retain Snags and Down Woody Material								
24. Soil Test								
26. Tillage Management								
28. Water Developments for Wildlife								
29. Water Level Manipulation Techniques								
30. Wildlife Damage Management Techniques								
Number correct								
<p>Score = (total number correct / total number boxes) X 30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total Correct: _____ Total Score: _____</p>								