

Activity V: Oral Defense of Wildlife Management Plan

Objective

Each contestant will be able to speak intelligently about wildlife management using wildlife management concepts and terms, and defend habitat practices recommended on their team's written wildlife management plan.

Overview

Each team member will demonstrate their understanding of the team's written wildlife management plan through this oral defense. Comprehensive knowledge of the written plan will be necessary to respond to the judges' questions. Therefore, all team members need to actively participate in writing the plan.

Team members will be called individually into a room of two or three judges, where they will be asked from one to three questions about the plan. For example, they may be asked to explain a certain part of the plan, such as the plan's background or implementation, or to further explain certain management practices that were implemented in the plan. Judges are allowed to ask follow-up questions to assess the contestant's understanding of wildlife management and the plan.

Contest Rules

1. Although this is not a timed activity, contestants are expected to respond to judges' questions for five to 10 minutes.
2. Contestants can use a note card (provided). Note cards will serve only as a reference (not for reading a speech). Contestants will be provided a note card while preparing their written plan for Activity IV. Notes can be written on the note card during the one and one-half hours provided for writing the plan.
3. This activity is worth 20 points. Each team member will be scored independently. (Because contestants will be assessed by different panels of judges, this activity will contribute to the team score only, NOT individual score.)

Preparing for the Oral Defense

The contestant should demonstrate a basic understanding of wildlife management and be able to correctly use terms and concepts presented in this handbook. The contestants' oral defense is judged on (1) logic, understanding, and knowledge of the wildlife species and habitat practices, (2) use of wildlife terms and concepts, (3) poise, and appearance. The judges will use a scorecard to judge contestants, which is included in this section. Note that 40 percent of the contestant's score is based on their presentation skills.

Contestants should be prepared to:

- Indicate their contestant id number.
- Remove headgear (e.g., hats).
- Not be chewing gum or tobacco.
- Make eye contact with each judge, smile and be enthusiastic.

- Stand straight and not cross their legs.
- Not read verbatim from notes (but occasionally referring to notes is all right).
- State reasons in terms of wildlife concepts, successional stages, and habitat requirements of the wildlife species of interest.

Examples of questions are:

- Describe how your team plans to evaluate the results.
- Name each of the species to be managed and describe their habitat needs.
- Why would a prescribed burn be a good idea? (Or why it's not a good idea for the site.)

Activity V
Judges' Scoring Sheet for Oral Presentations
SENIOR

Contestant Number: _____ Judge's Initials: _____

Scale for scoring: 0 = not at all, 2 = poor or poorly, 4 = fair or slightly well, 6 = good or fairly well, 8 = excellent or very well, 10 = outstanding

Part 1: Subject Matter (30 points)	(Poor)										(Outstanding)											
Understanding of species habitat requirements	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Understanding of wildlife management practices and their implementation	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Knowledge of appropriate terms and concepts (e.g., succession, edge, interspersions)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Part 2: Contestant (40 points)	(Poor)										(Outstanding)											
Poise (calm, confident)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Voice (volume, clarity, enunciation)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Grammar	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Body language (eye contact, hand gestures, other movements)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Part 3: Response to Questions (30 points)	(Poor)										(Outstanding)											
Accuracy of responses	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Logic, reasoning and organization	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Answered honestly and concisely	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
												FINAL SCORE: Total points for Part 1: _____ Total points for Part 2: _____ Total points for Part 3: _____ Total Score (100 points max): _____ Final score = Total Score x 0.20 = _____ (20 points maximum awarded for oral defense)										