

Activity II: General Wildlife Knowledge

Objectives

Participants demonstrate their understanding of basic wildlife habitat concepts and habitat practices.

Overview

Contestants answer 30 questions about the announced region, wildlife species and their food habits and habitat needs, wildlife management concepts, terms and practices, and interpreting aerial photos. The format can be multiple-choice, true/false, matching, or fill-in-the-blank. Each question is worth one point.

Contest Rules

1. Contestants will complete the scorecard individually. This is not a team event.
2. Question responses can require using a visual item for determining the answer, such as a wildlife food sample, picture or prop. For example, contestants may judge the best habitat for white-tailed deer from an aerial photo, with four circles encompassing different habitat types labeled A, B, C and D.
3. A table of wildlife species and their corresponding foods has been developed for each region. The table serves as a study guide for answering multiple-choice, true/false, matching or fill-in-the-blank questions.
4. Contestants need to bring pencils and a clipboard for this event. (No extra pencils or pencil sharpeners will be available.)
5. Contestants will be given 30 minutes to answer questions and record information on the score sheet.
6. This event is worth 30 points. One point will be given for each correct answer.

Content Areas

The *General Wildlife Knowledge* activity focuses on several key concept areas. Following is a list of concept areas followed by additional study resources:

1. *Characteristics of the announced region.* Study the information about the announced region in this section of the handbook. Specific questions will be asked about the region. For example, what is the dominant tree species in the region?
2. *Wildlife management concepts and terms.* Be able to define and apply concepts and terms. Apply concepts and terms to the characteristics of wildlife species in the region. Also recognize concepts and terms when interpreting aerial photos and implementing habitat practices. Study wildlife management concepts and terms in this section.

3. *Wildlife species and their habitat needs.* Review descriptions for wildlife species presented in *Activity 1: Wildlife Identification*. Be able to describe the food, water, cover and spatial needs for each species in the announced region.
4. *Interpreting wildlife habitat from aerial photos.* Rank aerial photos with respect to providing the best or worst habitat for a particular wildlife species. Information about aerial photos is found in this section.
5. *Food habits of wildlife species present in the region.* Study the foods table for wildlife species in the announced region. Be able to identify the category for a food sample (e.g., grasshopper = insect) and which species consumes the sample (e.g., Northern bobwhite).
6. *Wildlife habitat practices.* Be able to describe and apply management practices for improving habitat for a particular wildlife species. Study material can be found in this section. This same information will be used in *Activity III: On Site Recommendation of Wildlife Habitat Practices*. In the *General Wildlife Knowledge* activity, questions will focus on the practice itself. The activity may ask about the advantages or disadvantages of a practice, its application to an ecosystem, or improving habitat for a particular wildlife species. In Activity IV, contestants will be given a list of species and apply wildlife management practices which are appropriate for a piece of land.

Contestant Name: _____

ID Code: _____

**Activity II: General Wildlife Knowledge Scorecard
SENIOR**

1. _____

16. _____

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30. _____

Total Correct: _____

Resources

Following are the six knowledge areas to study and help prepare for the *General Wildlife Knowledge* activity.

- Knowledge Area No. 1: Characteristics of the announced region
- Knowledge Area No. 2: Wildlife management concepts and terms
- Knowledge Area No. 3: Wildlife species and their habitat needs
- Knowledge Area No. 4: Interpreting wildlife habitat from aerial photos
- Knowledge Area No. 5: Food habits of wildlife species present in the region
- Knowledge Area No. 6: Wildlife habitat practices

Next are detailed descriptions of the study materials for understanding each of these knowledge areas. Note that any information presented in this section, or anywhere in the handbook, can be used in the contest.

Knowledge Area No. 1: Characteristics of the Announced Region

Each year, a contest site will be selected in one of the four regions represented in Arkansas. This region will be announced before the contest occurs. Study the characteristics of the selected region. (You do not need to study all the regions.) If possible, find a site that contains these characteristics to practice for the contest.

Eastern Deciduous Forest

Physical Description: Most of the terrain is rolling except for the Ozark Mountains, which can be steep. The average annual precipitation ranges from 35 to 70 inches and is well distributed throughout the year. Summers are hot and dry. Winters are cold.

Dominant Vegetation: The final Stage of succession usually consists of broad-leaved deciduous trees, such as various oaks and hickories, beech, blackgum, red maple, southern magnolia, American holly and winged elm. There are many lower canopy trees and deciduous shrubs that are important, including American hornbeam, hophornbeam, sassafras, eastern redbud, and flowering dogwood. Common shrubs are pawpaw, spicebush, arrow-wood, black huckleberry, blueberry, hawthorn, witch-hazel and viburnums. A wide variety of forbs are also found on the forest floor. Grasses and annual forbs are mostly limited to areas recently disturbed.

The oak-hickory forest region occupies drier areas. Drought-resistant oaks and hickories are the most common trees species. The principal oaks are white oak, northern red oak and black oak (*Q. velutina*), while bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), blackjack oak, shingle oak (*Q. imbricaria*) and overcup oak (*Q. lyrata*) are also common. The most important hickories are bitternut (*Carya cordiformis*) and shagbark (*C. ovata*), while shellbark (*C. laciniosa*), mockernut (*C. tomentosa*), and pignut (*C. glabra*) occur more frequently on the drier upland soils. The trees commonly found scattered throughout the stream and river valleys of the region are American elm (*Ulmus americana*), American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), hackberry (*Celtis* spp.), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), river birch (*Betula nigra*) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). These riparian trees are generally fast-growing, shallow-rooted, relatively large and able to withstand repeated floodings throughout the year.