

Southeast District Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest

Edited 4-13-2025

Eligibility:

1. Read general rules.
2. Members may be enrolled in any 4-H project.
3. Two, four member teams made of Novice members and two, four member teams of Junior members per county. Novices may be moved up to a junior team.

Contest Procedures:

This contest consists of two sections:

1. Wildlife Identification

25 slides worth 2 points per slide. Total of 50 points

Objective: To be able to identify wildlife species listed in the Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) Manual, Most Recent Edition and from the past contest list.

Wildlife managers must be able to identify the species for which they are managing. In this portion of the judging event, contestants will be asked to identify wildlife species from the complete list of species which is listed in the WHEP Manual on pages 69 – 70 plus 25 species that are pertinent to New Mexico from the previous 4-H Wildlife Contest list. **A complete list of species to be identified is available at the end of these rules.** Photos of the species used in the contest are readily available from a number of sources, including many field guides, websites, and the county extension offices. There will be twenty five species represented by a photograph of either the male or female in either the juvenile or adult stage. The contestant is asked to identify the species by writing the number of the slide in the appropriate blank on the answer sheet. If the judges cannot read the intent of the contestant, the answer will be considered incorrect.

2. General Knowledge

25 questions worth 2 points each. Total of 50 points.

The format will be set up as a practicum with 25 stations.

Objective: To know and understand the biology and behaviors of the wildlife species featured in the WHEP Manual, January 2015 Edition.

The complete list of Wildlife Species in the WHEP Manual has been broken up into five years. Questions for this portion of the contest will be utilized only for the WILDLIFE SPECIES LISTED FOR THE CURRENT YEAR (SEE SPECIES LIST AT END OF CONTEST INFORMATION). Wildlife Species information is listed on pages 71-215 of the WHEP Manual. Information will be taken ONLY from the “General Information” and “Habitat Requirements” sections of the Wildlife Species information and only for the species listed for the current year. Students are also encouraged to study the wildlife tracks and wildlife skulls, if those species are included in the current year’s list. Additional questions may be

derived from identification points of the species – example: By looking at this wing specimen, what is the specie’s primary diet? Another example: By looking at this skull and identifying the animal, where does the species obtain most of its water?

General Rules:

- A. Contestants are NOT allowed to touch or handle specimens during the contest. Contestants may be eliminated from the contest for touching or handling specimen.
- B. Observers will not be permitted in the contest area before the contest or while the contest is in progress.
- C. Contestants must complete both sections of the contest before leaving the contest area. Contestants are NOT allowed to have any electronic devices including cell phones,
- D. IPODs, blackberries, MP3 players, etc. with them in the contest area. Having any electronic devices with them in the contest area is grounds for disqualification.

Scoring the Contest:

The entire Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest is worth a total of 100 points.

1. The Wildlife Identification activity is worth a total of 50 points with each slide worth 2 points apiece. Incorrect answers and illegible answers will be marked wrong.
2. The General Knowledge activity is worth a total of 50 points with each station worth 2 points apiece. Incorrect answers and illegible answers will be marked wrong.

Tie Breakers:

Team

1. Total Wildlife Identification score of top three team members
2. Total General Knowledge score of top three team members

Individual

1. Wildlife Identification score
2. General Knowledge score

Resources:

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program Manual, Most Recent Edition:

<https://www.whep.org/national-whep-manual/>

Wildlife Identification Slides are available on CD from your county extension office or online at:

<http://oteroextension.nmsu.edu/4h.html>

FFA Wildlife Contest Wildlife Tracks:

http://www.nmsu.edu/~nmffa/Documents/CDEs/wildlife_tracks.pdf

FFA Wildlife Contest Wildlife Skulls:

http://www.nmsu.edu/~nmffa/Documents/CDEs/wildlife_skulls.pdf

Wildlife Species List by Year: See following page

**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION CONTEST
SPECIES STUDY LIST
FOR
GENERAL INFORMATION AND HABITAT REQUIREMENTS**

2025

BIRDS

northern harrier
northern pintail
Nuttall's woodpecker
ovenbird
peregrine falcon
prairie falcon
prothonotary warbler
pyrrhuloxia
red-cockaded woodpecker
red-eyed vireo
red-tailed hawk
redhead
ring-necked pheasant rock
pigeon
ruby-throated hummingbird ruffed
grouse
sage thrasher

MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES

mink
moose
mountain cottontail
mountain lion
New England cottontail
pronghorn
raccoon
gopher tortoise
plains hog-nosed snake
rough-skinned newt
tiger salamander
largemouth bass

2026

BIRDS

scaled quail
sharp-tailed grouse
song sparrow
sooty grouse
southwest willow flycatcher
spotted sandpiper
spotted towhee
Virginia rail
Western bluebird
Western kingbird
white-tailed ptarmigan
white-winged dove
turkey
Wilson's snipe wood
duck
yellow-rumped warbler

MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES

red fox
red squirrel
river otter
Rocky mountain mule deer
snowshoe hare
white-tailed deer
javelina
Texas horned lizard
timber rattlesnake
western diamond-backed rattlesnake
wood frog
rainbow trout wild

2027

BIRDS

American bittern
American black duck
American kestrel
American robin
American wigeon
American woodcock
barred owl
black-backed woodpecker
black-bellied whistling duck
black-capped chickadee
throated sparrow
blue-winged teal Brewer's
sparrow broad-winged
hawk brown thrasher
California quail California
thrasher Canada goose

2028

BIRDS

common nighthawk
crested caracara
crissal thrasher
dickcissel
dusky grouse
eastern bluebird
eastern meadowlark
European starling
ferruginous hawk
Gambel's quail
eagle
golden-cheeked warbler golden-
fronted woodpecker golden-winged
warbler grasshopper sparrow
great horned owl greater
prairie-chicken greater
roadrunner

MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES

American beaver
American marten
big brown bat
black bear
black-tailed jackrabbit
black-tailed prairie dog
bobcat
eastern box turtle
American bullfrog
bluegill black-

MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES

Brazilian free-tailed bat
collared peccary
Columbian black-tailed deer
common muskrat
coyote
desert cottontail
eastern cottontail
eastern indigo snake
crawfish frog
channel catfish golden

2029

BIRDS

greater sage-grouse
hairy woodpecker
house finch
house sparrow
house wren
ladder-backed woodpecker
lark bunting
Lawrence's goldfinch
loggerhead shrike
long-billed thrasher
mallard
marbled murrelet
mountain bluebird
mourning dove northern
bobwhite northern flicker
northern goshawk

MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES

eastern fox squirrel
eastern gray squirrel
elk
fisher
gray fox
Indiana bat
eastern snapping turtle
Gila monster
Monterey salamander
northern red-legged frog
Coho salmon
cutthroat trout

Name _____ County _____

**Southeast District 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation
Contest
PRACTICUM**

1.

14.

2.

15.

3.

16.

4.

17.

5.

18.

6.

19.

7.

20.

8.

21.

9.

22.

10.

23.

11.

24.

12.

25.

13.

NAME _____

County _____

Southeast District 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest

NUMBER

____ American kestrel
____ American robin
____ black-capped chickadee
____ black-throated sparrow
____ blue-winged teal
____ Brewer's sparrow
____ broad-winged hawk
____ brown thrasher
____ California quail
____ California thrasher
____ Canada goose
____ common nighthawk
____ crissal thrasher
____ dickcissel
____ dusky grouse
____ Eastern bluebird
____ European starling
____ Gambel's quail
____ grasshopper sparrow
____ great horned owl
____ greater prairie-chicken
____ greater sage-grouse
____ hairy woodpecker
____ house finch
____ house sparrow
____ house wren
____ ladder-backed woodpecker
____ lark bunting
____ mallard
____ mourning dove
____ Northern bobwhite
____ Northern flicker
____ Northern goshawk
____ Northern harrier
____ Nuttall's woodpecker
____ ovenbird
____ prothonotary warbler
____ red-eyed vireo
____ redhead
____ red-tailed hawk
____ ring-necked pheasant
____ rock pigeon
____ ruby-throated hummingbird

NUMBER

____ ruffed grouse
____ sage thrasher
____ scaled quail
____ sharp-tailed grouse
____ song sparrow
____ spotted towhee
____ Western bluebird
____ Western kingbird
____ white-winged dove
____ wild turkey
____ wood duck
____ yellow-rumped warbler
____ American beaver
____ American marten
____ big brown bat
____ black bear
____ black-tailed prairie dog
____ bobcat
____ common muskrat
____ coyote
____ desert cottontail
____ Eastern cottontail
____ Eastern fox squirrel
____ Eastern gray squirrel
____ elk
____ mink
____ mountain cottontail
____ Rocky Mountain mule deer
____ Northern raccoon
____ pronghorn
____ red squirrel
____ snowshoe hare
____ white-tailed deer
____ bluegill
____ box turtle
____ bullfrog
____ cutthroat trout
____ largemouth bass
____ Coho salmon
____ rainbow trout
____ rough-skinned newt
____ plains hognose snake

NUMBER

____ badger
____ bald eagle
____ Barbary sheep
____ black-footed ferret
____ bufflehead
____ bullsnake
____ burrowing owl
____ diamondback rattlesnake
____ Gila monster
____ golden eagle
____ gray fox
____ horned lizard
____ ibex
____ jackrabbit
____ javelina
____ kangaroo rat
____ mountain lion
____ oryx
____ porcupine
____ roadrunner
____ Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep
____ salamander
____ skunk
____ swift fox
____ turkey vulture

