

Wildlife Management Plan Field Condition Sheet April 24, 2015

The University of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center has a small area on its property which is unfit for agricultural research and cropping. The majority of this 40-acre parcel has not been used for agriculture in over 50 years. A portion of the property serves as a parking area for equipment.

The Center received approval from the Board of Trustees to develop a wildlife area on this land. Your team has been hired to develop a wildlife management plan. The Center will submit your plan as part of a grant proposal for state and federal funding. There is no cost limit associated with your plan.

The Director reported to your team the results of an employee survey at the U of A Center and the neighboring USDA Centers. The Director would like the plan to address the following objectives:

- USDA Wildlife Services has requested that the parcel support species to help teach furbearer trapping techniques to its employees and landowners. This includes increasing populations of mink and river otter. However, U of A wants to keep nutria out of the parcel. They are very concerned nutria will become overabundant and harm rice research fields.
- Most employees wanted the number of raccoons maintained in the area.
- Several employees who are duck hunters want the parcel developed into a rest area for mallards. A rest area is where migrating ducks can feed and loaf with no hunting pressure. Hunting is not allowed on University property.
- A well-connected birdwatcher at the Center believes portions of the parcel could be developed into excellent Virginia rail habitat. The plan should include habitat to attract Virginia rails during migration.

INSTRUCTIONS: The 40-acre land area to be judged is the same as described for the Wildlife Practices event. (However, the field condition sheet used for Wildlife Practices does not apply.) If you have questions about the boundary, ask the station monitor.

- **You have 1 ½ hours to complete this team activity. Your plan will consist of three pages of paper, written on one side of each page.** Write your management plan on one side of each of two pieces of paper (two pages maximum). Draw a map on a third piece of paper and show your proposed wildlife habitat practices. Write the names of team members and ID codes on the back of each answer page. You can use the extra paper to draft your plan or map. Write neatly. If the judges cannot read handwriting, that portion will not be graded and points deducted.
- Use any remaining time to prepare for **oral reasons**. A notecard has been provided for each person on the team for taking notes. You can take the notecard with you to oral

reasons. Turn in your management plan and remaining papers to the station monitor. Keep your notecard, pencil and clipboard.

- Once finished, wait quietly with your team. You can leave when your ride arrives. Be sure to inform the station monitor when you leave.
- Lunch is served in the main conference room. You must stay with other Seniors and eat together as a group. No talking to Juniors, adults or any non-contestants, as this could be considered cheating and grounds for dismissal from the contest.

SAFETY NOTES:

- Watch for snakes, ticks, fire ants, wasps, and other critters.
- Look where you place your feet.
- Watch for falling trees in the wooded area.
- Stay away from parked equipment. The equipment is known to harbor red wasps and their nests, snakes, as well as other dangers. No leaning, sitting, or loitering near the equipment!!!
- Walk portions of the area where easily accessible. Do not cross wet streams or deep ditches. Use the map to make an educated guess about specific habitat features. Assume the habitat is the same on the other side of the waterway.
- If you become lost, stay in place and call for help.

