

# Wildlife Management Plan

## Field Condition Sheet

April 29, 2016

### SCENARIO:

The Burns Park Manager has received permission to focus wildlife management efforts on a small portion of the park. (The land area is the same one used for the Wildlife Management Practices.) This demonstration area is intended to build public support for expanding a wildlife plan to the rest of the park. The Park Manager attended city government councils and committees, surveyed park users, and interviewed park employees to determine which six species to include in the plan. The Park Manager requested your team develop a plan which will be presented to the Burns Park Board of Directors. Following are the proposed objectives:

- Decrease the number of white-tailed deer in the park because of problems with deer-vehicle collisions near the interstate and park roads.
- Increase the number of natural predators of deer, specifically coyotes. A wildlife survey indicates very few coyotes are present in the park. However, coyotes can become numerous quickly and cause problems. So the park manager wants the plan to include ways to keep close track of the coyote population.
- Northern flickers are common birds whose populations have been steadily declining over the past 10 - 20 years. Northern flickers are not threatened or endangered, but their declining population is of concern to birders and wildlife biologists. A major cause of this decrease is believed to be competition from European starlings for best nesting sites. Woodpeckers often lose to these more aggressive invasive birds.
- Increase the number of big brown bats because they are being threatened in Arkansas and throughout the nation by a disease called white-nose syndrome. This disease is causing many bat populations to decline.
- Increase the number of fox squirrels. People in the park enjoy seeing these furry critters.

There is no cost limit or budget associated with the plan. Keep in mind the park is used by many people, and public safety should be considered when designing your plan.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

The 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.
- Lunch is served at the pavilion. 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.
- 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.
- If you become lost, stay in place and call for help.