

# Wildlife Management Plan - Help Sheet

<p><b>1. Plan Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What species are being managed?</li> <li>• Increase, decrease, or remain the same?</li> </ul> <p><b>Example:</b>          “The objective is to increase the population of northern bobwhites and decrease coyotes over the next five years on the 4-H Center property.”</p> <p><b>Who?</b> Bobwhites &amp; coyotes  <b>What?</b> Increase bobwhites, decrease coyotes  <b>When?</b> Over next 5 years  <b>Where?</b> 4-H Center property</p>	<p><b>2. Plan Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the habitat needs for each species?</li> <li>• What habitat is present for each species?</li> <li>• What habitat is lacking for each species?</li> <li>• Management objective: increase/improve habitat or decrease/change habitat to make it less suitable</li> </ul> <p>Northern bobwhite – need grasslands, fields, open woodlands; scattered patches of shrubby cover mixed with native grasses, forbs, and bare ground. Nest on ground at base of clump grass. Present habitat – Openings and forest with thick undercover; Lacking - very little native grasses mixed with shrubby cover; Forests are too thick with very little beneficial plants underneath.</p> <p>Coyote – live in forested areas, rock ledges, thickets, open grasslands, urban areas; Present habitat – excellent, esp. for prey such as rabbits, rodents, squirrels, and soft mast diet. Suitable denning habitat along creek ledges, steep banks, logs. Decrease/change habitat – remove thickets where prey species live to decrease food sources, cover, and denning sites.</p>
<p><b>3. Plan Implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What management practices and where? (Sketch map!)</li> <li>• What effect do these practices have on habitat?</li> <li>• What effect to these practices have on the species?</li> <li>• What native plant species are you encouraging?</li> <li>• What non-native invasive plant species are present? Suggestions for how to reduce or eliminate them?</li> <li>• What are the benefits for each species, when they are managed together?</li> <li>• What are the challenges for meeting the needs of each species, when they are managed together?</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended practices:</b>  <i>Conservation easement</i> – 4H Foundation can apply for funding to maintain habitat for bobwhites  <i>Plant food plots</i> – in forest openings where native seed is of limited availability as a food source for bobwhites  <i>Plant native grasses and forbs</i> – herbicide sod forming grasses &amp; establish native grasses for nesting and brood cover  <i>Plant shrubs</i> – in larger openings or forest understory where shrub patches or thickets are more than 50 yards apart  <i>Set-back succession</i> – prescribed fire in grasslands and woodlands to encourage forbs and grasses, and decrease woody plants, so more sunlight will create groundcover; disking to provide bare ground for bobwhites; herbicides to kill non-native, invasive plants and control woody growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These practices also benefit coyote cover and their prey, including cottontails and bobwhites – a challenge!              Improving bobwhite habitat = less coyote predation; &amp;              Less coyote predation (food) = less coyotes (we hope)</li> </ul> <p><i>Harvest strategies</i> – recommend increase harvest of coyotes, by allowing trapping and hunting; but decrease harvest of bobwhites until their population increases.</p>	<p><b>4. Plan Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a realistic way to measure whether you meet the objectives in #1, Plan Background?</li> <li>• HINT: The more details you provide about how to measure population changes, the better chance of getting full credit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Which is better?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The team will count the number of bobwhites and coyotes seen at the 4-H Center.</li> <li>• The team will set up 10 point-count locations and record the number of whistling bobwhites heard in the spring, summer, and fall.              Five trail cameras will be set out for 8 weeks in the fall to record the number of coyotes attracted to a scent station.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Format &amp; Drawing (Sketch Map)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the headings #1 - #4 above for each section. Write in complete sentences. Use ecology terms &amp; concepts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sketch Map</b> – a visual shortcut for showing where (and when) you implement management practices in your narrative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw recognizable objects such as a building, pond, opening, or forest in roughly the correct size and spacing to each other. For example, drawing the 4H Center buildings larger than the lake would not represent what is there!</li> <li>• Use a legend with symbols to show objects, such as the letter B written on buildings, and waves to represent the lake.</li> <li>• Use a legend with symbols to show where management practices will occur. For example, PF1, PF2, and PF3 with line boundaries might show when and where a prescribed fire will be rotated in Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3.</li> <li>• Using color pencils is allowed and could help judges with understanding your map.</li> </ul>	