Wildlife Foods & Concepts - Description

Objective
The objective of the Wildlife Foods & Concepts is for contestants to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of wildlife management concepts and terminology, wildlife management practices, and the biology and ecology of wildlife species. An understanding of wildlife species occurring in the announced region includes knowledge of their food habits.

Overview
For the Wildlife Foods & Concepts, contestants need to be able to:
- define and apply wildlife management concepts and terms;
- know food habits and habitat needs of wildlife species in the announced ecoregion;
- describe wildlife management practices (Juniors and Seniors) and their application (Seniors only); and
- describe characteristics of the announced ecoregion (Seniors only).

A portion of the Wildlife Foods & Concepts may include stations where contestants will be presented with a wildlife food specimen, photo, or other visual clue for responding to the question. Optionally, this station may be located outdoors and some questions may be related to various habitat features.

Contest Rules
1. Contestants need to bring pencils and a clipboard for this event.
2. Contestants will complete the scorecard individually, thus no talking is allowed.
3. The question format can be multiple-choice, true/false, matching, or fill-in-the-blank.
4. A portion of the event may include stations with visual items for determining the answer to a question, such as a wildlife food sample, picture or other prop.
5. Contestants will be given 30 minutes to answer questions and record information on a score sheet.

Content Areas
Questions may be taken from any portion of the handbook including Wildlife Concepts and Terms, Wildlife Species Descriptions, Wildlife Management Practices, the Glossary, and Ecoregion descriptions.

Juniors

1. *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. Study materials include Wildlife Concepts and Terms, and the Glossary.

2. *Food habits and habitat needs of wildlife species in the announced ecoregion*. Study the Wildlife Species Descriptions for those 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). Also know the type of habitat they prefer.

   Note: Foods have been placed in categories of food group definitions to facilitate this portion of the contest. For example, a station displaying a tree branch with leaves and flowers is considered a "leaf

and twig," whereas a flower by itself represents "nectar." To indicate which foods are eaten by specific wildlife species, be familiar with the food group definitions.

3. *Wildlife management practices*. Be able to describe a particular management practice and the tools needed to implement the practice.   The section on Wildlife Management Practices has descriptions and photos about each one.

4. *Knowledge and understanding of the ecoregion*.   Study the description for the announced ecoregion. Recognize general characteristics such as the geographic location in the state. In the Wetlands ecoregion, know the different types (stages) of wetlands.

Seniors

Seniors are expected to demonstrate an in-depth *understanding and application* of the knowledge areas described below.

1. *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. Study materials include Wildlife Concepts and Terms, and Glossary.

2. *Food habits and habitat needs of wildlife species in the announced ecoregion*. Study the Wildlife Species Descriptions for those 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). Also know the type of habitat they prefer.

   Note: Foods have been placed in categories of food group definitions to facilitate this portion of the contest. For example, a station displaying a tree branch with leaves and flowers is considered a "leaf and twig," whereas a flower by itself represents "nectar." To indicate which foods are eaten by specific wildlife species, be familiar with the food group definitions.

3. *Wildlife management practices*. Be able to describe a particular management practice and the tools needed to implement the practice. The section on Wildlife Management Practices has descriptions and photos about each one. Additionally, know under what conditions a management practice can be implemented, including the specifics about when and where it can be applied. For example, understand that seed-tree removal as a forest practice is typically used for regenerating pine stands, not hardwood stands.

4. *Knowledge and understanding of the ecoregion*.   Study the description for the announced ecoregion. Be able to describe the features of the announced ecoregion, including geographic location in the state and characteristic plant species.