

Wildlife Management Plan
Field Condition Sheet
April 25, 2014

Mount Magazine Volunteers (MMVs) is a nature group whose members live in nearby communities. MMV members support the state park in conserving the cultural and natural heritage of the area. They wish to designate a special wildlife management area called Settlers Habitat within the park to recognize early settlers and the wildlife that lives on the mountain. Foundations of an old homestead can be found near the picnic area in thick greenbriers and blackberry vines. (Your team can assume the homestead is there – you can ask the station monitor where it is. **Do not** go through the briers to see it.)

MMV proposes developing a trail past the old homestead with various interpretive stops describing native wildlife species and their habitat during settlement. MMV has researched past records of wildlife species during settlement, and asked your team prepare a wildlife management plan which addresses these species.

The MMV members want your plan to address these species:

- Great horned owl. A park interpreter is interested in conducting owl-calling presentations for visitors. The owl presentations will be held at the pavilion. More owls are needed in Settlers Habitat.
- Black bear. There are plenty of black bears on the mountain, and they can be a nuisance, as they were with early settlers.
- Wild turkeys were hunted by early settlers and few of them have been observed in the park. MMV would like more turkeys in Settler's Habitat.
- Hairy woodpecker. Woodpeckers are present and their numbers are ample. MMV do not want fewer hairy woodpeckers, but they aren't interested in seeing more of them, either.
- Red-eyed vireos are pretty little critters and they would like to continue maintaining a population on Settlers Habitat.
- Northern raccoon. Early settlers used raccoon pelts as clothing and income. A survey found raccoons are very abundant in the park. What would your team recommend? Should there be more or fewer raccoons in Settler's Habitat?

Additional Information

- An ice storm occurred earlier this year. Evidence of the ice storm remains in the forest canopy. Consider how the ice storm might affect the species in your plan.
- There is no gun hunting allowed within Mount Magazine State Park including Settlers Habitat, although hunting is allowed in the forest surrounding the park near the base of the mountain. Archery hunting is permitted during the non-camping season in the park, and trapping is allowed with a park permit.

Each team will write a wildlife management plan using the demonstration area called Settlers Habitat outlined on the map (attached). The MMV members will compare these plans to decide which one to present to park officials for consideration.

INSTRUCTIONS: The land area to be judged is outlined on the aerial photo (attached). The northern boundary is the road. Because the southern boundary is down a mountainside, do not attempt to walk the entire area. Because of the ice storm, it is possible that branches or trees may fall. Be cautious of this at all times. Use the map as a source for inaccessible locations near steep inclines, cliffs or thick briers. The property boundary of the demonstration area is the same as described for the Wildlife Practices event. If you have questions about the boundary, ask the station monitor.

- **You have 1 ½ hours to complete this team activity.**
- 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.
- 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 until dismissed.
- Lunch is served at the pavilion. You must stay with other Seniors and eat together as a group in a designated area. No talking to Juniors, adults or any non-contestants, as this could be considered cheating and grounds for dismissal from the contest.

Settlers Habitat Proposed Special Wildlife Management Area Mount Magazine State Park

