

WHEP 2009



Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program

Since our last contest, there have been some changes in the organization of the WHEP program. In the article, you will read about the adjustments we've made to the program and the teaching resources we're providing to help you continue or begin the WHEP program in your area.

WHEP joins with Envirothon

In the past year, the organizers of Utah WHEP and Utah Envirothon have met and discussed joining these two youth education programs. There is so much overlap between the two programs, that we felt that rather than force students to choose between the programs, they could actually do both. The partnership makes economical and time-management sense. Coordinating the two program contests required a bit of teasing on the current WHEP program. Here is what has changed:



The Wildlife Management Plan

In the past, and currently at the National contest, Utah WHEP participants created a management plan on-site, during the course of 2 hours. This year, the management scenario will be provided to WHEP participants 1 ahead of the contest, with the

Envirothon materials. The scoring and content requirements have not changed. WHEP participants will bring their management plan to the contest and will turn it in during registration.

The Oral Presentation

In the past, and currently at the National contest, Utah WHEP participants participated in a question-answer session with judges. On an individual level, students would enter a room and interact with judges about the management plan that they constructed.



This year, the team will participate in an oral presentation of their management plan, according to Envirothon rules. Using the scenario provided to them for the Wildlife Management Plan, participants will create a presentation as a group. The specifics of the oral presentation can be found on the Utah Envirothon website.

The Wildlife Management Practices and Wildlife Principles Quiz

These portions of the contest have not changed. After students register, and the WHEP contest begins, students will be required to complete the Wildlife Management Practices portion of the contest, lasting approximately 1 hour. Next, students will participate in a 50 question quiz regarding wildlife ID in their region of study and the principles of wildlife management, also lasting 1 hour.



Timeline for the Contest

To outline the new contest format, I have provided an abbreviated version of the agenda. As you will see, WHEP will

be held a few hours before the Envirothon contest begins. Then, participants will participate in a the oral presentations on Friday, concurrent with the Envirothon. As you see, we will complete all the components of the WHEP contest on Friday. Those participants interested in competing in Envirothon will continue on Saturday morning.

New WHEP Training Materials

This past year, we have been working to create a training manual that will assist volunteers leaders in training WHEP participants. Similarly, Envirothon participants will find this training manual a valuable tool as well. The training manual is organized around the 14 Habitat Management Principles, and provides a more in-depth explanation of these principles as well as Project WILD activities designed to train participants in these concepts. These principles, while titled differently, overlap with the Envirothon training sections. To obtain a training manual, please contact Dr. Nicki Frey at nicki.frey@usu.edu.

Additionally, Dr. Frey can coordinate a training session with you. By contacting her, you can

organize a time and place where you and your region’s new teams and volunteer leaders can participate in a workshop to explain the content and steps of the WHEP contest.

Date/Time	Event
Friday April 24th	
1:00 - 1:30	Arrive at WHEP contest site and check in; turn in Wildlife Management Plan
1:30 - 2:30	Wildlife Management Practices
2:30 - 3:30	Wildlife ID and Quiz
4:00	Register with Envirothon as WHEP participant
4:30	Welcome and Orientation for Envirothon
5:00 - 7:15	Judging the Oral Presentation
5:45 - 7:15	Dinner
7:45	Guest Speakers / Announce Winners of WHEP
8:30	Closing
Saturday April 25th	
8:00 am	Welcome and Beginning of Second Day of Envirothon
3:30 pm	Awards Ceremony and Closing Remarks for Envirothon

Information for Either Program can be found at:

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program:

www.whep.org

www.utah4-h.org/htm/featured-programs

Envirothon:

www.envirothon.org

www.utahenvirothon.org