



4-H FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Developed by **James Griffin**, Extension Agent, Union County

Beginning



Life Skill
Responsibility

Your 4-H Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries

As 4-H members, it is our responsibility to take care of the land, including the soil, water resources and plants. All of these resources are important in providing habitat for wildlife. By managing habitat, we are able to sustain healthy wildlife populations. This 4-H project will help you understand what wildlife, fish and forests need to remain healthy so we can enjoy them. Some of the skills you can learn and activities you can do are listed below. Check your favorites. Then, work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make a 4-H project plan for what you want to do and learn this year.

- Learn principles of habitat management
- Learn types of wildlife foods
- Learn different types of aquatic animals
- Learn how to plant food plots for wildlife
- Learn about managing fish
- Learn forest management
- Learn how to manage your backyard for wildlife
- Learn conservation practices for wildlife
- Learn how to determine the gender and age of wildlife
- Learn forest, wildlife and fishery terms
- Other



Mammals

Check your focus areas:

- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Forestry



Forest

Visit a Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

Talk with the wildlife management area manager. Ask him or her to tell you about practices used in the area. Report on what you see and did on your visit. List what wildlife and plants you encountered on your trip.

Collect fruits and berries

Go out into the field or woods with an adult and see how many things you can find that wildlife might eat. Make a list of everything you find. List as many wildlife species as you can think of that would eat what you found. Explore the Internet and check with your 4-H agent to see if you were correct.

For a listing of Wildlife Management Areas in your region visit <http://www.state.tn.us/twra/>



Birds



Fish

Habitat Comparison

Habitat is **an area** that provides all the cover, food and water resources with sufficient space for a particular wildlife species. Each wildlife species has different habitat requirements.

Different wildlife species use different vegetation types, such as mature hardwoods, young thickets, fields or wetlands. Look around. See how many vegetation types you can identify. Think about what wildlife species might use those vegetation types. Don't just consider WMAs; your backyard may also provide habitat for some species. Compare the species that use different vegetation types and write a report on the differences and similarities. Provide reasons for differences among vegetation types.



Wildlife habitat is all around us.

4-H FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES ACTIVITY PAGE

Elements of FWF

- ◆ **Fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals** make up the five groups of animals studied in this project.
- ◆ **Population** is the number of the same species in an area
- ◆ The basic needs of wildlife are **food, water, cover or shelter**, and **space**, which are all needed for a habitat.
- ◆ The amount of these needs cause it to be a good or bad habitat.
- ◆ Wildlife and fish managers improve habitat by creating more basic needs for wildlife.
- ◆ Building brush piles and planting food plots are **management techniques** that are used.
- ◆ Winter months are the toughest on wildlife due to less food and water.
- ◆ Wildlife and fish managers try to find a balance between wildlife and their basic needs.
- ◆ **Hunting** allows the excess number of wildlife to be controlled, with the remaining wildlife living healthier lives.



Service Ideas

- Make a bird box or feeder.
- Establish a food plot
- Make a poster or exhibit to share ideas with others.

Additional Resources

Living responsibly is an important part of the forestry, wildlife and fisheries project. This activity sheet has given you the opportunity to explore things to think about as you make decisions in this area. You've planted a food plot, visited a wildlife management area and learned lots of other cool things. But this is just the beginning! Use the resources listed below to continue learning about forestry, wildlife and fisheries.

- School & public libraries
- People who know about wildlife, fish and forest management
- 4-H project groups
- The 4-H Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries web page:

<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/fw&f.htm>

Career Scavenger Hunt

By asking others, researching on the Internet, or reading a book or magazine—search for a job that uses forestry, wildlife and fisheries skills and knowledge. Here's what you are looking for.

1. Job Title _____
2. Job Description _____

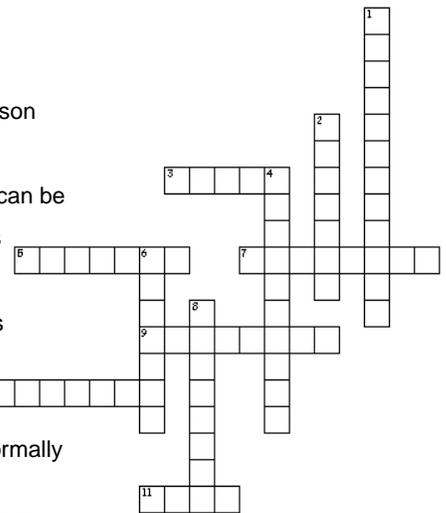
3. Education Required _____

Across

3. provide protection to animals
5. animals killed during hunting season
7. way an animal acts
9. capacity number of animals that can be supported during unfavorable years
10. wild animals with a backbone
11. animals with feathers and wings

Down

1. wise use of natural resources
2. area where an animal or plant normally lives
4. large lakes made by dams on rivers
6. a distinct kind of animal or plant
8. animal that feeds on other animal life



Don't forget to submit your project report to your 4-H leader.

Other 4-H Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Activities

- 4-H F.A.C.E. Program
- 4-H Wildlife Judging
- 4-H Demonstrations
- 4-H Academic Conference
- 4-H Forestry Judging

For more ideas, contact your 4-H office.

Reviewed by Craig Harper, Professor, and members of the state 4-H Youth Development staff
Edited by Lori Jean Mantooth, Extension Assistant, and Wanda Russell, Publications Editor