

## Changes in the NC WHEP State Program

In 2008, the National WHEP program changed the format of the National Invitational and revised the manual. The NC WHEP State program and contest have also undergone some revisions to better reflect and match the National materials.

I have done my best to summarize the changes made to the NC WHEP program and materials. I have probably left some smaller items out, but these are the big and major changes. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the NC WHEP and Learning Guide can be downloaded from [www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/4hprogramming.htm](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/4hprogramming.htm). In addition, a CD-ROM is available on a limited basis.

Questions can be directed to the state WHEP program leader, Renee Strnad, at [renee\\_strnad@ncsu.edu](mailto:renee_strnad@ncsu.edu) or 919-515-5518.

- State contest activities have been rearranged to better follow the National WHEP Invitational.
  - Activity I: Wildlife Identification and General Wildlife Knowledge
  - Activity II: Identifying Wildlife Foods (only at the state level)
  - Activity III: Interpreting Aerial Photos (only at the state level)
  - Activity IV: On-site Wildlife Management Practices
  
- Activity I
  - Selected wildlife species for identification are the same except for the addition of black bear and the removal of spotted bass.
  - Activity is now two parts, with the addition of the *General Wildlife Knowledge* questions. See the NC WHEP Learning and Activity Guide for description.
  - Total activity is worth 20 points.
  
- Activity II and III have not changed at the state level. However, these are no longer stand-alone events at the National WHEP Invitational. Activity II (Identifying Wildlife Foods) is now worth 20 points.

- Activity IV
  - Has gone from 31 WMPs to 23
  - Many were combined
    - Manipulation of Succession (new) includes brush chopping, mowing, prescribe fire, disking, and livestock grazing management.
    - Forest Management Techniques (new) includes timber harvest: clear-cut and timber harvest: selection cut. This is also still being corrected in the national manual from *timber* management techniques to *forest* management techniques. If looking in the National Manual, you will see it both ways. I have tried to correct it throughout the NC WHEP Learning and Activity Guide.
    - Many of the Pond WMPs have been combined as well.
  - Removed WMPs include artificial feeders, brush piles, liming ponds and fields, and grain/hay harvest.
  - Added WMPs include Grain (leave unharvested), harvest timing of crops, tillage management, and wildlife damage management.
  - Other small changes:
    - Plant Grasses and Forbs *now* Establish Native Grasses and Forbs
    - Nesting Boxes/Structures/Platforms *now* Nesting Structures
    - Plant Trees and Shrubs has been separated into two separate WMPs
  
- Species included in the NC WHEP State Contest
  - Removed: American Robin, Broad-winged Hawk, Hummingbirds, Red-tailed Hawk, Butterflies, and Frogs.
  - Added: Black Bear, Eastern Box Turtle, Bass and Bluegill separated.
  - Went from 26 species (old) to 23 (new) to align more with national contest