

Influences of the Wildlife Habitat Education Contest on Youth Motivation and Future Plans

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Final Examination Presentation

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Indiana 4-H Natural Resource Project Volunteer Blog

Background

- ❖ Natural Resource Club Kits
- ❖ 4-H Science Volunteer Training Workshops
- ❖ Purpose: Explain how blog tool could influence the motivation and knowledge of Indiana 4-H Volunteers in Natural Resource 4-H projects.
 - ❖ 1. Create Community
 - ❖ 2. Provide Additional Support
- ❖ Weekly Posts
- ❖ Blog-Use Directions Postcard

Indiana 4-H Natural Resource Club Blog


[BLOG POSTS](#)[ABOUT](#)



[← Preserve a Snowflake before It's Too Late!](#)[March Muddiness! →](#)

Dragons of the Air and Water!

Posted on [March 6, 2015](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



(Black Saddlebags Dragonfly at Prophetstown State Park, Indiana, Fall 2014)

One of the main goals as we teach youth about natural resources is to connect them to the outdoors by getting them outside! I find that dragonflies are a great way to accomplish this connection both on land and in the water. Below are some dragonfly ideas that you can apply to both the Entomology and Soil and Water 4-H curriculum in your Natural Resource Club Kit

1. Activity 4: Big Mouth Bugs – Entomology

A dragonfly's mouth is a complex hodgepodge of structures that you would not want to encounter in a dark alley. Dragonflies, like butterflies, go through

SEARCH IT!

RECENT ENTRIES

- Froggie Went a Courtin'
- Trash Bubbles and Watersheds?
- Calling all Entomology Enthusiasts!
- Geology Rocks!
- March Muddiness!
- Dragons of the Air and Water!
- Preserve a Snowflake before It's Too Late!
- Tree Cookies!
- Soil and Water Science – Hot Off the Press!
- Six More Weeks of Winter!

LINKS

- [Discover New Voices](#)
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www.indiana4hnrclub.wordpress.com

Instrument & Results

- ❖ Qualtrics Survey Instrument
- ❖ Survey Response Rate was Low (12%)
- ❖ Reasons Volunteers Did Not Use Blog
 - ❖ No Time
 - ❖ Unfamiliarity with Blogs
- ❖ Volunteers reported that their fellow leaders were excellent at helping them succeed.



Recommendations

- ❖ Try Blog Project in Future
 - ❖ Provide Training on How to Use a Blog
 - ❖ Younger 4-H Volunteer Audiences
 - ❖ Longitudinal Case Studies
 - ❖ Link Blog to Other Social Media



2015 Wildlife Habitat
Education Program
(WHEP)
Evaluation Project

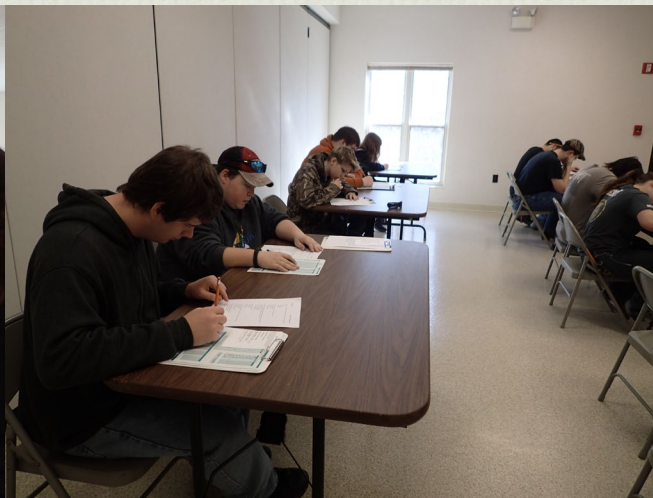
WHEP Contest

- ❖ Goal: Increase Youth Understanding of Wildlife Ecology and Management Practices
- ❖ 2015 WHEP Contest
 - ❖ Wildlife Challenge and Exam
 - ❖ Wildlife Management Practices

Challenges ID



Exam



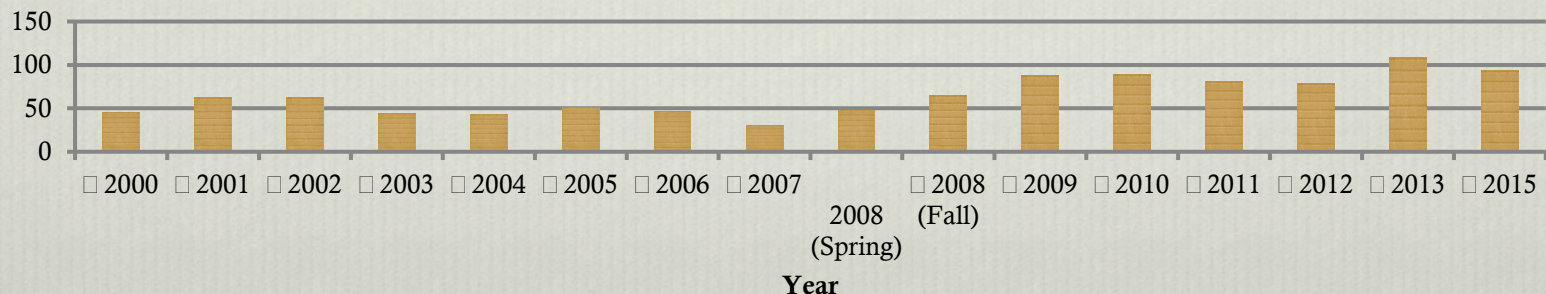
Wildlife Practices



Study Purpose

- ❖ Youth Motivation to Participate in WHEP
- ❖ WHEP Influence on Youth Knowledge and Future Plans
- ❖ Questions:
 - ❖ What motivates youth to participate in the WHEP CDE?
 - ❖ Does the WHEP CDE influence participant knowledge of wildlife?
 - ❖ Does the WHEP CDE influence participant future career choice?
- ❖ Compare 2015 Data to Previous Evaluations

Indiana WHEP Participants



Instrument

- ❖ State WHEP contest participants were surveyed in the years of 2001, 2006, and 2008.
 - ❖ This survey instrument was revised for use in the 2015 evaluation.
- ❖ Major Differences is that the 2015 Survey:
 - ❖ DID NOT ask about the community size of the participant.
 - ❖ DID NOT ask for specific number of acres affected by youth implemented wildlife management practices.
 - ❖ DID ask for participant to self report amount of knowledge before and after the WHEP CDE.
 - ❖ Did ask, “Why did you decide to participate in the WHEP CDE?”
 - ❖ In general had more open answer questions.
 - ❖ Grouped Questions on youth future plans into one question.

Regional Contests

April 11, 2015

❖ Survey Administrators:

- ❖ Marie Laudeman (North) Salamonie Interpretive Center
- ❖ Dr. Natalie Carroll (Central) Fort Harrison State Park
- ❖ Rod Chapman (South) Purdue SEPAC

❖ Poster



Evaluation of the Indiana 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program

Marie K. Laudeman and Dr. Natalie J. Carroll;
Department of Youth Development and
Agricultural Education, Purdue University



Attention WHEP CDE Participants:

Please help us evaluate the WHEP CDE by completing our survey. Please leave the survey in the envelope marked "WHEP Surveys." Your answers will help us understand the value of this CDE. Thank-you for your time!



Indiana DNR District Wildlife Biologist, Dean Zimmerman, introduces the wildlife management plan exam at the 2012 Indiana State WHEP Contest.



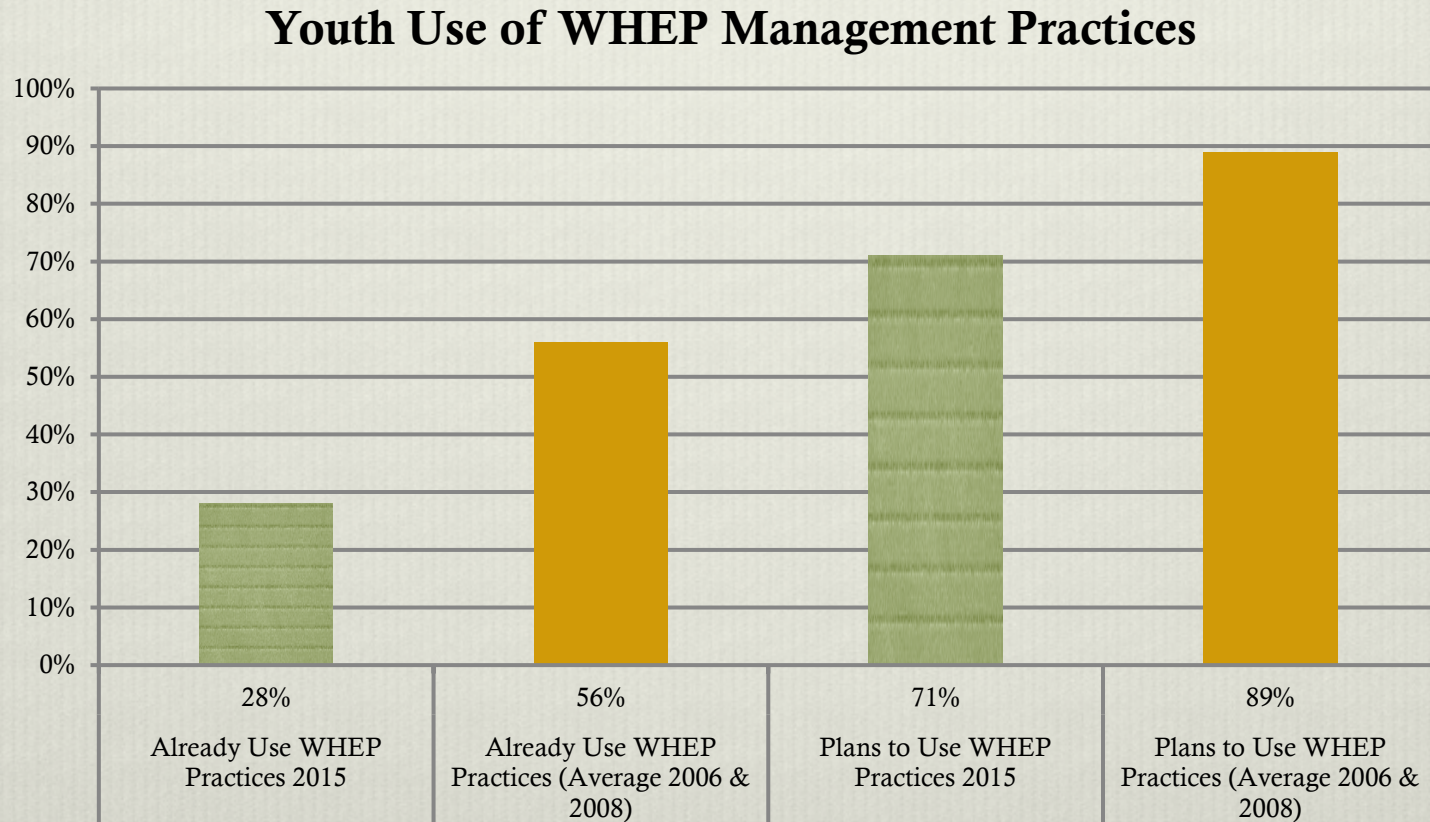
Sample

- ❖ 93 High School Students
- ❖ Response Rate of 94% (87/93 Youth)



Results

- ❖ Compared results to survey question similar to the 2006 and 2008 survey.

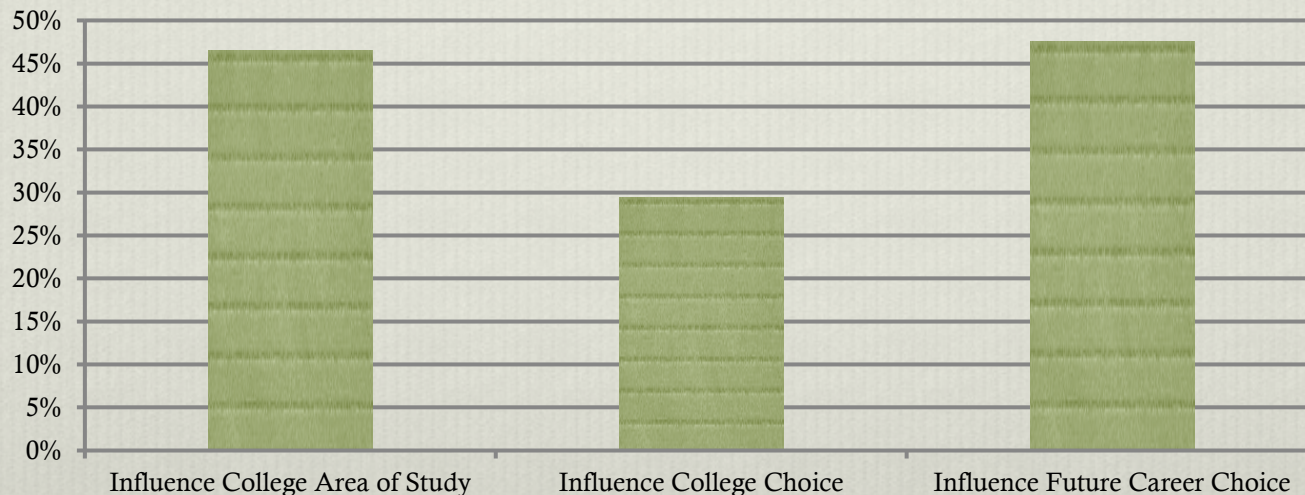


Results Cont.

- ❖ Does the WHEP CDE influence participant future career choice?
 - ❖ College Area of Study (47% Positive)
 - ❖ College or University Choice (29% Positive)
 - ❖ Future Career Choice (48% Positive)



Whether WHEP Influences Youth Future Career/College Choices



Results Cont.

- ❖ What motivates youth to participate in the WHEP CDE?
- ❖ Using Descriptive Coding the following Themes were Found:
 - ❖ Interest (20%)
 - ❖ Fun and Enjoyment (16%)
 - ❖ An Interest in Wildlife and the Outdoors (12%)
 - ❖ Future Careers and Education (28%)
 - ❖ Peers, Mentors, or Class (12%)

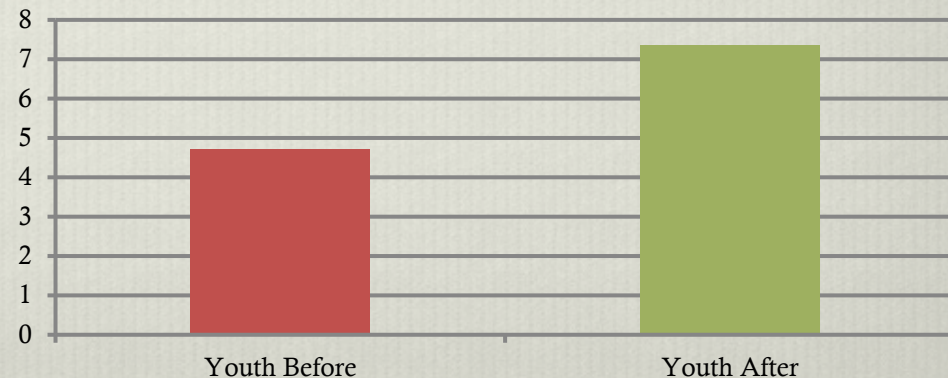


Results Cont.

- ❖ Does the WHEP CDE influence participant knowledge of wildlife?
- ❖ Youth Self Reported
- ❖ 10 Point Scale (1-low to 10-high)
- ❖ Average Knowledge Before = 4.7
- ❖ Average Knowledge After = 7.3



Level of Knowledge Perceived by Youth and Coaches Before and After WHEP



Recommendations

- ❖ Observations of Interaction with Natural Resource Professionals
- ❖ Look at Other Programs
- ❖ Collaborate with Indiana State DNR Park Naturalists
- ❖ More Education Opportunities for Teachers





Questions?

Thank-you!