

## Western National Rangeland CDE

### Contest Rules

1. Each team must be "certified" to represent its state by your state coordinator.
2. Each team member shall have been enrolled in a regular class in Agricultural Science and Technology in the school each is representing during the current school year.
3. Participation in the stocking rate and current rangeland issue, field assessment, and dinner and awards presentation portions of the contest is required.
4. Notes, bulletins, etc., must not be used in the contest. Clean clipboards, preferable clear plastic, are allowed.
5. No electronic devices except for non-programmable calculators may be used. Cell phones need to be turn off or turned in to the team coach.
6. Contest results submitted to contest officials by the tabulation committee are final unless obvious errors are noted before results are tabulated.
7. Tie scores will be broken by the total score of all four team members. The second tie breaker and individual tie breaker will be the plant ID score.
8. Four contestants comprise a team. The three highest scores determine the team score. A team of three members will be permitted to enter. If less than three members from a club or chapter are present, they may enter as individual contestants. One alternate per team is allowed to participate (unless permitted by contest supervisor), but their score is not included in the official scoring.
9. Members of a team winning first place in any previous Western National Rangeland CDE will not be eligible to participate in any further Western National rangeland judging contests.
10. The top 5 FFA teams from participating states, including Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Washington, will be invited to compete. Additional teams from other western states will be invited for a maximum of 40 teams entered.
11. Official dress will be required for the awards banquet. For field portions of the CDE, weather and terrain appropriate clothing is encouraged.

## Event Scoring

### Part 1. Stocking Rate and Management/Current Rangeland Issue (130 points)

- A. Stocking Rate and Management Recommendations—90 points
  - a. Supply of Usable Forage – 30 points
  - b. Forage Demand – 30 points
  - c. Determination of Appropriate Stocking Rate – 10 points
  - d. Management Activities that Apply to Site – 20 points
- B. Current Rangeland Issue—40 points
  - a. Multiple Choice—20 points
  - b. Current Rangeland Issue Scenario—20 points

### Part 2. Plant Identification (150 points)

- A. Plant Identification (15 plants) – 150 points
  - a. Common name – 5 points
  - b. Growth form, life span, origin, and grazer/browser forage values each worth 1 point. Note: for toxic plants, they must be correctly labeled as toxic to receive full points. If toxicity is not noted, then one point is deducted. If a plant is not-toxic, but toxic category is selected, then one point is deducted.

### Part 3. Site Description (85 points)

- A. Precipitation Zone – 5 points
- B. Soil Depth & Rockiness – 10 points
- C. Soil Texture – 10 points
  - a. 5 points if soil texture is adjacent to correct soil texture on soil triangle
- D. Slope – 10 points
- E. Aspects – 10 points
- F. Biomass Estimate—40 points
  - a. Herbaceous – 20 points
  - b. Current Season Browse – 20 points

### Part 4. Rangeland Assessment (95 points)

- A. Similarity to Desired State – 40 points
  - a. Average Observed Composition – 28 points
    - i. If within  $\pm 5\%$  of actual – 7 points each (4 categories)
    - ii. If within  $\pm 10\%$  of actual – 3 points each (4 categories)
  - b. % Counted Toward Similarity – 12 points
    - i. Growth form with correct composition category counted toward similarity – 3 points each
- B. Browse Age Diversity – 40 points
  - a. If within  $\pm 5\%$  of actual – 10 points each (4 categories)
- C. Browse and Ecosystem Change – 5 points
- D. Identify state or phase in simplified State and Transition Model—10 points

### Part 5. Rangeland Ecosystem Measurements (70 points)

- A. Landscape Appearance Utilization Estimate – 35 points

- a. Correct Calculation Process – 20 points
- b. Appropriate Estimate – 15 points
  - i. If within  $\pm 5\%$  of actual – 15 points
  - ii. If within  $\pm 10\%$  of actual – 10 points
- B. Shrub Cover Estimates—35 points
  - a. Correct Calculation Process—20 points
  - b. Appropriate Estimate—15 points
    - i. If within  $\pm 5\%$  of actual—15 points
    - ii. If within  $\pm 10\%$  of actual—10 points

### Summary of Scoring

Part 1 – Stocking Rate and Management/Current Rangeland Issue	130 points
Part 2 – Plant Identification	150 points
Part 3 – Site Description	85 points
Part 4 – Rangeland Assessment	95 points
Part 5 – Rangeland Ecosystem Measurements	70 points
Total Individual points	530 points
Total points toward team score (Total Possible Points)	1,590 points

#### Awards:

Awards are presented to teams and individuals based upon their rankings. The top 10 teams and individuals will be recognized. Teams from 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive plaques. Individuals from 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place will receive plaques and the highest scoring individual will be awarded the “Top Hand Award”, a commemorative custom belt buckle. Top teams and individuals in Plant Identification, Rangeland Assessment, and Grazing Management (Stocking Rate and Management) will also receive a framed certificate.

*Reference: A study manual for the Western National Rangeland CDE and a companion high school curriculum have been developed by Dr. Karen Launchbaugh, Professor and Rangeland Center Director, and Lovina Englund, former Outreach Coordinator, at the University of Idaho. Materials posted at <http://wnrcde.wordpress.com>.*

#### Contact Event Overseer:

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