

News from the Watershed

What's your fish and wildlife habitat IQ?

We are fortunate in Florida to live in a state that has such a diversity of fish and wildlife. Knowledge of the basics of the plants and animals that surround us is important. In order to conserve and protect our precious resources we need to have some knowledge about them and know what it takes to protect them. How about you, do you have a good basic understanding of what fish and wildlife need to survive? You probably do if you can answer the questions below correctly.

Choose only one answer for each.

1. Everything you do on your land affects wildlife.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. What are the basic needs of wildlife? (choose best answer)
 - a. Food, water, cover and space
 - b. Food, water, and shelter
 - c. Food, water, and a place to raise young
 - d. Food, water, and winter cover

3. Which habitat statement below is most nearly correct?
 - a. What is good for one species of wildlife is good for all others as well.
 - b. Individual species have specific habitat needs.
 - c. Habitat you create for one species will be wrong for all others.

4. A soft, gradual transition from crop field to other habitat is better for more species than an abrupt change.
 - a. True b. False

5. Rotational grazing helps birds as well as cows.
 - a. True b. False

6. The best conservation practices for fish and wildlife habitat include:
 - a. restored wetlands, streamside buffers and ponds
 - b. windbreaks, diverse grass plantings, and clean water
 - c. connecting corridors, and managed timber and grassland
 - d. All of the above

7. Which is not a good general rule for habitat plantings?
 - a. Prefer natives over exotics
 - b. Use a variety of plants
 - c. Create habitat away from water
 - d. Use plants that offer food and cover for wildlife.

8. You may benefit grassland birds by discing old grass.
 - a. True b. False

We care about our environment. Each of us can educate ourselves and be pro-active with regard to protecting our natural resources. Whether we reside in a residential neighborhood or are

making a living through agriculture, we can all be a part of conserving our precious resources.

We need to keep in mind that productive use of privately owned cropland, rangeland, pastureland and forestland is essential to the Nation's security and the health and well-being of its citizens. They form the foundation of a substantial and vibrant agricultural economy that provides food, fiber, forest products, and energy for our Nation. These lands can also produce environmental benefits that people need- clean and abundant water, clean air, and healthy ecosystems. Two-thirds of the Nation is in agricultural and forest use and the management of these lands affects the quality of the environment for everyone. (NRCS, *Productive Lands Healthy Environment*)

As a landowner, no matter how small or large your parcel is, you can be a good land steward. By providing habitat, clean water, shelter and a food source, you are contributing to the protection of our natural resources. Find out more about what you can do. For more information on wildlife habitat, check the web at <http://www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov/animals.html> or stop by our office at 4505 George Blvd.; or you can visit our website at www.highlandsswcd.org.

Can an owl really turn it's head completely around?

No. It's actually a three quarter turn quickly, giving the appearance of a full turn.

Did you know....

The original name for the butterfly was "flutterby". Many spiders have eight eyes. Pigeon,s eyes are located laterally on their heads, so they can view 340 degrees. A falcon can see a four inch object from nearly a mile away.

Answers: 1.a; 2.a; 3.b; 4.a; 5.a; 6.d; 7.c; 8.a