

# 2005 ENVIROTHON ORAL TOPIC

## Managing Cultural Landscapes

### The Team Oral Competition:

The oral presentation segment contains twice as many points as the individual testing stations. Maps and other visuals shall be no larger than 22" x 28" on poster or tag board or equivalent material. There is no access to electronic media. All five members of the team must verbally participate in the oral presentation. Your team will have ten minutes to present your Managing Cultural Landscapes plan.

You may cite outside reference materials and sources. The score sheet to be used by the judges is attached.

### *Managing Cultural Landscapes*

*Protected landscapes and cultural landscapes share much common ground: both are focused on landscapes where human relationships with the natural environment over time define their essential character. In protected landscapes, the natural environment, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem integrity have been the primary emphases. In contrast, the emphasis in cultural landscapes had been on human history, continuity of cultural traditions, and social values and aspirations. Yet in spite of the long dichotomous tradition, recent experience has demonstrated that in many landscapes the natural and cultural heritage are inextricably bound together and that the conservation approach could benefit from more integration.*

For the purpose of this exercise, here is the definition of a cultural landscape:

A cultural landscape is a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife and domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

### Your project:

You are a team working for an environmental consulting service and you have just been awarded a contract to develop an educational outreach plan for the purpose of raising funds for the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. This Reserve is a new acquisition and even though governmental appropriated funds are being used to help develop the reserve, there still is much work to be done to assure that this area maintains its unique landscape. The Board that manages the Reserve is committed to conserving and promoting effective resource management and making this reserve a jewel of Wisconsin cultural and natural resources. Your fund raising activities center on educational presentations to interested groups explaining the unique cultural and natural landscapes that make the Kickapoo Valley Reserve an asset to our economy and enhances our natural resource base. The intent for the Reserve is low-impact tourism and education. In order to gain public approval and for your campaign to be successful, you may consider including the following elements:

- Vision and goal
- Current Use–proposed development
- Public Issues–resource management
- Environmental Setting
  - Vegetation, Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, Water Quality, Aquatic Resources
- Archeological resources
- Historical resources
- Federal, state or local preservation programs
- Outreach efforts
- Methods of fundraising
- Summary and recommendations

Consider the following:

- Why the Kickapoo Valley Reserve is considered a cultural landscape?
- Are there any threats to this cultural landscape?
- What attributes make the park significant?
- Would you propose any significant changes to the landscape? Why or why not?
- What marketing tools would you use to help package the key elements of the cultural landscape into your plan (would you establish historic gateways, events, signage etc.)?
- How do the history of the area and the importance of preserving archeological sites contribute to our understanding the significance of this landscape?
- Would you involve members of the community in your project? What type of outreach activities would you conduct?
- How would you manage the influx of new visitors to the area because of the new outreach efforts? How would you mitigate any impact to the natural resources in the area?

Information on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve is available online.