



**Wildlife in Focus Photo Contest**  
**711 N. Carancahua, Suite 120**  
**Corpus Christi, TX 78401-0120**

# 2021 WILDLIFE IN FOCUS PHOTO CONTEST

## GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS

The mission of **Wildlife in Focus (WIF)**, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, is to create an atmosphere of cooperation among private landowners and wildlife photographers, where all participants benefit while promoting the conservation and protection of wildlife and habitat. This unique collaboration creates a platform for awareness of the need for conservation and protection of the wildlife and habitat in Texas. Funding is through sponsorships, book sales and grants by individuals, foundations, and businesses with like-minded attitudes toward education and conservation.

By entering this Contest, entrants agree to be bound by these Contest Rules. Entrants further agree to be bound by the decisions of the judges, which shall be final and binding in all respects. WIF reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any entrant it finds to be:

- a) Tampering or attempting to tamper with the entry process or the operation of the Contest;
- b) Violating the Contest Rules;
- c) Acting in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass any other person.

The WIF Rules Committee (Rules Committee) decides all questions of rules interpretation and enforcement. Complaints concerning any alleged rules violations must be submitted to the Rules Committee **in writing**. The Rules Committee may investigate complaints, and all decisions made by the Rules Committee and the WIF Board of Directors are final.

Violation of any of these rules or federal, state or local laws by any Photographer or Landowner will result in disqualification and forfeiture of Registration Fees and all prize money. A second disqualification in a subsequent contest will result in permanent ineligibility of that Photographer or Landowner. The Rules Committee will resolve all complaints, disputes and any questions. All decisions of the Rules Committee and the WIF Board of Directors are final. WIF reserves the right to audit and verify the location of any winning photograph. If a violation is discovered after the completion of the contest, any prize money received shall be returned to WIF. If the prize money is not returned, WIF shall have the option of legal action to enforce compliance. Photographers and Landowners will be notified of disqualified or rejected photos to prevent repeating the same violations in future contests and to be sure there are no misunderstandings about the photo in question.

By entering the Contest, entrant:

- a) releases and holds harmless WIF and its sponsors, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, directors, officers, suppliers and agents from any and all liability for any injuries, loss or damage of any kind to persons, including death, or property damage, resulting in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from acceptance, possession, use or misuse of any prize, participation in this Contest, or participating in any prize-related activity; and
- b) agrees to forthwith defend, fully indemnify, and hold completely harmless WIF and its sponsors, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, directors, officers, suppliers, and agents from any and all claims by third parties without limitation.

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## **THE CONTEST**

The Wildlife in Focus Photo Contest is based on the concept of pairing a photographer with a private landowner to form a **Team**. Prize winnings will be split equally between the photographer and the landowner. The photographer(s) must shoot exclusively on the landowner's property as registered and specified in the "Landowner Registration Form".

### **A1) WHO MAY ENTER (PHOTOGRAPHERS)**

Any professional or amateur photographer of any age may enter the contest if they have submitted a completed registration form to WIF and have paid in full the applicable Registration Fee on or before January 4, 2021.

### **A2) WHO MAY ENTER (LANDOWNERS)**

Any landowner within the participating counties as depicted in (**ATTACHMENT I**) may enter if they have submitted a completed registration form to WIF and have paid in full the applicable Registration Fee on or before January 4, 2021. The completed registration form must specify (by name or description) the tracts/portions of the landowner's property that will be entered in the contest. This will be known as the "Registered Land". All photographs entered by the Team must be taken from this "Registered Land".

It is the sole responsibility of the Landowner member of any Partnership to establish guidelines for use and access to land. Landowners may require Photographers to sign a Release of Liability Form (**ATTACHMENT G**) and show proof of personal liability insurance before allowing access to land. Any complaint concerning a team member's conduct during the Contest Period should first be discussed between the members of the Team. If the complaint is not resolved among the Team members, then the complaint may be brought to the attention of the Rules Committee. Should the Rules Committee find that a violation of the contest rules has occurred; the penalty for said violation shall be left to the discretion of the Rules Committee and WIF Board of Directors.

### **A3) PARTNERSHIP FORMATION**

Many photographers have a particular landowner in mind to partner with, but if requested, WIF will aid in matching Photographers with Landowners. It will, however, be the responsibility of the participants to make their own contacts and arrangements once the assistance has been provided.

### **A4) REGISTRATION FEES**

#### a) PHOTOGRAPHERS:

- (1) \$300 per photographer with a limit of 20 or less category entries for a maximum total of 60 submissions (3 per category);
- (2) \$500 per photographer with no limit on categories, and max of 100 total submissions (3 per category);
- (3) \$600 per two person "Photographer Team" with a limit of 20 or less category entries for a maximum total of 60 submissions (3 per category)
- (4) \$800 per two-person "Photographer Team" with no limit on categories and a limit of 100 total submissions (3 per category)

Both photographers' names must be listed on the entry forms. (1) (2) (3) and (4) are limited to a maximum of 3 images per entered category. References to "Photographer" mean a single or a two-person Photographer Team. WIF should be notified in writing of any Photographer Team on or before January 4, 2021. Non-photographic assistance is allowed at no additional expense.

b) LANDOWNERS: \$300 per entry of less than 1000 acres, \$600 per entry of 1000 or more acres, \$700 per Landowner Team (no more than two landowners with at least one landowner having less than 1,000 acres). WIF should be notified in writing of any Landowner Team on or before January 4, 2021.

### **A5) REFUNDS**

All entries and entry fees are final and non-refundable.

### **A6) REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

The registration deadline for all Photographers and Landowners is January 4, 2021. The Registration Form with Registration Fee must be received by WIF before 5:00 p.m. on the said date above. WIF reserves the right to extend or deny any fees or forms after this time.

**Note:** For questions regarding additional photographers, landowner agreements and costs, contact the WIF office.

## **B) SHOOTING PHOTOGRAPHS**

### **B1) SHOOTING PERIOD**

Shooting begins Friday, January 8, 2021 at 12:01 AM and ends Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 11:59 PM. Shooting will be limited to the times between these dates. All entries must consist of images taken by the Photographers on Registered Land owned by their Landowner(s) during the above-mentioned contest period.

### **B2) SETTING CORRECT TIME AND DATE**

Prior to shooting your first photo, verify that your camera is set to the correct date and time.

### **B3) PHOTO FORMATS – CAREFULLY READ THIS SECTION**

For the purpose of this section and those that follow in these rules, “RAW” shall refer to RAW images captured as the generally native digital file for varying brands of cameras (Example: Nikon = NEF, Canon = CRW or CR2, etc.) and to DNG files captured by drone mounted cameras. If you have questions regarding photo formats, please contact the Wildlife in Focus office.

Photographers are required to shoot in RAW format/mode. A RAW file contains data that has not been compressed, encrypted or processed in any manner. The RAW files are used by the judges to ensure integrity of the contest. As will be discussed in D) SUBMITTING PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE CONTEST, each image entered will have a RAW file, a TIFF and a JPG. The TIFF is generated from the RAW file and the JPG is generated from the TIFF.

### **B4) ALLOWABLE CAMERAS**

Photographers may use any digital camera capable of photographing in RAW format, with a minimum of twelve (12) megapixel resolution. Mirrorless, Point and Shoot, etc. are allowed if they can, and are set, to shoot in RAW format.

### **B5) OTHER SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT**

The use of automatic exposure devices, such as attended triggers (photo traps), game cameras, lightning triggers, drones and laser beam devices, are allowed so long as the entries do not violate any of the ethical statements mentioned below in B7 ETHICS”.

### **B6) DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES**

These Categories do not necessarily represent biological classifications; instead, they are a balance of biological and geographical appearances in the contest counties. See **ATTACHMENT B** for a list of the Division and Categories. A maximum of 3 images can be entered per a category (with total limits defined in A4 (Registration Fees). Note: This list is subject to change, so be sure you have the latest list before the contest begins by contacting the WIF office or website at [Wildlifeinfofocus.org](http://Wildlifeinfofocus.org).

### **B7) ETHICS**

The first priority of the contest is conservation of wildlife and its critical habitat. Contestants must minimize disturbance of wildlife and habitat. Welfare of the subject is the foremost consideration. No photographs of tame or caged animals will be allowed. No animal may be trapped, restrained, or controlled using methods that could potentially injure or cause undue stress. Reptile, amphibian, insect, and arachnid subjects may be carefully restrained, however, these subjects may not be left unattended, confined, or placed in an environment that results in substantive changes to the subjects’ ambient body temperature/condition at time of restraint. Subjects must be released unharmed where they were found unless there is a danger to people. If the subject is dangerous to humans, it may be released where risk is minimized. (Birds cannot be trapped or restrained.) No bird nests may be photographed. No animal may be transported from outside the registered property to be photographed on that property during the contest period, even if it might be found in the wild on that property. Judges will be asked to severely reduce the score or disqualify photographs of animals that appear to be stressed.

### **B8) SUBJECT MATTER**

All images must be composed of wildlife and habitat found on the Registered Land of the Landowner member of each Partnership. Photographs taken from land other than Registered Land of the Landowner member of each Partnership will be disqualified. Entries that include images of animals transported from outside the Registered Land to the Registered Land for purposes of obtaining a photograph during the Contest Period will be disqualified. Any vegetation used as a prop must be naturally occurring both in the county (counties) of the Registered Land and on the Registered Land.

## **C) PROCESSING PHOTOGRAPHS (ALLOWABLE DIGITAL ADJUSTMENTS)**

### **C1) ADDING AND SUBTRACTING FROM AN IMAGE**

All photos must accurately reflect the subject and background as it appeared in the viewfinder. Nothing can be added to an image and, aside from the elimination of dust spots from a dirty sensor and allowable cropping, nothing can be taken away.

For example, it is NOT allowable to eliminate a distracting piece of corn on the ground, an unfortunately positioned small branch, etc. (using clone brush, rubber stamp, healing brush, etc.). For example, it is NOT allowable to add the tip of a wing feather and additional sky on those images where the subject was just a tiny bit out of the shot. For example, it is NOT allowable to create composite shots in which a distant moon is added to an otherwise clear sky.

### **C2) CROPPING**

Cropping is allowable, but the image cannot be cropped such that less than 50% of the original RAW image remains in the cropped file (in megapixels) or such that the TIFF file size is less than 20 megabytes (JPEGs are then generated from the cropped TIFF files).

### **C3) TONAL AND COLOR ADJUSTMENTS**

Photographers may make tonal and color corrections at their discretion. Examples include brightness, contrast, saturation, hue, shadow, highlights, and other such adjustments. Complete color change of elements within the image is not allowed. For example, changing the color of a flower from blue to violet or from orange to red is not allowed.

### **C4) BACKGROUND BLURRING**

Blurring of background during processing is not allowed. For example, masking a portion of the photo and applying a blur effect or using a blurring brush is NOT allowable. Blurring of the background by selecting the correct aperture size, distance to the subject and focal length of the lens is a skill that can be used by photographers to blur the background during the shooting of the image rather than the processing stage.

### **C5) SHARPENING**

Moderate sharpening of JPEG's is allowed at the photographer's discretion. DO NOT sharpen TIFF images. The publisher will apply appropriate sharpening to the TIFF images for printing purposes

### **C6) RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROCESSING**

Processing images has become a fundamental skill for photographers in the digital age. As such, it is required that the photographers process their own photos (they are allowed to get assistance but cannot simply send off their images to a third party for processing).

### **C7) EXCEPTIONS**

Image Stitching, HDR and Focus Stacking are allowed for categories within the SPECIAL DIVISION "E" (**ATTACHMENT B**). Furthermore, ANYTHING is allowed for Category E12.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The WIF staff, designated volunteers and/or judges may compare the Photographer's final submissions to their 'RAW' format digital images to verify that only allowable cropping and manipulations occurred. Any unallowable manipulations will result in that image being disqualified.

The judges will diminish the score of photographs that are over-sharpened, over-saturated or have been over manipulated. The photo manipulation philosophy should be the same as the "getting a haircut philosophy" ...the idea is to look like you do not need a haircut, NOT like you just got one.

## **D) SUBMITTING ENTRIES**

## D1) SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Entries must be received, at the location below, on or before 5 p.m. July 2, 2021. Entries should be submitted on one Flash Drive or by Drop Box (No email submissions). Flash Drives will not be returned. Entries not received by the deadline will not be accepted. WIF does, however, reserve the right to extend the deadline at its discretion.

Please send or deliver submissions to:

Wildlife in Focus  
711 N. Carancahua, Suite 120  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

WIF takes reasonable precautions to protect the images submitted for judging. If any of the flash drives are received damaged, the Photographer will be notified immediately.

WIF urges Photographers to ensure that their images are viewable and all files are capable of opening on a computer that is not the Photographer's primary computer.

If the WIF Staff, designated volunteers, and/or judges are unable to open any files (JPEG and/or TIFF, RAW files) the Photographer will be notified. The submitted image will be ruled defective and disqualified. If this were to occur, the Photographer may appeal this decision to the Rules Committee and request to cure the defective image but not replace it, provided that judging has not commenced.

## D2) THE THREE FILE TYPES FOR EACH ENTRY

Each entry will consist of the original RAW file, an optimized TIFF file, and a JPEG file that will be used for judging purposes.

**RAW Files:** Your RAW file will be the original image that your camera captured at the time the photograph was taken. Your entry RAW files may be optimized with the photographer's software and can be renamed as noted below under paragraph D: "Naming Files", before converting to a TIFF file. These renamed RAW files, will still carry the RAW three-digit extension that was assigned by your particular camera and all the other so-called "Meta Data" which will be used for auditing purposes. Your RAW image can now be saved as a TIFF file for the next step below. Make sure that you make back-ups of your original RAW files and keep them on a separate drive.

**TIFF Files:** Your TIFF files will be converted/created from your renamed RAW files and will now have a file extension of ".tif". You can now further optimize these TIFF images using the manipulations allowed in the submissions rules noted above. TIFF images must be submitted using the following requirements:

- a. Cropped Image File Size. Outputted TIFF may be no less than **20** Megabytes (No resampling/upsizing to create larger original files).
- b. Adobe RGB Color Space.
- c. 400 ppi
- d. Flattened. (No layers)
- e. No sharpening. (Also suggested by Commercial Printers)

**JPEG Files:** Your JPEG files will be converted from your optimized TIFF file. This JPEG file is the file that the judges will view on a calibrated monitor for scoring purposes and thus should be optimized and sharpened for that purpose only. JPEG files should be submitted with the following settings:

- a. Convert from Adobe RGB to sRGB Color Space.
- b. Leave at the same ppi resolution as the TIFF file; 400 ppi.
- c. Resize to **2000 pixels** on the long axis.
- d. Sharpen as desired or necessary; be careful not to over-sharpen.
- e. Save at highest JPEG quality. (Level 12, low compression)

## D2) NAMING FILES

Each photographer will be assigned a random identification code which they will need to include in their file names to avoid any possible duplicate files. This number will be confidential and will not be released to the judges in order to protect our double-blind judging procedure. Please do not share your identification code with anyone.

Your files should be labeled as follows:

**1. Example:** A single image of a bird of prey. (VERY IMPORTANT: use the dash/hyphen and **not** the underscore/underline as shown within the naming characters with no blank spaces anywhere in the file name. These punctuation errors will greatly affect the way the files/images are sorted for Judging.)

RAW: A01-1-000.CR2 (Canon RAW file extension as example.)  
TIFF: A01-1-000.tif  
JPEG: A01-1-000.jpg

- a) "A01-" = Division and Category. In this example "A" represents "BIRDS" Division, "01" represents "BIRDS OF PREY I" Category. See **ATTACHMENT B** Wildlife Entry Category for Division and Category Breakdowns.
- b) "1-" = Your first entry in this Category (ex. A01-1-000). Put a "2" (ex. A01-2-000) for your second entry and "3" (ex. A01-3-000) on your third entry for this Category.
- c) "000" = Random Identification Code (three-digit code assigned to each team). This Code will should be placed in the initial Entry Folder as well as every file/image to be entered in the contest.
- d) ".CR2", ".tif", and ".jpg" = The extension for a file type. Note: Different camera models will have a different RAW extension. These extensions will be automatically applied by your software when you save them for that specific file format designation.

Once you have chosen all your images to be submitted to the contest for judging and renamed them properly, place them all in one folder named with your ID Code, Photographer name, and Landowner name as shown in **ATTACHMENT F** for file structure. If you renamed all your images correctly, they will sort themselves in this one folder by Division, Category, and ID Code.

For additional File Naming Information, please review **ATTACHMENT F**.

### **D3) CATEGORIES**

Divisions and Categories are shown in **ATTACHMENT B**. The decision of which division/category a photograph is entered is the sole discretion and responsibility of the photographer. Neither handlers nor judges will move any submission to any other division/category. Any Image entered in an incorrect division/category will be disqualified.

Where an image includes an endangered species, the Photographer must notify the Landowner of the presence of said species on his/her property. The Landowner has the right to refuse the use of the image as part of the entry.

For photos containing multiple species, it is the Photographer's responsibility to choose which animal is the subject of the photograph. The other animal(s) in the photograph is/are considered incidental. This information should be noted on the Image Comment Form (**ATTACHMENT D**) which should be included with your submission package. The Image Comment Form can also be used to explain techniques used in Category E-12, or any other pertinent information.

### **D4) SIMILAR IMAGES**

Photographers may enter only **one** (1) of a group of VERY similar images as an entry. The same subject photographed at essentially the same time, lighting, location and angle of view and with the same or nearly the same focal length lens is essentially the same image and should not be entered in the contest. This rule is here to avoid a situation where a photographer gets an incredible shot and enters essentially the same shot multiple times hoping for first, second, and third place in a category or a win in multiple categories with the same shot. If the same subject is taken with a telephoto lens for a portrait and then a wide-angle lens to show the subject in the environment, it is NOT essentially the same image and, therefore, can be submitted.

### **D5) MODEL RELEASE FORM**

A signed Model Release Form (**ATTACHMENT E**) will be required from each person that can be identified in any image. This should be included in your submission package.

## **D6) CONTACT SHEET**

The photographer will submit printed contact sheets of the JPEG images that have been submitted on their flash drive. Contact sheet guidelines are as follows:

- a. 8.5 x 11 inch Matte paper; double-sided paper is preferred.
- b. 300 dpi
- c. 20 images per page (4x5 grid), 40 images per double-sided paper.
- d. Include file names with each image.
- e. Include the photographer's and landowner's names on each page as a header.

## **D7) SUBMISSION PACKAGE**

The entry package must be submitted (sent or hand delivered) in a 9 X12 or larger envelope to:

**Wildlife in Focus  
711 N. Carancahua, Suite 120  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401**

The Submission Package should include:

- a) One Flash Drive with entries (flash drive marked with 3-digit Photographer ID)
- b) Contact Sheets as described in D6
- c) Model Releases (if necessary) as described in D5
- d) Image Content Forms (if necessary) as described in D3

## **D8) PUBLIC SHOWING OF ENTRIES**

Images that have been entered into the contest **MUST** be withheld from public showing (particularly Social Media) until **AFTER** the Photo Premier and Awards Banquet. The public's first opportunity to see the Contest Images should be at this gathering (to promote the largest audience possible).

# **E) GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **E1) JUDGES and JUDGING**

Eligible images will be judged by an independent team of judges. Judges will be instructed to select the best photos based on photographic merit. Photographs will be judged on technical quality, composition, originality, and artistic merit. Special consideration might be given to wildlife not depicted in previous editions of *Wildlife in Focus I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, or IX* (the resulting books of previous Contests). If digital optimization is overdone or poorly done (including over-saturation and over-sharpening), it will reflect poorly on the image's score. All Images judged will receive an initial score of ZERO (0) to FIVE (5) points for photographic merit. The panel of judges will choose Category and Division winners. Difficulty in obtaining the photo and the rareness of the subject will only be considered to break a tie. The contest is structured so that the team with the most accumulated money wins the grand prizes. Decisions of the judges are final.

The WIF Photo Contest has in place a procedure of double-blind judging which is designed to ensure the integrity of the contest. The designated submission requirements assure that the Photographer and Landowner identities of all images will be anonymous to the judges at all times. Therefore, it is important that all participants follow the submission instructions carefully.

## **E2) OWNERSHIP and USE OF IMAGES**

Images remain the property of the Photographer. However, WIF reserves and retains the rights to use all the images submitted as part of any WIF photography contest, winning or not, **indefinitely** for all WIF purposes, including, but not limited to, production of brochures, advertising promotions, education, exhibits, commercials, social media, and any other use as it pertains to the mission and promotion of WIF and its programs existing today or established in the future.

WIF reserves and retains the right to market and sell both prints and images on merchandise of any and all images, winning or not, submitted as part of any WIF photography contest. Net proceeds after deducting production costs will be split 60% to WIF and 40% to the Photographer. WIF has sole discretion to set the price of the prints it sells. This is not an exclusive right and Photographers may also sell their own prints, **but only after the Awards Banquet.**



Upon request, a copy of the submitted photos will be shared with the Landowner/Photographer Partnership by WIF after judging has commenced.

Photographers must supply Landowner with JPEG copies of all submitted photographs.

### **E3) DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

By entering the Contest, each entrant agrees that any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to participation in the contest shall be settled by arbitration, before a single arbitrator, administered by the American Arbitration Association under its commercial arbitration rules, and judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The locale of the arbitration shall be in Corpus Christi, Texas, and shall not be subject to transfer to another venue or locale for any reason. By entering the contest, each entrant further agrees that he/she will not commence or participate in any litigation or proceeding, either as a Category representative or as a Category member, and that he/she will never seek to obtain from sponsor awards for, and he/she hereby waives all rights to claim, statutory, punitive, incidental or consequential damages, or any other damages, including attorney's fees, other than actual out-of-pocket expenses (i.e., costs associated with entering this contest).

### **E4) GOVERNING LAW**

This Contest is controlled by WIF, its offices located within the State of Texas, United States of America. The entrant does not have to be a resident of Texas. As each state has laws and regulations that may differ from those of Texas, by entering this Contest you agree that the statutes and laws of the State of Texas, without regard to conflicts of laws principles thereof, will apply to the Contest, these Official Rules, the entire relationship between WIF and the entrants, and any legal proceeding arising there from (whether grounded in tort, contract, law or equity). In the case of a dispute, subject to the provisions of the Dispute Resolution paragraph above (E3), you agree any litigation arising between the parties hereto shall be brought only in the state or federal courts having subject matter jurisdiction in Nueces County, Texas. You hereby irrevocably and unconditionally consent to the jurisdiction of any such court and hereby irrevocably and unconditionally waive any defense of an inconvenient forum to the maintenance of any action or proceeding in any such court, any objection to venue with respect to any such action or proceeding, and any right of jurisdiction on account of the place of residence or domicile of any party thereto.

### **E5) TAXES AND FEES**

The winner shall be solely responsible for any and all taxes and fees, including attorney fees and fees of any kind imposed upon or arising out of successful participation in the Contest. Entrants will pay their own federal income taxes and any excise tax or personal property tax. Winning participants will be required to fill out a W-9 form in order to receive a check for any prize money as required by the Internal Revenue Service.

### **E6) LAWS**

These are the WIF Photo Contest General Rules and Definitions. This Contest is subject to all federal, state and municipal laws and regulations. These Contest Rules are subject to change without notice in order to comply with any applicable federal, state and municipal laws, or the policy of any other entity having jurisdiction over WIF.

### **E7) TERMINATION**

Subject to the jurisdiction of Nueces County, Texas, WIF reserves the right to amend or terminate all or any portion of this Contest at any time for any reason without prior notice

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** WIF reserves the right to modify these rules, including prize amounts, wildlife categories, and other aspects of the contest at its discretion. Please check with WIF office to verify latest rules prior to commencing photography.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2021 CONTEST!**

# ATTACHMENT A

## PHOTOGRAPHER CHECKLIST

### ENTERING THE CONTEST

- Submit a completed registration form to WIF and have paid in full the applicable Registration Fee on or before January 4, 2021.

### SHOOTING PHOTOGRAPHS

- Prior to shooting your first photo, verify that your camera is set to the correct date and time.
- Shooting begins Friday, January 8, 2021 at 12:01 AM and ends Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 11:59 PM.
- Photographers are required to shoot in RAW format. A RAW file contains data that has not been compressed, encrypted or processed in any manner
- All images must be composed of wildlife and habitat found and photographed on Registered Land of the Landowner member of each Team.

### PROCESSING PHOTOGRAPHS

- All photos must accurately reflect the subject and background as it appeared in the viewfinder. Nothing can be added to an image and, aside from the elimination of dust spots from a dirty sensor and normal cropping, nothing can be taken away.
- Cropping is allowable, but no more than 50% of the original RAW file may be cropped out (at least 50% must remain) and the image cannot be cropped such that the TIFF file size is less than 20 megabytes (JPEGs are then generated from the cropped TIFF files).
- Photographers may make tonal and color corrections at their discretion. Examples include brightness, contrast, saturation, hue, shadow, highlights and other such adjustments. Complete color change of elements within the image is not allowed. For example, changing the color of a flower from blue to violet or from orange to red is not allowed.
- Blurring of background during processing is not allowed.
- Moderate sharpening of JPEG's is allowed at the photographer's discretion. DO NOT sharpen TIFF images. The publisher will apply appropriate sharpening to the TIFF images for printing purposes
- Processing images has become a fundamental skill for photographers in the digital age. As such, it is required that the photographers process their own photos (they are allowed to get assistance but cannot simply send off their images to a third party for processing).

### SUBMITTING ENTRIES

- Entries must be received, at the location below, on or before 5 p.m., Friday, July 2, 2021. Entries should be submitted on one Flash Drive or by Drop Box (No email submissions, etc.). Flash Drives will not be returned. Entries not received by the deadline will not be accepted.

Wildlife in Focus  
711 N. Carancahua, Suite 120  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

- Each entry will consist of the original RAW file, an optimized TIFF file, and a JPEG file that will be used for judging purposes.
- Each photographer will be assigned a random identification code which they will need to include in their file names to avoid any possible duplicate files. For specific details see "D2 Naming Files/Images" and **ATTACHMENT F**. This number will be confidential and will not be released to the judges in order to protect our double-blind judging procedure. Please do not share your identification code with anyone.

- Once you have chosen all your images to be submitted to the contest for judging and renamed them properly, place them all in one (1) folder named with your ID Code, Photographer name, and Landowner name as shown in **ATTACHMENT F** for file structure.
- A signed Model Release Form **ATTACHMENT E** will be required from each person that can be identified in any image. This should be included in your submission package
- The photographer will submit printed contact sheets of the JPEG images that have been submitted on their flash drive using the guidelines explained in “D6 Contact Sheet”
- The Submission Package should include:
  - a) One Flash Drive with entries (flash drive marked with 3-digit Photographer ID)
  - b) Printed Contact Sheet as described in D6
  - c) Model Releases (if necessary) as described in D5
  - d) Image Content Forms (if necessary) as described in D3
- Images that have been entered into the contest **MUST** be withheld from public showing (particularly Social Media) until **AFTER** the Awards Banquet.

## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **2021 WILDLIFE ENTRY CATEGORIES BY DIVISION**

Listed are entry categories and examples of what might be in each category. Examples do not exclude other members of each category and do not necessarily represent biological classes. Please email the Wildlife in Focus office with any questions at [info@wildlifeinfocus.org](mailto:info@wildlifeinfocus.org). Decisions made by the Rules Committee and the WIF Board of Directors are final.

#### **FIVE DIVISIONS - 45 TOTAL CATEGORIES:**

- A. Birds**
- B. Mammals**
- C. Invertebrates**
- D. Reptiles and Amphibians**
- E. Special**

#### **BIRDS DIVISION - 14 Categories**

- A01 Birds of Prey I:** Kites, Eagles, Hawks, Kestrels, Harriers, Falcons Caracaras, Owls and Vultures, etc.
- A02 Wading Birds I:** Herons, Bitterns, and Egrets (Including Cattle Egrets), Storks, Ibis, Spoonbills, Cranes (Including Whooping Cranes), etc.
- A03 Waterfowl:** Geese, Ducks, Swans
- A04 Gallinules, Rails, Grebes etc.**
- A05 Shorebirds:** Stilts and Avocets, Oystercatchers, Plovers, Phalaropes, Sandpipers, Dowitchers, Snipes, Killdeer, Yellowlegs, etc.
- A06 Orioles, Tanagers, and Thrushes:** Meadowlarks, Robins, Bluebirds
- A07 Flycatchers and Kingbirds:** Kiskadee, Phoebes, and Pewees
- A07 Jays, Kingfishers and Crows**
- A08 Cuckoos and Woodpeckers:** Roadrunners, Anis
- A09 Hummingbirds**
- A10 Turkey, Doves, Quail and Prairie Chickens**
- A11 Mockingbirds, Thrashers and Shrikes:** Wrens, Catbirds
- A12 Buntings and Grosbeaks**
- A13 Cardinals and Waxwings:** Pyrrhuloxias
- A14 All Other Birds:** Warblers (Including: Parulas, Yellowthroats, Redstarts, Ovenbird and Waterthrush), Vireos, Kinglets, Chickadees, Finches (Including: Dickcissel), Pipits, Titmice, Chats and Gnatcatchers, Loons, Nuthatches, Pelicans, Anhingas, Cormorants, Gulls, Skimmers, Terns, Blackbirds, Grackles. Sparrows, Towhees

#### **B. MAMMALS DIVISION - 7 Categories**

- B01 Deer**
- B02 Rodents:** Squirrels, Beaver, Mice, Rats, Nutria, etc.
- B03 Rabbits and Hares**
- B04 Wild Cats**
- B05 Coyote and Fox**
- B06 Raccoon, Coati, Ringtails and Mustelids:** Badgers, Skunks, Weasels, etc.
- B07 All other Mammals:** Armadillos, Javelina, Wild Exotics, Bats, Opossum, Feral Hogs, etc. (NO DOMESTIC ANIMALS ARE ALLOWED.)

## **C. INVERTEBRATES DIVISION - 5 Categories**

**C01 Caterpillars, Butterflies and Moths**

**C02 Arachnids:** Spiders, Scorpions, Ticks, Mites, etc.

**C03 Bees, Wasps and Ants**

**C04 Dragonflies and Damselflies**

**C05 All Other Insects, Arthropods and Snails:** Flies, Beetles, Grasshoppers, Walkingsticks, Mantids, Cicadas, Crickets, Katydid, Stink Bugs, Aphids, Snails, Centipedes, Millipedes, Crayfish, Land Crabs, etc.

## **D. REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS DIVISION - 4 Categories**

**D01 Turtles and Tortoises**

**D02 Frogs and Toads**

**D03 Snakes, Lizards and Skinks:** Coral snakes, Rattlesnakes, Cat-eye Snakes, Black-striped Snakes, Mexican Hognose Snakes, Spiny Lizards, Anoles, Horned Toads, etc.

**D04 All Other Reptiles and Amphibians:** Alligators, Salamanders, Newts, Siren, etc.

## **E. SPECIAL DIVISION - 15 Categories - (Image Stitching, High Dynamic Range, and Focus Stacking are allowed for all the Categories in this Division only- Submission should include the representative RAW file or files)**

**E01 Action**

**E02 Camouflage/Mimicry**

**E03 Patterns in Nature-Artistic/Abstract \***

**E04 Native Plants/Wildflowers\***

**E05 Landscape\***

**E06 Weather-Seasonal, Thunderstorms, Rainbows\***

**E07 Wetlands/Water Scene\***

**E08 Sunrise/Sunset \***

**E09 Night Photography/\***

**E10 Full Frame\*** - Photos submitted in this may be a capture of any subject that represents nature. Photos may be processed as allowed in these rules except for a "no-cropping" constraint. Photos in this category may not be cropped at all and must fully represent the complete RAW image as captured

**E11 "35-50"\*** - Images submitted in this category must be captured inclusively at focal lengths of 35mm - 50mm.

**E12 Depth of Field\*** - Images submitted in is category should represent creative use of depth-of-field as a tool in creating unusual perspectives.

**E13 Serenity/Peace\*** - Images submitted in this category should impart a sense or feeling of the calm, peace and serenity found in nature.

**E14 Land Operations \*** - This category is meant to capture realistic farm, ranch, and research activities which may or may not include livestock and/or people.

A signed model release form (Attachment E) is required from each person identifiable in the photographs.

**E15 Any Subject May Fall in this Category\***

**\* Wildlife need not be present in photographs submitted for (\*) marked categories only!**

## **ATTACHMENT C MONETARY PRIZE AWARDS**

**\$50,045** in cash will be awarded in prizes. Prize money will be split equally between winning Landowners and Photographers in all Categories as noted below: **\*Total prize money will be determined by entrance fees. Final monetary figures are subject to change at the discretion of the WIF Board of Directors.**

**Grand Prizes** will be awarded to the Photographer-Landowner Partnerships that accumulate the most money from all Categories and Divisions.

### **\$10,500 in GRAND PRIZES:**

- 1st Place receives \$4,000**
- 2nd Place receives \$3,000**
- 3rd Place receives \$2,000**
- 4th Place receives \$1,000**
- 5th Place receives \$ 500**

### **\$5,250 in Division Prizes First - Fifth Place in each of the five (5) DIVISIONS pays:**

- 1st Place receives \$ 400**
- 2nd Place receives \$ 300**
- 3rd Place receives \$ 200**
- 4th Place receives \$ 100**
- 5th Place receives \$ 50**

### **\$34,075 in Class Prizes – First - Fifth Place in each of the forty-seven (47) CATEGORIES pays:**

- 1st Place receives \$ 275**
- 2nd Place receives \$ 175**
- 3rd Place receives \$ 125**
- 4th Place receives \$ 100**
- 5th Place receives \$ 80**

**Judges Selection/Best of Show \$160**

**People's Choice Award \$160**

Prize money will be split equally between winning Partnership members. WIF will distribute checks to the Photographer and Landowner of each winning Partnership. WIF reserves the right to withhold publication or display any images deemed inappropriate or of poor image quality. The final monetary figures are subject to change at the discretion of the WIF Board of Directors.

# ATTACHMENT D IMAGE COMMENT FORM

ID Code: \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
Subject of photograph: \_\_\_\_\_

Division and Category # \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Image Comment Form

ID Code: \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
Subject of photograph: \_\_\_\_\_

Division and Category # \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Image Comment Form

ID Code: \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
Subject of photograph: \_\_\_\_\_

Division and Category # \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# ATTACHMENT E MODEL RELEASE FORM

**Contest Photo Name** \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (the models name)

do hereby give, \_\_\_\_\_ (photographers name) and the Wildlife in Focus Photo Contest and his/her assigns, licensees and legal representatives the irrevocable right to use my picture, portrait or photograph in all forms of media and in all manner, including electronic media and/or composite representations, for advertising, trade, or any lawful purposes and I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written copy that may be created in connection therewith.

I am at least 18 years of age and I have read this release and am fully familiar with its contents.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*MINOR CONSENT (if applicable for minor)

I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above and have the legal authority to execute the above release. I approve the foregoing and waive any rights in the photographs.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# ATTACHMENT F

## File Structure for Submitting Images (NAMING)

**NOTE:** As shown below, create one folder for all your contest entries (**no sub-folders**). Correct naming of each image using a dash (-) and not an underline (\_), or underscore, is absolutely critical for proper sorting and selecting the images for judging. **Double check this closely and back-up your files for safe keeping.**

### 000-Photographers Name-Property Name

A01-1-000.RAW (CR2 for Canon, etc.)

A01-1-000.tif

A01-1-000.jpg

A02-1-000.CR2

A02-1-000.tif

A02-1-000.jpg

A02-2-000.CR2

A02-2-000.tif

A02-2-000.jpg

A02-3-000.CR2

A02-3-000.tif

A02-3-000.jpg

A22-1-000.CR2

A22-1-000.tif

A22-1-000.jpg

B01-1-000.CR2

B01-1-000.tif

B01-1-000.jpg

C05-1-000.CR2

C05-1-000.tif

C05-1-000.jpg

D03-1-000.CR2

D03-1-000.tif

D03-1-000.jpg

E01-1-000.CR2

E01-1-000.tif

E01-1-000.jpg

E08-1-000.CR2

E08-1-000.tif

E08-1-000.jpg

E08-2-000.CR2

E08-2-000.tif

E08-2-000.jpg

E012-1-000.CR2

E012-1-000.tif

E012-1-000.jpg

(And so on to include all your entries....

100 for "All Category" entries and

60 for "20 or less Category" entries.)

### Category ID and Numbering

Image Division/Category Identification Code.  
Image entry number (Up to 3 per Category).

### Three Digit ID Code Number

### RAW

#### - For Auditing only -

Created in/by the camera. Each Camera Maker has its own unique name for RAW:  
Canon=CR2, etc.

Rename RAW file as shown to left and it will stay with the file thru each format change.

### TIFF

#### - For Printing only -

Created from the above RAW with any editing software. No sharpening. Cropped TIFF File size must be greater than 20 MB, Adobe RGB color space, 400 ppi, flatten (no layers) and convert to 8 bit. Save as TIFF, it should already have the correct name from renaming process in the RAW file above.

### JPEG

#### - For Judging only -

- Created from the above TIFF with same adjustments as above plus convert to sRGB, resize long side to **2000** pixels, sharpen, and save to highest quality level. No name change should be necessary as carried from TIFF file.

# ATTACHMENT G RELEASE OF LIABILITY

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF DANGERS, RISKS AND HAZARDS OF RECREATIONAL USE OF PRIVATE LAND

I hereby acknowledge that, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the 2021 Wildlife in Focus Photo Contest, I have knowingly and willingly entered into a photography use agreement by and between myself and \_\_\_\_\_, (hereinafter the Owner, whether one or more), effective \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_. I understand the terms, provisions and conditions of that agreement and agree to abide by its terms, provisions and conditions.

I further acknowledge and understand that no warranty, either express or implied, is made by the Owner as to suitability of the land for photography or the condition of the land located in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Texas, or of any roads, buildings, gates or other improvements located thereon. This document serves to warn me that dangerous conditions, risks and hazards do exist. My presence and activities on the \_\_\_\_\_ property expose both me and my property to dangerous conditions, risks and hazards, including but not limited to: poisonous snakes, insects and spiders; blinds and tree stands, whether or not erected by Owner; erosion and general condition of the land, both on and off roadways or senderos, creating rough, hazardous and dangerous driving and walking conditions; animals both wild and domestic that maybe diseased and/or potentially dangerous; deep water; persons with firearms both on or off the \_\_\_\_\_ property; and the use of vehicles.

I am aware that the \_\_\_\_\_ property is subject to other use agreements, including but not limited to hunting, camping and other activities by the Owner and its guests. I am further aware that landowners may live/visit the property full-time and have free access to all parts of the land. I hereby state that I am aware of these facts and expressly assume all such dangers, risks and hazards.

I further acknowledge that under the agreement with the Owner, the access I have been granted is for myself only and for no other parties without the express, written consent of the Owner. I also acknowledge that under the agreement I will be issued keys and or gate codes to one or more gates into the \_\_\_\_\_ property, and I have agreed to return these keys to the Owner by no later than \_\_\_\_\_ without having made copies of the same.

In consideration for the right to enter the \_\_\_\_\_ property, I hereby release and agree to protect, indemnify and hold harmless the Owner and his or her respective heirs, agents, employees and assigns from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of action and damages, including attorneys' fees, resulting from any accident, incident or occurrence arising out of, incidental to or in any way resulting from my use of the \_\_\_\_\_ property and any improvements located thereon, whether or not caused by the Owner's negligence or gross negligence. This release applies during the time that I am permitted on the \_\_\_\_\_ property, which is the same as the time period first stated above. I hereby further covenant and agree that I, my heirs, successors and assigns, including any guests invited by me, whether or not permitted by the Owner, will not make any claim or institute any suit or action at law or in equity against the Owner or his or her respective heirs, agents, representatives, employees, successors or assigns or against the \_\_\_\_\_ property by reason of conditions of the \_\_\_\_\_ property or arising out of the activities occurring thereon, including my use of the property.

As used in this release, the terms *I*, *my person* and *myself* include minors in my care while on the premises of the \_\_\_\_\_ property.

Dated and signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Photographers)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner(s)

# ATTACHMENT H

## FIELD GUIDES AND SUGGESTED WEB SITES FOR USE IN IDENTIFICATION

\* indicates the ultimate reference

### BIRDS:

\*Sibley's Field Guide to Birds  
American Bird Conservancy's Field Guide

### MAMMALS:

\*Davis Mammals of Texas, Texas A&M Press  
Petersen's Mammal Field Guide

### INVERTIBRATE:

\*Kaufman Guide to the Insects of North America  
[www.butterfliesandmoths.org](http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org)  
<http://bugguide.net>  
Butterflies of North America, Kaufman Focus Guides  
A Pocket Guide to Insects, Patrick Hook  
A Pocket Guide to Butterflies and Moths, Elizabeth Balmer  
Petersen's First Guides – Butterflies and Moths

### REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

\*Lone Star Field Guide, third edition, Texas Snakes by Alan Tennant  
[Http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/](http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/)  
Snakes – A Golden Guide from St. Martin's Press

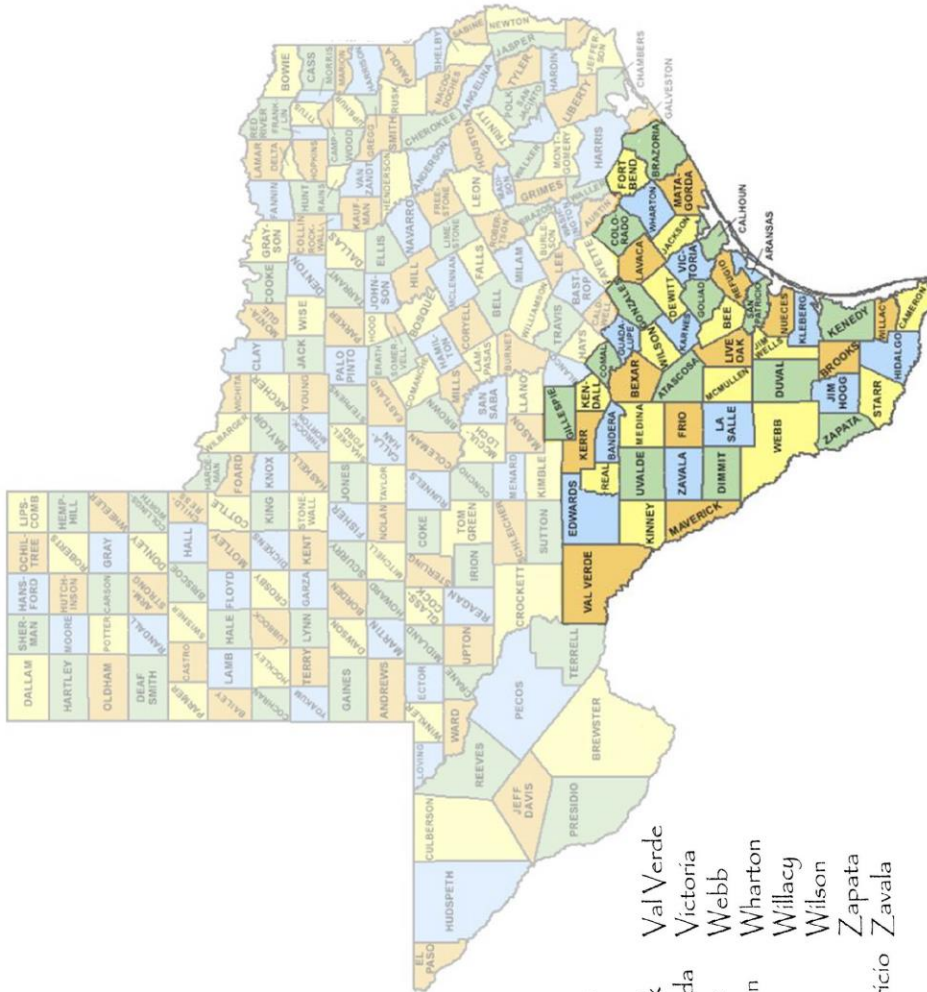
### PLANTS:

\*Field Guide to the Broad-Leaved Herbaceous Plants of South Texas by James H. Everitt, D. Lynn Drawe and Robert I. Lonard  
\*Trees, Shrubs & Cacti of South Texas by James H. Everitt, D. Lynn Drawe and Robert I. Lonard  
Wildflowers of Texas by Geyata Ajilvsgi  
Plants of Webb County

# ATTACHMENT I

## 2021 WILDLIFE IN FOCUS CONTEST COUNTY MAP

The following Texas map reflects counties eligible to register and participate in the 2021 Wildlife in Focus Photography contest.



### Eligible Counties

#### WIF 2021

- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Aransas   | Frio      | Val Verde |
| Atascosa  | Gillespie | Victoria  |
| Bee       | Goliad    | Webb      |
| Bexar     | Gonzales  | Wharton   |
| Brazoria  | Guadalupe | Willacy   |
| Brooks    | Hidalgo   | Wilson    |
| Calhoun   | Jackson   | Zapata    |
| Cameron   | Jim Hogg  | Zavala    |
| Colorado  | Jim Wells |           |
| DeWitt    | Kames     |           |
| Dimmit    | Kendall   |           |
| Duval     | Kenedy    |           |
| Edwards   | Kerr      |           |
| Fort Bend | Kinney    |           |
|           | Uvalde    |           |