



Conservation Photo & Video Contest Rules

Wildlife in Focus

10800 Sentinel Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78217

<http://wildlifeinfocus.org>

Contest Dates: Feb 21, 2025 to May 31, 2025

Entry Deadline: December 1, 2024 - 5 pm Central Time

(Rules updated July 23, 2024)

WIF 2025 Photo & Video Contest Overview

This summary is not the complete rules. Refer to full official rules below for all the details.

THIS PHOTO CONTEST IS DIFFERENT THAN MOST PHOTO CONTESTS IN THAT ALL PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN ON PARTICIPATING PRIVATE LANDS DURING CONTEST DATES.

1. **3 Different Concurrent Contests:** 1) Team - Photographer & Landowner; 2) Individual Photographer; 3) Videographer. Each contest has separate prize purses.
2. **\$45,00 total prize purse:** \$40,000 Combined Prize Purse for Team Photo & Video Contest, \$5,000 for Individual Photo Contest. WIF will help pair landowners and photographers when desired.
3. **Team Contest Private Landowners** anywhere within the entire state of TEXAS are eligible to participate, any size land. \$500 Entry Fee – Enters you in both Team Contest, Video Contest, and allows you to accept individual photographers. Prize money for individual photos and team winners is split 50/50 between the landowner and photographer on the team. Team grand prize winners are selected based on the portfolio total of accumulated points for winning images. A JPG copy of the submitted portfolio will be supplied to the landowner by the photographer for personal viewing use. For the team photographer, the landowner provides free access to the photographer, including overnight access, and assists as desired to help win the contest. Individual photographers and videographers arrange access with landowner and may pay a lodging/photo fee.
4. **Team Contest Photographers** enter by paying \$500 entry fee. Enters you in both Team Photo Contest and Video Contest. Photographers can form a 2-person photographer partnership for a \$500 team entry fee. Prize money for individual photos and grand prize team winnings are split 50/50 between the landowner and photographer(s) on the team. Photographers in Team Contest work with a landowner to acquire and submit a portfolio of up to 100 images for judging. Image submissions include the original RAW file, a TIFF file, and a JPG for judging. A JPG copy of the submitted portfolio will be supplied to the landowner by the photographer for personal viewing use.
5. **Individual Competition - Separate Prize Purse - Separate Entry Deadline** – individual photographers can register through May 1, 2025. Entry fee is \$100. See rules for details. Individual photos can win awards and prize money for photographers. WIF provides a list of available landowners to photographers.
6. **Video Contest:** Entry in the video contest is included in your team photographer contest entry, or you can enter as videographer only.
Video Contest Only Entry: Those who want to do only video may enter only the video contest. \$100 video-only entry fee, prize purse of \$2,400.
DATES of CONTEST: Feb 21, 12:01 am to May 31, 2025, 11:59pm. Photos must be taken on the designated land during the official contest dates (~100 days) in RAW format with a minimum 12MP camera.
7. **Privacy:** Images that have been entered into the contest **MUST** be withheld from public showing (particularly social media) until **AFTER** the Awards Event
8. 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 erased or moved away.

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SECTION A: - THE TEAM PHOTO CONTEST

The 2025 Wildlife In Focus – Texas Conservation Photo and Video Contest (the “Contest”) will pair each photographer with a landowner to form a team (“Team”). Prize winnings will be split equally between the photographer and the landowner. The photographers must shoot exclusively on the landowner’s property as registered and specified in the “Landowner Registration Form”. The dates of the Contest are February 21, 2025, through May 31, 2025 (the “Contest Period”).

A1) WHO MAY ENTER (PHOTOGRAPHERS)

Any photographer 18 years old or older, whether a professional or amateur, may enter the Contest. Photographers may work singly or in teams of two.

A2) WHO MAY ENTER (LANDOWNERS)

Any landowner or lessee, meaning the person with legal authority to allow the photographer access for photographic and video capture, as well as the sharing of any prize funds (the “Landowner”), may enter the Contest as long as the land to be used in the Contest is within the state of Texas.

Landowner Responsibility:

It is the sole responsibility of the Landowner member of any Team to establish guidelines for use and access to the property. Landowners may require Photographers to sign a Release of Liability (ATTACHMENT H). 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 sole discretion of the Rules Committee and WIF Board.

A3) TEAM FORMATION

Photographers and Landowners may have a particular person in mind with whom to form a Team, Participants may select their own teammates and designate each other on the registration form.

A photographer or landowner also may register for the contest without having a teammate and request that WIF find a teammate for them. WIF will aid in matching Photographers with Landowners by providing contact information to both parties. It will be the responsibility of the participants to make their own arrangements once a team has been established. Should a teammate not be found, WIF will offer

another participation option or a refund per the refund dates and policies described elsewhere in the rules.

A4) REGISTRATION FEES & ELIGIBILITY - TEAM

A) **PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Any photographer 18 years old and older may register, amateur or professional. Actual participation depends on forming a team with a landowner.

B) \$500 per photographer with a maximum total of 100 images (up to 3 per category)

C) \$500 for a partnership of two photographers, may submit a maximum total of 100 images or video submissions (up to 3 per category). Both photographers' names must be listed on the entry forms.

D) A Photographer or 2-Person Photography partnership may only enter the team contest once, with a single landowner teammate.

E) A photographer may have an assistant that does not take photos at no additional expense when accompanied by the photographer. Independent access to the land for an assistant must be approved by the landowner team member.

F) **LANDOWNERS:** Any private landowner is eligible to enter. Actual participation depends on forming a team with a photographer. Wildlife in Focus will help registered landowners and photographers contact each other to form teams. Publicly owned lands are not eligible for this contest. (Other future events may include publicly owned lands.)

G) \$500 per Landowner/per team. A standard team is a landowner and a photographer. The photographer side of the team may consist of two photographers working as partners who together submit only one portfolio of up to 100 images.

H) A Landowner may form multiple teams with multiple photographers/partners by paying a separate landowner entry fee for each team and by designating independent land areas for each photographer/partners. The land area needs to be communicated to all photographers. A detailed aerial image (like a Google Earth image) of land with boundaries and key access locations for each photographer should be provided. This could be on a single contiguous property or on separate non-contiguous lands. A landowner that owns multiple parcels of non-contiguous land may have a different photographer on each piece of land by paying a separate entry fee for each team.

I) A landowner that owns multiple parcels of non-contiguous land may choose to have a single photographer use one or all of the lands as determined by the landowner.

J) Included in the standard entry, and separately from the team event, a landowner may at their choice accept additional photographers who shoot as individuals in the separate individual photographer contest rather than as part of a landowner/photographer team, without the landowner paying any additional registration fee. In this situation, the landowner would not be eligible for any of the monetary prize winnings for these individual photographer submissions should they win awards as it is a different contest than the team contest. The landowner may choose to charge for access, use of blinds, overnight lodging, etc., same as for a photo ranch business operation, or may choose to offer access, etc., for free – it is up to the landowner. The landowner would need to inform these photographers of all fees and access requirements.

A4 - Part 2) REGISTRATION FEES & ELIGIBILITY – INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHER CONTEST

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHER CONTEST

A) Photographers may enter the individual photographer contest and not be the landowner's official team photographer. In this situation, the photographer is shooting as an individual and is eligible for prize money for the individual Contest prizes which are from a separate prize purse than the team contest. The individual photographers working independently would also need to learn landowner's access requirements including what fees would need to be paid to access, photograph, lodge overnight, etc., as with any guest business or photo ranch. Entry options are as follows:

B) Individual Photographer Entry Fee (non-team member): \$100

- i. May submit 10 images portfolio
- ii. Images may be entered into 5 Divisions
- iii. Prizes will be awarded to the top 5 images in each division for a total of 25 award winning images

- iv. An individual photographer may not enter the team photography contest
- v. An individual photographer may enter the individual contest at as many registered landowner properties as desired, but an additional registration must be paid for each different property and entry.

A5) REFUNDS

Early registration is helpful to facilitate finding a team partner. WIF will assist registrants as needed to find a team partner, however final team determination is up to each registrant. Registration fees paid prior to Nov 1, 2024, will be eligible for a refund until Dec 1, 2024. A \$25 administration fee will be deducted from the refund. After Dec 1, 2024, all entry fees are non-refundable. However, a credit of 50% of entry fees paid will be offered toward other Wildlife in Focus products, event registrations or services. The credit will expire 6 months after it is issued.

A6) REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

Team Photo Contest Deadline: 5:00 p.m. CST on December 1, 2024

The registration deadline for all Photographers and Landowners is December 1, 2024.

Early entry is encouraged at any time registration is open

The Registration Form with registration fee must be received by WIF before 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2024. WIF reserves the right to extend the deadline or deny any registration fees or forms after this time. Photos submitted for judging bearing a date taken before the date of completed registration and full payment will be disqualified.

Individual Photo Contest Deadline: 5:00 p.m CST. on May 1, 2025

The registration deadline for all individual contest photographers is May 1, 2025. Early entry is encouraged at any time registration is open. The Registration Form with registration fee must be received by WIF before any photos are taken. Photos must be taken during the 100-day contest date window at a registered landowner site.

WIF reserves the right to extend the deadline or deny any fees or forms after this time. Photos submitted for judging bearing a date taken before the date of completed registration and full payment will be disqualified.

Video Only Registration Deadline: 5:00 p.m CST. on May 1, 2025

The registration deadline for all individual video contest videographers is May 1, 2025. Early entry is encouraged at any time registration is open. The Registration Form with registration fee must be received by WIF before any videos or images are taken. Videos must be taken during the 100-day contest date window at a registered landowner site.

WIF reserves the right to extend the deadline or deny any fees or forms after this time.

SECTION B: CONTEST DATES AND REQUIREMENTS

The following is general information for all contests.

B1) SHOOTING PERIOD

100 Days - Shooting begins on February 21, 2025, at 12:01 AM and ends on May 31, 2025, at 11:59 PM. Entries outside of these dates will not be accepted or considered. All entries must consist of images taken by the Photographers on lands registered in the contest.

B2) SETTING CORRECT TIME AND DATE

Prior to shooting your first photo, verify that your camera is set to the correct date and time. In addition, ensure it is set to other contest specifications for color (Adobe RGB) and format (RAW), etc.

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 camera (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.

The judges use the RAW files to check compliance with rules of the contest, especially regarding edits and date of the photo. Entries for 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 twelve (12) megapixel resolution. Mirrorless, drone camera (see below for drone restrictions), DSLR, Mirrorless, Point and Shoot, Phone Camera, etc., are allowed if they can shoot in RAW format and are set to shoot in the RAW format specific to that camera. In camera setting for compressed RAW is allowable.

B5) OTHER SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT

1. The use of automatic shutter activation devices, such as triggers (photo traps), game cameras, lightning triggers, intervalometers, and laser beam devices are allowed so long as entries do not violate any of the ethical statements or mentioned below in B7 "ETHICS".
2. Drones may be used for capturing images and in the Video category, however Texas law generally prohibits the use of drone-mounted cameras as a means of capturing wildlife photographs, and drone video or images of

wildlife are not permitted for entry in this contest.

3. Failure to comply with FAA, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and contest rules regarding drone operation will result in disqualification of submitted images and possible disqualification from the contest per review of the rules committee.
4. Depending upon the status of the drone photographers' operational licensing, drone photographs or videos may not be eligible for monetary reward; however, the placement of the image will be considered in calculating overall contest standing.

B6) DIVISIONS AND CATEGORY SUBMISSIONS

Images and Video are to be labeled and submitted within specific categories. The categories are organized into Divisions. See ATTACHMENT A for a list of the Divisions and Categories. These Categories do not necessarily represent biological classifications; instead, they are a balance of biological and geographical appearances. For the landowner-photographer team event a maximum of 3 images can be entered per category with a total portfolio of 100 images.

B7) ETHICS

The priority of the contest is conservation of wildlife and its critical habitat. Contestants must minimize disturbance of wildlife and habitat. The welfare of the subject is the foremost consideration. No photographs of tame/domesticated or caged animals will be allowed. No bird nests or mammal or reptile dens 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. Photographs of animals that appear to be overly stressed due to image or video capture activities or appear in situations or habitats extremely uncharacteristic of the animal's typical behavior such that it appears the subject was manipulated will be disqualified.

B8) SUBJECT MATTER

All images must be composed of wildlife, flora, and habitat found on the Registered Land of the Landowner member of each Partnership. Photographs determined to be taken from land other than Registered Land of the Landowner member of each Partnership will be disqualified and may disqualify the photographer and team entirely. The primary wildlife subject in images must be alive and unconstrained. Any vegetation used as a prop must be naturally occurring both in the county (counties) of the Registered Land and on the Registered Land. This may include invasive exotic plants, plants commercially grown on-site, but not ornamental plants found on-site or brought to site. Native plants may be given preferential evaluation in judging.

SECTION C: EDITING & 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 aside from the elimination of dust spots from a dirty sensor, correction of lens vignetting, and allowable cropping.

C2) CROPPING

Cropping is allowable; however, crops must use one of the 6 aspect ratios listed here: 9x16, 2x3, 5x7, 4x5, 11x14, 1x1. Either vertical or horizontal orientation is acceptable. The TIFF image submitted must be at least 3,000 pixels on the long side at 300dpi. JPG images are then generated from the cropped TIFF file for to be used for judging. JPG images need to be 2,000 pixels on the long side and 300dpi. NOTE: Although allowed for the contest, an image cropped to only 3,000 pixels at 300dpi cannot produce a high quality large print.

C3) TONAL AND COLOR ADJUSTMENTS

Photographers may only make global image tonal and color corrections at their discretion in submitted images. 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

Except for specific categories in the Division SPECIAL, blurring of the 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 is allowed at the photographer's discretion when creating JPGs. DO NOT sharpen TIFF images. The publisher will apply appropriate sharpening to the TIFF images for printing purposes. 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.

C6) REMOVAL OF IMAGE "NOISE"

Use of denoising software is allowed on either TIFF or JPG images. However, denoising can result in significant degradation of image quality and results

should be reviewed before submitting

C7) EXCEPTIONS

Image Stitching, HDR, and Focus Stacking are only allowed for specific categories within the SPECIAL DIVISION

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 compliance with the rules including that only allowable manipulations occurred. Any unallowable manipulation will result in that image being disqualified.

SECTION D: SUBMITTING ENTRIES

D1) IMAGE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Image portfolio contest entries may be submitted beginning **June 1, 2025, but must be received no later than 5:00 PM, June 30, 2025.**

Entries should be submitted on one Flash Drive or by online upload via E-Folder. Email submissions will not be accepted. Flash Drives will not be returned. Entries not received by the deadline will not be accepted. WIF does reserve the right to extend the deadline at its discretion.

Please mail or hand-deliver flash drive submissions to:
Wildlife in Focus

Mailing: PO Box 171368
Physical Address: 10800 Sentinel Street
San Antonio, Texas 78217

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 (JPG, TIFF or Raw) the submitted image will be ruled defective and disqualified, and the photographer notified. 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 if judging has commenced.

D2) THE THREE FILE TYPES FOR EACH ENTRY

Each entry will consist of the original RAW file, an optimized TIFF file, and a JPG file. The JPG 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 should be renamed as noted below under paragraph D: "Naming Files", before converting to a TIFF file.
- **TIFF Files:** Your TIFF files will be converted/created from your renamed RAW files and will now have a file extension of ".tif." TIFF images must be submitted using specific requirements.
- **JPG Files:** Your files will be converted from your optimized TIFF file and will now have an extension of ".jpg." files should be submitted with specific settings.

D2) NAMING FILES

Each photographer will be assigned a random 3-digit identification code which they will need to include in their file names to avoid any possible duplicate files. Your files should be labeled as follows:

- RAW: A01-1-000.CR2
- TIFF: A01-1-000.tif
- JPF: A01-1-000.jpg

D3) CATEGORIES

Divisions and Categories are shown in ATTACHMENT A. The decision of which division/category a photograph is entered is the sole discretion and responsibility of the photographer. If an image is known to include an officially endangered species, the Photographer must notify the Landowner.

D4) SIMILAR IMAGES

Photographers may enter only one of a group of VERY similar images. 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 can be submitted.

D5) MODEL RELEASE FORM

A signed Release Form is required from each person who can be identified in any image.

D6) SUBMISSION PACKAGE

A submission package may be submitted in person, by mail or digitally (If a digital submission system is available, check with Wildlife In Focus before submission). A physical submission package must be submitted (mailed or hand-delivered) in a 9 X12 or larger envelope to the Wildlife in Focus offices. A copy of the JPG version of the submitted portfolio of images shall be provided to the landowner teammate on a USB Portable Drive, or SD Card, or similar digital memory device. The landowner may only use the images for personal viewing. Permission for any other uses must be obtained from the photographer.

D7) 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 Ceremony (usually in October).

SECTION E GENERAL INFORMATION

E1) JUDGES and JUDGING

An independent team of judges will judge eligible images based on photographic merit, considering aesthetics, composition, originality, and overall artistic merit. Judges will collectively discuss and choose winning images. Decisions of the judges are final.

E2) OWNERSHIP and USE OF IMAGES

Images remain the property of the Photographer, but WIF retains the rights to use all submitted images indefinitely for WIF purposes, including but not limited to production of brochures, advertising promotions, education, exhibits, and social media, including promotions through WIF promotional partners. WIF will provide photographer credit as feasible. WIF also reserves the right to market and sell books, prints and merchandise that include submitted images. The net proceeds from print sales will be split 50%/50% between Wildlife in Focus and the Photographer. Images must be withheld from public display, including social media, until after the Awards Ceremony.

E3) DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to participation in the contest shall be settled by arbitration, administered by the American Arbitration Association. By entering the contest, entrants agree to arbitration and waive rights to litigation for damages other than actual expenses.

E4) GOVERNING LAW

The Contest is governed by the laws of the State of Texas, with any dispute resolution or litigation to be held in Bexar County, Texas.

E5) TAXES AND FEES

Winners are responsible for all taxes and fees associated with prizes. Entrants will pay their own federal income taxes, and winning participants will be required to fill out a W-9 form to receive prize money.

E6) LAWS

The Contest is subject to all federal, state, and municipal laws and regulations, and the rules are subject to change without notice to comply with applicable laws.

E7) TERMINATION

WIF reserves the right to amend or terminate all or any portion of the Contest at any time for any reason without prior notice.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Rules are subject to modification by WIF, including prize amounts and wildlife categories. Participants should verify the latest rules with the WIF office before commencing photography. Thank you for your participation in the 2025 Contest!

ATTACHMENT A page 1 – CATEGORIES AND DIVISIONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

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. Decisions made by the Rules Committee and the WIF Board of Directors are final. Categories were created to represent the entire state of Texas and to attempt to do what is possible to make the overall contest as fair and competitive as possible. Not all sites will have wildlife for each category and the format allows a full portfolio submission even if entering only 34 categories (i.e. not entering in all 50 categories is acceptable. Portfolio can still include 100 images, up to 3 per category entered.)

Photographer: Team Contest Photographers may submit a Portfolio of up to 100 total photos from up to 50 categories.

Individual contest photographers may enter a separate contest that allows a submission of 10 photos in 5 Divisions. Photos need to follow the same naming and format rules as the team contest submissions. (See details on photographer entries and registration form.)

5 DIVISIONS – 50 TOTAL PHOTO CATEGORIES:

A. BIRDS DIVISION - 16 Categories

A01 Birds of Prey I: Kites, Eagles, Hawks, Kestrels, Harriers, Falcons, Caracaras, and Vultures, etc.

A02 Birds of Prey II: Owls, Nighthawk, whippoorwill, pauraque

A03 Wading Birds: Herons, Bitterns, and Egrets (Including Cattle Egrets), Storks, Ibis, Spoonbills, Cranes Including Whooping Cranes), etc.

A04 Sparrows, Towhees, Finches (Including Dickcissel)

A05 Waterfowl: Geese, Ducks, Swans, Gallinules, Rails, Grebes, etc.

A06 Shorebirds: Sandpipers, Plovers, Stilts and Avocets, Oystercatchers, Plovers, Phalaropes, Dowitchers, Snipes, Killdeer, Yellowlegs, etc.

A07 Orioles, Tanagers

A08 Flycatchers and Kingbirds, Phoebes, and Pewees

A09 Jays, Kingfishers and Crows, Waxwings

ATTACHMENT A page 2– CATEGORIES AND DIVISIONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

A10 Cuckoos and Woodpeckers, Roadrunners, Anis

A11 Warblers (Including Parulas, Yellowthroats, Redstarts, Ovenbird and Waterthrush)

A12 Turkey, Quail and Prairie Chickens

A13 Doves, Blackbirds and Grackles, Thrushes, Great Kiskadee, Meadowlarks, Robins, Bluebirds

A14 Mockingbirds, Thrashers and Shrikes, Wrens, Catbirds

A15 Buntings and Cardinals, Pyrrhuloxias, Hummingbirds,

A16 All Other Birds: Vireos, Chickadees, Pipits, Kinglets, Pelicans, Anhinga, Cormorants, Gulls, Skimmers, Terns, Loons, Titmice, Chats and Gnatcatchers, Nuthatches.

B. MAMMALS DIVISION - 9 Categories (No image of domestic animal, including no pen-raised deer, other animals)

B01 Deer, Javelina, Elk, Pronghorn

B02 Beaver, Nutria, Opossum, Armadillo, Skunks

B03 Rabbits, Hares and Squirrels

B04 Wild Cats, and Bear

B05 Coyote, Fox, Wolf

B06 Raccoon, Coati, Ringtails and Mustelids, Weasels, etc.

B07 Bison, Bighorn Sheep

B08 Wild Exotics, Feral Hogs

B09 All other Mammals: Bats, Mice, Rats, etc.

C. INVERTEBRATES DIVISION – 8 Categories

C01 Butterflies

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

C03 Beetles

C04 Flies, Cicadas, Stink Bugs, Aphids, Dragonflies and Damselflies, Caterpillars, etc.

C05 Moths

C06 Bees, Wasps and Ants

C07 Grasshoppers, Walkingsticks, Mantids, Crickets, Katydid,

C08 All Other Insects: Arthropods and Snails, Centipedes, Millipedes Snails, Crayfish, Land Crabs.

ATTACHMENT A page 3– CATEGORIES AND DIVISIONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

D. REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS DIVISION - 5 Categories

D01 Turtles and Tortoises

D02 Frogs and Toads

D03 Lizards and Skinks, Spiny Lizards, Anoles, Horned Toads, etc.

D04 Snakes

D05 All Other Reptiles and Amphibians: Alligators, Salamanders, Newts, Siren, etc.

E. SPECIAL DIVISION - 12 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 *Landscapes, Wetlands/Water Scene

E02 *Sunrise/Sunset Rainbows Clouds, Rain scene, Thunderstorms,

E03 Camouflage/Mimicry of wildlife including insects.

E04 *Patterns in nature

E05 *Underwater – Aquatic animals, fish, amphibians, insects, & plants etc.

E06 *Native Wildflowers or Plants – non-flowers (can include flower but not as the main object of image)

E07 *Night Scene Photography (non-wildlife) Stars, moon, landscape, light painting

E08 Full Frame - Wildlife Photos in this category may not be cropped at all and must fully represent the complete RAW image as captured.

E09 *Land Operations - This category is meant to capture realistic farm, ranch revenue operations, habitat conservation, and wildlife/habitat monitoring 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.

E10 *Graphic Art – All editing allowed. All images used must be from the contest taken per rules.

E11 *Drone Photographs (Note: Wildlife may not appear in this category)

E12 *Black and White: Monochrome photos only

**Wildlife not required in photographs submitted for (*) marked categories **

ATTACHMENT B page 1 – TEAM PHOTO CONTEST PRIZES

The prize money awarded to each team will be divided equally between the winning landowner(s) and photographer(s) of a team, with half of the total prize money going to landowners and the other half to photographers. The final distribution of monetary prizes is subject to change at the discretion of the WIF Board.

Total Prize Purse: The total prize purse for the Team contest is expected to be \$40,000, which includes both the Photo Contest and the Video Contest: \$37,600 for photos, \$2,400 for videos. This purse may be adjusted based on the total sponsorship and funding for the contest prize purse.

Grand Prizes: Purse of \$18,200 Grand Prize winners are determined based on the total accumulated category winnings. Grand Prize recognition will be awarded to the top 5 teams for 5 total team award winners.

- 1st Place Team Grand Prize: \$6,000
- 2nd Place Team Grand Prize: \$4,800
- 3rd Place Team Grand Prize: \$3,800
- 4th Place Team Grand Prize: \$2,000
- 5th Place Team Grand Prize: \$1,600

Category Prizes: \$15,000 – 50 Categories - Each category has a \$300 purse, 5 winning images distributed as follows:

- 1st Place Photo In Team Event Category: \$100
- 2nd Place Photo In Team Event: \$80
- 3rd Place Photo In Team Event: \$60
- Honorable Mention Photo In Team Event: \$30
- Honorable Mention Photo In Team Event: \$30

250 total award winners

Division Prizes: \$3,000 – 5 Divisions; each division has a \$600 purse. Prizes are for team placement within divisions with awards for top 3 teams.

- 1st Place: Team in Division \$300
- 2nd Place: Team in Division \$200
- 3rd Place: Team in Division \$100

15 total award winners

ATTACHMENT B page 2 – TEAM PHOTO CONTEST PRIZES

First Timers: Separate awards are given to the best finishing teams with participants that are entered for the first time.

Highest Place Team with First-Time Landowner \$200

Highest Place Team with First-Time Photographer \$200

2 total award winners

People's Choice Photo: Prize Purse of \$1,000 Awards for top 5 images. These awards will be determined after the Wildlife In Focus main award event and may include online judging by the public. 5 total award winners

1st Place Photo: \$350

2nd Place Photo \$250

3rd Place Photo: \$175

4th Place Photo: \$125

5th Place Photo: \$100

ATTACHMENT C page 1 – VIDEO CONTEST PRIZES

VIDEO CONTEST (Same as photo contest Feb 21-May 31, 2025)

Total Prize Purse: \$2,400*, May Enter a total of 2 Videos

Entry Fee: \$100

15 total award winners

3 Categories

- Each Category: \$800 Purse
 - 1st Place Video: \$250
 - 2nd Place Video: \$175
 - 3rd Place Video: \$150
 - Honorable Mention Video: \$125
 - Honorable Mention Video: \$100

Categories for Video Submission:

1. Wildlife Activity -

- Must feature one or more animals (wildlife) (birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, amphibians etc.)
- No pets, pen-raised or domestic animals are to be the subject
- No drone use for this category.

2. Outdoors –

- Can be scenery, plants, water, sky, time lapse, etc.
- Wildlife is not required but is allowed
- Drone use is allowed for clips that do not include wildlife

3. Promotional Video/Commercial Style -

- Video should be made to promote support for Wildlife in Focus and the Contest participation
- Target audience: photographers, landowners, sponsors, public
- Can include interviews or narrations with landowners and photographer (self-recording as photographer/videographer is also encouraged)
- Include invite to visit WIF website and enter or sponsor Wildlife In Focus

ATTACHMENT C page 2 – VIDEO CONTEST PRIZES

Additional Guidelines:

- Videos must be between 60 seconds and 120 seconds long
- All videos must be submitted in landscape format, 16x9 aspect ratio, resolution of 3840x 2160 (4K)
- Videos must be free of copyright restrictions. i.e. not contain copyrighted music etc., must allow Wildlife in Focus to use. Wildlife in Focus may modify videos for use in promoting Wildlife In Focus and its programs. This may include using only a part of a video, changing aspect ratio and modifications as needed to meet promotional use needs.
- Wildlife may not appear in videos taken with drone-mounted cameras.
- Edits, effects, narration, captions, etc., are acceptable.
- Any video camera/video meeting these specifications may be used. This includes mobile phones.

Note: All photographers entering the landowner-photographer team event are automatically entered the video contest.

Separate entry fee applies for video-only entries and for individual photographers should they want to enter the video contest

Prize amounts are dependent on registration numbers and sponsorships and may be adjusted by the WIF Board

ATTACHMENT D – INDIVIDUAL PHOTO CONTEST PRIZES

Total Prize Purse: The total prize purse is expected to be **\$5,000**. This purse may be adjusted based on the total sponsorship and funding for the contest prize purse. This prize purse is separate from the team photography and video contest. A total of 10 photos may be submitted and may be submitted in any division. The photos can be all in one division or spread out across all divisions

Divisions

A: Birds

B: Mammals

C: Invertebrates

D: Reptiles and Amphibians

E: Special

5 Division Prizes: Prize Purse \$5,000

Each division is expected to have a \$1,000 purse, distributed as follows:

- 1st Place: \$350
- 2nd Place: \$250
- 3rd Place: \$175
- 4th Place: \$125
- 5th Place: \$100

The Divisions are the same as for the Team Contest and photos should be named according to the same procedure, including naming according to category, however there is no limit on number of portfolio photos per category.

ATTACHMENT E – IMAGE COMMENT FORM

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 F – MODEL RELEASE FORM

Contest Photo ID _____

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: _____

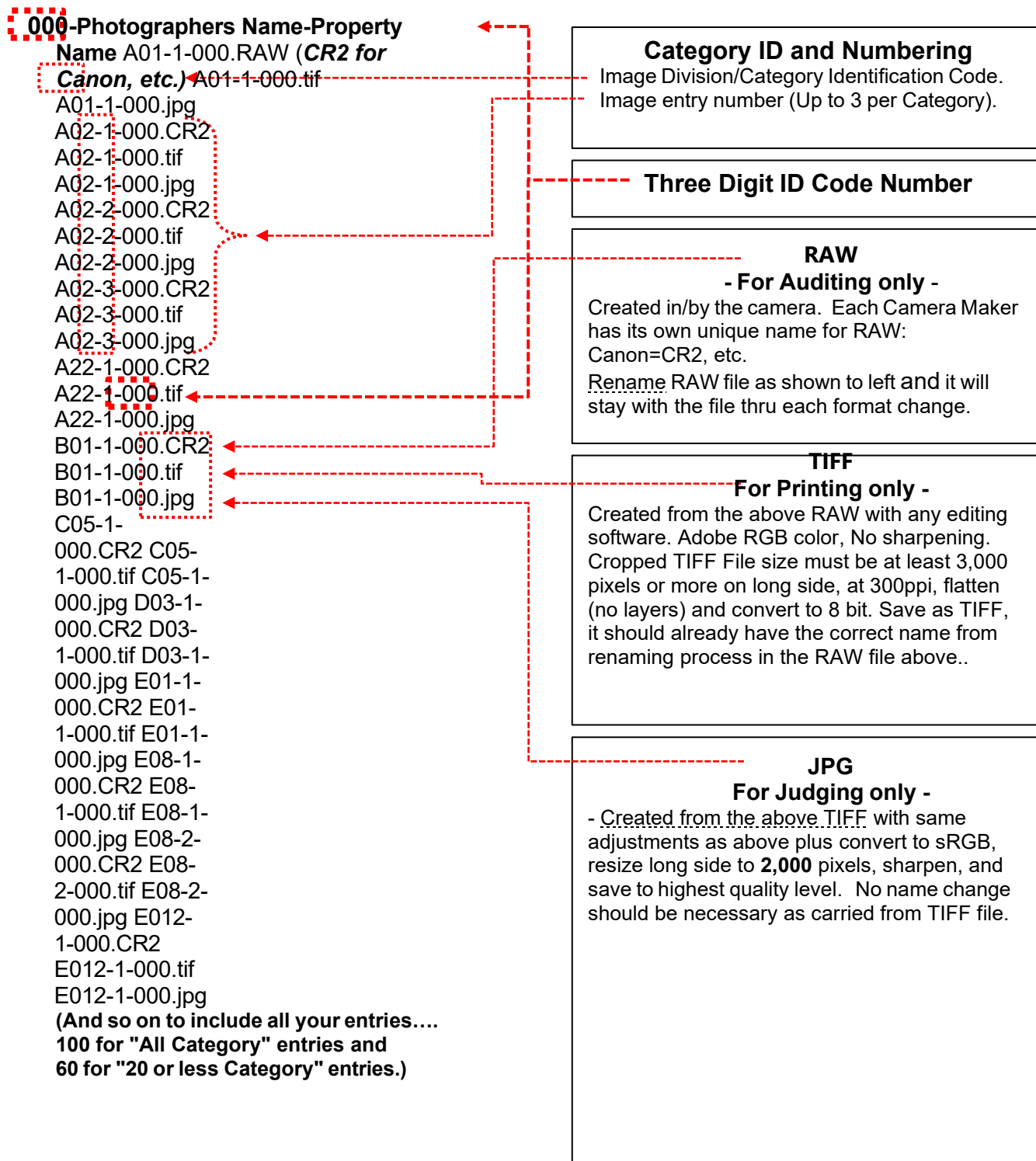
Address: _____ Address: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

ATTACHMENT G – NAMING FILES FOR SUBMISSION

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.



ATTACHMENT H – RELEASE OF LIABILITY

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF DANGERS, RISKS AND HAZARDS OF RECREATIONAL USE OF LANDOWNER PROPERTY

I hereby acknowledge that, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the 2025 Wildlife in Focus Photo Contests, I have knowingly and willingly entered into a photography use agreement by and between myself and _____, (hereinafter the Owner, whether one or more), effective February 21, 2025 and ending June 1, 2025 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 known by the name of _____ and located at least in part in the county of _____ Texas, (hereinafter the Property) 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 paths, creating rough, hazardous and dangerous driving and walking conditions; animals both wild and domestic that may be 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.

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 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.

Photographers) _____

Dated and signed this _____ day of _____,

Landowner(s) _____

Dated and signed this _____ day of _____,

ATTACHMENT I – WILDLIFE FIELD GUIDES
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

INVERTEBRATE:

*Kaufman Guide to the Insects of North America 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/>
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

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CONTEST SHOULD BE DIRECTED
TO THE WILDLIFE IN FOCUS RULES COMMITTEE AT 361-342-9585
OR EMAIL INFO@WILDLIFEINFOCUS.ORG