

2025 Wisconsin Envirothon

Current Issue Team Presentation Scenario

“Roots & Resiliency

Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change”

The Team Presentation Competition

The team presentation segment contains twice as many points as the individual testing stations. All teams must use a powerpoint presentation, with no limit on slides but no animation or linking to videos allowed. No other props, costumes, or digital displays are allowed. All members of the team must verbally participate in the oral presentation. Your team will have ten minutes to present accompanied by three to five minutes of judges’ questions. You may cite outside reference materials and sources. The score sheet and rubric to be used by the judges are attached.

The Scenario

The Village of Stone is composed of 500 residents living on the Brook River where the staple of businesses exist to serve the needs of the community. This bedroom community is 20 miles from a larger city that provides most of the work and schools for the residents. The community is situated in the lower reach of 10,000 acre watershed that is facing an increase in flooding over the past 15 years. Multiple flood events have impacted the community with more frequency in the last 5 years. Flooding has led to property damage that includes: homes, property, and businesses along with road infrastructure damage that is changing the riparian corridor costing the community millions of dollars to replace and or repair.

The watershed characteristics include 80 percent forest (50/50 public/private), 15 percent agriculture, 5 percent developed and or community. The landscape is defined by steep hills and tight valley floors making this an aesthetically pleasing place to live but violent during thunderstorms that create flash floods (River elevation changes in a short time frame).

Climate Change, development, and the conversion of perennial crops to row crops which now defines the agriculture landscape has led to an increase in flooding. Observed changes within the forest include: increase in invasive species (EAB, Oak Wilt, and numerous other species, jumping worms, etc.) reduced native species composition and lack of forest layering has led to an increase in gully erosion and flooding. Land use challenges exist on private forest lands where timber high grading, fragmentation due to development, and grazing are driving the increase in runoff.

Your Task

Your team is hired by the Village of Stone to develop and implement a climate action plan for the watershed to address the increase in flood events. The plan should address:

- What land use changes can be adopted to mitigate the flooding
- How you would implement these changes on private vs public lands
- What steps the community can take to build resiliency to protect residents from flooding while staying financially viable

Questions to Consider:

Understanding the Problem

- What are the primary factors contributing to the increased frequency and severity of flooding events in the Village of Stone?
- How has climate change and land use changes specifically impacted the forest ecosystems in the watershed?
- What are the ecological and economic impacts of increased flooding events on the community?

Developing the Plan

- What specific land use changes could be implemented to mitigate flooding?
- What sources of professional expertise will you use?
- How do you define your proposed actions?
- What will be your strategy for implementing the plan?
- How will you maintain or secure the plan in perpetuity?
- How will you address public vs private lands differently?
- What is the financial impact to implement this plan as compared to the cost of doing nothing?
- How will your plan measure and communicate its success?

Building Community Engagement and Resilience

- How will you coordinate and create buy-in for this task?
- What educational programs and outreach initiatives can be implemented to engage local residents, businesses, and other collaborative partners in the climate action plan?
- What are the potential risks and uncertainties associated with the proposed plan, and how can these risks be managed?

Your Objective

Your team will present a climate action plan for the Village of Stone residents that addresses the increase in flooding events with proposed solutions for the community.

Additional resources located at:

Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI)

- [Trends and Projections](#)
- [Forestry Working Group](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- [Climate](#)

[NIACS Strategies and Approaches](#) - Forest Carbon Management

[NIACS Adaptation Strategies](#)

[Climate Change Field Guide for Northern Wisconsin Forests](#)

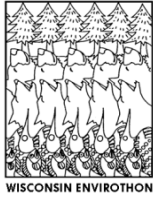
USDA Forest Service - [A Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Natural Resource Professionals](#)

Climate Change Response Framework - [Adaptation Menus](#)

Monroe County Climate Readiness and Rural Economic Opportunity Assessment - [Final Report](#)

Envirothon Current Issue Resources

<https://envirothon.org/the-competition/current-competition/>



2025 Wisconsin Envirothon

Team Presentation Evaluation Rubric

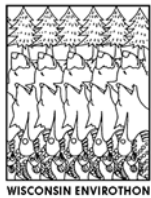
		5=excellent	4=very good	3=good	2=adequate	1=inadequate
ta DA	Understanding of environmental and resource management challenge	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed a solid understanding of all of the learning objectives outlined in the advisor handbook relevant to the environmental and resource management aspects of this scenario.	The team clearly and concisely conveyed a thorough understanding of all relevant learning objectives.	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed a thorough understanding of most of the relevant learning objectives.	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed only some of the relevant learning objectives.	The team's presentation was missing many relevant learning objectives.
	Understanding of technical issues related to topic	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed a solid understanding of the technical issues related to the problem. Natural resource benefits of solution presented were covered and well understood.	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed an understanding of the issues related to the problem and an appropriate solution was provided.	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed an understanding of the issues related to the problem and attempted to provide a solution.	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed only some understanding of the issues related to the problem.	The team's presentation lacked an understanding of the issues related to the problem.
	Understanding of the planning process affecting stakeholders and relevant parties	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed an understanding of the planning process, stakeholders and relevant political issues related to the problem. The team identified parties affected in the scenario and considered the concerns of all these parties.	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed an understanding of the planning process, stakeholders and relevant political issues related to the problem. The team attempted to identify and consider the concerns of all relevant parties.	The team clearly, concisely and thoroughly conveyed an understanding of the planning process, stakeholders and relevant political issues related to the problem. The team identified and considered some of the concerns of relevant parties.	The team conveyed only a basic understanding of planning, stakeholders and relevant political issues related to the problem.	The team's presentation did not convey an understanding of planning, stakeholders and relevant political issues related to the problem.
	Conclusion & recommendation support, definition and conviction	Ideas, statements, predictions, conclusions and recommendations were clear and logical, supported by data, were convincing to the audience, and expected results were comprehensible.	Conclusions and recommendations were supported by data, clearly defined and were convincing to the audience.	Conclusions and recommendations were supported by data and clearly defined.	Conclusions and recommendations were supported by data.	No data was used or data was presented in an unclear fashion.
	Ability to respond to questions	Audience questions after the presentation were answered logically and fully. The team demonstrated a collaborative effort to answer questions when possible.	Audience questions after the presentation were answered sufficiently, but not always fully, and the team attempted to use a collaborative effort to answer.	Audience questions after the presentation were answered sufficiently, but not always fully, OR some team members tended to dominate the response.	Audience questions after presentation were answered, but not always correctly, logically or fully, OR some team members clearly dominated the response.	Audience questions after presentation were answered inadequately, OR some team members clearly dominated the response.

		5=excellent	4=very good	3=good	2=adequate	1=inadequate
on	Organization	The team demonstrated an understanding of the level of complexity of the scenario and successfully reduced the complexity for the audience by structuring the presentation in a way that facilitated the audience's understanding of concepts. Questions from panel resulted from a thought-provoking presentation and did not result from a need to clarify components of the presentation.	The presentation was logically organized so that only a few minor clarifications were necessary after the presentation OR the audience comprehension could have been aided by slight reorganization.	Most of the presentation was logically organized, but some key clarifications were necessary after the presentation.	Only some of the presentation was logically organized, and so many key clarifications were necessary after the presentation.	The presentation was not logically organized and did not facilitate the audience's comprehension.
	Participant enhancement of presentation	The presentation mechanics allowed the team's points to be very effectively conveyed because they satisfied these key criteria: the rate, flow and clarity of delivery by each speaker was appropriate; each speaker's voice was loud enough to be heard by all judges; each speaker spoke to the audience in a narrative style, avoiding distracting mannerisms; transitions between speakers were smooth and helped audience follow the presentation.	The presentation mechanics satisfied all but one or two of the key criteria.	The presentation mechanics satisfied most of the key criteria.	The presentation mechanics satisfied only some of the key criteria.	The presentation mechanics satisfied very few of the key criteria.
	Visuals	The PowerPoint slides accompanying the oral narrative were necessary and very effectively conveyed the research because they satisfied these criteria: 1. Content was relevant; 2. Overall appearance was pleasing to the eye but did not distract from the content; 3. Font and figure sizes were adequate; 4. Visuals were filled with just enough information to be informative without looking overcrowded; 5. Figures were clearly labeled, had titles.	The slides used satisfied all but one of the key criteria.	The slides used satisfied most of the key criteria.	The slides used satisfied only some of the key criteria.	The slides used were unnecessary or satisfied very few of the key criteria.
ati	Team participation	Effective teamwork contributed to the success of the presentation because it met these criteria: 1. Each team member's contribution to the presentation was equivalent; 2. Each team member contributed answers to questions asked after the presentation to the best of their ability; 3. Teammates were respectful of each speaker and did not interrupt them.	Teamwork was largely effective; 2 of the 3 criteria were fully met.	Teamwork was somewhat effective; 1 of the 3 criteria was fully met.	Teamwork was not effective because none of the three criteria was fully met.	No teamwork was evident.
	Use of time	Team made effective use of time throughout the presentation.	The team mostly made effective use of time during the presentation.	The team made adequate use of time during the presentation.	The team made fairly effective use of time during the presentation.	The team did not make effective use of time during the presentation or overall.

Team Name _____

Start time _____

End time _____



2025 Wisconsin Envirothon

Team Presentation Evaluation Form

Judges – Please provide brief written evaluation to supplement your scoring.

(Scale for scoring: high score = outstanding; low score = poor)

PART 1 – APPLICATION OF DATA

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Team demonstrated a solid understanding of the environmental and resource management challenge. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. Team demonstrated a solid understanding of the technical issues related to the topic. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3. Team demonstrated a solid understanding of the planning process, affected stakeholders and relevant parties to the topic. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 4. Conclusions drawn and recommendations given were supported by data and clearly defined and convincing to the audience. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 5. Team responded to questions about the content of its presentation in an accurate, concise, and logical manner. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

PART 2 – QUALITY OF PRESENTATION

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Presentation was well organized. Main points were clearly stated and supported. Presentation included a clear introduction and strong conclusion. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. Participants used appropriate volume, eye contact, gestures, voice inflection, and pace. Participants also avoided distracting mannerisms and exhibited originality and professionalism during the presentation and question period. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3. Team made a good use of PowerPoint slides to present information in support of the presentation. PowerPoint slides met standards and were appealing, concise, and appropriate to support the presentation. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

PART 3 – TIMING AND PARTICIPATION

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. All team members participated orally in the presentation with smooth transitions. (Each team member gets 1 point for equal participation). | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. Team made effective use of the allotted time. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

JUDGE’S COMMENTS: _____

FINAL SCORE: _____ out of 50 points.

JUDGE’S NUMBER (1-4): _____

