

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher Sheet: Forest Habitat Assessment

✓ Fledglings

Provide information about the location and habitat components found at the this site.

KBBT Site:

Fourmile Lake

Habitat components found at this site:

Food: *Insects, seeds, plants, and fish*

Water: *Open water*

Shelter: *Tree canopy area*

Space: *Lots of open space between trees*

Using your observation skills, walk through the habitat and search for these specific mixed conifer forest habitat aspects. Place a tally mark next to each aspect each time you observe it. If there is anything interesting you come across, write a description of your findings. You will discuss the habitat assessment results at the end.

Mixed Conifer Forest Habitat Aspect	Tally	Description of Interesting Observations
Snags (dead trees)		
Fallen logs		<i>There are fallen logs everywhere covering the ground, too many to count</i>
Tall pine or oak trees		<i>Tall pines dominate the habitat</i>
Thick native shrub layer		
Forest edge habitat (where forest meets an open area)		<i>I wasn't able to find any edge habitat ; there are trees everywhere around the lake</i>
Small diameter trees		
Post-fire evidence		
Signs of management		<i>I see several places where invasive plant species have been removed and replaced with natives</i>
Signs that more management is needed		<i>When I look into the lake I see many fallen logs at the bottom of the lake</i>

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Using the information on the previous page answer the following questions.

1. Which habitat aspect did you find the most of? Why do you think this is the case?

The aspect I found the most of were fallen logs and tall pine trees. The fallen logs looked like they had been left there which is a good sign.

2. How many snags did you come across during your observation? Why are they important to this type of habitat?

I came across three snags. Snags are an important aspect to mixed conifer forest habitat because they provide essential habitat to many living things like birds.

3. Did you find any forest edge habitat? If so, how open was the edge habitat?

I couldn't find any forest edge habitat. The only partially open areas were campgrounds.

4. Was there any post-fire evidence around? What evidence did you observe?

There were some signs of post-fire. I saw fallen logs that had been charred and some of the snags had been blackened at the base.

5. Given your assessment results, do you feel that this mixed conifer forest habitat is healthy or do you think it needs more management? Why?

I think that it is fairly healthy, however, there were definitely signs that more management was needed around the lake and it is a heavy use area for the public.