FOREST HEALTH INDICATOR: WILDLIFE

The presence of a variety of wildlife is an indicator that a forest is vibrant and healthy. Actually seeing the animals may be difficult, but tracks, droppings, burrows, dens, nests, chewed leaves and pinecones, and other evidence or “signs” reveal their existence. You are more likely to see or hear the animals if you are quiet, respectful, and patient.

MATERIALS
Pencil, paper, binoculars or magnifying glass (optional)

METHOD
In your forest plot, look on the ground, under shrubs, and in trees for mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, spiders, or insects, or for signs of those animals. Record your observations.

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANIMAL CLASS</th>
<th>SIGNS</th>
<th>SIGHTINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
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<td>Reptiles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amphibians</td>
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<td>Spiders</td>
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<td>Insects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RATING
Good Signs or sightings of 4 or more different classes of animals 3 Points
Fair Signs or sightings of 2–3 different classes of animals 2 Points
Poor Signs or sightings of 0–1 different classes of animals 1 Point

Overall Wildlife rating for plot:    

Name: _______________  
Date: _______________  
Location: _______________