

WERC Living Wild Photography Contest Official Rules

PLEASE READ THIS FIRST: By submitting your photograph to WERC's Living Wild Photography Contest you give WERC permission to use the image as desired including but not limited to publication in newsletters, flyers, publicity and fundraisers, including the sale of prints and cards featuring the image.

You must be 18 years or older to enter.

Judging for the WERC Photo Contest will be done digitally. All entered photos must include a digital file of the image.

Entry Categories:

- California Native Wild Birds
 - o Only photographs of wild birds that live naturally in the state of California are eligible. They do not have to be permanent residents; migratory birds are ok as long as part of the year is spent in California.
 - o Only photos of birds may be entered in this category.
 - o Only photographs taken in the state of California may be entered in this category.
- California Native Wild Animals In Natural Settings
 - o Only images of wild animals that live in California are eligible.
 - o Photos of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects may be entered in this category.
 - o Only photographs taken in California may be entered in this category.

Please read the following contest rules carefully.

Prizes: Prizes will be given for the best photograph in the show and for the best photograph in each category. The photograph judged Best Overall will win their photo printed on a satin metal frame at or around 30 x 36" and will be featured on WERC's website, social and newsletter.

The best in category winners will receive glicee prints and be featured on WERC's social outlets and newsletters.

Additional Rules and Guidelines:

Photos must be the property of the entrant and must not have been digitally altered. Original camera raw files may be required from finalists.

Basic enhancements such as cropping, sharpening, blurring, lightening and darkening are allowed. No sky replacements please. No generative AI enhancements or changes allowed.

WERC staff and board members and their families, professional photographers (defined as people who

make more than 40% of their living from photography), contest judges and families of contest judges are not eligible.

WERC volunteers and their families are eligible to enter.

Entry is FREE but is limited to five (5) images per contestant.

Please complete entry information for each photo submitted. Please note the subject of each photograph and the location where it was taken. Please submit no more than five images per contestant.

Photos deemed as not having a main subject of nature will not be judged.

PLEASE READ: Animals must not be disturbed in any way to get an image. When an animal's behavior changes because of your presence, you are disturbing it. Please be responsible and watch for changes in animals' behavior to avoid disturbing them. It is against the law to harass wildlife, and this includes intentionally or accidentally causing an animal to flush, run or hide.

WERC reserves the right to exclude an image from judging if the circumstances of the photo are judged to have distressed an animal in any way. Only photographs taken in the state of California are eligible in all categories. The photographer does not need to be a resident of California, but the photo must have been taken in California.

Color or black and white digital images will be accepted. Entries should include a high-resolution digital file. A photo must be submitted as a digital file of minimum size 1MB (300 dpi at 4" x 5") in JPEG, TIFF, PNG or EPS format. JPEGs are preferred. Please note:

WERC, at its discretion, retains the right to provide photos to outside organizations that wish to publish or display them. In this instance, WERC will require that the photos appear with credit to the photographer and to WERC.

Winning photos will be judged on the following:

1. Suitability and quality of subject matter.
2. Technical quality (focus, color, composition)

Thank you for entering!