

M O N T A N A B O A R D O F R E G E N T S

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Institution: Montana State University – Bozeman
Program Title: B.S. in Natural Resources and Rangeland Ecology

1. How does this program advance the campus' academic mission and fit priorities?

An important component of MSU-Bozeman, as the land grant institution, is to provide an environment for students and faculty in which discovery and learning are closely integrated and valued. This is particularly true in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences, one of six departments in the College of Agriculture. This re-titling an existing B.S. major and defining two options builds upon existing strengths of the "range" faculty who have academic credentials, research and outreach programs in natural resources, livestock-wildlife interactions, rangeland ecology and plant-land-water habitats.

2. How does this program fit the Board of Regents' goals and objectives?

The proposed re-titling and delineation of distinctive options is a result of student-driven demand, employer input and advisory group recommendations. It reflects a growing demand for professionals who are trained in integrative multi-disciplinary fields.

3. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?

Rangelands comprise 70% of Montana's land are and help to support Montana's \$1.5 billion per year livestock industry. These lands and their natural resources provide wildlife habitat, clean water and unparalleled aesthetic beauty. Livestock-wildlife interactions on managed and natural habitat require an increasing level of professional management.

4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana? (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)

The qualitative aspects are provided above. Quantitative impacts with livestock are \$1.5B, while wildlife and livestock-wildlife and their habitat values are difficult to quantify.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	0	FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	15	
• Graduates / year?	15	
• MT jobs / year?	10	

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 0
• Faculty FTE?	5
• Staff FTE?	0

7. Does this program require new resources? Yes No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ _____

8. How will the campus fund the program?

Currently, the faculty required to manage, lead and grow the re-titled major are in place. Over the past several years new courses have been successfully added to the curriculum. Three additional courses will be added to support the curriculum associated with the re-titling effort (Wildlife-Livestock Habitat Restoration, Wildlife-Livestock Range Nutrition, and Contemporary Topics in Wildlife-Livestock Habitat Management).

9. If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.

n/a