

Proposal to Consolidate and Rename the Graduate Programs in Wildlife Biology and Animal Ecology at Iowa State University

Establish a single renamed graduate program in Wildlife Ecology through the merger and consolidation of existing graduate programs in Wildlife Biology and Animal Ecology

Program Outline

1. **Proposed Degrees:** MS and PhD
2. **Name of Degrees:** MS and PhD in Wildlife Ecology
3. **Department Involved:** Natural Resource Ecology and Management
4. **Contact Persons:** Richard Hall

5. **Need for Proposed Action:**

The difference in curriculum requirements between these two departmental programs is minimal, and the lack of a sufficiently articulated rationale for choice between them has been a source of confusion for prospective and incoming graduate students.

6. **Objectives of the Program:**

Within the context of the merger of the Departments of Animal Ecology and Forestry into NREM, and a well-defined alternative in the interdisciplinary program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, we believe this new single program with an updated and focused curriculum will provide a more attractive and understandable choice for students interested in professional careers as wildlife ecologists in the field of natural resource conservation. This emphasis also more closely aligns our graduate degree programs with the goals and philosophy of the still relatively new NREM Department.

7. **General Description of the Program**

- A. **Current Program:** Both degree programs are designed to result in broad understanding of principles of wildlife conservation, biology, ecology and management, as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to conduct applied research in support of informed management.
- B. **Proposed Program:** The proposed consolidated program will maintain the common focus of the current degree programs, but with a unified set of degree requirements that provide a common foundation in principles and practices of wildlife ecology and management.

C. **Comparison to Other Institutions:** No other graduate programs in wildlife ecology at other IA institutions

D. **Proposed New Courses and Modifications of Existing Courses**

- 1) New courses: None
- 2) Dropped courses: None
- 3) Modified courses: None

E. **Impact of Consolidating Current Programs**

- 1) Rationale for consolidation: See 5 & 6.
- 2) Availability of similar programs at other Regent's institutions: See 7C.
- 3) Enrollment data for current and previous four years

Number of Students Graduated 2002 – 2008, and Number of Current Students by Major.

Major		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Current
Animal Ecology	Male	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	
	Female	0	1	0	2	1)	2	0	
	Total	0	3	0	4	2	3	0	8
Wildlife Biology	Male	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
	Female	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	
	Total	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	7

- 4) Projection of faculty and staff needed to accommodate student needs in order to maintain program quality, and both a time frame for, and the costs of, program transition: Current level, i.e., no effect.
- 5) A description of the impact on minorities and on women: No specific impact will be born by minorities or women.

8. **Description of Resources Currently Available and Future Resources Need**

A. **Current Resources:** NREM's budget includes salary for 20.5 FTE's in tenure-eligible/tenured faculty lines (not including 3.0 FTE in the Iowa Cooperative Fisheries & Wildlife Research Unit), 0.6 FTE senior lecturer, 3.0 FTE adjunct faculty, 6 Professional & Scientific staff, and 3 Merit staff that carry out the Department's mission. The Department has 1.0 FTE faculty member holding academic rank in the department whose salary is entirely grant supported. These resources are for the department as a whole and not for any particular major.

B. **New Resources and New Efforts:** None planned.

9. **Letters of Support and Recommendations.**

A. **Programs at Other Regents Universities:** See 7C.

B. **Reports from Each Review Step**

The Wildlife Ecology MS/PhD program merger was approved unanimously by NREM faculty Oct. 19, 2007, by ISU Graduate Curriculum and Catalog Committee unanimously Feb. 13, 2008, by ISU Graduate Council (2/21/2008 minutes), and by ISU Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee (3/27/2008 minutes). ISU Faculty Senate approval is pending Oct. 7, 2008.