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Utah State University

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**Utah System of Higher Education
Changes to Existing Academic Program Proposal
Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template**

Institution Submitting Request:	Utah State University		
	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed (if applicable)</i>	
Program Title:	Rangeland Resources	Rangeland Ecology and Management	
Sponsoring School, College, or Division:	Quinney College of Natural Resources		
Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s):	Wildland Resources		
Classification of Instruction Program Code ¹ :	01.1106	01.1106	
Min/Max Credit Hours for Full Program Required:	120	/ 120	120 / 120
Proposed Effective Term for Program Change ² :	Fall	2017	
Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:	01/06/2017		
Award Type:	BS		

Program Change Type (check all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure with or without Consolidation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer to a new academic department or unit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of Service Area Delivery Program

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I, the Chief Academic Officer or Designee, certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Laurens H. Smith _____ Date: January 4, 2017

I understand that checking this box constitutes my legal signature.

¹ For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

² "Proposed Effective Term" refers to term when change to program is published. For Suspensions and Discontinuations, "effective term" refers to the term the program will suspend admissions.

Program Change Description - Abbreviated Template

Section I: The Request

Utah State University requests approval to change the name of the Bachelor of Science in Rangeland Resources to Rangeland Ecology and Management effective Fall 2017. This action was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on **January 6, 2017**.

Section II: Program Proposal

Program Change Description/Rationale

Present a brief program change description. Describe the institutional procedures used to arrive at a decision for the change. Briefly indicate why such a change should be initiated. State how the institution and the USHE benefit by the change.

Utah State University offers a BS in Rangeland Resources. Though rangeland management is still much of the focus for the degree, over the last two decades what is taught in that degree and what the students learn has become very ecologically focused. The Wildland Resources Department (WILD) therefore proposes to change the name of the Rangeland Resources BS degree to Rangeland Ecology and Management to reflect these changes. The range profession is increasingly incorporating ecological principles, with sustainability, wildlife and fisheries habitat conservation, water quality issues, and carbon sequestration becoming management priorities. Similarly, employers of graduates from range-oriented programs increasingly value ecological experience and expertise in students, and students are increasingly interested in ecological perspectives. Students in the Rangeland Resources major are increasingly likely to come from an urban/suburban background rather than what in the past would more likely be a rural ranching background. The Utah State University Wildland Resources Department offers a BS degree in Rangeland Resources that, over the past two decades or so has become increasingly focused on range ecology, but the current degree name does not reflect this focus. It is felt that by adding the word "Ecology" to this degree name it will more accurately describe the nature of the degree, and also may attract more students who are interested in studying ecology. This addition also may be a benefit when students are looking for employment, since some prospective employers may be looking for a student with an ecology background. Also by adding the word "Management" to the degree name it will reaffirm the fundamental focus on training students to be rangeland managers. Having the students receive a BS in Rangeland Ecology and Management will make it clear for both students and future employers the degree's focus and content. This name change may result in increased enrollment, which would be good since enrollment in the major, though it has increased in the last several years, is much smaller than is liked and smaller than can be handled (29 as of August 2016). The job market can handle increased graduates in range, since nearly every student who graduates with a BS in Rangeland Resources from USU gets a job in their field or continues on to graduate school. Through informal discussions among faculty and students in WILD, both of these advantages have become apparent. A recent poll of the faculty showed that 100% of those who expressed an opinion (two-thirds responded) support this change. Students were polled in an introduction to natural resources class a few years ago and they felt good about having the word ecology in a degree name.

Consistency with Institutional Mission/Institutional Impact

Explain how the action is consistent with the institution's Regent-approved mission, roles, and goals. Institutional mission and roles may be found at higheredutah.org/policies/policyr312/ . Indicate if the program will be delivered outside of designated service area; provide justification. Service areas are defined in higheredutah.org/policies/policyr315/ . Will faculty or staff structures be impacted by the proposed change?

This change is consistent with the mission of USU as the state's land grant university. No significant institutional impact is anticipated, though over time the enrollment in range major may increase but, as mentioned above, this would be good.

Finances

What costs or savings are anticipated from this change? If new funds are required to implement the change, indicate expected sources of funds. Describe any budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution.

No budgetary impacts are anticipated.