

# Assessment Plan: Natural Resources and Rangeland Ecology (2 Options: Range Ecology and Management, Wildlife Habitat Ecology and Management)

Fall 2016, Pat Hatfield

## Program Learning Outcomes

<edit as needed>

*Our graduates will:*

1. *demonstrate the ability to develop sustainable management and habitat restoration plans by synthesizing and applying knowledge of rangeland and wildlife ecology, soils, and vegetation. [Knowledge]*
2. *critically review and evaluate information to make decisions regarding the management of renewable resources in order to achieve conservation and management goals. [Critical Thinking]*
3. *demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills and facilitate communication within collaborative environments. [communication and collaboration]*
4. *use scientific principles to formulate questions, explore solutions, and problem solve in their chosen profession. [problem solving]*
5. *practice ethical conduct appropriate to their professional community and advocate for the responsible management of natural resources for current and future generations. [ethics]*

## Curriculum Map

<add courses in curriculum, mark with **I** (introduce), **D** (develop), **M** (mastery) >

	Cr	Outcomes				
		1	2	3	4	5
AGSC 342 Forages		D	M	D	D	
ANSC 222 Livestock in Sustainable Systems		I	I		I	I
ANSC 232 Livestock Management Sheep		I	I		I	I
ANSC 234 Livestock Management Beef		I	I		I	I
ANSC 320 Animal Nutrition		D	D	I	I	I
ANSC 337 Diseases of Domestic Livestock		D	D	D	D	D
ANSC 410 Veterinary Entomology						
ANSC 432R Sheep Management		D	M	M	D	D
ANSC 434R Beef Cattle Management		M	D	D	D	I
NRSM 101 and 102 Natural Resource Conservation		I	I	I	I	I
NRSM 235 Range and Pasure Monitoring		D		D		D

NRSM 240 Natural Resource Ecology		I			D	
NRSM 330 Fire Ecology and Management		I	D	D	D	M
NRSM 350 Vegetation of Western Wildlands		M	D	D	D	M
NRSM 351 Biomes of Western Wildlands		M	D	D	D	M
NRSM 353 Grazing Ecology and Management		D	D	M	D	D
NRSM 453 Habitat Inventory and Analysis				M		D
NRSM 455 Riparian Ecology and Management		M	M	M	M	M
WILD 325 Wildlife-Livestock Nutrition		D	D	M	M	D
WILD 355 Wildlife-Livestock Habitat Restoration		D	M	D	M	M
WILD 420 Range and Wildlife Policy		D	D	M		D
WILD 426 Wildlife Habitat Management		D	M	D	D	M
WILD 429/ANRN529 Yellowstone Wildlife Habitat Ecology						
WILD 438 Wildlife Habitat Ecology		D	D	M	M	D

### Student Performance: Data Sources

Assignments such as quizzes, papers, lab assignments, presentations that are embedded in the following courses will serve as the source of data to assess the six outcomes.

	Cr	Outcomes				
		1	2	3	4	5
AGSC 342 Forages		X	X	X	X	
NRSM 350 Vegetation of Western Wildlands (plant id test)		X				
NRSM 351 Biomes of Western Wildlands (exam, term paper)		X		X	X	
NRSM 353 Grazing Ecology and Management (papers)		X	X	X	X	
NRSM 453 Habitat Inventory and Analysis				X		
NRSM 455 Riparian Ecology and Management		X	X		X	X
WILD 325 Wildlife-Livestock Nutrition (problem sets, reports)		X	X	X	X	
WILD 420 Range and Wildlife Policy		X	X	X		X
WILD 426 Wildlife Habitat Management		X	X	X	X	X
WILD 438 Wildlife Habitat Ecology		X	X	X	X	X

### Response Threshold

At least 80% of students will be rated “Acceptable” or higher on assessments for each individual learning outcome.

### Schedules

## Outcomes

Outcome	Year					
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	X			X		
2	X			X		
3		X			X	
4			X			X
5			X			X

## Process for Assessing the Data

### Annual Assessment Process

1. Data is collected from identified courses.
2. Random samples of collected assignments are scored by two faculty members using prepared scoring rubrics.
3. The assessment coordinator tabulates the scores. Areas where the acceptable performance threshold has not been met are highlighted.
4. The scores are presented to the faculty for assessment.
5. The faculty reviews the assessment results, and makes decisions on how to respond.
  - If an acceptable performance threshold has not been met, a faculty response is required. Possible responses:
    - Gather additional data next year to verify or refute the result.
    - Change something in the curriculum to try to fix the problem.
    - Change the acceptable performance threshold.
    - Choose a different assignment to assess the outcome.
  - Faculty can respond to assessment results even if the acceptable performance threshold has been met.
  - It is OK to determine that changes are not needed when students are demonstrating proficiency with each learning outcome.
6. A summary of the year's assessment activities and faculty decisions is reported to the Provost's Office in your Department's Annual Assessment Activities report.