



May 7, 2024

Chris Kabourek, Interim President
University of Nebraska
3835 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, NE 68583-0745

Dear Interim President Kabourek,

I am forwarding materials related to a proposal to create a new undergraduate certificate in Wildlife Habitat Management to be administered by the School of Natural Resources in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The proposed program utilizes existing courses and does not require additional resources to offer. The Wildlife Habitat Management certificate program is expected to be attractive to current students and non-degree-seeking students from community colleges, tribal colleges, and other postsecondary institutions who see this certificate as a valuable credential toward employment.

This proposed program has the full endorsement of the Academic Planning Committee, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources faculty and curriculum committees, Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss, and VC Mike Boehm. I, too, approve fully in favor of this proposal. I request your approval and subsequent reporting to the Board of Regents at an upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Rodney D. Bennett, Ed.D.
Chancellor

c: Mehmet Can Vuran, Chair, Academic Planning Committee
Kathy Ankerson, Executive Vice Chancellor
Josh Davis, Associate to the Chancellor
Renee Batman, Assistant Vice Chancellor
Suzi Tamerius, Project Coordinator
Karen Griffin, Coordinator of Faculty Governance
David Jackson, Vice Provost
Angela Iwan, Executive Assistant to the EVPP

May 2, 2024

Chancellor Rodney Bennett
201 Canfield Administration
City Campus (0419)

Dear Chancellor Bennett:

The Academic Planning Committee (APC) considered a proposal to create a new undergraduate certificate in Wildlife Habitat Management to be administered by the School of Natural Resources in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The APC voted to recommend approval of the proposal at its May 1, 2024, meeting and I am forwarding this proposal for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Memet Can Vuran, Chair, Academic Planning Committee and Professor, School of Computing

c: Executive Vice Chancellor Katherine Ankerson
Vice Chancellor Michael Boehm
Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss
Director Larkin Powell
Associate to the Chancellor Josh Davis
Assistant Vice Chancellor Renee Batman
Project Coordinator Suzi Tamerius



MEMORANDUM

TO: Can Vuran, APC Chair

FROM: Katherine Ankerson, Executive Vice Chancellor *KSA*


DATE: April 9, 2024

SUBJECT: New Undergraduate Certificate in Wildlife Habitat Management

Attached please find a proposal to create a new Undergraduate Certificate in Wildlife Habitat Management to be administered by the School of Natural Resources in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The proposed program of study utilizes existing courses and does not require additional resources to offer the program. The Wildlife Habitat Management certificate program is expected to be attractive to current students along with non-degree seeking students from community colleges, tribal colleges, and other post-secondary institutions who see this certificate as a valuable credential toward employment.

This new certificate program has the full support of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources faculty and curriculum committees, Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss, and VC Mike Boehm. I fully support this proposal.

TO: Renee Batman
Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Michael Boehm 
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

SUBJECT: Proposal for new undergraduate certificate in Wildlife Habitat
Management

DATE: September 26, 2023

I am pleased to approve, in my role as chief academic officer for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), the proposal for a new undergraduate certificate in Wildlife Habitat Management.

Effective management of wildlife habitat requires a background in animal and plant ecology, wildlife management principles, and management strategies for a complex range of habitat types (e.g., grasslands, forests, aquatic watersheds, and land used for agriculture production). As such, this certificate is interdisciplinary in nature and leverages the strengths of three academic units in CASNR at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The proposal was approved by members of the CASNR Curriculum Committee on September 15, 2023, and the CASNR Faculty on September 26, 2023.

Enclosed are the proposal, letters of support, and transmittal letters. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Dean Heng-Moss.

CC: Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss



TO: Michael Boehm
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

FROM: Tiffany Heng-Moss, Dean *Tiffany Heng-Moss*
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Proposal for new undergraduate certificate in Wildlife Habitat Management

DATE: September 26, 2023

I am pleased to approve the new undergraduate certificate for Wildlife Habitat Management in the School of Natural Resources. This undergraduate certificate would provide learning experiences for students in natural resources and agriculture at UNL or other institutions that have an interest in management of habitat for wildlife.

The certificate will be targeted to students majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife, Agronomy, Plant and Landscape Systems, Grassland Systems, and Biological Systems Engineering who would use a combination of courses required for their current major and elective courses in their major to complete the certificate to strengthen their credentials and make them more employable.

The certificate was approved by the members of the CASNR Curriculum Committee on September 15, 2023, and the CASNR faculty on September 26, 2023.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

Enclosure

University of Nebraska-Lincoln New Undergraduate Certificate

I. Descriptive Information

Name of Institution Proposing New Undergraduate Certificate
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Name of Proposed Undergraduate Certificate
Wildlife Habitat Management
Other Programs Offered in this Field by this Institution
Fisheries and Wildlife Major and Minor, Agronomy Major, Plant and Landscape Systems Major and Minor, Grassland Systems Major and associated minors, and Biological Systems Engineering Major
CIP Code: 6 digit [IEA can help with CIP codes or browse here: http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55]
03.0201
Subject Code: 4 characters
NRES (but using courses in addition: PLAS, WATS, RNGE)
Primary Administrative Unit for the Proposed Undergraduate Certificate
School of Natural Resources
All Units Participating in the Undergraduate Certificate
School of Natural Resources, Agronomy and Horticulture, Biological Systems Engineering
Proposed Delivery Site
University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus
Undergraduate Certificate will be offered [full program, not individual courses]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus only <input type="checkbox"/> Distance only <input type="checkbox"/> Both (on-campus and distance)
Undergraduate Certificate will be Offered to
<input type="checkbox"/> UNL degree seeking <input type="checkbox"/> UNL non-degree seeking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Program leads to licensure or certification
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes If yes, explain:
The proposed certificate program is a subset of an existing degree program
<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
Percentage of the proposed certificate program made up of existing courses
100 %
Proposed Date the New Undergraduate Certificate will be Initiated
[Fall 2025]

II. Details

Purpose of the Proposed Undergraduate Certificate:

This undergraduate certificate would provide learning experiences for students in natural resources and agriculture at UNL that have an interest in management of habitat for wildlife. We also believe there is potential for use by students

who have achieved an associate's degree with preparation in biology who wish to earn an additional credential in this area. Effective management of wildlife habitat requires a background in animal and plant ecology, wildlife management principles, and management strategies for a complex range of habitat types (e.g., grasslands, forests, aquatic watersheds, and land used for agriculture production). As such, this certificate is interdisciplinary in nature and leverages the strengths of three academic units in the College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The certificate will strengthen credentials of students majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife, Agronomy, Plant and Landscape Systems, Grassland Systems, and Biological Systems Engineering who would use a combination of courses required for their current major and elective courses in their major to complete the certificate and make them more competitive in the workforce.

Participants in the certificate would gain experience and knowledge related to wildlife habitat management to pursue careers in the following areas:

1--Wildlife biologists with state and federal agencies: Wildlife biologists study animals and other wildlife and how they interact with their ecosystems. Habitat management is a sub-section of this field and employers include NGOs such as Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited, state wildlife agencies, and federal wildlife and natural resources agencies such as US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, the National Park Service, and other Department of Interior agencies. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a steady job outlook for wildlife biologists, but it is a competitive job market. Thus, the certificate will enhance marketability of those who complete it.

2—Conservation scientists: Conservation scientists manage the overall land quality of forests, parks, rangelands, and other natural resources. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 5% growth from 2021 to 2031 in this field. With a competitive job market, the certificate will enhance marketability of those who complete it.

Description of the Proposed Undergraduate Certificate:

The Learning Outcomes for the Wildlife Habitat Management Undergraduate Certificate are:

- Apply ecological principles to management of wildlife habitat in systems of grasslands, forests, aquatic watersheds, and agricultural production landscapes.
- Compare and utilize methods for identifying typical plant species in Nebraska and the Great Plains.
- Propose strategies for effective management of wildlife habitats.

This interdisciplinary certificate is designed primarily for students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources degree programs such as Fisheries and Wildlife, Plant and Landscape Systems, Grassland Systems, and Biological Systems Engineering. This certificate program is open to degree-seeking University of Nebraska–Lincoln undergraduates with preparation in biological sciences and associate degree holders who enter UNL as non-degree seeking students. The primary delivery of this program will be in-person.

Admission to the certificate program for non-degree seeking students and current degree-seeking University of Nebraska–Lincoln students in majors outside of the College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources will be: (1) at least 8 credits of introductory biology (e.g., equivalents of LIFE 120 and 121), and (2) either two semesters of chemistry or one semester of physics. Transfer courses must meet the University of Nebraska–Lincoln CASNR transfer guidelines to be accepted. Current students wishing to add this certificate to their Nebraska undergraduate degree program should contact one of the certificate advisors and complete the application form. The School of Natural Resources will manage this program.

Course Code and Name for Required Courses	Credit Hours	Prerequisites, if applicable	Course and Lab Fees
<i>Introductory wildlife management course:</i> NRES 311 Wildlife Ecology and Management**	3	NRES 220 or BIOS 207, or concurrent.	\$0
<i>Grassland management course (select one):</i> NRES 245 / PLAS 245 Introduction to Grassland Ecology and Management** NRES 438 Grassland Conservation: Planning and Management**	3	PLAS 153 Junior Standing	\$0 \$30
<i>Forest management course (select one):</i> NRES 310 Introduction to Forest Management** NRES 457 / PLAS 457 Green Space and Urban Forestry Management (3 cr)	3-4	BIOS 101, PLAS 131 or LIFE 120 Junior Standing	\$15 \$0
<i>Plant identification course (select one):</i> PLAS 442 / GRAS 442 / NRES 442 / RNGE 442 Wildland Plants** NRES 201 / LARC 201 / PLAS 201 Dendrology: Study and Identification of Trees and Shrubs	3-4	Junior Standing None	\$0 \$0
<i>Aquatic management course (select one):</i> NRES 468 / BIOS 458 / BSEN 468 / WATS 468 Wetlands** NRES 481/ WATS 481/ BIOS 481 Stream and River Ecology** NRES 459 / WATS 459 / BIOS 459 Limnology** NRES 470 Lake and Reservoir Restoration** WATS 354 / MSYM 354 / SOIL 354 Soil Conservation and Watershed Management	3-4	Two semesters chemistry, junior standing NRES 222 or equivalent NRES 220 or BIOS 207, two semesters chemistry 12 hrs NRES or related fields PLAS/SOIL 153, one semester physics	\$40 \$20 \$25 \$0 \$0
<i>Agriculture systems management course (select one):</i> PLAS 435 / NRES 435 Agroecology** RNGE 340 / PLAS 340 / GRAS 340 Range Management and Improvement** NRES 417 / PLAS 418 Agroforestry Systems in Sustainable Agriculture** NRES 438 Grassland Conservation: Planning and Management**	3	Senior standing 12 hours biological or agricultural sciences. Junior Standing	\$0 \$0 \$30
Total	18		

***Courses that can be used to satisfy a requirement in the Fisheries and Wildlife major. We have provided the information to demonstrate how current Fisheries and Wildlife major could judiciously select courses that satisfy degree program requirements and also certificate requirements.*

How and when advisors are assigned for students in the certificate program?

The School of Natural Resources' academic advisors (currently Sara Winn 402-472-0636, sara.winn@unl.edu and Kenneth Pyle 402-472-7471, kpyle4@unl.edu) will be assigned as academic advisors for students enrolled in the certificate program. Students majoring in Agronomy, Plant and Landscape Systems, Grassland Systems, and Biological Systems Engineering will retain their academic advisors, but the School of Natural Resources Student Success Team will be available for student questions regarding the certificate. This team will serve as primary contact for questions about the certificate (regarding requirements, substitutions, scheduling of courses, etc.).

What are the measures and procedures for verification of completion of the certificate requirements?

To verify completion of the certificate program, an audit of courses is completed and tracking of completion of the certificate will be done. Students may request an audit of the certificate at any time during the program, but should complete one when they are enrolled in the final courses required to verify the certificate is completed. Forthcoming procedures from the Office of the University Registrar will facilitate verification and generating the certificate.

What are the measures and procedures for ongoing evaluation of the certificate program?

Students in the certificate program will be monitored for progress towards completion. A survey of students at the end of their program will be developed and provided to ensure the certificate meets their needs. An additional evaluation to be completed by the student's future supervisors upon receiving employment may also be conducted.

What is the Impact on Course Subject Codes; Will any subject codes need to be created, modified, or deleted in relation to the creation of this certificate program?

No course subject codes will need to be created, modified or deleted.

III. Review Criteria

A. Centrality to UNL Role and Mission

As a land-grant university, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is charged with instruction, research, and outreach in agriculture and mechanic arts, not excluding other scientific or classical areas of study. The Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) was established through Nebraska legislative action for leadership in and service in agriculture, natural resources, and related fields of study. The College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) is home to more than 30 undergraduate degree programs providing instruction, research, and outreach in agriculture, natural sciences, and other related fields.

The college has a long and distinguished history of preparing talented, highly-trained, and motivated professionals that contribute to the effective management of private and public lands for wildlife, which includes management of habitats that are shared with agricultural production. Both natural resources and agriculture are economic engines that are vital to the success of Nebraska, and each requires a trained workforce. The certificate would enhance the credentials offered by the School of Natural Resources, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, and Department of Biological Systems Engineering to ensure an option exists beyond a major/degree that is recognized in the workforce. Those who complete the undergraduate certificate will be well prepared to support wildlife habitat management in Nebraska.

B. Relationship of the proposal to the NU 5-year strategy

This proposal enhances the success of the NU 5-Year Strategic Framework through:

- Workforce development: this certificate will make students more marketable and focus their educational experience on career considerations prior to graduation.
- Student access and affordability: for students who have not yet attained a degree, the accomplishment of this certificate has the potential to make them marketable for positions that do not require a bachelors degree.
- Partnerships: this certificate leverages partnerships with city, state, and federal agencies in agriculture and natural resources, NGOs, and environmental consulting firms that the participating academic units have nurtured to provide real-world case problems, field trips, and learning experiences in the courses required for the certificate.

C. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Post-Secondary Education

[Nebraska's statewide goals/plan can be found here:

<https://ccpe.nebraska.gov/sites/ccpe.nebraska.gov/files/CompPlan.pdf>]

The undergraduate certificate in Wildlife Habitat Management addresses the following statewide education goals:

- “Nebraska colleges and universities will provide their graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed as capable employees and responsible citizens.”
 - The certificate has been developed specifically for workforce training to provide skills needed for natural resource management in Nebraska.
- “Higher education in Nebraska will be responsive to the workforce development and ongoing training needs of employers and industries to sustain a knowledgeable, trained, and skilled workforce in both rural and urban areas of the state.”
 - The certificate was developed with stakeholders (see attached letters of support) in the natural resource agencies and NGOs in Nebraska to provide skilled workers for their hiring opportunities.
- “Postsecondary education institutions will provide appropriate support services to help all students reach their educational goals, regardless of where or how the instruction is delivered.”
 - The certificate is available to students with an associate’s degree who desire additional credentials without completing a Bachelor’s degree. Our support staff are available to assist those students with their educational paths.

The proposed certificate would provide specific skills to students studying natural resources sciences through learning experiences focused on wildlife habitats and sustainable habitat management and restoration.

D. Evidence of Need and Demand

1. Need: Workers in natural resources careers, including wildlife habitat management, are vital to Nebraska and the entire United States. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 5% growth from 2021 to 2031 in conservation scientist positions. With a competitive job market, the certificate will enhance marketability of those who complete it. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission reports that in Nebraska, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and state park visitation supports more than 24,000 jobs and has an economic impact of more than \$2.64 billion annually. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is the primary institution for training students for careers in natural resources in the state.
2. Demand: The School of Natural Resources’ Fisheries and Wildlife degree program (252 enrolled in Fall 2023) currently offers an option in wildlife habitat management. We estimate that at least 40 students have selected the wildlife habitat management option, which suggests the demand for the certificate. We believe it has high potential to be used by students in other related degree programs. The collaborating academic

units have large enrollments in their degree programs, which suggests we should expect at least 10 students to enroll in the certificate program for each of the first five years of operation. The courses used for the certificate are already in use by majors and minors and do not depend on the certificate program for their success; therefore, there is no minimum number of students required to make the certificate program viable.

E. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

No other college or university in Nebraska offers the breadth of courses in wildlife management and ecosystem management found at UNL. Similarly, no other Nebraska post-secondary school offers an undergraduate certificate in Wildlife Habitat Management.

F. Adequacy of Resources:

1. Faculty/Staff: Current faculty and staff in the collaborating academic units will fulfill the teaching and advising needs of the proposed certificate.
2. Library/Information Resources: The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has the infrastructure and talent to ensure students have access to library resources to support their academic success. No new library resources are required.
3. Physical Facilities and Equipment: No new facilities are needed.
4. Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources: UNL's current instructional equipment and informational resources are adequate to support success of students in the program.
5. Course and Lab Fees: No new fees or modifications of current fees are needed to create this program.
6. Budget Projections: No new expenses will be incurred.

IV. Appendices

A: Catalog Copy—See attached

B: Letters of Support—See attached

TABLE 1: PROJECTED EXPENSES - UNL Wildlife Habitat Management UG Certificate

	(FY2025-26) Year 1		(FY2026-27) Year 2		(FY2027-28) Year 3		(FY2028-29) Year 4		(FY2029-30) Year 5		Total	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Personnel		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0
Operating												
		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0
Total Expenses		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0

CCPE; 11/19/08

TABLE 2: REVENUE SOURCES FOR PROJECTED EXPENSES - UNL Wildlife Habitat Management UG Certificate

	FY(2025-26) Year 1	(FY2026-27) Year 2	(FY2027-28) Year 3	(FY2028-29) Year 4	(FY2029-30) Year 5	Total
Reallocation of Existing Funds	\$0	0	0	0	0	\$0
Required New Public Funds	\$0	0	0	0	0	\$0
1. State Funds	\$0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2. Local Tax Funds (community colleges)	\$0	0	0	0	0	\$0
Tuition and Fees ¹	\$16,080	\$32,160	\$48,240	\$48,240	\$48,240	\$192,960
Other Funding	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1						\$0
2						\$0
3						\$0
Total Revenue	\$16,080	\$32,160	\$48,240	\$48,240	\$48,240	\$192,960

¹ Tuition only, assuming 10 new resident enrollees each year at six credit hours per year, reaching 30 total enrolled students in year three and going forward.

Wildlife Habitat Management Undergraduate Certificate

The courses in the Wildlife Habitat Management Undergraduate Certificate program will the following skills:

1. Apply ecological principles to management of wildlife habitat in systems of grasslands, forests, aquatic watersheds, and agricultural production landscapes.
2. Compare and utilize methods for identifying typical plant species in Nebraska and the Great Plains.
3. Propose strategies for effective management of wildlife habitats.

This interdisciplinary certificate is open to any UNL undergraduate or non-degree seeking students.

Students must complete a minimum of 18 hours in the required course categories. NOTE: Some courses have prerequisites that may not be included in the certificate. Current University of Nebraska–Lincoln students in colleges other than CASNR will be required to complete at least one semester of college-level biology and one semester of college-level chemistry credit prior to admission into the undergraduate certificate program. Transfer courses must meet the University of Nebraska–Lincoln CASNR transfer guidelines to be accepted. Current students wishing to add this certificate to their Nebraska undergraduate degree program should contact one of the certificate advisors and complete the application form. Requirements for admission for students outside UNL will include:

- one course in introductory soil science
- 8 credits of introductory biology (e.g., equivalents to LIFE 120 and 121)
- Two semesters of chemistry or one semester of physics

Course Requirements:

Course Number	Minor Credit # Credit Hours
<i>Introductory wildlife management course:</i> NRES 311 Wildlife Ecology and Management	3
<i>Grassland management course (select one):</i> NRES 245 / PLAS 245 Introduction to Grassland Ecology and Management NRES 438 Grassland Conservation: Planning and Management	3
<i>Forest management course (select one):</i> NRES 310 Introduction to Forest Management NRES 457 / PLAS 457 Green Space and Urban Forestry Management (3 cr)	3-4

<p><i>Plant identification course (select one):</i></p> <p>PLAS 442 / GRAS 442 / NRES 442 / RNGE 442 Wildland Plants</p> <p>NRES 201 / LARC 201 / PLAS 201 Dendrology: Study and Identification of Trees and Shrubs</p>	3-4
<p><i>Aquatic management course (select one):</i></p> <p>NRES 468 / BIOS 458 / BSEN 468 / WATS 468 Wetlands</p> <p>NRES 481/ WATS 481/ BIOS 481 Stream and River Ecology</p> <p>NRES 459 / WATS 459 / BIOS 459 Limnology</p> <p>NRES 470 Lake and Reservoir Restoration</p> <p>WATS 354 / MSYM 354 / SOIL 354 Soil Conservation and Watershed Management</p>	3-4
<p><i>Agriculture systems management course (select one):</i></p> <p>PLAS 435 / NRES 435 Agroecology</p> <p>RNGE 340 / PLAS 340 / GRAS 340 Range Management and Improvement</p> <p>NRES 417 / PLAS 418 Agroforestry Systems in Sustainable Agriculture</p> <p>NRES 438 Grassland Conservation: Planning and Management</p>	3
Total	18

Wildlife Habitat Management Undergraduate Certificate

Appendix B

Letters of Support: Internal and External



26 January 2023

*CASNR Curriculum Committee
College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources
University of Nebraska*

CASNR Curriculum Committee,

I am pleased to provide a letter of support for the proposed certificate program in Wildlife Habitat Management. The School of Natural Resources' faculty have provided the initial facilitation for the design of the certificate, and our advising staff will provide support to students in this program. However, I am pleased that faculty have created this as an interdisciplinary program that leverages courses in three academic units. As such, the certificate program has relevance to students in a variety of degree programs in CASNR.

Our natural resources programs in CASNR are growing, and the needs for trained workers is great. The certificate nicely packages a set of courses that provide hands-on skills and training. Our stakeholders have elevated the skills provided by this proposed certificate as critical for marketability of students as they seek employment with agencies and NGOs in career pathways related to habitat management.

Thank you for your consideration of this certificate proposal.

Sincerely,

Dr. John P Carroll
Director
Phone - +1 402-472-8368
Email – jcarroll2@unl.edu

[Co-Chair IUCN-SSC Galliformes Specialist Group](#)
[Executive Board, National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs](#)

January 29, 2023

John Carroll, Professor and Director
School of Natural Resources
903 Hardin Hall
Lincoln NE 68583-0989

Dear John,

The Department of Agronomy and Horticulture fully supports the proposed undergraduate certificate in Wildlife Habitat and Management. I confirm that we will be glad to accept students from your proposed certificate into PLAS 245 Grassland Management, PLAS 442 Plant Identification, PLAS 435 Agroecology, PLAS 340 Range Management and Improvement. Thank you for including these courses in the program.

The Department of Agronomy and Horticulture looks forward to having the certificate available to our students.

Sincerely,



Martha Mamo, Professor and Head
Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

June 21, 2023

Larkin Powell
Professor & Associate Dean
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
School of Natural Resources
College of Ag Sci & Nat Res

RE: Wildlife Habitat Management Certificate

Larkin,

Thank you for leading the efforts to establish the Wildlife Habitat Management Certificate. Our students will benefit.

BSE is supportive of establishing the Wildlife Habitat Management Certificate.

We have various courses that may be candidates for inclusion. I am glad to explore. I also understand that Aaron Mittelstet has identified AGST (MSYM) 354, Soil Conservation and Watershed Management as a likely course. I agree.

Thanks again for leading us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

David Jones, Ph.D.
Professor and Head



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Nebraska Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
9325 South Alda Road
Wood River, NE 68883

January 12, 2023

Mr. Larkin Powell
Professor and Associate Dean
School of Natural Resources
College of Ag Science and Natural Resources

Dear Mr. Powell:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is pleased to have the opportunity to work with students that have an interest in the field of natural resources management. To date, the knowledge and skills University students have received have been exceptional and students majoring in the natural resources degree program who complete the Wildlife Habitat Management Undergraduate certificate will have received the training necessary to be competitive in entry-level positions within the Service. We look forward to working with the next generation of students as they begin their careers in natural resources management. Thank you for fostering the next generation of conservationists.

Sincerely,

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

REGION 6
MOUNTAIN-PRAIRIE

COLORADO, KANSAS, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, UTAH, AND WYOMING



2200 N. 33rd St. • P.O. Box 30370 • Lincoln, NE 68503-0370 • Phone: 402-471-0641

January 12, 2023

Larkin A. Powell
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
419 Hardin Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0974

Re: Wildlife Habitat Management Certificate

Dear Larkin,

Thank you for allowing me to review the proposal to offer a Wildlife Habitat Management certificate through the School of Natural Resources. As we have discussed, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find candidates that possess the necessary qualifications to succeed in the conservation field. The courses required to receive this certificate will provide your students with a leg up on other prospective job seekers. Providing your students with a ready-made path to a deeper understanding of these subjects will serve them well. I feel that this certificate will benefit both the student and those agencies and organizations looking to hire the next generation of biologists, managers, and leaders.

Thanks again for the opportunity and I would be happy to help as you revise these ideas further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Eric Zach", written in a cursive style.

Eric Zach
Agriculture Program Manager

January 24, 2023

Larkin Powell
University of Nebraska – Lincoln
419 South Hardin Hall
3310 Holdrege Street
Lincoln NE 68583-0974

Dear Larkin,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on your proposed Wildlife Habitat Management Undergraduate Certificate to be available to students at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. I think the concept has merit and would be worthwhile.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, along with other conservation agencies in the federal government, hire a wide range of natural resource conservation professionals – and in some cases, these positions are more of a general natural resources management role. With that in mind, I encourage you to compare how your course offerings compare to the “series” and associated education qualifications used by Office of Personnel Management (OPM). It is apparent to me that having this certificate available for students who are not majoring in fisheries and wildlife would not only provide more knowledge about wildlife habitat but also allow them to qualify for a wider range of occupational series within the federal government.

As an example, a student in agronomy or animal science that might easily qualify for a series in their field of study (i.e. 471 agronomy or 487 animal science) could also qualify for a 401 general natural resources management or even 486 wildlife biologist if they selected appropriate course work to obtain the certificate.

With that in mind, I am supportive of the university adding this certificate to their program.

NRCS appreciates the close communication between the university staff and our agency to ensure well-trained resource professionals are entering the workforce for conservation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 402.437.4100 or by email at ritch.nelson@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Ritch Nelson

RITCH NELSON
State Wildlife Biologist

