DEPARTMENT OF RANGE, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Borrelli, Dean of the Graduate School
THRU: Marvin J. Cepica, Dean CASNR
FROM: Ernest B. Fish
SUBJECT: Graduate Program Review Action Plan
DATE: 7 August 2006

The Department of Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management will undertake the following activities in response to the graduate program review and assessment activities conducted during academic year 2005-2006.

1. Department faculty will undertake a review of all graduate course offerings with particular attention to those courses currently taught in a "piggyback mode".

2. Department faculty will undertake a review of admissions policies with particular attention to the proposal from the Graduate Dean and Provost that increasing the number of enrolled graduate students was a critical consideration. A more liberal admission policy would enhance semester credit hour generation, numbers of enrolled students, and potentially numbers of students who graduate. Increased numbers of students will potentially have a negative impact on faculty workload and quality of the educational experience. An appropriate balance will need to be achieved.

3. Based on the concerns expressed by the Dean of the Graduate School and the Provost—that the Department not compromise its national reputation for excellence in the range discipline area as several senior faculty members approach retirement—Department faculty will undertake a review of the appropriate sequence for replacing these individuals with individuals possessing strong credentials in range science. Appropriate "overlap" to avoid loss of program momentum will be requested.
4. Department faculty will continue efforts to reformat the Departmental website to meet new University standards and will continue the process of updating content and linkages presented on the website with particular emphasis on presentations of importance to potential graduate students.

5. Department faculty will reexamine the possibility of a non-thesis masters program to increase enrollment and the generation of semester credit hours.

6. Department faculty will review admissions and hiring processes with particular emphasis on women faculty and graduate students.