

Name of IRA Program: RANGE PLANT ID TEAM

Course Title and Number: Rangeland Resource Science 475- Advanced Study in Rangeland Plants

Faculty Program Director: David F. Greene

College and Department: FORESTRY & WILDLAND RESOURCES

Campus Phone: X-5244

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1. Please describe the nature and objective of your activity and how it qualifies as an Instructionally Related Activity (IRA). Use the attached examples of evaluation criteria, reference in #3 provided by the IRA Committee. Address the issue of how the course/activity relates to the larger curriculum (i.e. general education, majors, minors, electives). What are the students expected to learn by the end of this course activity that they did not know before? Are there any special requirements for participating in this activity? Please be as clear and concise as possible in your response. There are many student related functions at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management (SRM). These include the International Range Plant Identification Contest, the Student Conclave, the Undergraduate Range Management Examination (URME), student paper sessions, etc. Approximately one-fifth to one-fourth of those attending the SRM Annual Meeting are students from universities and high schools throughout North America. Students have a chance to meet, exchange ideas, and develop multicultural appreciation through interaction with their peers from approximately two dozen universities located in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Of major importance at the SRM Annual Meeting is the multi-decade old and traditional International Range Plant Identification Contest. Participation, high placement by individual students, and high placement by university teams brings recognition to the university and alumni of the Rangeland Resources Program. Over the past 10 years, the HSU Plant ID Team has competed and placed well (5th out of 24 university teams in 2017). The other intercollegiate contest in which students participate is the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME), a comprehensive evaluation of the student's knowledge, and this year Humboldt placed 14th out of 23 universities. Training for the URME contest for HSU students is individual as there is no assigned coach, as do the larger land-grant universities. Continued support from the institution as a whole will ensure a high level of visibility and performance by HSU students each year at the SRM Annual Meeting. This will garner continued recognition of the Rangeland Resources & Wildland Soils Program and Humboldt State University. The 701st SRM Annual Meeting, Undergraduate Range Management Exam, and International Range Plant ID Contest are scheduled for January 28th-February 2nd 2018 in Reno, Nevada. The intended learning outcomes for students in both the Plant ID Contest and the URME are self discipline and commitment as a member of a team effort, a deeper knowledge of rangeland plants (ability to recognize and identify 200 North American Wildland Plants, discipline for competition, time management), and advanced knowledge of rangeland management information. They also learn how to interact with professional rangeland managers that they meet while attending the various technical sessions and social activities specifically designed for bringing students and professionals together while attending the SRM Annual Meeting.

2. How does your program meet all the General Requirements listed in #2 of the IRA Funding Guidelines?

If the IRA Program no longer has a course title and number, please explain why it should still be eligible for IRA funding.

These activities (Plant ID Contest and URME) meet and fulfill all the General Requirements described in Guideline #2, especially the initial four bulleted descriptions. The Advanced Study of Rangeland Plants (RRS 475) is an offered course in the FWR Department.

3. What is the instructor's level of participation in this IRA funded course and activity?

During Fall Semester, the students are tested once per week and the instructor conducts the testing. The students are expected to self-study the "study specimens" contained in the "study herbarium cabinets" located in the Rangeland Resources Herbarium. The instructor meets with students weekly to discuss identification characteristics. This represents 6-8 hours per week. During the weeks of the Spring Semester prior to the SRM Annual Meeting and Range Plant ID Contest, the students are tested twice/thrice times per week and the instructor conducts the testing. The students are expected to self-study the "study specimens" contained in the "study herbarium cabinets" located in the Rangeland Resources Herbarium. The instructor meets with students weekly to discuss identification characteristics. This represents 12-15 hours per week. During the weeks of the Spring Semester after the SRM Annual Meeting and Range Plant ID Contest, the students that will be continuing on the team the following year meet twice per week with the instructor to discuss identification characteristics and be tested. The students are expected to self-study the "study specimens" contained in the "study herbarium cabinets" located in the Rangeland Resources Herbarium. This represents 6-8 hours per week. The instructor accompanies and registers the students to the International Range Plant ID Contest and the Undergraduate Range Management Exam.

I have reviewed this Instructionally Related Activities Budget Request in its entirety:

IRA Program Director Name: _____

IRA Program Director Signature: _____

Department Chair Name: _____

Department Chair Signature: *Susan Idinger Marshall 3/28/17 acting* _____

