October 21, 2014

Memorandum

To: Wendy Crone, Interim Dean of the Graduate School
GFEC

From: Paul Robbins, Director – Nelson Institute

Re: Discontinuation Request: Doctoral Minor in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development

At the April 11, 2014 GFEC meeting, the Nelson Institute requested and received approval to rename the M.S. in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development to the M.S. in Environmental Conservation, effective Summer 2014. The Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies currently offers a doctoral minor in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development (CBSD); rather than similarly rename the CBSD minor, the Nelson Institute requests the minor discontinue, effective Spring 2015.

The renamed and restructured M.S. in Environmental Conservation operates as a professional masters with a condensed and tightly structured curriculum; program faculty have concluded that it no longer aligns with program mission for the Nelson Institute to offer either conservation biology and sustainable development nor environmental conservation as a doctoral minor program.

Thus, the Nelson Institute requests that the GFEC approve a formal discontinuation of the doctoral minor in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development. There is presently a Geography doctoral student enrolled in the CBSD minor; we request that this student, now a dissertator, be allowed to complete his doctoral program with the CBSD minor. The Nelson Institute will continue to provide (minor program support) to the currently-enrolled student until he finishes his doctoral degree.

As noted above, the doctoral student currently seeking the minor will be allowed to continue to pursue and earn the minor. Should that student break graduate enrollment and later return to graduate studies, the minor will not be available to that student.

cc: Kelly Haslam, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning and Assessment
Jennifer Martin, Academic Planning Specialist
Janet Silbernagel, Professional Program Director – Nelson Institute
Jim Miller, Graduate Advisor / Student Services Coordinator – Nelson Institute