

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Proposal to Merge the Departments of Animal Ecology and Forestry into the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, ISU
Date: June 10, 2002

Recommended Action:

Approve the proposal to merge the Departments of Animal Ecology and Forestry into the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management.

Executive Summary:

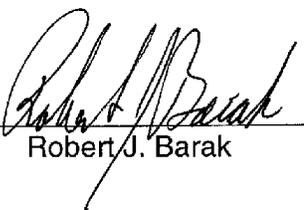
Rationale for
Merger

Iowa State University is requesting approval to merge two departments within the College of Agriculture into one department to be named the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, effective July 1, 2002. The merger is proposed in recognition of the strong natural resources emphasis in the College that has been stated as a priority in the College's strategic plan. It is also the result of extensive planning and discussion by the faculty and administration in response to current and future budget reductions, and is part of a larger plan to reorganize the biological sciences at ISU. Additional aspects of the biological sciences reorganization plan will be brought to the Regents for review and approval in future months.

Initially, all existing academic programs will be protected and therefore students will not be affected. Planning for changes in curriculum offerings resulting from this merger (and related to the larger reorganization) is underway and will follow the usual and required approval process.

Greater
Efficiencies

Overall, the merger will result in increased administrative efficiency for the College of Agriculture and its faculty and is in the spirit of developing more collaborative efforts within the College. It is anticipated that this reorganization will lead to increased academic excellence, the enhancement of national recognition for the faculty and programs in the biological sciences, and a continued commitment to meet the major needs of agriculture and rural America.


Robert J. Barak

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols