

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR
College of Natural Science and Mathematics
Biology and Wildlife Graduate Programs**

STRENGTHS:

- Time to graduate is 6.6 yrs for PhD and 3.3 for MS students. The 3.3 figure is a recent number after changes were made to reduce it from its previous value of 4.0 years.
- Students are publishing in peer-reviewed journals based on thesis and dissertation work; avg. 2.7 papers per PhD and 0.75 per MS student.
- Post-graduation employment or continuation to further education is nearly 100%.
- Students have research and TA opportunities, and both provide undergraduate mentoring.
- Faculty publish 3.4 peer-reviewed papers and average \$323,000 per year in extramural research grants, greatly benefiting the graduate program.
- Faculty advise graduate students outside the department.

WEAKNESSES:

- Graduate program has declined by about 1/3 in most metrics in recent years.
- Faculty hesitate to take on new graduate students without sufficient funding to support them.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Increase undergraduate numbers to provide a pipeline to the graduate program through online (e.g., existing BA and now BS) and new collaborative degrees.
- Pursue funding focused on graduate student support, such as NIH and NSF programs.
- Reduce graduate tuition and redirect ICR to support grad students (outside of department control).

THREATS:

- Loss of productive faculty through retirement or movement to other institutions.
- Loss of internal student support from fellowships and TAs leads faculty to replace graduate student roles with other options.

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

- Wildlife Biology and Conservation has an outsized importance in Alaska due to the vast amount of undeveloped area and the heavy use of natural resources from subsistence and hunting through tourism.
- Employment opportunities in Biology and Wildlife in Alaska are strong. Biology is a core component of many STEM majors and career tracks, such as health care.

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

- The program shows strong student success metrics.
- Program faculty are very productive in research.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

SCH

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
SCH	BIOL - Lower	2225	2513	2252	2500	3060
SCH	BIOL - Upper	1956	1923	1955	1967	1851
SCH	BIOL - Grad	938.5	838	757	622	611
SCH	BIOL - External	2005	1629	1593	1659	1377.5
SCH	WLF - Lower	69	76.5	56	72	80
SCH	WLF - Upper	315	153	149	196	209
SCH	WLF - Grad	149	123	140	120	155
SCH	WLF - External	3	9	0	8	8

Majors

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Majors	MS Biological Sciences	41	34	29	26	27
Majors	MS Wildlife Biol & Conservation	26	17	22	17	18
Majors	PHD Biological Sciences	34	33	31	31	26
Majors	PHD Wildlife Biol & Conservation	1	0	0	0	0

Degrees

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Degrees	MS Biological Sciences	7	6	7	4	5
Degrees	MS Wildlife Biol & Conservation	8	2	5	5	4
Degrees	PHD Biological Sciences	8	5	5	3	5

FTEs

Metric	Detail	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
FTEs	Adjunct FTEs	0.5	1.5	1	0.4	0.8
FTEs	Faculty FTEs	12.3	10.9	11.1	11.9	12.1
FTEs	Staff FTEs	4	3.3	2.8	3	2.5
FTEs	Student FTEs	5.1	5.2	4.6	3.9	5.2

Expenditures

Metric	Program	Detail	FY20
Instructional Expenditures	CNSM Biology & Wildlife	Restricted	516.1
Instructional Expenditures	CNSM Biology & Wildlife	Unrestricted	2663116.7
Research Expenditures	CNSM CDR Biology & Wildlife	Restricted	16329.3
Salaries and Benefits	CNSM Biology & Wildlife	Restricted	209.1
Salaries and Benefits	CNSM Biology & Wildlife	Unrestricted	2503895.2

Biological Sciences MS

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation: 6 votes	Monitor improvement to degree completion for MS students to ensure it continues to be satisfactory	
Continuation w/ improvement plan: 1 vote		
Abstain: 1 vote		

Biological Sciences PhD

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation: 6 votes		
Continuation w/ improvement plan: 1 vote		
Abstain: 1 vote		

Wildlife Biology & Conservation PhD

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation: 7 votes		
Continuation w/ improvement plan: 1 vote		