

FW 506 Project Proposal

Due Date: Your project proposal must be submitted to Dr. Dunham (Susie.dunham@oregonstate.edu) prior to registering for FW 506. Your project must be approved by Dr. Dunham before you will be allowed to register.

This assignment is intended to help you kick your capstone organization into high gear. If you've already sorted most of this out it will be a quick write up that you will then share with Dr. Dunham and your mentor. If you haven't considered the answers to some of these questions – it's time to do so! If you decide to change aspects of your project after the proposal is approved, please discuss these changes with Dr. Dunham and your mentor as soon as possible.

Please contact Dr. Dunham at the email address provided above if you have questions about this requirement.

Assignment: Write a one to two-page document that includes all of the following components:

- A project title.
- A brief (one-page max) overview of the project scope. Please include three to five primary literature citations in this portion of the proposal.
- A description of your intended audience.
- The project format and how it will be disseminated.
- Your plan for determining project effectiveness.
- A timeline for project completion.
- The name, affiliation and contact information of your project mentor.

Project Title: The title of your project/proposal is the first chance you have to capture the interest of your intended audience. A well-constructed title should present a relevant, accurate and intriguing description of your project. Titles should be fairly short (~100 characters or less) and should convey what you intend to do, how you intend to do it, and the intended outcome of your work. Essentially you're trying to capture the essence of your project in a single statement.

Project Overview/Scope: This section should describe the knowledge gap or other information need that motivated your project. Clearly identify the fisheries or wildlife resource, ecology or conservation issue/question that you will address. Describe the methods and type of information you intend to use to address the issue (primary data, primary literature, expert opinion, etc.) and describe how your project will contribute to the field of fisheries or wildlife management. If similar projects/papers have been produced in the past, be sure to identify them and explain how your project will advance/update what has been done before. After reading this section, Dr. Dunham should have a clear idea of your overall project goals. Approach this text as if you're drafting the abstract or a short summary that will be included at the beginning of your final paper. It will save you some time once you're ready to wrap up your final product. Please cite three to five supporting peer-reviewed references in your project overview and list these citations (properly formatted) at the end of your proposal.

Intended Audience: Your audience is the touchstone you will return to over and over every time you find yourself pondering questions like: *‘Should I include a section on X?’*, *‘Have I gone into too much detail here?’*, *‘Do I need to explain this idea or can I assume people just know about this?’*. Whenever students ask me questions along these lines my response is generally...*‘Who is your audience and what do they need in that regard?’*. Think about this and be sure to discuss this question with your mentor to make sure they agree. After that, clearly identify who will use your capstone project; in other words, who are you writing for and what information do they need. Your audience does not need to be large (it might just be the folks in your office or agency) – but it should be well defined at the outset.

Project Effectiveness: This section is intended to get you thinking about how you will (or would) determine whether your final project is effective in achieving your stated goals. How would you expect the behavior of your audience to change after they’ve read your project and how would you measure that change? If you’re designing a project that will be delivered in a setting that accommodates some type of assessment (e.g., a classroom), then implementing some measures of effectiveness may become part of your project. For others, simply pondering and responding to this question can help direct how you will present your final project.

Timeline: Your project timeline should include an overview of when you’ll submit the following deliverables to Dr. Dunham and your mentor:

- A working outline that shows the overall structure of your paper/project. Weeks 3 or 4 are good target dates for this assignment.
- A complete draft of your capstone project to be reviewed by your mentor and Dr. Dunham. Weeks 6 or 7 are good target dates for this assignment. Be sure to leave sufficient time for Dr. Dunham and your mentor to review your draft and provide feedback. You will also need time to revise your capstone based on their comments.
- A final draft of your capstone project.
- The mentor evaluation of your final project

Dr. Dunham is flexible on the due dates for your capstone deliverables, but she does want you to have a project timeline developed.

Please be sure to communicate with your mentor about this timeline. Their ability to review your work and provide you feedback may, in part, determine your timeline. In any event, be realistic with yourself. Think about how long it took you to complete this first assignment or about how long it’s taken you to write shorter papers for other graduate-level classes and use that information to estimate how long you’ll need to complete your capstone project.

Mentor Information: This is for tracking purposes only. Please also share Dr. Dunham’s contact information (susie.dunham@oregonstate.edu; 541-737-2642) with your mentor and encourage them to contact her if they have any questions or concerns.

Length and Format: There is no particular format that you need to follow for this assignment. Please do complete it in Word and email it to Dr. Dunham as a Word document so she can make edits and return them via email. The length, however, should not exceed two pages and

can be shorter. Be sure to provide clear descriptions that capture all the key points of your project. Adding length will not achieve this if the writing is overly wordy or vague. Be concise and informative!