Category I Abbreviated Proposal Review: Program Merger: Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences

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Graduate Council Reviewers: Andrew Plantinga, Stacy Semevolos

1. Program Description: Department of Animal Sciences and Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management will be merged into the Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences (AnRS) as part of the strategic restructuring plan of OSU. The intent is to enhance synergy among faculty in livestock production, animal welfare and behavior, and forage management. The new department will eliminate previous options associated with AS and REM, changing to options of Science or Management in Animal Sciences.

Questions:
- Will the MS/PhD degree names be changed as well? If so, this change should be listed on the first page of the proposal along with the current changes to B.S. names. Does the termination of options for Animal Sciences and Rangeland Ecology and Management affect the graduate degrees?
- If the current graduate degrees are combined into one M.S. and one Ph.D. degree in the combined department, what will the new requirements be for these programs? Which program will they be modeled after? What courses will be required, etc? What is the current graduate enrollment if the goal is to have 8 MS and 3 PhD students per year? How many faculty are there in each of the current “signature” areas of graduate training? How will 5 additional FTEs help these? It seems that the identified priority 5 FTEs may not fit neatly into any of these signature areas.
- Will the proposed tracks of Science and Management also apply to graduate students or will there be different ones?

2. Mission Statement – fine

3. Accreditation – Should strengthen RS and improve changes for accreditation through Society of Range Management.

4. Need (Evidence of market demand) – 87% of Oregon in rangeland or forest and half of this land is grazed by livestock. Strong need in Oregon for both animal sciences and rangeland management. Stakeholders depend on extension programs and training of students in these fields.

5. Outcome and Quality Assessment – With regards to Graduate Education, no real outcomes assessments are given. Mainly listed are goals for enrollment, GRE scores, etc.

6. Program Integration and Collaboration – see above regarding combine graduate degree requirements.

8. External Review – relationship with Ag program at Eastern Oregon University