WCSU Department of Biology
MS Integrative Biological Diversity (IBD)
Bio506 Applied Stewardship Declaration Form
Deadline: November 23 for Spring & April 23 for Summer and Fall registrations

All students considering enrolling in Bio506 Applied Stewardship must submit a completed form to the IBD Coordinator prior to enrolling. This class is an opportunity to take action on a project you have been developing, or developed in stewardship seminar.

In the end you will need to provide a summary of how you accomplished the two course objectives, by indicating the new stakeholders you have met (that you previously didn't know), and comment on your personal growth (i.e., management, conservation, education outreach, new knowledge synthesized) through this experience. We also meet 3 times in the evening over the semester (early, mid, and end) to collaboratively share on our experiences and track your sense of well-being in this process.

1. Student Name _____ Semester _____

2. IBD Faculty Advisor _____ Student Expected date of program completion _____

3. Classification of Applied Stewardship primary outcome (check one):
   - ☐ Conservation
   - ☐ Management
   - ☐ Policy
   - ☐ Education
   - ☐ Community Outreach
   - ☐ Generation of New Knowledge

4. Applied Stewardship Partner and contact information _____
   Is this a new partner? ◯ Yes ◯ No

5. Primary stakeholder served by this project _____

6. Secondary stakeholder served by this project _____

7. Describe your applied stewardship project in a couple of sentences:

8. Identify the temporal/spatial/phylogenetic biodiversity element your project will track or map:

Faculty Advisor Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Coordinator's Signature _____

Western Connecticut State University
Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

Course Title: Applied Stewardship

Course Level: Bio506 - 01

Course Credits: 2 semester hour credits

Rationale:
Graduate students accepted into MS in Integrative Biological Diversity are required to implement the management plan of an organism of choice developed in the Biological Stewardship Seminar (Bio505).

Course Description:
This course provides students in the MS in Integrative Biological Diversity the opportunity to implement the management proposal developed in the Biological Diversity Stewardship Seminar. Students will contribute to the monitoring and conservation priority of an organism of interest 6 hours per week for 14 weeks minimum, with faculty oversight and mentorship. The Applied Stewardship cohort will engage in as many as 3 on-line learning community Chat Room sessions throughout the semester.

Prerequisites:
Admission into MS in Integrative Biological Diversity Program and completion of Biological Diversity Stewardship Seminar with a grade of B or better is a prerequisite for registration.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will be able to compare and contrast applied experiences through in-person and remote conversation and discourse (for ex. virtual chat rooms).
2. By implementing management plans students will engage in the practice of conserving biodiversity and biological resources.
3. Students will engage with professional organizations in the discipline.
4. Students will summarize their original work on maps.
5. Students will contribute and disseminate maps in programmatic database.
6. Students will predict short term and long term impacts of their stewardship action.

Assessment plan:
Assessment will comprise of attendance, implementation of continuous improvement practices, professional evaluation by partnering organizations, and student's final report.

Resources:
Staffing. Team taught. All faculty participating in the MS in Integrative Biological Diversity are qualified to teach this course.

Equipment. All field equipment is available or will be provided by supervising faculty and partners.

Facilities. All activities will take place under the permission of associated field stations or appropriate custodians of hosting property.

Library. The WCSU library holdings are adequate for this course. Appropriate Field Stations maintain libraries that will also be available.

Impact on students. Practical experience and training in the management of biological resources.

Course Outline:

I. Review of the Management Project Priority

1. **Reflection and confirmation**
    a. **Management Plans from Stewardship Seminar**
    b. **Stakeholders**
2. **Final preparation**
    a. **Permits and permission**
    d. **Plan for Continuous Improvement Feedback Loops**

II. Project implementation

1. **Collecting data**
    a. **field work**
    b. **mapping distribution**
2. **Collaboration**
    a. **Feedback**
    b. **Implementing Feedback**

III. Reporting

1. **Conservation Priority**
    a. **Analyzing Data**
    b. **Summarizing findings to stakeholders**
2. **Reflecting on meeting proposed goals**
    a. **Self-assessment**
    b. **Short term (formative) and long term (summative) impact of project**

Frequency:
This course will be offered in the Fall 2019, and every Spring Semester thereafter.

Resources and Texts:

There is no required textbook for this class. Students must have access to a computer and internet.

Grading: Standard