Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

1. Change the curricular requirements of Natural Resource Economics (Minor) [Effective: Summer 2014]

Required Courses (12 cr):
- AgEc 356 Agricultural and Rural Policy (3 cr)
- AgEc 361 Farm and Natural Resource Appraisal (3 cr)
- AgEc 410 Experiencing the Idaho Public Policy Making Process (1 cr)
- AgEc 418 Developing Negotiation Skills in Agribusiness (1 cr)
- AgEc 451 Applied Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (3 cr)
- AgEc 477 Law, Ethics, and the Environment (3 cr)
- Geog 385 GIS Primer (3 cr)

One of the following (3 cr):
- AgEc 301 Managerial Economics: Production (3 cr)
- AgEc 302 Managerial Economics: Consumption & Markets (3 cr)

Electives: Choose 8 credits from the following courses (if not taken above):
- AgEc 301 Managerial Economics: Production (3 cr)
- AgEc 302 Managerial Economics: Consumption & Markets (3 cr)
- AgEc 410 Experiencing the Idaho Public Policy Making Process (1 cr)
- AgEc 419 Development and Analysis of Enterprise Budgets (1 cr)
- Bus 362 Real Property Appraisal (3 cr)
- For 235 Society and Natural Resources (3 cr)
- CSS 364 or PolS 364 Politics of the Environment (3 cr)
- CSS 383 Natural Resource and Ecosystem Service Economics (3 cr)
- CSS 462 or PolS 462 Natural Resource Policy (3 cr)
- Econ 202 Principles of Microeconomics (3 cr)
- Econ 385 Environmental Economics (3 cr)
- EnvS 225 International Environmental Issues Seminar (3 cr)
- EnvS 400 Seminar (1 cr)
- Geog 411 Natural Hazards and Society (3 cr)
- REM 456 Integrated Rangeland Management (3 cr)

Courses to total 20 credits for this minor

Rationale: The faculty of AERS voted unanimously (16-0) to adopt the changes in the Natural Resource Economics minor. This is not a new minor, as the Natural Resource Economics minor has been in the catalog for many years. Rather this is a proposed change in the minor. There are no additional resources required. There are two primary reasons for the changes. First, the revised minor is more flexible. All students choosing the minor are required to take the four AgEc courses which form the basis of 12 of 20 credits for the minor (similar to the current minor). However, students may choose 8 credits of the 20 credits from a list which includes both economics and courses highly complementary to natural resource economics. This follows because applications of analytical methods in natural resource economics are to natural resource issues and policies. Second, courses were dropped from the current minor either because they are no longer offered or because their content is no longer deemed as applicable to the intent of the minor. AgEc 361 was dropped from the minor as it is no longer taught, although Bus 362 was added as an elective course because it includes rural lands appraisal. AgEc 418 was dropped as its content focuses on business negotiations and not on negotiation skills between groups of people, e.g. environmental groups versus industry. Geog 385 was dropped as it is a tool that complements data analysis for natural resources, but the other courses were viewed to more appropriately assist in the understanding of the application of economics to natural resource issues and policies. AgEc 410 was moved from a required course to an elective to allow for more student choice. This minor will increase interdisciplinary learning opportunities for the students, as per Goal 1, Objective A (Build adaptable, integrative curricula and pedagogies) under the University’s Strategic Plan. We anticipate that additional student interest in the minor, due to its increased flexibility, can enhance undergraduate programs in CALS, CNR and BUS, as well as other colleges and degrees across the University of Idaho.