**Grading Sheet – Project Proposal**

**PCE 2017**

**Due at 5 pm on Oct. 31**

***All worth 20 point each (lengths of sections are suggestions, not requirements)***

**\_\_\_\_ Introduction or Background (3-4 paragraphs)**

 Title concise & informative

Background at level sufficient for a PCE student reader

 Introduces broad question and topic then narrows down to the specific focus of this study

Justification and significance: provides sound, linear reasoning for conducting this study

 Research question(s)/objective(s) and hypotheses testable and clearly stated

**\_\_\_\_ Methods (2-4 paragraphs)**

 Clearly describes plan for collecting and analyzing data

 If using the provided data set, briefly describes data collection protocol

 If collecting original data, describes field surveys in enough detail for us to provide help/feedback

 Describes statistical approaches used to test the hypothesis

 Demonstrates understanding of basic survey and statistical techniques used

**\_\_\_\_ Significance (1-2 paragraphs)**

Answers the questions: what will be gained/accomplished as a result of conducting this study? How will the field of ecology or specific groups benefit from the results?

 Appropriately describes the scope of benefits of this individual study

Suggests objectives of follow-on research, as appropriate

 Concludes with a clear “take home” message about the importance of this study

**\_\_\_\_ Literature Cited**

 8-10 references from peer-reviewed sources (additional non peer-reviewed sources are allowed)

Citations appropriate and well chosen, showing adequate background research on the topic

 Citations provided for background, justification, and any specific methods or claims

 Citations formatted consistently within the text and in the Literature Cited section (use *Ecology* journal format)

**\_\_\_\_ Topic & Formatting**

Topic fits within those studied in the PCE class

12 point Times New Roman font & 1” margins throughout

Main text 1½ - 2 pages single-spaced (Literature Cited section not included in page limit)

Figures are allowed as long as they take up less than ¼ of a page total

 Grammatically correct and carefully proofread

**\_\_\_\_\_ / 100 Total**