

The Department of Ecology assessment plan is not too well formulated at present. The department underwent a change of leadership during the initial period for activity and the current department head is now working to formalize a plan. It will be posted as soon as it is available. In the meantime, Dave Roberts, the current department head, reports the following:

What I am pursuing is the following

- 1) I recently met with the State Director of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and about a dozen senior staff members to discuss the F&WL curriculum and the performance and competitiveness of our graduates. FW&P is quite happy with the biological knowledge and mathematical/statistical skills of our students, but believes we should do more in conflict resolution and human dimensions. We have just implemented a Human Dimensions course at the graduate level, and are exploring opportunities to expand the curriculum in that area for undergraduates as well. I just spoke today to John Talbott about the possibilities of such a course and he was very enthusiastic.
- 2) The undergraduates in F&WL have two student sections of national professional organizations (Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society). The officers of these organizations will meet with me next week to discuss curricular issues and student's perspectives on the program.
- 3) I have scheduled meeting times for interviewing graduating seniors. I don't know yet how many will show up since we haven't done this before, but I'm counting on some good feedback.
- 4) We implemented a department database this year that tracks graduate students pretty closely. This summer we intend to expand that to the undergraduates. We're taking your warning to heart and not promising to contact all our grads 5 years out, but we will at least be able to track how many were admitted to grad school (which is really our best indicator since the MS is the entry level degree for all our majors)