Project 2. Research Proposal Draft Feedback

KEY: 5 = exceptional, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = fair, 1 = poor

HOW EFFECTIVELY DOES THE...

**title (2%)...**
- convey the specific goals of the study (along with name, affiliation, working group)..............

**introduction section (16%)...**
- begin by describing the significance of the broad biological principle that is addressed...........
- introduce the focal species and its specific conservation problems........................................
- make adequate reference to the primary literature....................................................................
- use previous work to provide the necessary background information for your question...........
- lay out the logical justification for carrying out the proposed research..............................

**objective and predictions section (5%)...**
- state the biological objective(s) or question(s) addressed by the research............................
- state the specific prediction(s) of the experiment to be performed......................................
- provide a brief rationale and explanation for the objective(s) and prediction(s).....................

**experimental methods section (22%)...**
- provide clear and sufficient detail about the...
  - location and relevance of conditions for the experiment to be performed ..................
  - experimental subjects...........................................................................................................
  - necessary treatments and controls.....................................................................................
  - measurements to be collected from subjects for comparisons........................................
- explain convincingly why each treatment and control should be included......................
- explain how bias would be controlled adequately in the experimental design..................
- explain how the experiment would achieve adequate replication.................................

**possible results section (15%)...**
- describe each result expected if the prediction were either upheld or not upheld...............
- provide effective graphs of results that match the different interpretations ......................

**significance section (5%)...**
- describe the importance of this research for answering a question about the species ........
- describe the significance of the research to a broader area of biology............................

**writing overall (15%)...**
- develop the ideas, motivations, and justifications adequately, clearly, and concisely ........
- use correct grammar and spelling.........................................................................................
- use effective sentence, paragraph, and section structure ...................................................
- use proper citation format in the text...................................................................................
- use proper format for the literature cited section..............................................................

**proposal make the case that the research is (20%)...**
- significant – will lead to novel information that is important for conservation...................
- definitive – designed to clearly and directly address a critical prediction.........................
- feasible – can be completed ethically and in a realistic timeframe and budget...................

**OVERALL SCORE : /100**

( /100 with late penalty)

**NOTES FROM THE BPA PROGRAM OFFICER:**