

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

ITEM 128-1002-R0705

Institution: The University of Montana-Misdsoula

Program Title: The University of Montana Paleontology Center

1. How does this program advance the campus' academic mission and fit priorities?

The mission of The University of Montana includes creating knowledge, providing an active learning environment, generating outreach and service to the State/nation/world, providing unique educational experiences, while being responsive to the needs of Montanans. The proposed University of Montana Paleontology Center and the associated Fort Peck Field Station are in complete synchrony with the University mission. The new Center and Station will continue to give scientific oversight on collecting, preparing, analyzing fossils from Montana and elsewhere in the world. This will create an excellent learning environment for Montana students (graduate, undergraduate and K-12) and non-traditional students, many of whom will come from out-of-State. Creation of the field station in the Glasgow/Fort Peck region and the virtual museum website are outreach activities to the State and region. National and international outreach will come from the expanded opportunities for scholars to participate in collecting and studying the paleontological treasures of and in Montana.

2. How does this program fit the Board of Regents' goals and objectives?

The mission and goals of the Board of Regents include providing high quality, coordinated, and stimulating environments for learning, while contributing to economic development for Montana.

"The University of Montana Paleontology Center" (UMPC) and the associated "Fort Peck Field Station", or FPFS will preserve the fossil heritage of Montana and the region, to be a repository for important fossil discoveries, and to serve as a center of excellence for research, teaching, and public outreach. Associated with this will be the development and maintenance of an electronic database and a website, which will support research and education, including distance learning and a "museum without walls." Partnership with the non-profit organization "Fort Peck Paleontology, Inc. (FPPI) and its facilities in the Glasgow area, which may include some buildings at the old Glasgow Air Force Base, will allow creation of a summer program with paying "volunteers" to assist in digs and fossil preparation. "The Fort Peck Dam Interpretative Center and Museum", operated by the Army Corps of Engineers has designated about 1000 sq ft of Museum space for fossil exhibits to be prepared and managed jointly by FPPI and UMPC.

3. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?

The new center would be called "The University of Montana Paleontology Center" (UMPC) and the associated field station would be designated as the "Fort Peck Field Station", or FPFS. The purpose of the center and the associated field station is to preserve the fossil heritage of Montana and the region, to be a repository for important fossil discoveries, and to serve as a center of excellence for research, teaching, and public outreach. Associated with this will be the development and maintenance of an electronic database and a website, which will support research and education, including distance learning and a "museum without walls." Partnership with the non-profit organization "Fort Peck Paleontology, Inc. (FPPI) and its facilities in the Glasgow area, which may include some buildings at the old Glasgow Air Force Base, will allow creation of a summer program with paying "volunteers" to assist in digs and fossil preparation. UM and other students would be involved in course work at these facilities for theses and/or academic credits. Finally, "The Fort Peck Dam Interpretative Center and Museum", operated by the Army Corps of Engineers has designated about 1000 sq ft of Museum space for fossil exhibits to be prepared

and managed jointly by FPPI and UMPC. The University of Montana has been approached by FPPI and economic developers in the Glasgow region to create a "Field Station" in the area in order to provide scientific direction and leadership for their existing field station, to help with the paleontology exhibit part of the Fort Peck Interpretative Center and Museum, to assist in building programs that would bring in researchers, students and tourists to boost the economy of the regions, and to exploit opportunities to use certain facilities at the old Glasgow AFB. A "Fort Peck Field Station", although operating year-around, would be mostly a UM summer facility. Administratively, the UMPC's Director, curator and collections managers would serve at both sites. FPPI would hire a Business Manager and other staff to deal with non-scientific/academic aspects of the joint Glasgow area operations.

4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana? (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)

A side benefit of those aspects of the project scheduled for the Glasgow/Fort Peck area is enhancement of the region's economy through increased employment, purchase of local goods and services, and increased tourism to the region.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

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|-----------------------|-------|--------------|
| • Break-even point? | NA | FTE students |
| • Enrollments / year? | 21-84 | |
| • Graduates / year? | NA | |
| • MT jobs / year? | 5 | |

6. Resource Allocation:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| • Total program budget? | \$ 91000-249900 |
| • Faculty FTE? | 0.3-0.5 |
| • Staff FTE? | 0.3-2.4 |

7. Does this program require new resources? Yes No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ 91000-249900

8. How will the campus fund the program?

Program fees for summer students at the FPFS will also generate considerable revenues in amounts of \$40,000 to \$160,000 per year. Tuition payments and private contributions will contribute other funding for the Center and its activities in amounts starting at \$13,700 per year and increasing to \$89,000 by the fifth year. A grant from NASA will provide \$50,000 of "seed money" during the Center's first year of operations. Requests for \$1.5 million per year for 4 years, through the initiative process, have been requested from the Energy and Water Division of the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, the UMPC has identified Requests for Applications for grants from the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution and the Department of Interior to cover renovation expenses, capital purchases, and some operating expenses.

9. If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.

NA