Proposal for permission to use the USF Ecological Research Area (Eco Area)

Use of the Eco Area for teaching or research requires the approval of a brief written proposal by the Eco Area Advisory Committee (EAAC). There are two purposes to this proposal. (1) To maintain the health of the Eco Area and the organisms in it, and assure proper, compatible use by all users (2) To provide adequate information as to who is using the Eco Area and for what purposes, and whose study plots, flags, etc., are whose. The EAAC will not evaluate the overall scientific or pedagogic merit of your proposed work, but may reject or suggest modifications to all requests for use based entirely on the expected impact on the Eco Area and the populations of organisms in it. Once approved, any departure from or modification of a proposal for Eco area use, must be accompanied by approval of modified proposal before work begins. Unauthorized use of the EcoArea will lead to revocation of all use privileges.

Provide your name, department, email address, and phone number. All graduate student use must have major professor approval.

I. Each research project proposal must present the following information.

1. What is the general purpose of your research?
2. Describe the methods you intend to use – number of plots, types of markers, etc.
3. Describe how you will minimize damage to soils and plants.
4. Identify (on a map) where you intend to conduct this work. Explain why these spots are desirable; this information may be used to suggest other locations in the EcoArea if there are problems of heavy or concurrent use.
5. How will your markers, plots, etc., be labeled so that we can tell they are yours? Describe your plan to repair damage, remove markers, etc., at the end of the study.
6. If you are working with vertebrates, provide information on your IACUC permit. We will not approve any use that violates IACUC rules.
7. Over what time period will your work be conducted? Any time extensions must be approved.
8. Permission to use the EcoArea is conditional on your providing the EAAC with reprints of all relevant publications and links to all web sites referring to this work. Seminars and publications must acknowledge the use of the EcoArea.

II. Teaching use requests must present the following information

1. For what course are you requesting use?
2. Dates and times access is requested.
3. Approximately how many people will be involved?
4. Briefly describe the methods you intend to use – number of plots, types of markers, etc.
5. Describe how you will minimize damage to soils and plants.
6. Identify (on a map) where you intend to conduct this work. Explain why these spots are desirable; this information may be used to suggest other locations in the EcoArea if there are problems of heavy or concurrent use.
7. How will your markers, plots, etc., be labeled so that we can tell they are yours? Describe your plan to repair damage, remove markers, etc., at the end of the course exercise. By what dates will these goals be accomplished? We will hold you to these dates.

8. If you are working with vertebrates, provide information on your IACUC permit. We will not approve any use that violates IACUC rules.

9. For courses that intend to use the EcoArea on multiple occasions during a semester, you may either submit a single, unified proposal (giving all the information for the entire semester) or a separate proposal for each exercise.

10. Unauthorized use or damage to the EcoArea will result in revocation of future ability to use the EcoArea for your course.