

Biological Scientific Writing (BIOL 825)

[Department of Biological Sciences](#) | [Fort Hays State University](#) | [Mark Eberle](#)

Editing Exercise #2

Working on your own, *print this proposal* and correct errors in punctuation and word use without deleting basic content. This is not a “wordsmithing” exercise; *these are strictly grammatical changes*. Use editing symbols. I have placed >10 errors based on what we have covered in class. Some sentences require more than one change; some require none. Proper names and common names of species are not among the 10+ errors (e.g., changing “Black Mining Hills” to “Black Hills” is not one of the 10+ corrections; it is cultural humor, even if you do not understand it). Scientific names were omitted to save space.

The whatchamacallit inhabits short grass prairie associated with open, mature, undisturbed, mid-elevation ponderosa pine forests adjacent to the western Great Plains. Its distribution has receded since the Pleistocene, and a relict population is extant on Pine Ridge in western Nebraska (Yaright, 1940; Oldendays, 1970). This population is considered threatened because of habitat loss and possible hybridization with the whatchamacajiggy which was introduced from the Black Mining Hills of South Dakota (Rocky Raccoon, pers. comm., July 2005). Little is known about its life history, however, Winkandanod (1956) reports that the whatchamacallit’s diet consists of bird eggs (ground-nesting species), carabid beetles and lily and orchid leaves.

Documentation of the status of the whatchamacallit in order to support future management decisions is the objective of my study. I will survey the amount of suitable habitat and use mark-and-recapture techniques to estimate population size of the whatchamacallit on Pine Ridge. The population size of the whatchamacajiggy, however, will be estimated from visual counts to document its increase since 2005. I hypothesize that the distribution and population size of the whatchamacallit are not significantly different from estimates obtained during a study conducted from 1968 through 1969 (Oldendays, 1970).

I will capture whatchamacallits using pitfall traps on transects through the three different habitats designated by Niwrad (2000): grassland, juniper woodland and pine forest. Since whatchamacallits don’t inhabit the rocky slopes around the Pine Ridge (Yaright, 1940), I will sample only the area on top of the ridge. A grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is sought to fund my two year study to collect this data.