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September 26, 2017

Dr. Deborah Hedeem
Provost
The University of Montana - Western
710 South Atlantic
Dillon, MT 59725-3598

Dear Provost Hedeem:

This is in reply to electronic correspondence received in our office on July 13, 2017, requesting approval from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) for The University of Montana-Western to add a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Ecology with options in Quantitative Ecology, Fish and Wildlife Ecology, and Integrative Ecology to its education offerings, effective fall 2017. The BS degree program in Ecology requires 120 credits to completion. The University Faculty Senate approved the addition of the new offerings on April 4, 2016, and the Montana University System Board of Regents authorized the University to offer the new degree program and options in September 2016. Building upon existing programs and student services, The University of Montana-Western has existing resources and capacity to offer the BS degree program in Ecology with the abovementioned options.

The Commission has approved the abovementioned change as a *minor change* under Commission Policy, *Substantive Change*. Accordingly, the addition of the Bachelor of Science degree program in Ecology with options in Quantitative Ecology, Fish and Wildlife Ecology, and Integrative Ecology is now included under the accreditation of The University of Montana-Western.

Thank you for keeping the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities apprised of developments and initiatives at The University of Montana-Western. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Valerie W. Martinez
Vice President

c: Dr. Beth Weatherby, Chancellor
Dr. Sandra E. Elman, President, NWCCU