

**Project Pre-Proposal**  
**Rough Draft Due: Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> (2:00 PM)**  
**Final Draft Due: Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> (email by midnight)**

This 8-page document should consist of the following sections:

- **Executive Abstract (300 words or less) Containing 3 Sub-Sections (Page 1)**
  - **Intellectual Merit** – Why does your work matter? What gap in knowledge does it fill?
  - **Overview** – Briefly (in a sentence or two) discuss your experimental plan and methods.
  - **Preliminary Results** – Summarize your preliminary results and interpretations.
  
- **Background & Conceptual Framework** – Please incorporate the feedback from your first draft of this sub-section.
  
- **Objectives, Questions, and Predictions** – Please incorporate the feedback from your first draft of this sub-section.
  
- **Experimental Plan (with 1-2 accompanying figures or tables)** – Please incorporate the feedback from your first draft of this sub-section.
  
- **Methods containing three subsections** – Please incorporate the feedback from your first draft of this sub-section. Keep in mind, you may need to adjust this section a bit, depending on what you actually did!
  - **Sample Collection**
  - **Stable Isotope Analysis**
  - **Statistical Analyses**
  
- **Pilot Data: Results and Interpretation (with 1-2 accompanying figures or tables)**
  - Be sure to tie your data back to your original Objectives and Questions. What did you find? Were you correct in your original Predictions/Hypotheses? If not, why do you think your results differ?
  
- **Future Work**
  - Think about questions you still have that your current study did not enable you to answer. How would you have done things differently to address these questions? Or, are there new questions that have popped up from looking at your project data, and what future experiments/samples would you need to address these questions?
  
- **References** (not included in the 7-page limit)

The Abstract should be on Page 1, and the rest of the preproposal should be on Pages 2–8; figures and tables (with associated captions) should be embedded in the body of the preproposal (not listed at end). References should start on Page 9. The document should be single-spaced in Arial 10-point font; *please number pages*. Include in-text citations where applicable and use the same citation style as you did for the other assignments; please make sure the citation format is consistent throughout the preproposal.