Project Plan Rubric

Category (Points)	Needs Revision	Major Concerns	Minor Concerns	Meets expectations	Exemplary
Title (5)	Category is missing or insufficient (0)	Title is not clear or unprofessional (1-2)	Title is on topic yet vague or lacking detail (3)	Title is informative and concise (4-5)	The title is clever and informative. It would engage a general ecology audience (5)
Background Statement (20)	Category is missing or insufficient (0 - 5)	The background statement is overly vague and does not introduce a clear topic. Literature used is not relevant or implemented correctly (5-12)	Background statement utilizes primary literature but is lacking some connection to hypotheses. Further background reading is needed (12-15)	Background statement utilizes a minimum of 3 primary literature sources to focus on topic and set up for hypotheses. The topic is relevant and connected to ecological concepts. (16-19)	Background statement displays a thoughtful consideration of ecological concepts with primary literature. A need for new investigation is clearly identified and provides a funneled focus towards proposed activities (20)
Main Questions (5)	Category is missing or insufficient (0)	Questions are confusing or unclear (1-2)	Question is given but not fully informed by background (3)	Questions are ecologically oriented and well supported by background (4-5)	Questions are clearly stated and thought provoking. Clearly follows from background statement (5)
Hypotheses (15)	Category is missing or insufficient (0-5)	Predictions are made but there is no clear statement of a mechanism behind the process (5-10)	Hypotheses are stated yet there is a lack of connection either from the background or to predictions (10-13)	Hypotheses are stated and in context of background. A mechanistic explanation for process is clearly stated with predictions following (13-15)	Hypotheses are derived from ecological theory described in the background statement. Hypotheses propose a mechanistic explanation for a process. Predictions are derived from the hypotheses and stated (15)

Methodology Statement (15)	Category is missing or insufficient (0-5)	Methods are not consistent with the hypothesis or severely underthought (5-10)	Methods are consistent with hypotheses yet need some rethinking given the context of this lab (10-13)	Methods are clearly stated and only need a slight adjustment. Clearly consistent with hypotheses (13-15)	Methods are well thought and feasible within the time frame. Methods clearly test all predictions made by hypotheses (15)
Equipment List (5)	Category is missing or insufficient (0)	There are clear gaps in needed equipment (1-2)	Equipment is listed but some suggestions for better approaches are needed (3-4)	All equipment is listed (5)	
Variables List (5)	Category is missing or insufficient (0)	Clearly missing key variables (1-3)	Variables are listed but missing a minor detail or incorrect classification (3-4)	All variables are listed along with the types of data for each variable (5)	
Analysis Plan (15)	Category is missing or insufficient (0-5)	There is a major flaw with the proposed analysis. Does not match data (5-10)	An analysis is provided yet there are more clear alternative approaches (10-13)	Analysis is consistent with hypothesis and datatypes. (13-15)	There are several possible analyses listed. Analyses are linked to datatypes and are appropriate for the variables. This analysis will directly test the hypothesis (15)
Member Contribution Plan (5)	Category is missing or insufficient (0)			Members are listed with planned responsibilities (4)	Detailed account of different roles corresponding to project responsibility are listed and agreed upon (5)
References (10)	Category is missing or insufficient (0-4)	References are incorrectly utilized or not correct context (4-6)	References are provided yet there are clear gaps in understanding (6-8)	References are used and correctly cited. Minimum 2 references establishes a strong background (8-9)	References are current and well cited. Demonstrates a clear understanding of topic and the current state of knowledge (10)
Total (100)					