



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

September 29, 2014

Stephanie A. Herrera, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1535 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Herrera,

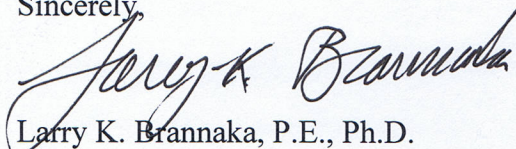
I am writing as the hydrologist of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Pennsylvania Field Office in support of the application by Bucknell University for an innovation credit for the Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS) survey. The Service has been working with Bucknell University for the past two years to design and implement a restoration plan for the headwaters of Miller Run, which runs through the campus grounds.

This is an innovative project, in that it has, for the past four or so years, involved a combined effort of faculty, students, local agencies, and state and federal agencies teaming together to formulate a plan for the restoration of biodiversity and hydrologic function of Miller Run. To this end, I have served as the primary consultant to the University.

The goals of this restoration effort are focused on increasing habitat and biodiversity of the stream system, and improving the hydrologic function of the watershed to reduce flood peaks and flood water energy downstream. This will be accomplished through the creation and enhancement of riparian wetlands, improved connection to the flood plain, greater stormwater retention, and increased groundwater recharge. Monitoring measurements of these and other indicators are underway and ongoing by faculty and students associated with the project. Project completion is expected in spring of 2015.

This project acquires its unique and innovative nature through the collaborative blend of its broad and diverse group of students, faculty, staff, and government partners working on a stream restoration project in an educational setting on a university campus. Due to the high ecological and educational value of this project, I would recommend Bucknell for the STARS innovation credit. If you have any questions regarding this endorsement, please contact me by e-mail at Larry_Brannaka@fws.gov or by phone at 814-876-0055.

Sincerely,



Larry K. Brannaka, P.E., Ph.D.