Thesis Prospectus evaluation- Courtney Murphy

12/15/2024

**Thesis Prospectus:** Courtney turned in a final prospectus titled“Microsite effect on phenology, abundance, and growth of *Castilleja levisecta* across Puget Sound prairies.” In the prospectus, Courtney identified an important knowledge gap associated with a host plant that is critical to the successful recovery of the federally endangered Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly. To address her research question, Courtney will collect and analyze a suite of *C. levisecta* phenology and growth metrics from replicate plots within four different microsites across four sites in western Washington. Courtney has already coordinated her field plans with the necessary partners and she will conduct her field work between January – April 2024. Overall, the prospectus was well written with appropriate and relevant literature cited throughout, and Courtney has prepared well (both with research and with planning) to do this work.