NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

CRU: A Unique Program

THE CRU NETWORK AND OUR COOPERATORS

BENEFITS OF BEING PART OF THE CRU NETWORK

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

ACTION ITEMS FOR YOU!

Welcome to the Cooperative Research Units!

Founded in 1935 under the leadership of J. “Ding” Darling, former Director of what is now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Cooperative Research Unit (CRU) Program facilitates opportunities for States, Universities, and the Federal Government to work together in pursuit of their shared goals for fish, wildlife, and natural resources.

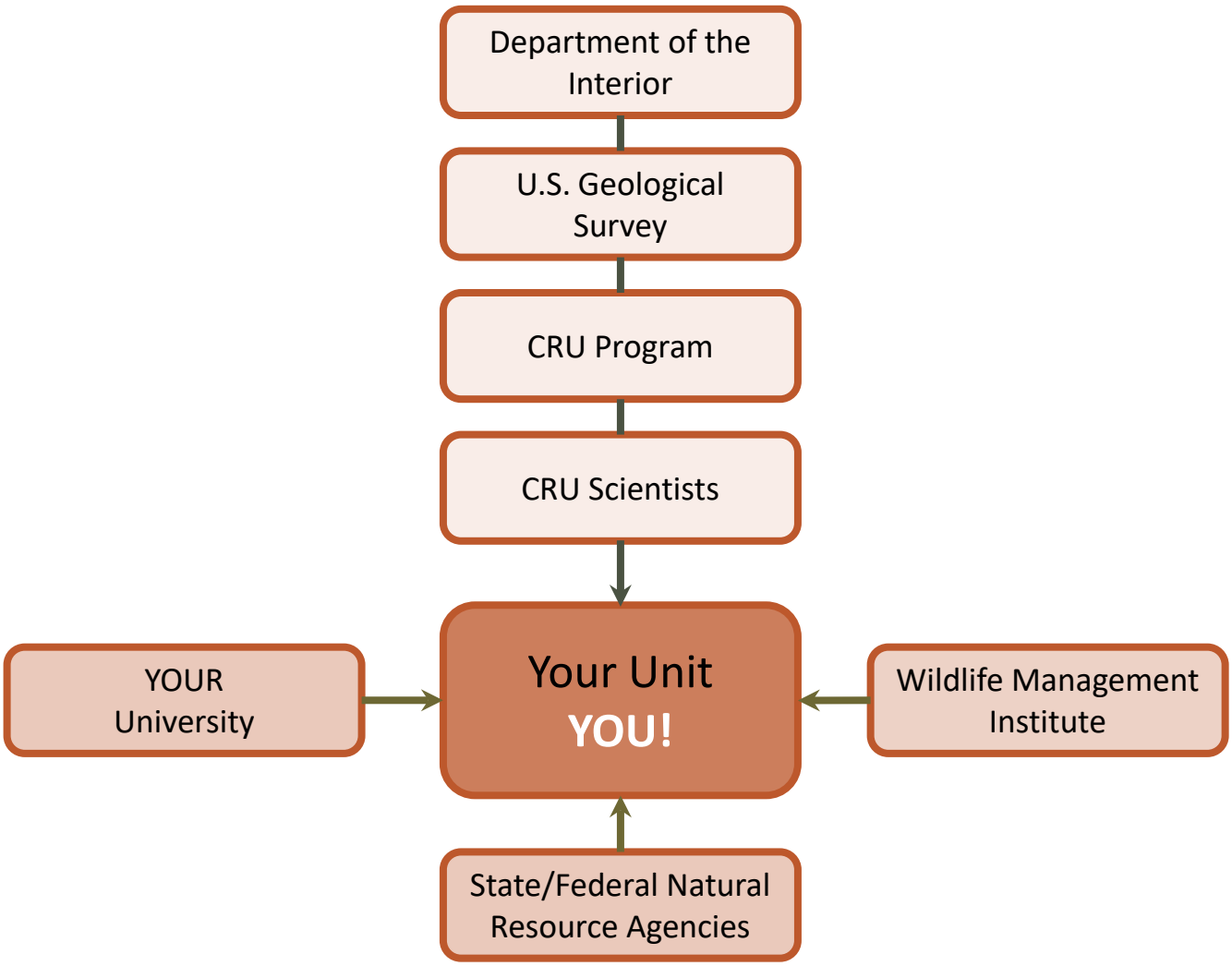
USGS
science for a changing world

An Impressive Network!

43	Cooperative Research Units (CRUs)
41	States contain at least one Unit
48	State agency cooperators
100+	Federal scientists at (2-5) at each unit
~900	University students/research staff supported

You are part of something BIGGER (by design!)

As a student or technician in a Coop Unit, your advisor is a federal scientist who is also a member of the graduate faculty at your host university.



This unique cooperative design enhances educational opportunities by integrating research to address cooperator needs as part of your graduate program of study!

Your Unit is a true cooperative effort that belongs to all the cooperators

Cool Benefits of working with CRU!

AN ESTABLISHED COOPERATIVE NETWORK

Unit students often work directly with state and federal agency staff while designing and/or conducting their research study. These interactions frequently open the door to a future position upon graduation. The large cooperative network also facilitates development of expanded personal and professional networks

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS REAL-LIFE CONSERVATION ISSUES

Unit students and research staff often collect and analyze data for applied research that the sponsoring agency(s) will use to address a priority conservation issue.

ACCESS TO FEDERAL RESOURCES

The CRU program provides access to federal vehicles, equipment, and other resources needed to complete field work for research that can be very difficult find in other graduate programs.

Responsibilities when working with CRU!

HELP MAINTAIN UNIT RESOURCES AND PROVIDE UPDATES ON UNIT ACTIVITIES.

Students often play an active role in the maintenance of federal vehicles and equipment that they use. Students may also be tasked with providing research summaries or other outreach materials to keep project collaborators informed.

PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE UNIT SAFETY PROGRAM

Safety is a top priority for the CRU Program. Because your activities are directed by a federal scientist, you need to comply with the same safety policies and training requirements that they do! Your specific safety training needs will be determined by the tasks and activities you perform.

HELP ENSURE SCIENCE QUALITY AND INTEGRITY

Research data and products (publications, presentations, etc.) that you produce with a CRU scientist may be subject to federal policies designed to ensure scientific quality and integrity and may require USGS approval prior to being submitted or released. Your supervisor will provide appropriate guidance, as warranted.

Expectations and Associated Action Items

DIGITAL MEASURES (PRODUCTIVITY)

1

EXPECTATION

Assist with Information Management

ACTION ITEM

As directed by your supervisor, periodically enter information in DM about your position and your activities.

Digital measures is used to capture and report on statistics for and accomplishments of your unit, such as:

- Number of students and degrees earned each year
- Honors and awards received
- Research products such as publications, presentations, and theses/dissertations
- Research project summaries/updates

Information in DM is used to inform

- U.S. Geological Survey Administrators
- Your Unit Cooperators
- State and Federal agencies supporting research
- Congressional Staffers and Appropriators

DOI TALENT (SAFETY)

2

EXPECTATION

Play an active role in the Unit's safety program

ACTION ITEM

Know your role and responsibilities with respect to safety

Personal Hazard Analysis (PHA) Report

- Should be completed by every student and staff member
- The PHA asks which activities you'll be performing as part of your official duties.
- Based on the activities you identified, the PHA identifies the safety training you need to complete.
- Should reviewed with your supervisor each year as part of your performance evaluation and a signed copy placed in your file.

DOI TALENT

3

EXPECTATION

Keep up to date with safety training

ACTION ITEM

Create an account in DOI Talent and take training as assigned

Example online Training

- Safety Orientation
- Defensive Driving
- Electrofishing
- Crew leader
- Crew member
- Motorboat Operator Certification Course (online portion)
- Aviation training (via IAT.gov)

Example Instructor-led training

- Motorboat Operator Certification Course (field portion)
- On/over the water training
- Firearms training
- ATV/snowmobile

Please ask your unit admin or supervisor on how to request an account!

FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCE PRACTICES (FSP)

4

EXPECTATION

Ensure scientific quality and integrity

ACTION ITEM

Work with your CRU scientist to determine if the science products you help to create fall under FSP.

WHAT IS FSP?

- Refers to numerous policies and best practices set forth by the DOI and USGS to ensure scientific quality and integrity of science products that are approved for release to the public
- Science products you contribute to or create in collaboration with your CRU supervisor may fall under FSP policy.

WHAT IS A SCIENCE PRODUCT?

- Manuscripts, reports, presentations, and datasets or software

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

- Comply with Unit established procedures for collecting, recording and storing data
- If your products fall under FSP requirements, you'll need to get bureau approval before they can be submitted or released to the public.
- Your involvement (if any) in the FSP process will be determined in collaboration with your supervisor

5 MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS

EXPECTATION

Be a valued employee and member of your Unit

ACTION ITEM

Act professionally, ethically and responsibly

Be Professional

- At meetings and in the field, strive to make a positive impression that reflects well on you, your advisor, and the unit
- Interact respectfully with members of the public and avoid confrontations

Be Responsible

- Don’t use alcohol or drugs during or prior to your work shift
- Don’t text and drive

Be Ethical

- Follow established procedures and protocols and never falsify data
- Report issues and problems as they arise

Thank you for being part of CRU!

Be safe and have fun conducting your research

https://www1.usgs.gov/coopunits/