

July 8, 2008

ITEM 140-2002-R0708

Professor Emeritus of Animal and Range Sciences: Carl Wambolt; Montana State University – Bozeman

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Carl Wambolt from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION:

Carl Wambolt received his B.S. degree in Range and Wildlife Management from the University of Idaho in 1967. He received his M.S. degree in Range Science from the University of Wyoming in 1968. In 1971, he received his PhD in Range Science from the same institution. He began his career at Montana State University in 1970 as an Extension Range Specialist. In 1975, he was promoted to Associate Professor. In 1980, he changed positions within the same Department to become part of the teaching-research faculty. He was promoted to the rank of Professor of Range Science in 1986.

During his 37 years of service at Montana State University, Dr. Wambolt taught eight different Animal and Range Sciences courses. His specialty was wildlife habitat and plant identification. He taught three of these classes for 5 years while he was a 100% Extension Range Specialist. He coached the Range Plant Identification Team which competed annually at the Society of Range Management meetings for 18 years. His teams had over five top three finishes and several of his students won the highest individual award. He was awarded numerous teaching awards at Montana State University, including the Mortar Board Favorite Professor Award and the Award for Excellence Professor.

As an Extension Range Specialist, Dr. Wambolt was involved in a number of controversial issues dealing with the conservation of rangelands. The reclamation of Montana's coal mines was an area in which he was recognized as an expert. Dr. Wambolt was invited to address the US Congress and the State Legislature on this issue. He was invited to attend the White House signing of the Federal Reclamation Act and was invited to appear on the PBS production "The Advocates" to address reclamation in the western U.S. He was asked to assess the environmental impacts of a proposed highway through the Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area by the Federal Courts.

Dr. Wambolt is an outstanding scholar and researcher in the

field of shrub ecology. He has authored or coauthored over 60 scholarly publications during his professional career. Known affectionately by his students as “Dr. Sagebrush,” Carl specialized in sagebrush habitats in Yellowstone’s Northern Range as well as other parts of the state. His reputation as an expert in this area was recognized by his selection to be the Leader of the Policy Analysis Center project on sagebrush ecosystems and sage-grouse. He has served as the Associate Editor for the Intermountain Journal of Sciences. He is currently the Chairman of the Wildland Shrub Symposium. He has been recognized as a Fellow by the Society for Range Management for his contributions to the profession and the Society.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Carl Wambolt the rank of Professor Emeritus of Animal and Range Sciences and wishes him well for many years in the future.