

March 8-9, 2018

ITEM 178-2002-R0318

Request for authorization to confer the title of Emeritus Research Professor of Ecology upon Dr. Theodore W. "Tad" Weaver, Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Theodore W. "Tad" Weaver, from the Department of Ecology at 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

Respect of his colleagues and Dr. Weaver's extensive contributions to teaching, research, and service at Montana State University support his designation as Emeritus professor. Modestly, Dr. Weaver has never sought recognition for his forty-eight years of fine service to MSU. Hired in 1969, he fulfilled normal duties, took three invited & externally funded sabbaticals, officially retired in 2007, taught for five years post-retirement, and continues to pursue research, collaborating with numerous faculty across campus.

Dr. Weaver's contribution to undergraduate education was extensive. For decades, he taught a large general biology course, a general ecology course, and a field ecology course on Montana Ecosystems, serving a total of ~6000 students. While he taught ecologists, his reach extended to medical students, engineers, nurses, psychologists, and students in other fields. With respect to graduate students, he taught courses in physiological and ecosystem ecology involving an estimated 400 students, trained thirty-seven of his own graduate students and was active on dozens of graduate committees in the wildlife, range, plant & soils programs. His students have been remarkably successful, eventually serving as university professors, agency researchers, department heads, and conservationists.

The breadth of Dr. Weaver's research interests is illustrated by publications addressing 1) the earliest studies of climate change/weather modification (1969 - present), 2) vegetation response to environmental change, 3) geography of ecosystems, 4) alpine, forest, and grassland ecology, and 5) management of human related influences such as weeds, mine-reclamation, fire and grazing. He maintained a vigorous research agenda with continuous funding that produced ~100 papers and over 40 reports. He has published in some of the higher-ranking journals in the field of ecology, including *Nature Communications*, *Ecological Applications*, *Journal of Applied Ecology*, and *Biogeochemistry*. He was commended by the U.S. Forest Service for his studies of whitebark pine (~1990) and was inducted into the National Academy of Inventors (2014) for his studies of use of sagebrush odor to control grain storage pests. Dr. Weaver's most notable contribution to research may be his long-term ecological field experiments. In a scientific field where most experiments span 1- 2 yrs., he conducted research on succession under climate change (48 yrs.), snowpack change (48 yrs.), effects of plowing (22 yrs.), reclamation seeding (26 yrs.), grazing (20 yrs.), and riparian succession (~20 yrs.).

With respect to service, Dr. Weaver's contributions were also notable. He managed the MSU botany greenhouse and helped design the Plant Growth Center. He served as associate editor for *Great Basin Naturalist/Western North America Naturalist* and the *Proceedings of the Montana Academy of Science*. He served extensively on natural area and management committees with the U.S. Forest Service and Montana Natural Heritage Program.

Dr. Weaver's influence on students, faculty, and colleagues at MSU and in the Bozeman community is noteworthy. He is the consummate intellectual and naturalist, a person who relishes interacting with others in exploration of the world around him. He brought these traits to his MSU classroom and field courses and to his research, and he continues to share this enthusiasm with colleagues and friends during his retirement. His influence on the advancement of ecology at MSU and in this ecosystem has truly been extensive.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Theodore Weaver the rank of Emeritus Research Professor of Ecology at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None