

January 6, 2022

**ITEM 198-2002-R0122**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Ecology upon Dr. Thomas E. McMahon; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Thomas E. McMahon from the College of Letters and Science 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.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Thomas E. McMahon received his B.A. in Aquatic Biology from the University of California-Santa Barbara in 1975 and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Fisheries Science from the University of Arizona in 1978 and 1984, respectively. He was a fishery biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a postdoctoral researcher with Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and an Assistant Professor and Director of a fish-wildlife-forestry research and extension program at Oregon State University prior to coming to Montana State University.

Dr. McMahon served for 31 years as a faculty member in MSU's Department of Ecology as a fisheries professor in the Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management Program. He taught fisheries courses and conducted wide-ranging research in support of Montana's valued cold-water fisheries. His collaborative research with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and federal agencies made significant contributions to pressing issues in fisheries in Montana, such as trout responses to high temperatures, migration barriers, forest fires, non-native species introductions, whirling disease, non-point source pollution, and heavy metals from mining. Dr. McMahon collaborated with Civil Engineering faculty to develop an interdisciplinary fish passage and Eco-hydraulics research and education program at MSU. His research resulted in 75 publications and four book chapters, he received a Best Paper award by the American Fisheries Society, and he has been impactful nationally and internationally with 4,200 citations in the scientific literature.

Dr. McMahon is a dedicated teacher who aimed to provide students with the broad educational background necessary for being successful in careers in fish and wildlife management. He taught seven different courses, including undergraduate courses in ichthyology and principles of fish and wildlife management, as well as graduate courses in stream restoration, fish ecology, and research methods. He was the graduate advisor to three Ph.D. and 28 M.S. students, and his students serve in prominent roles as fisheries scientists in state, federal and tribal agencies in Montana and throughout the US. Dr. McMahon served on the Faculty Senate and tenure review committees. He was president of the Montana chapter of the American Fisheries Society and was conferred its Fishery Professional of the Year award. He was appointed to the Governor's Future Fisheries Improvement Review Panel in Montana, and also served as an independent reviewer for controversial fisheries issues in the U.S. and Canada. He recently helped develop a free app for the public to identify fish in Montana.

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

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None