

ITEM 136-1005-R0907

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Wildland Recreation Management Upon Stephen F. McCool; The University of Montana-Missoula**

**THAT:**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Stephen F. McCool from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his years of dedicated service to the College of Forestry and Conservation, the Department of Society and Conservation, and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

**EXPLANATION:**

Upon his retirement on March 31, 2007, the faculty of the Department of Society and Conservation has unanimously requested emeritus status for Professor McCool. During his tenure he served as an Assistant, Associate and Full Professor in addition to Director of the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research for six years, Coordinator of the Recreation Management undergraduate program for three years, and as Associate Dean for one semester.

Professor McCool came to The University of Montana in 1977 after serving three years as an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls and four years as Assistant Professor at Utah State University. Since joining the UM faculty, Professor McCool has been a superb teacher, research scientist, and provider of service in the area of wildland recreation management. He taught both graduate and undergraduate courses, mentored graduate students, lead a very active research program, and served on many university, local, regional, and international task forces and/or committees. He has published numerous papers and books during his time at UM in addition to participation in workshops.

In 2005, Professor McCool received the Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Research Award from the U.S. Forest Service. This award is given to an outstanding scientist who works closely with wilderness managers to apply research to real-world situations. His research has included planning processes that are now being used in many areas within the National Wilderness Preservation System. In addition, McCool received an added bonus when his peers presented him with an award from the Wild Foundation and the International Journal of Wilderness for a lifetime of achievement in wilderness planning and research.

There is little doubt that Professor McCool has been a significant influence and contributor within the College of Forestry and Conservation. Our students were well served as were our faculty and external relationships. He successfully fulfilled his roles and for this we commend him. We congratulate him upon his retirement and wish him the very best for his future.