

March 13, 2025

ITEM 217-1012-R0325

Request for Authorization to Award an Honorary Doctorate to Steven Rinella; University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

The University of Montana requests authorization from the Montana Board of Regents to award an Honorary Doctorate of Forestry and Conservation to Steven Rinella.

EXPLANATION

Steven Rinella is an author, wild foods enthusiast, advocate for public lands, producer, conservationist, and the respected creator and host of the multimedia MeatEater, Inc. franchise. Since graduating from the University of Montana in 2000 with a Masters of Fine Arts in creative nonfiction, Mr. Rinella has become an award-winning author who has penned more than a dozen books and audiobooks focused on hunting, conservation, wild cuisine and American history. Best known for his ability to translate the hunting and fishing lifestyle to a wide range of audiences, his writings have appeared in publications from The New York Times, to Field & Stream, to O: The Oprah Magazine. Beyond his professional accomplishments, he has a board member of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership since 2018. As shared in one of his many nomination letters, "(h)is contributions to public understanding of environmental history, conservation biology, wildlife and land-use policy, and American cultural studies make him an ideal candidate for an honorary doctorate."

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Nomination Packet