

November 20-21, 2025

ITEM 221-2002-R1125

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Range Sciences upon Dr. Clayton Marlow, Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Clayton Marlow from the College of Agriculture 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

Dr. Clayton Marlow grew up in Wyoming, developing his passion for agriculture through his family's farm, work on neighboring ranches, and participation in 4-H and FFA livestock projects. After high school, he worked on farms in the Scottish Highlands through FFA's Work Experience Abroad program, later earning a B.S. in Range Sciences (University of Wyoming), an M.S. in Forest and Range Sciences (Washington State University), and a Ph.D. in Range Sciences (University of Wyoming).

His early career included directing environmental assessments for coal mining in Wyoming and serving as a Staff Forester with the Tennessee Valley Authority's Western Uranium Procurement program, where he focused on NEPA compliance, land restoration, and mine reclamation across multiple states.

Dr. Marlow joined Montana State University's Animal and Range Sciences Department in 1980, teaching courses in grazing management, reclamation, and natural resource policy. He pioneered riparian grazing research in Montana and contributed to public hearings for the 1993 Public Rangeland Grazing Reform Act. His research led to the creation of new courses, including *Riparian Ecology and Grazing Management* (NRS 455).

From 1989–1998, Dr. Marlow served as Associate Dean for Resident Instruction in the College of Agriculture, advancing the Common Core curriculum, creating the Ag Ambassadors program, streamlining scholarships, and mentoring junior faculty—all while maintaining active research in riparian systems, bison, and fire ecology. Returning to faculty, he led the department's Senior Capstone and developed service-oriented courses such as *Small Acreage Management* (NRS 236), *Fire Ecology and Management* (NRS 330), and *Livestock and Wildlife Habitat Rehabilitation* (WIL 355). His wildfire and watershed research influenced BLM and USFS post-fire grazing policies.

In 2020, Dr. Marlow became Regional Coordinator for Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE), a USDA-NIFA program hosted at MSU. He oversees an \$10M annual grant program supporting sustainable agriculture projects in 11 western states, Pacific territories, and Micronesia. His leadership ensures competitive funding cycles, project oversight, and collaboration with Congress, agencies, and partner institutions.

Dr. Marlow has held national leadership roles in the Society for Range Management, serving on the Board (2012–2017), as Vice President (2018), and as President (2019), as well as on the Northwest Science Board of Directors (2005–2008).

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Clayton Marlow the rank of Professor Emeritus of Range Sciences at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENT

None