

September 24, 2026

ITEM 226-2004 R0926

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Landscape Ecology upon Dr. Geoffrey C. Poole; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Geoffrey Poole 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. Geoffrey C. Poole has provided exceptional and sustained service to Montana State University and to the discipline of fluvial landscape ecology. Since joining MSU in 2008, Dr. Poole has built a distinguished record as an internationally recognized scholar, an outstanding teacher and mentor, and a dedicated contributor to institutional, professional, and public service.

Dr. Poole's scholarly contributions have significantly advanced understanding of ecohydrology, geomorphology, biogeochemistry, and river–floodplain connectivity, with particular emphasis on hyporheic processes. His research has influenced both theory and practice in stream ecology and river restoration and has informed water quality management and policy discussions at regional and national levels. He has authored more than 70 peer-reviewed journal articles in leading scientific outlets, many co-authored with graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, reflecting his dual commitment to research excellence and student development.

Dr. Poole has also demonstrated sustained success in securing competitive external funding from major agencies and organizations, including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, USDA, tribal governments, and private foundations. These awards, totaling many millions of dollars, supported interdisciplinary research teams, long-term monitoring and modeling efforts, and extensive training opportunities for students, while strengthening MSU's reputation as a leader in aquatic and environmental sciences.

As an educator, Dr. Poole consistently exemplified excellence in undergraduate and graduate teaching. He developed and taught core and advanced courses such as *Stream Restoration Ecology*, *Environmental Data Analysis*, and *Environmental Data Management*, integrating quantitative skills with applied ecological problem-solving. He advised and mentored numerous undergraduate researchers, M.S. and Ph.D. students, and postdoctoral scholars, many of whom have gone on to successful academic, agency, and private-sector careers. His exceptional commitment to mentorship was formally recognized with the MSU Award for Excellence as Faculty Mentor in 2012.

In addition to teaching and research, Dr. Poole has provided extensive service to the university and profession through editorial roles, peer review, professional society leadership, outreach, and engagement with land and water resource practitioners, including tribal partners. His career reflects sustained scholarly impact, professional integrity, and meaningful service to MSU and the broader community.

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

ATTACHMENTS

None