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NEWS RELEASE

April 29, 2002

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UM FORESTRY PROFESSOR APPOINTED TO NATIONAL BOARD

MISSOULA—

University of Montana forestry Professor Jack Ward Thomas has been appointed to a three-year term on the national Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Created in 1983, BANR is one of 10 major units within the National Research Council, which advises the nation on science and technology.

Thomas, UM's Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation, will be one of 23 board members. He may be appointed to a second term after his initial service is completed.

"It's a great compliment and I'm glad to do it," Thomas said of the appointment. Perry Brown, UM forestry dean, said, "To have one of our faculty selected to a board of the National Research Council, the research unit of the National Academy of Sciences, is a great honor for both Jack and the school. It is a recognition of his personal stature and the world-class activities of the School of Forestry."

BANR addresses science and policy issues confronting the agricultural, food and environmental system. It provides expert advice on problems and issues relating to agriculture production and natural resource development. The board studies the growing demand for food and resources and its associated environmental impacts.

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Thomas was chief of the U.S. Forest Service for three years, and he has accrued more than 30 years of experience in various capacities with the Forest Service, including chief research wildlife biologist. He earned a wildlife biology doctorate from the University of Massachusetts in 1972. Since then he has published numerous books and articles that address a wide variety of wildlife topics. He has earned numerous professional awards, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture Distinguished Service and Superior Service awards. He already has served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Rangeland Health.

Thomas directs UM's Boone and Crockett Wildlife Conservation Program, which focuses on the integration of wildlife conservation and private land management. The program includes research, extension of information and teaching.

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