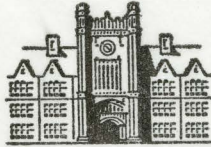


UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO



MOSCOW, IDAHO 83843

TEL. AREA CODE 208 882-3511

J. W. WATTS

BUSINESS MANAGER

19 May 1969

Mr. Chet Moulton
Director
State Department of Aeronautics
Municipal Airport
Boise, Idaho 83705

Dear Mr. Moulton:

Several weeks ago Dr. Maurice Hornocker advised me of a conversation which he had with you concerning the status of the airstrip located on the site of the Wilderness Ecological Research Center recently purchased by The Regents of the University of Idaho and more commonly known as the Taylor Ranch in Valley County. I gather that there is some confusion as to whether this is state property and whether the strip is therefore a public airfield. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the position of the University in this matter. I believe the following four points may pertain:

1. This property was purchased by and title passed to The Regents of the University of Idaho by warranty deed which is on record as Document No. 69994 in Drawer No. 1 of Deeds in Valley County, Idaho. This deed states "subject to the rights of the grantors reserved by them as continuing conditions in the option heretofore given to grantee by grantors, which option is recorded in Book 12 of Miscellaneous at Page 156, records of the County Recorder of Valley County, Idaho."
2. The option referred to and on record as indicated (Document No. 66494) states "During the time sellers have the lifetime right of occupancy, The Regents, by the exercise of this option, acknowledge and agree that the airstrip and aircraft landing facilities on the first above-described real property shall be maintained as a private airstrip or field and not in any way as a public airfield."
3. Attention is directed to the fact that this purchase was accomplished by the use of Regents' funds and that there were no state appropriated funds involved in the purchase.

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4. As a constitutional corporation, The Regents of the University of Idaho have rather broad powers. The Regents may, among other things, hold title to real property. They have the responsibility and authority necessary to accomplish the various objectives of the University. One of these basic objectives is the field of research -- both basic and applied. The Taylor property was purchased specifically for the purpose of establishing a Wilderness Ecological Research Center. To permit public use of the airstrip there would defeat the purpose of the entire program. The property is actually an off-campus laboratory and must be considered in that light. This does not mean that it will be "locked up", but it does require that we have control over anyone entering the property.

For these reasons the Board of Regents is unable to authorize operation of this strip as a public airfield. We sincerely trust that this additional information will enable you to recognize our position in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

JW:jgw

cc: President Hartung
Dean Ernest Wohletz