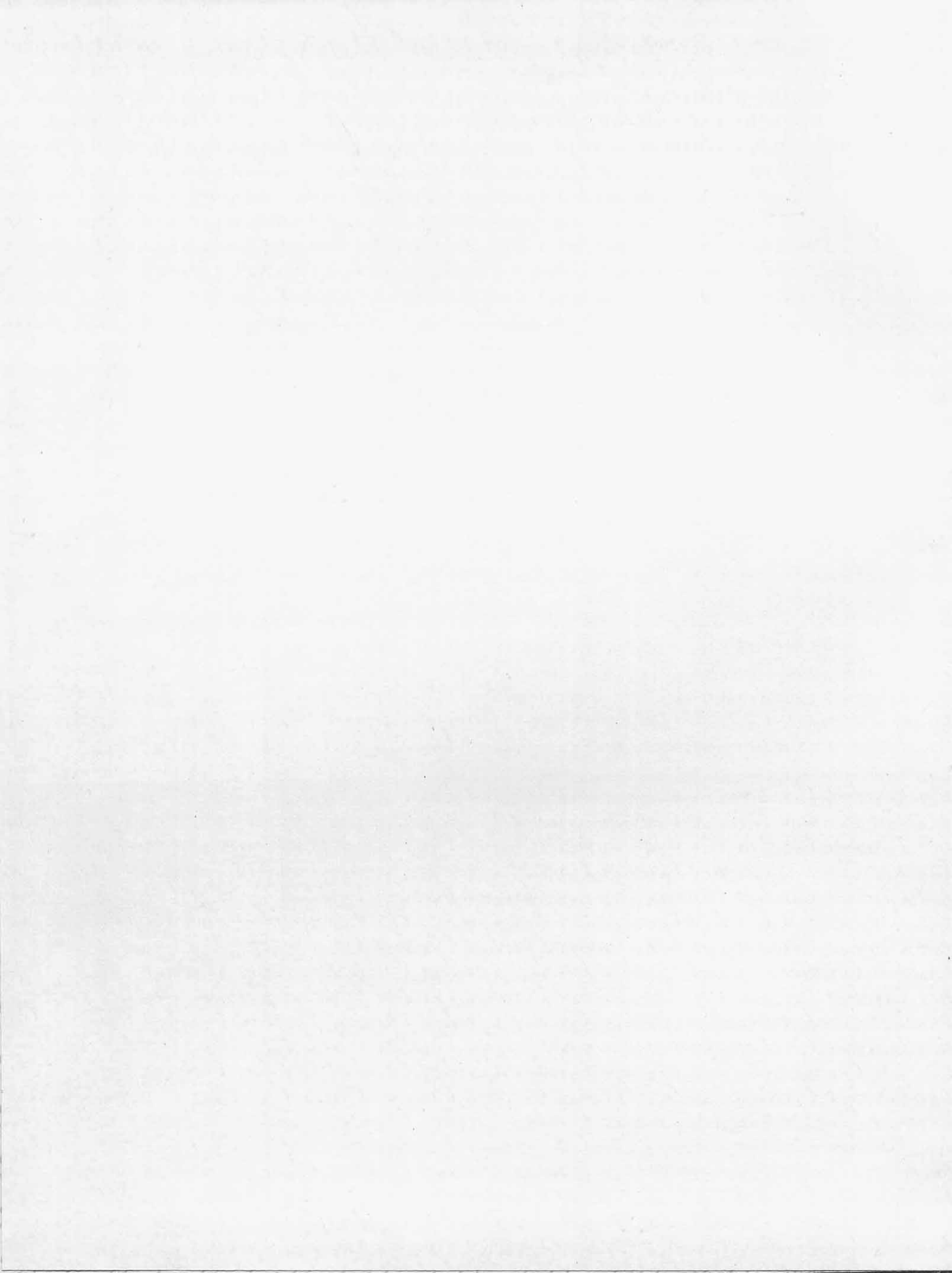
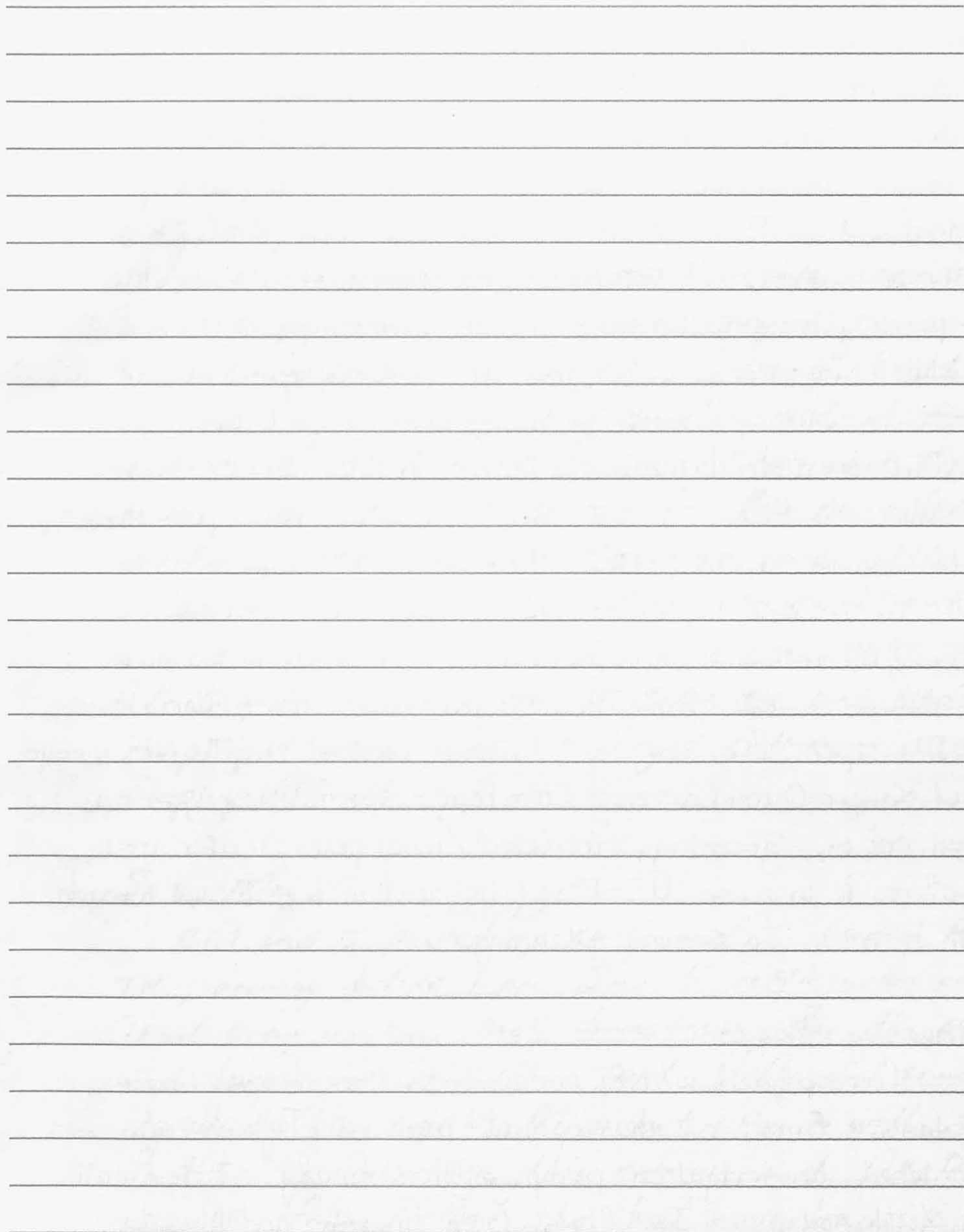


TAYLOR RANCH
LOG

May 22, '02 - May 3, '03

CO, LAM CO, HVM





Wednesday May 22, 2002

Mail day. Keith Ruble, veterinarian flew in with Ray and checked out Mica. He determined she likely has stomach ulcers, not an intestinal blockage - she is on ampicillin, banamine, metaclopramide, and prescription dogfood. Janet cleaned Arlow's kitchen and I added bone marrow, metatarsus and carcass info to the predation data bases in the AM. Janet flew out with Ray & Keith after they had a piece of her apple pie. Brian (George Dorris' son-in-law) and Dan stopped to visit on their backpack trip from Big Creek to Flying B. Talked to them about the predation research findings, harlequin ducks, etc. They saw a newborn calf elk on an island 2 miles above Taylor in Big Creek. Jim & Greg Bjornstrom & Chris McDaniel couldn't fly in today, as it rained in late pm. They stayed with Steve & Gloria Bate. Jim spent the am at Krassel District Payette NF meeting w/ Ranger Quinn Carver & Clem Pope - special use permits for education, grazing, firewood/fence poles, water issues; efforts to increase UI-FS collaboration. I sent emails in afternoon on summer planning.

Thursday, May 23

Corresponded w/ NPT on wolf locations, frequencies, trapping plans. Email on development visits at Taylor Ranch. Jim ordered an irrigation pump. Mica finally started eating a little today. Jim, Chris, Greg flew in and Ray delivered

→ we flew out 2 loads of burned roofing from Cookhouse.
a second plane load of gear. Greg went to work on lining the East side water box and he got water to Arlow's by evening. Chris put together gear, predation project data forms, maps, food. Jim & I caught up on contacts and projects of the last week.

Friday, May 24

Spent the morning on usual ranch details... emails to Peck (ELK population info.), Lynne K. - payroll questions, Art Gauthier - propane fridge, etc. Prepared buildings for use, began anyway. Ray came in mid-afternoon to radio-track, Holly went up since Chris and I were loading stock to pack CM up to Cow Creek for CS monitoring. Greg assaulted several yards with the weedeater, covered a "cave in" @ the corral out house, and did some other shop/yard tasks. After visiting Patrick and the trail crew @ Cabin CR we made ^{it} into camp just before dark. A bright full moon made sleeping difficult.

Sat., May 25

-saddled-
CM and I packed up early and I headed back to T.R., arriving before 1 pm. Saw 5 rattlesnakes en route. Trail crew working back downstream. Ran the weedeater, and lawnmower, around our yard. Holly did some gardening and horse work. Mica not doing so well. Holly noticed a discharge this evening and Dr. Dwan in DR. figured that she had pyometra... or pus filled uterus, time to get her out!

Sunday, May 26th

Ray came in today and took out Holly and Mica to see the vet (K. Ruble) in Cascade. Mica had an emergency spay surgery. Greg and I got the remaining cabin cleaning accomplished and he worked on old cabin plumbing. Used my pistol "shot" to rid Arlow's of a couple woodrats. A couple cows w/ calves on the third bench. Holly reports that Mica made it through her surgery well.

Monday, May 27

Lots of flying today with Peck's class (enrichment) going into Cabin CR., and Pat ^{- Peck -} and supplies came in here. Holly & Mica were also flown back in late morning. I took 3 head of stock upstream and met the class... talked to them about the Sheepeater Campaign, also checked in with Chris via hand-held radio. Greg did a lot of weedeater work and other "grounds keeping". Chris came back from Cabin CR. ^{- Tues. -} Mica is resting up after her traumatic surgery. Had a Trench barbeque and I gave the T.R. history talk.

Tuesday, May 28

Spent the morning talking (Holly mostly) about our predation study findings. By noon we noticed that Mica was on a "downhill slide"... very lethargic with depressed vital signs. By 2:00pm we were in a near emergency with her and called Ray in.

We flew directly to Donnelly where vet Kelly Chamberlain met us. Once at Kelly's office he put her on IV's and she responded favorably. Holly and I spent the night with Carol Arnold. The class hiked up Pioneer Cr. to the plot sites. Greg & Chris handled ranch matters in our absence.

Weds., May 29

We checked on Mica early, actually took her for a walk, she's doing much better. R.C. flew us in mid morning after we shopped for fence material etc. at the Donnelly feed store. Mica will stay at the vets until Friday. Once back we put things away, sorted through mail, and I worked with Greg on the airstrip irrigation... extending down the airstrip another 300'. Chris tried to repair the table saw safety plate. We pulled out the carnivore skull collection and discussed the predation study more (strife between predators). Very muggy today, Big Cr. coming up.

Thurs., May 30

I saddled 3 head of stock and went downstream with the class - talked about Sheepeater subsistence @ the old house sites. Big Creek is now seeping out to the airstrip. I showed the rear of Rocky and So. Holly pulled together the "historic deer info.", made copies for J. Peck, then we discussed long-term comparisons.

Friday, May 31

A busy flying morning with Ray making several shuttle flights to Cabin CR. so G. Dorris could haul the group out with the Islander. Chris headed up to Cabin CR. - Cow CR. Holly flew out with Pat Peck so she could attend a colt training clinic in OR. Greg worked on irrigation-sprinklers, cleaning the old cabin, and fixed a chair, ^{made new hinge, glued} and moved gear (beds) around bldgs. I caught up on paper work and wrote the "Mile High memorial" wording for Cafe & Emma Cox. Worked on L. pasture east drift fence, put stack over there.

Saturday, June 1st

Greg spent most of the day cleaning behind the shop and burning wood debris. I did a monthly weather report and other paper work. It rained off and on today. Greg and I began eating the huge pot of stew... ^(left by P. Peck) made some biscuits to go with "the pot." Chris reports that es is relocated and not moving much. Carter Niemeyer called - wolf capture "called-off" due to fixing conflicts with NPT.

Sunday, June 2

Did usual chores and continued preparation for the interns and summer crew arrival. Also took some time off prior to the "onslaught" of summer activity here. Greg and I continued the assault on the big pot of stew. Greg and I got the mowing machine "serviced" and ready to mow the airstrip swath.

Monday, June 3

Ray flew in the interns late morning, so Greg and I got them situated, then I gave them an orientation. Holly ended up spending much of the day doing hardware shopping in Boise. Ray flew her in with a load of supplies late morning. Mica very happy to have Holly back! Also harnessed Cricket and ~~Frisy~~^{Rocky} and mowed the airstrip swath... mower worked well.

Tuesday, June 4

Trained the interns on packing... saddling, etc. with Rocky & Cricket. Moved the 40 fence posts... mostly by hand, to the lower pasture. We then harnessed the mules and moved shop debris from behind the shop down to the airstrip. Holly processed many packages of asparagus and worked in the garden. Greg continued shop cleaning organizing and he spread out 8-50# bags of fertilizer on main pasture and the airstrip.

Weds., June 5

R.C. flew in with Katie & Hatie ^{& Ken Hobson} and gear. Katie will be doing a bat study, ^{Ken's} Hatie will do fence work. I flew telemetry with R.C. Holly worked with the interns on "mulemanship" while I lined out Ken & Hatie on the lower pasture fence job. The interns and I rode up to Cabin CR. to meet Chris... missed connections and got back to TR @ 11pm. Greg doing a major reorganizing of the shop. R.C. actually made 2 trips today, using the

backhauls to move the remainder of the fire debris.

June 6, Thurs.

Our computer went "belly up" this morning, think we have a virus (Melissa virus?). Made arrangements for Jory to work on it. Chris camped at Lobaner B. last night, but was here by 8 am. Chris agreed to drive the computer to Moscow, so Ray flew in @ 1:00 pm and took Chris and the computer out. Hati, Ken, and interns (Tyler, Amie June) completed the lower pasture fence. Greg and Nathan worked on the Cliff cr. water pump set up - built a platform for the pump and established anchor points (for cable-water line support). Holly worked on elk teeth, also ^(~~many~~ many loads of laundry) scheduling details w/ Nancy M. In the evening - dark the interns & Katie & H & I went to the mouth of Rush cr. where Katie demonstrated the use of her "anabat" device. She detected/recorded many different bat species. Kind of windy & cool this evening.

June 7, Fri.

Holly worked with the interns on map & GPS use... around the ranch and over to mouth of Rush cr. I lined out Hati and Ken on wood rail fencing. Greg continued the major shop organization. Had a big "season barbecue" in the evening.

June 8, Sat.

Greg's crew got the upper (old cabin) irrigation ditch running. I worked with the interns on packing techniques, and we packed 4 bags of cubes to the N pasture. Katie slept in after a very soggy night; camped downstream @ "the lick" monitoring bats. Ken & Hati continued collecting pole fence material from the E. nob by the lab. Greg and Tyler assembled/installed a new faucet in the old cabin bathroom. AJ & Nathan did yard work @ lab & Taylor Cabin. Ray flew in with waterline supplies en route to "the B". Chris did not make it to Cascade today... must have assumed that the weather was too bad to fly.

June 9, Sunday

Snow on the benches this morning; rain most of the day. Ken made cookies, Tyler made scones, everyone had fires in their cabins. We mostly took the day off. Amie - June and Nathan and Katie made hikes up the benches.

June 10, Monday

Hati saw a cougar behind the lab when he & Ken were skinning fence poles. It walked into the bushes behind the cougar pen - we all looked for it, but only saw the tracks - an adult female. We have been seeing lone cow elk - probably with calves hidden nearby. Chris flew in with the computer and irrigation supplies. Greg and I got the pump running and then built a camouflage & sound barrier around it.

June 11, Tuesday

Chris, Tyler, Nathan & Amie-June hiked up to Cow Creek with Cricket & Rocky to check on the bedding sites used by C-5 cougar last week. Holly & I worked on data analysis for the predation study. Hati and Ken built a pole fence span east of the lab. Ray flew in with a 206 load of propane and 2 rolls of 1/4" water line. Mosquitoes getting thick in the evening.

June 12, Wednesday

Hati and I hiked to the Pioneer Rdg. observation pt. trying to locate Wheatthin... who popped over the top as we went (into Lewis cr.). Ray flew in mid morning with the mail. ^{-USFS-} Clem Pope stopped by, we visited about summer activities, lower pasture rehab., grazing permit, and pole permit. Doug from Interstate flew in around noon with the Krumpes. Holly and Ed worked on our computer problems while Charlene, Blaine, Jesse & Ken helped set up 2 wall tents on the platforms.

At dark Katie took us all on an "anabat" demonstration in Lower Rush cr. We had dinner with Krumpes

June 13 Thursday

Jim & Ed & I surveyed and marked the corners of the new cabin. We modified the deck plans to better fit the site. BBQ Dinner with Krumpes and students. ^{-noxious weed discussion} Chris, Tyler, Nathan & Amie-June returned from Cow Creek - no evidence the Cabin Creek cougar gave birth to kittens.

June 14 Friday

Jim talked to interns about remote camera surveys for bears & they all worked on irrigation and getting ready for 302 class. Set up the outside hose drain on the washing machine for all day laundry by students. I sent out 2 lodging bills (Peek enrichment class and our winter predation project), ordered refrigerator part, coordinated flying for 302 class. Ken smashed a finger while fencing.

June 15 Saturday

Katie & Nathan are heading to Snowshoe Mine for bat surveys. Jim & Chris are taking 5 head of stock to meet Jim Peek's class @ Big Creek airstrip. The 4 loaded gear on 3 mules and traded riding 2 animals (Daisy & Cricket) - spent the night at Monumental Flat. Ed & I finished fixing Internet Explorer problems from the virus and Ed showed me how to put pictures into a PowerPoint slideshow for our fire talk next month. Ray Arnold flew in to take Chris to Cascade, but Chris had left with Jim (Ray was to call before flying in to confirm), so I flew telemetry to make use of the flight - Cabin Cr cougar moved long distance from Cold Mtn Ridge to Coyote Springs and Wheat Thin ^{bear} was up Pioneer Cr from TR. Amie-June flew telemetry with me. ^{I plotted URM locations.} In the afternoon Amie-June, Tyler, Krumpes and I hiked up Pioneer to look for Wheat Thin using telemetry. Wheat Thin had already gone upstream, but we did check 3 of his scats for food habits - all vegetation except 2 robin sized bird legs in one scat! Ed & family flew out late afternoon with Doug Gadwa. Tyler, A-J, and I keyed out plants: Golden Smoke, and Scarlet Gilia = Skyrocket.

Sunday, June 16

Amie June & Tyler took the day off - packed for their trip, baked, read. Ken & Hati off too. I did the irrigation and sent emails to Holubetz (302 class) & Karla (sat. phone billing). Hati & I talked about Africa issues then Patrick Brown, ^{packer} from FS stopped to visit. We ate snickerdoodles. After dinner Amie-June made strawberry shortcakes for all of us. Katie & Nathan @ Snowshoe Mine, Jim & Chris & Jim Peek at Wibur's - Big Creek. Both groups checked in on their satellite phones. I cleaned the basement and found some food for "bear bait" for the remote camera.

Monday June 17

Many emails out - Clara, Nancy, Jeff R, Glen (MATCO) flew in with an Islander plane load of food & gear for 302 class. Tyler & Amie-June flew to Big Cr for the class. Ken, Hati & I spent the morning putting away the food and resupplying the lab with enough dishes & silverware for 16+ people. I finished boiling the last 4 jaws for teeth then labelled & packaged up the 52 tooth samples (3 bighorn, 12 mule deer, 3 moose, 34 elk.) for tooth aging by Matson's Lab. Ken & Hati are cutting poles S of the airstrip. Peek class headed down Big Creek.

Tuesday, June 18

Email responses - phone bill, Cox plaque, DNA analysis of cougar hair, Clara's trip, radioisotope aging of bighorn skulls, tax withholdings, ... Dong Gadwa flew in UT

electricians Mark Labolle and Ray L. to check out violations listed by the county electrical inspector. They will be back July 9 to do the work. A drizzly day; the plane got in & out during the best weather. The class hiking downstream must be WET. Hat & Ken quit early when they started slipping in the mud while carrying poles. Ken rolled the big rock off the trail and it DID hit our woodshed & do minor damage. I got soaked irrigating in the rain. Worked on predation project annual summary.

Wednesday, June 19

Jim Peek, Janet Rachlow, 9 students,
↑ Jim & Chris.

The class made it in to TR today. The trip down the canyon went without a glitch, except for a lot of rain yesterday. Chris, Jim P., and I had a great visit with Wilbur Wiles when we stayed with him Sunday night. The mail plane brought in Gail & Mike Dorrance to be chief cooks, and Greg flew in later in the day with roofing materials (metal). Got everyone settled in then we had a big barbeque - prepared by Gail & Mike. The only stock "difugilty" occurred while trying to pasture them, Bo "attacked" Daisy... Knocking her down and giving her a few cuts. Bo is now exiled to the lower pasture, where he can live off of cheatgrass.

Thursday, June 20

The Holubetz family flew in this morning and Terry gave a presentation of "fish life history" in Big Creek and central Idaho. I gave the usual TR history talk and a tour of the field station. Holly worked on our progress report - data organizing. Greg assaulted the shop - woodpile roof. Hati and Ken wrestled fence poles/posts out of the "fire brush" upstream above the mouth of Rush Cr. Terry, Diana, and Heidi flew out after having dinner with the 302 class... nice evening for flying.

Friday, June 21

RC flew in this morning bringing Janet Pope (DeVlieg), Rita Dixon (IDF&G), and Nancy Gratson. ^{Chris McDaniel flew out} They will be looking for bats with Katie and generally visiting her project. Spent a lot of the day visiting them, and showing the facility. After dinner we set up the mist net at the Rush Cr. mouth - no luck, kind of cool tonight after several showers today. Also this morning Holly talked to the class about our predation study. She was up most of the night preparing graphs and other information. Nathan worked with Greg today securing waterline on bank.

Sat., June 22

^{altho. Rita took the class birding on the airstrip}
Kind of a slow morning, Saddled 3 mules and took Rita, Janet, Nancy & Katie down to the Duce Cr. Cave. Rita found a bat carcass, but no roosting

bats observed. Holly worked on our annual predation study report. Greg and Nathan did yard work, until both weed eaters developed problems. Barbequed "shishkabobs" tonight with the "visiting gals." Set up the mist net on the airstrip swamp... stayed up until midnight, until "throwing in the towel" on bat capture.

Sunday, June 23

Most of the ranch population took the day off - not us. Saddled the stock and packed gear so Holly, Rita, Katie, Nancy & Janet could spend the night @ Cave Creek - searching for the elusive spotted bat. The weather got bad at noon, but broke in the evening for "bat watching".

The interns, Chris and I set up the remote camera over bait in lower Rush CR. Gail & Mike had one over for vegetarian - bean chili... very good.

Monday, June 24

Did yard work until Holly and crew returned from Cabin CR. @ noon. Greg made a window screen for lab bedroom - south side. The fence crew bundled poles upstream and by mid-afternoon the "log drive of '02" was on. Four rafts (39 poles) were successfully brought down to a pull out side N. of the cookhouse tent.

Also today, Ray flew in during the noon hour to fly out Janet, Rita, Nancy & gear. Also this morning Chuck Peterson was flown in from Challis.

Tuesday, June 25

Another hot, humid day. Spent the morning on TR emails and billings. The entire ranch crew helped "wrangle poles" in Big CR. in the afternoon. We floated 7 or 8 rafts down, probably 75+ poles. Got ready to cut hay but were spooked by the weather forecast... thundershowers. A bear is hitting the bait site, not very large ^(Did) 4-4½" TRK. Chris made cinnamon roll dough in the evening. Ed Krumpfle flew in for the 302 class today.

Weds., June 26

The class packed up to head to the Middle Fork. Actually, the day started early - at 5:30 am with World Cup Soccer (Brazil vs. Turkey), at least we had hot cinnamon rolls to eat! I spoke to the class @ the house pit site - about sheep eaters. Jim P. took his stock down to the Mid. FK. Middle FK. Av. came in and flew out C. Peterson. RC came in late morning with the mail. Layed out fence line with the fence crew. Looked @ haying but the forecast (is sky) was "too spooly"... dark clouds & wind in the late afternoon. Chris & I visited the bear bait - saw a little "badger colored" bear. Holly worked on predation data. Mike Dorrance came up for dinner - mule deer Salisbury steak... better than usual "mullie."

Thurs., June 27

Mowed hay almost all day - very hot & humid today. Sprinkled - (rained) on the hay this evening - still green fortunately. The class came trickling back in... very hot hike. Had an end of the class barbeque... hamburgers and other goodies - cherry cheese cake by Bail. The 302 class held a major card tournament (hearts).

Friday, June 28th

Many planes in and out this morning... McCall A.T. shuttled people/gear to Cabin Cr. to load up the Islander. A blustery, windy morning - off & on rain. J. Peck loaded his stack and headed up stream... Mile High & then Big Cr. Profile Summit is "drivable" now. Finished mowing main pasture. The fence crew continued skinning poles. Raked the lower flat this pm., but most of the main pasture still uncured. Had a barbecue with remaining TR crew.

Saturday, June 29

Got up early with hopes of hay work, but by mid-morning rain had set in. We all did brush clearing for fence building and moved trucks and poles into place. Ed hand turned hay in the lower flat, but most too wet. Amie - June jumped onto Crickets TCR and got "fossed" on the third hop. - sorry, Amie-June I suggested it! Greg & crew set up additional water line in the lower pasture. Also put up a hair snag around the Rush Cr. bait.

Sunday, June 30

Finally a nice day! Heavy dew last night was slow to leave. Checked Bush bait, - re-set the camera.

Greg repaired the lawn mower and mowed. The fence crew & interns worked on the fence line - put up many spans of poles... looks good. Holly put our annual summary (pred. study) into a near final form. "Shocked" hay and then hauled in 2 wagon loads by dark. We did have a few "defugalties" with the lower hay fork pulley, but got it going. Ed Krumpfle flew out? Picked knapweed patch - see sightings diary, 1037 plants.

Monday, July 1

Had a lot of dew last night so couldn't pick up hay as early as desired. Then late morning Ray flew in with Jerry Evans & crew to say Hi and see the ranch. It was really good to see Jerry again (Ed. Super. of Education ^{80's/early 90's}). We picked up 2 loads of hay in the morning and 2 loads in the evening... pretty hot today! Also this morning we finalized and sent to WCS our annual project summary. Put out a couple sprinklers in the main pasture.

Tuesday, July 2

After the moisture "finally" left the field we picked up another 1 1/2 loads of hay... including a 1/2 load from the airstrip swath. Visited with DeWaine Jackson about Josh Holloway... working on the SW OR. predation study. Chris & Hlati finished the lower fence line, including a gate @ the cook tent trail. Greg invited

a simple way to elevate the sprinklers in deep grass - using a PVC segment. Everyone worked on improving the irrigation system... main pasture ditches, sprinklers. The herd is happy to be "free" again in the pasture

Weds., July 3

Hati & Chris treated us all to cinnamon rolls. R.C. flew in with the mail and Dave Stewart (geologist), he also took out Chris (for the summer) and Katie (2 days). We all rekindled the bear bait... which had been hit by a large male. We all continued irrigation expansion. Hati
* off today, Greg ^{(I changed water filter @ RaB) ✓ time between} planning purchases/water heater installation
Got ready to go out for 5 days. Oh ya, Holly kicked a rattlesnake while clearing the airstrip ditch.

Thursday, July 4

Jim & Holly flew out today to attend a Longbow shoot in Montana. They will be out until Monday. Tiffany Tumelson flew in to visit Nathan and will be here until Sunday. Hati worked on the fence & rail until about noon. The interns have the next 4 days off. Tyler & Dave Stewart hiked up the east ridge above Pioneer Creek to set up Dave's camp. Tyler is due to return on Friday. I worked on the old cabin waterbox because the pressure was low. The intake was almost completely out of the water. We had a barbeque this evening with elk, pork and baked potatoe. Just before the food was ready Boone went charging around the backside of the cabin to bay at Wheat Thin as he went across the hillside. Nathan, Tiff & I shot the bow in the evening then

I went up to check the waterbox and move irrigation. There was a doe up on the haystack so I ran her off then came up to the Taylor Cabin to watch The Patriot with the gang.

Friday, July 5

Today I spent the morning moving irrigation, put Bo in the pasture, readied fly-out trash from the shop, burned boxes and worked with the waterbox. I also put some coats of varathane on the Arrow threshold. Around noon a group of hikers from yesterday stopped by in need of a favor. They were scheduled to fly out at Bernard Creek on Saturday morning but some of the group developed some bad blisters so I called Arnold's and changed their flight plans to be picked up at Soldier's Bar instead. They were thankful. I came up to the T. Cabin to do laundry in the afternoon and dug out the basement for the waterheater. I came in the backdoor to an open basement door (dangrous) and a mop. There was a mishap with the washing machine. Amy-June did a load of laundry in the morning, unhooked the outside hose and failed to put the drain hose into the drain pipe. Hati came up later and put his laundry in, unaware of the oversight. He came back later to water all over the floor and running into the basement. Needless to say the mud downstairs was not conducive to my digging so that job is out until drier conditions prevail. After Tim's 9:00pm call I went out to move irrigation and discovered the stock had broke through the fence down by the cookshack tent. They were on the airstrip. We captured them and fixed the fence.

Saturday, July 6

Had a bit of a storm come through today with thunder and rain. I began the morning with Bo & the irrigation. The creek is getting low so I had to move the lower pasture pump intake to a deeper spot in the creek. I also had to reconnect the hardline on

the airstrip. It had come apart just upline from the 3rd sprinkler. I also began preparing a site for the hotwater heater downstairs. In the evening I had to restart the duplex hotwater heater after I replaced the tank. I also replaced the propane tank in my cabin and the upper cabin. Tiff & Nathan hiked up to Rush Point and the rest stayed close to home, with the exception of Itati who headed towards the middle fork.

Sunday, July 7

Today was a day off for all of us. I moved the irrigation around, took care of Bo and that is about as productive as I was. It was very stormy this afternoon with high winds & hail. The group spent most of the time today, after Ray picked Tiff up, watching movies on the T.V. I worked on job applications for quite a few hours this evening. Anne-June baked a cake. Not a very eventful day.

Monday, July 8

Today was a productive day. Nathan pulled the sickle bar out of the mower for sharpening. Tyler moved the airstrip irrigation lines out of the pasture and Anne-June did the same in the upper pasture, All in preparation for haying. We all then began oiling cabins. Katie joined us for the fun. We began with the upper cabin, moved to the Arlow cabin and on to the duplex. That took up a full day. Jim & Holly flew in in the evening as well as the electricians from Moscow. The pilot from Moscow had a bad landing and cracked the tail of his plane, but it was still flyable. We had a barbecue in celebration of Jim & Holly's anniversary, 24 joyous years of marriage! Holly & I spent most of the day doing ranch shopping (McCall) and helping Carol shop (Cascade). Ray wanted to wait until conditions (winds) improved. For good reason.

Tuesday, July 9

For me most of today was spent mowing hay... above main irrigation ditch and 85% of the airstrip. Rotated Cricket & Daisy with Rocky—who seldom pulls too hard. Had a breakdown in the evening... would have finished if it were not for that! The electricians (Ray & Ben) completed the changes for the state safety guy.

Katie had a "bear encounter" @ Goat CR., ended up not camping there as the bear (reddish) was claiming the turf. Greg did yard work... and sick sharpening for the mower. Hati put in mid-point uprights along the fence line... male deterrent!

Weds., July 10

Repaired the mower and mowed the remaining patch of meadow (airstrip). Doug Gadwa flew in to get the electricians (Ray & Ben). R.C. came in with the mail.

The interns, Katie, and I went to reset the bait. After doing so, we heard a commotion and looked up to see Wheatthorpe chasing a fawn. The fawn "outdistanced" him, but then he ambled over to the bait. We ran him off but he circled back around and reclaimed "the prize." Holly & I worked on our "Fire Talk."

Got to 104° today, a new TR record... for us anyway. Had a pizza feed this evening... too hot to be in the field (95° @ 7:30 pm)

Thurs. July 11

We raked the field early today, before it got brutally hot (107°). Reset the Rush Cr. bear bait (actually ^{revised formula} just rebait). Hauled in 3 wagon loads, 1 off the upper main pasture, 2 off the airstrip. Continued working on the power-pt. presentation.

Friday, July 12

Hit the hay early, hauled 4 more wagon loads off the airstrip... done by 2pm, very hot even by then. Put the sprinklers back on the airstrip along with orange water tubes. Cleaned cabins for the weekend visitors, also cleaned our place. Threatened to thunder storm but it never materialized. Did UI and personal laundry. Wheatthin knocked over burn barrel

Saturday, July 13

Doug G. flew in early bringing in the McHales (Gene & Mitzy), and Alton Campbell and Mark Heranson.

Got everyone settled in, then gave the ranch tour and talked about projects, activities, student programs, etc.

Very hot today again - 103°. Wheatthin came prowling around the buildings, showing himself off. The visitors brought steaks & trimmings for a barbecue. It did rain on "the event" - a bit. Watched the ~~APB~~ I.P.B.

Taylor Ranch - River of No Returns video... and winter project video, McHales enjoyed them.

Sunday, July 14

Primarily worked on the slide show. PM electrical show
Matt O'Connell called about suspicious person headed this
way... from Middle Fl. Weather cruising around place.
Reactivated irrigation on upper airstrip. Greg put up the
new wind socks and packaged more garbage to fly out.
Had a group dinner (barbecue leftovers), and talked about
space sharing - refrigerators.

Monday, July 15

Ray surprised everyone early (6:30). Katie, Tyler, Nathan
scrambled to get their packs ready for the shuttle to
Acorn. Ray unloaded 5 propane + 1 small one. Re-baited
the bait site w/ Greg & Anne-June. A.J. made up
telemetry form for local weather monitored. Holly & I
spent most of the day on the P. Point Fire talk.
Greg cleaned woodshed area... burned debris. Hatt
continued fence work with some help from Dave S.
Changed the in-line filter here. Prepared to go out.
Pretty heavy thunderstorms this evening... measurable rain!

Tuesday, July 16

Jim & Holly flew out today. Craig Holmberg flew in to work on the
fence crew for a few weeks. Anne-June and Craig went over to the bait
station in the am. Then Craig worked on the fence with Hatt while Anne-June
began painting the lab skirting. I cleared brush under the lab deck, cleaned out
under the overhang, burnt up more debris, finished cleaning out the T. cabin

woodshed & the fuel shed. In the evening we all barbecued at the pit. Garden burgers, elk steak, pork steak, baked potatoe, corn & carrot cake were on the menu.

Wednesday, July 17

Anne-June had the day off, Craig & Itati also took the day off. I took most of the day off. Ken & Jay Mize flew in. Jay brought his daughter Megan. He showed the stock and flew out in the early evening to return to Cascade. Ken settled in today. Dave Stewart returned from his short geology trip with news that he had camped the night with the "survivalist". He was headed to Taylor to pick up supplies for his trek over to Stoddard. He arrived shortly after noon and we listened to his stories before he and Dave left for a trek. They were to travel together for a while then Dave would split off and continue his geology survey & Mike (survivalist) would continue on. He had a white (albino) wolf hybrid with whom that the stock were suspect of. No incidence occurred. We had a spaghetti feed in the evening.

Thurs., July 18th

Holly & I arrived in Cascade early (6:30). R.C. flew us in with Ecohydrolic group gear. Katie, Nathan, Tyler returned from upstream. A.J., Tyler, Nathan painted and oiled the lab. Nathan did a talk on burned lodgepole bark and elk. We all rebaited the bear bait, after a heavy shower passed through. Corresponded with Clem regarding the pole permits, and more with trail right-of-way.

Friday, July 19

Sawed up river birch firewood around the cook tent and we all worked on yards - weed eater, mowing. Holly, Fyler, A-J, Nathan took the mules up to Wheatthin's den... which was bigger than expected. The Ecohydrolics crew arrived late afternoon with S. Zettels packers Robert and Jay. We all helped get them situated. Also, the 3 fishery folks arrived... put them up in the cougar pen, but they got showers first. TR population back over 20! Greg caught 2 more woodrats today - Lab and old cabin. Katie gave the class an "ana bat" demonstration. Mid. FK Av. dropped off 10 bags of cubes.

Saturday, July 20

Helped Holly get 3 stock ready to take Katie and A-J up cabin CR., used 4 mules. She actually made it back before the evening barbecue! Greg and I used Rocky to move short-logs for Greg's porch project. Hot and muggy today. We had a Ranch barbecue and I gave the TR history talk. Also today, the packer's went up to Cliff CR. camp... w/4 head and they left 2 head in the Lower Pasture.

Sunday, July 21st

Holly spent the morning getting homes together for the predation talk... which she just gave... in 1 1/2 hrs. Greg continued lawn work and he sawed up all the birch lengths at the cook tent. Nathan worked ~~for~~ with Greg, Tyler moved the old cabin wood pile and cleaned up around "the pit." Oh ya, early this morning I fished the mouth of Rush CR... caught 21 cutthroat in 45 mins!, largest was 16", many were 12-13". Evening bow shooting as usual.

Monday, July 22

Holly processed bills/receipts for UI this morning. Corresponded several times about Clara's ^{Bleak} crew coming in. Ray flew Clara in directly from Boise. Lynn & Eric decided to cancel on their trip in, tomorrow morning. Amie-Jane returned from upstream with Katie, prior to Clara's arrival. All the interns, and us, visited with Clara. We had an "all touch" barbecue. Amie-Jane presented her reading on "foss in wilderness." Also this morning Nicky and Eric flew in w/ MATCO, they will be doing fire-drainage surveys up Pioneer & Sagan Creeks. Had a surprise at bed time as one of Greg's burn sites (east of duplex) re-ignited after 5 days dormancy. Nicky & Eric alerted us to the fire-lit sky. Greg & Nathan babysat the unplanned fire.

Tuesday, July 23rd

Harnessed Daisy & Rocky and used the stoneboat to move 45 fence poles from the "sandy beach" below Rush CR. to the old cabin & Lab fence sites. Holly, Clara & interns checked the bear bait(s) and rehabilitated the initial bait site (took down the wire too). Greg left real early this morning to hike upstream and meet Katie, then they went up to Acorn CR. to meet up with Rich... and survey the old mine (once found). Greg called in the pm to report that they found the cave. Had an ^{enchilada} ~~pasajera~~ dinner... for all. Holly also sent receipts to UI. ^(put in mail bag) Eric & Nicky too. ~~Maie-June presented discussion topic~~

Weds., July 24

R.C. flew in with the mail... many boxes of things, except our meat! Nathan went out with his bad toe nail. Visited with Clara about intern activities, and what past interns are doing now. Photographed Wheatthin around the cougar pens, and chased him away from one of the wall tents... where he was entering. Katie and Greg came in midday... with Rich's dog "Golda", a golden retriever. Rich finally made it in around dinner time. He and his dog are very sore this evening.

Thurs., July 25

Saddled stock. Nathan flew back in with (Ray and he took a 185 ^{-Next Day} load of garbage out), Clara, interns, Holly & I rode down to the Gorge and S. Bar. Shuttled Eric & Nicky across Big Cr. w/ their packs. Showed Clara "the sites," Holly had a scare when she (Clara) slipped on loose rock in the gorge! Many good photos taken. Had a barbecue once back... hamburger & veggie-burgers, etc. Tyler presented his topic after dinner... technologies influence on indigenous ways. Wheatthin walked in on the discussion - in our yard, ending the deliberations!

Friday, July 26

Nathan, Hati ^(Katie) etc. cooked a pancake breakfast for everyone... Clara really enjoyed!! Clara flew out with Ray mid-morning (with bulk of load being boxed garbage). Greg and I ripped the logs for Artow's deck... 8 halves produced. The fence crew made a lot of progress going around the old cabin. The mules popped a rail on the new fence by the cook tent... and all escaped across Big Cr... caught and confined, for the night. Wheatthin broke into Hati's shower, where he ripped off ^{-Hati-} potatoes and some garbage... which he moved into the corral shed. Finalized plans w/ C. Mack to meet w/ Tim Holyan to look for the e-pack @ Chamberlain B. Jeremy flew in with Minshall gear - he will be doing ground truthing for Chuck P. and hyperspectral flight.

Sat. July 27

Wayne Minshall ^(total-6) & crew hiked in @ 8:30 am! Mike

Porris (new pilot Jim) flew in @ 9:00 am to shuttle Holly & interns to Chamberlain to look for wolves... w/ Jim Holyan. Dave S. returned from 10 days out doing geology mapping - up Goat, behind Horse Mtn. etc.

Used Rocky & Daisy to move 2 1/2 loads of poles/posts for the fence crew. Greg & Rich worked on the framing / planking for the new porch @ Arlows. ^(Big job...ripped 1/2 rounds a bit irregular)

Dave S. & I had dinner together. Katie gave an ^(demonstration) Anabat discussion to the Minshall crew.

Sunday, July 28

Saddle stock and took Katie, Craig, & Hati to Cabin CR. so Katie & Craig could monitor a cave overhang for bat activity. Ate lunch @ Cabin CR. with 2 from the trail crew. Got a signal on wheatthin up Cabin CR., above Travis' camp. We all hiked up to the overhang then Hati and I brought the stock back to TR., arriving @ 7pm.

Monday, July 29

Ray flew in with Reed Lewis this morning. Greg and I worked on Arlow's back deck. I sent several business emails (C. Mack, P. Preston, C. Atkins). Katie & Craig returned from CC. late morning. ^{they} Saw 2 cows w/ calves, 1 moose, 1 elk. Wayne's crew (Ruben) provided some evening music.

Tuesday, July 30

Chuck Peterson flew in from Challis. Eric & Nickie flew out with McCall. Pulled the bait stn. equipment. Trained Greg, Katie, & Craig in use of tree climbing equipment. Katie created a "fire drill" yesterday by trying to cook the oiled on food out of the Dutch oven. Greg and I finished fitting the deck legs. Corresponded re: many emails... mostly related to Chamberlain for wolf capture, and our Coyote Springs Archeology trip. We had a ranch potluck with the Minshall crew.

Weds., July 31

Middle FK. Aviation made 3 flights in this morning to take out the Minshall crew... 6 folks R.C. flew in with the mail mid-morning, right after Pat Dorris brought the ^(Holly/interns) crew back from Chamberlain Basin. Hard to get any irrigation done on the airstrip! Greg did do repair work ^{on} the line, and we moved the sprinklers around. ^{is resurrected} ^{lower} ^{Pasture} ^{Fence}

Chuck Peterson & Jeremy went up to Cabin CR. Did many e-mail correspondences - wolf capture planning & Coyote Springs trip... details. Katie made a great chili in the Dutch oven... iron, and an apple cobbler in our aluminum oven. We heard a wolf howl on 4 occasions @ Chamberlain and saw tracks of a single wolf in 5 places, 1 wolf pup track, but no localized rendezvous site found in 20 meadow sites searched. Interns enjoyed howling for wolves. Flossie Burn 2000 was extensive!

Thurs., Aug. 1

A busy day, as usual. ^{w/INTERNS} Demonstrated & used cross-cut saw to cut several rounds off a fir above the orchard. Ray flew in with some fence spikes and took Holly, Nathan & Tyler on a telemetry flight... Located CS (Cold Mtn) and Wheatthim (Lobener B.). Harassed the mules and hauled several stone boat loads ... metal fence posts along airstrip, old fence material back to the shop & Taylor wood shed and junk back to the airstrip - Greg collected many more junk things from behind our woodshed and hidden by the BBQ pit. Got things packed for the Coyote Sprgs trip. The fence crew pretty much completed the west-end airstrip pole fence... quite an improvement! Also, Chuck P. & Jeremy came back from upstream, and saw a load rider w/ pack mule go by headed east. I worked on emails and finished 2 phonebills by midnight; baked brown bread & cookies in am.

Friday, Aug 2

Jim & Nathan, Amie-June, & Tyler loaded the mules and headed to Whisky Springs with 3 riding animals & 2 pack mules. I stayed behind to catch up on WI administration - bills, receipts, reimbursements, printing phone bill info, emails about Clara & McHales, FERC, wolf trapping. Also caught up on personal bills and chores. Greg & Katie made Dutch oven

elk roast for our dinner. Good cribbage game too. Reed & Dave S came up to the BBQ pit for watermelon & visiting. Fence crew had a big day clearing shrubs along the airstrip for electric fencing.

Saturday August 3

Visited with Chuck Peterson & Jeremy before they flew out. Jeremy found 3 western toad breeding sites ^{with tadpoles} on Big Creek between Taylor & Cabin Cr (previously Chuck thought Cabin Cr pond was the only site). Finished student time sheets and my grocery list. I am flying to Cold Meadows to hike to Coyote Springs to join the archaeology expedition. Reed & Dave are flying out.

Sunday Aug 4

Today was a day off for the fence crew but Craig helped me (greg) with rebuilding the Arlow Cabin's septic tank lid. We excavated some soil from the Taylor Cabin basement for covering the tank once the lid was constructed. I also moved irrigation around 3 times during the day. George Doris flew in this afternoon to refuel (10 gals.) and call Arnold's to see what happened to the group he was to pick up at cabin creek. It turns out they were running very late. We visited, fueled him up and he was on his way. Katie went into the lab today after I gave the lab off limits speech. I don't understand why instructions don't seem to be able to be followed. I sometimes do not like the authority part of my job but I always take my responsibility seriously, as should others. → Greg was on a power trip!

Monday, Aug 5

This morning David Pillrod and a crew of 3 arrived to do tailed frog surveys in the creeks around Taylor Ranch. They will be here for the week then hike to Cabin creek to meet up with the rest of their crew and fly out. I worked today mainly on odds and ends things such as irrigation, picking up after the fence crew, cleaning, oiling, and sharpening tools.

The fence crew fell some more trees today and finished up along the airstrip. Katre went for a hike up to the top of the ridge above the birches. Craig, Katre and I worked some with the climbing spurs in the evening.

Tuesday, Aug 6

Today I took a day off to work on job applications and computer work. The fence crew floated some logs and skinned them, also worked on far west gate. Katre did laundry and an early morning (3:00am) bat survey. Hiti is trying to get a job at WSU for the school term. Katre's boyfriend Russ arrives tomorrow and the interns return also from their year-end pack trip.

Tuesday, Aug. 6

Our archeology work ~~work~~ concluded by 11 am. We ended up doing 31 sample holes at the Coyote Springs "cultural site." Tyler, A.J., and I packed the archeo.

equip. to Cold Mtns. ... along with Peter Preston on Cricket. Larry Kingsbury (Archeologist) and David Eld hiked back to e.m. Took the stock around to the Fls. of Cave where Holly's Nathan had hiked to via the upper Cave trail (old).

Weds., Aug. 7

We got an early start from the Fks. of Cave CR. and came back to TR... @ 1pm. Saw several rattlesnakes today - cloudy & cool. Ray flew in @ noon bringing in Katie's friend Russ, and taking out a load of Ken's stuff. The fence crew worked on the Pioneer ford fence. Greg had things in good order @ the ranch. We primarily put equipment away and got cleaned up after a 48^h mile trip (64 for me, Nathan, mks). Katie used the dutch oven to cook one of Greg's elk roasts and vegies. Holly made 2 pizzas for the last TR summer crew gathering.

Thurs. Aug. 8

Ray flew in this morning and took out Craig H. and a load of intern gear. Greg improved airstrip irrigation (new outlet) up top. Holly and I visited David Pilliod about his research... GIS options. Did a final "de briefing" with the interns regarding the summer activities and stock use. Holly worked on the FERC correspondence and wolf capture activities. After dinner we threw a diamond hitch on Cricket... then had ice cream. Also today Katie & Russ headed to the Big CR. cave, and Greg ^{is} planned multiple jobs... and a list of small engine supplies.

Friday Aug 9

Ray came in this morning and flew Jim & Holly, Nathan and Ken out. Jim & Holly are going to a wedding, Nathan and Ken are out for good. After all was settled I set up Tyler & Amie-June with all they would need to finish the linseed oil application on the lab. They finished the lab and moved on to the corral shed. I worked the irrigation then began sanding and weather-treating the Arlow deck. Hati worked on gates. I also shot a roll of film for Holly to send to FERC on the hydro-power system in the a.m. The mules made their way onto the airstrip twice today due to insignificant spikes in the Pioneer Creek gate. Hati fixed the problem in late evening as the interns collected the stock. I showed the Pilliod crew the ranch in the evening. They were particularly interested in the hydro.

Saturday Aug 10

Today Tyler & Amie-June finished up the linseed project and the painting of the water shed. They worked diligently the past two days so they will have tomorrow off to close up their summer and reflect on their time spent here. The stock have been less than obedient today. They broke through the Pioneer Creek gate twice today taking out 1 rail in the process. I spent today cutting brush and doing some clean-up around the ranch. Hati spent most of his day fixing gates. The Pilliod crew worked upper Pioneer Creek and have decided to stay an extra night before hiking to Cabin Creek. A large black bear visited the ranch in the early evening.

Sunday, Aug 11

David Pillood & crew left this morning. I started in on the lab shortly after their departure in order to ready the lab for the next group. I boxed up a bunch of flyout trash and did university laundry. In the afternoon I began clearing brush along Pioneer Creek so landings from the east would be easier for the pilots. Annie-June & Tyler finished packing & cleaning & Hali took the day off. Hali & I had burgers at The Arrow Cabin and in the evening I watched the Perseid Meteor showers. I wasn't impressed.

Monday, Aug 12

This morning I moved irrigation around then continued clearing brush by the east end of the airstrip until I heard a rattlesnake. I decided to take lunch but a 3 person group of riders/packers showed up. They wanted to see Taylor Ranch. One man, Tim Renshaw had talked with Jim & Pat Peck about the place and read Pat's book. Another was grandson of a man that used to outfit out of here. I gave them a tour and they were really enjoying themselves. They were headed to Cold Meadows via Cave Creek and decided to stop by. Nice guys. Hali has been constructing a mule-proof gate for the Pioneer Creek gate. We'll see. Hilly & I flew in after doing business and shopping in McCall... and attending Roman & Curt's wedding on Sat. On Friday, we hurried to Moscow to meet with Dick Bottger... discussed the new building & FERC issues. We did a lot of shopping in Lewiston & Moscow, so between stopping @ Big Cr. for Katie, and our initial load, we really had some weight coming in to TR! Saw off Tyler and Annie June - end of the 2002 internship. Addressed trail-easement emails.

Tues. Aug. 13

Old water heater (T. cabin) finally "gave up the ghost" this morning. Greg and I spent the morning pulling out the old, and putting in the new... water heater. Holly spent most of the day corresponding on the FERC & Trail issues. Two trail crew people, Max & Dirik arrived en route up the Rush Cr. - Lookout Mtn. trail. They will camp in the old cabin yard. Wrote several letters, Clara B. and Wilbur W. within this group. Hati continued fence work, and he moved the stock to the N. pasture enclosure. Katie got packed to go out tomorrow. T Ranch & FS crew over for blueberries & ice cream.

Wednesday Aug 14

Sent out packet of annotated hydro photos and map of plumbing from the upper (domestic/hydro/irrigation) water diversion to FERC. Printed out letter & receipts to Lynne. We didn't get much time to visit with Katie before she flew out on the mail plane. She had a good summer learning about the bats and how to do research. Jim's friend Jack Fisk flew in. IDF&G fish research (Russ Keifer, Sharon, Paul,) flew in to pit tag salmon. Gene & Mitze McTale sent us a package: dog bones for dogs, sugar cubes (1 box each) for mules & horses, cactus syrup and jam + margarita jam for us!

Thursday August 15 Our 20th Anniversary of the 1st day
of work at Taylor Ranch in 1982!

Kathy Nash & Erin Rohlman flew in for Forest Service inspection of the trail easement and photos of the hydro system and "new" intake. Erin brought a dog rawhide and a dozen farm fresh eggs from home. We toured the sites and discussed our concerns about the new easement language - needs to be similar to the current easements allowing WI to terminate easement if FS doesn't maintain the trail & bridge. In the afternoon Jim moved firewood logs from along the airstrip with Greg, Hati & mule team. I worked on the computer - administration. Jack cut his hand (between fingers) when he slipped in Big C while fishing. He really needed stitches, but I cleaned out debris, iodined, and bandaged it in the evening. BBQ potluck with Greg & Hati.

Friday, August 16

Another hotter-than-predicted-day. Harnessed xutes and used them to move 8 stoneboat loads of firewood from the end of the airstrip & old bunkhouse sites. Holly worked up lodging bills for most of the summer. The Fib Fish crew checked up Rush CR. for steel head smolt... next to nothing. They did pit-tag many (> 110) in the cougar → Goat CR. area. Also this morning a sub-male black bear visited our burn barrel... he was hard to discourage away.

Sat. Aug. 17

Went fishing in the morning with Jack, then I came back and worked with Hati on the corral buck & rail fencing... rebuild, with a lot of new materials. Holly did a lot of baking today... cinnamon rolls, zuch. rolls, cookies. The 17F & G steelhead crew (w/ Russ & Sharon Keifer) flew out this morning. Greg inspected lab, prepared for the next group (NMFS) on Monday.

Sunday, Aug. 18

Jack & I went fishing upstream. I caught 13 cutthroat (10-14.5") in 35 minutes. Jack did well also. Basically everyone took "most" of the day off. Holly even fished a while in the evening. Hot again, near 90°.

Monday, Aug. 19

Lots of plane traffic this morning with #4 flights associated with the NMFS crew in and out. Hati, Greg & I finished the corral fencing... almost all new bucks, 60% new or salvaged rails. Holly spent the day on the summer lodging bills - 8 billings in envelopes. Jack fished downstream - 11 cutthroat caught & 1 bull trout. Holly spent the evening summarizing TR and nearby wilderness use... 870 user days of Research in nearby wilderness, (750 our project) Jan 1 - Aug 20th

Tuesday, Aug. 20

A cooler cloudy morning. I didn't get much sleep last night as the black ♂ bear visited the compost tumbler, porch & fuel shed... scattering garbage everywhere, cleaned up his mess, and moved all the boxed garbage to the storage shed. Greg, Hati, and I reworked the barn gates and connecting ^{fences} gates. Also fortified the lower 2 Pioneer gates. Holly sent out emails to L. Kingsbury (cabin sites), P. Steiger (Knapweed), C. McDaniel's (Gummer Research). I emailed J. Pope, L. Finns, etc.

Weds., Aug. 21

The mail plane came in mid-morning taking out Jack. From Greg & my standpoint, we spent the rest of the day processing fence posts... into firewood, hauling up to our (T.C.) woodshed. Holly continued doing billings and other T.R. admin. Hati worked on fence project wrap up. The NMFS crew did their customary last night turkey dinner - all invited, Holly made desert.

Thurs., Aug. 22

Several McCall flights in re: NMFS crew flyout. Greg & I continued old pole sawing... hauling to Taylor woodshed. Holly spent most of the day on TR admin. Kath Strickter & John, and Joseline showed up to spend the night... Holly and I had dinner with them. At 6 pm I watched 3 fisherman pass by on the main trail

Aug 22 cont.

(55 yr old father, 1^{other} 17 yr old)

One of the fisherman, 17 yr old hispanic started throwing rocks @ grouse, killing one on his 3rd throw. I watched w/ 10x binocs. I rounded up Greg's Hati and we walked over the bridge-cliff cr flat, and I confronted the perpetrator ... who admitted throwing rocks, but not killing a grouse. We rounded up fathers from the "stoning site." Greg followed the trio while I called F&G. The rock thrower visited again with Greg, as if to "distract" while the father "chucked the bird." The evening was spent trying to contact a C.O.

Aug 23, ~~Wed~~ Friday

RC. came in this morning to move people. First he shuttled Kath's Hati to Big Creek, then he came back for Holly, John, & Joseline. Kath has a rig at the trailhead, and the rest are going out to McCall & Cascade. Spent more time collecting evidence on the grouse poachers... Greg & I & dogs. Mid day the 3 fisherman returned, as if nothing happen, fishing & swimming in the Rush Cr. hole! I corresponded with Larry J. @ F&G. He indicated that the grouse violation did not warrant a trip in, so I lost interest in pursuing it further -- kind of disappointing! Greg and I did the usual chores (the re-cleaned the lat & bedding), Greg made elk Fajita's for dianer. Three backpackers went by late.

Aug. 24, Saturday

It sounded like a municipal airport in this canyon... Non stop flying from 7-11 am. Greg finished sawing the fence poles at the tent frames and Lab. We built a new "rick" under the lab porch - filled with wood, and piled rest east of the bldg. It got stormy in the afternoon with a few heavy, short, showers passing through. Nine bighorns above the 1st bench... 2 yng. rams, 4 ewes, 3 lambs.

Aug. 25, Sunday

Greg and I took the day off. He hiked up Cliff Ridge. I went fishing. Saw the small black ^(bear) bear along the airstrip, he stood and looked at us when Mica flushed grouse. Fishing was good, although I only gave it 40 mins. effort, mostly trying to catch whitefish (had 2 on) but ended up with cutthroat - 6 or so. Still an awful lot of planes over head, must be a fly in on the Middle FK (The B).

Monday, Aug. 26

Had to listen to Ro calling from the corral ^{-1/2 the night-} as Rocky & the mule-crow had escaped onto the airstrip... time for more white tape inside of the sliding rails!! Greg and I took down 3 wall tents. Greg had to do a lot of cleaning @ the cook tent. A couple backpackers, Gina & Stan, stopped by to visit. They are en route from the Main Salmon to the Flying B. Had a good shower w/ thunder & lightning this afternoon. I sorted through 6 bags of low priority mail - cleared out a big stack.

Tuesday, Aug. 27

Mike Davis and the new McCall A.T. owner ^(Dan -) flew in to check Dan out on the strip. Greg ^I cleared dead brush (maple) from behind the duplex and burned... in 2 piles. Used Daisy's Rocky to haul 4 short logs 7-8' from Big Cr. up to the shop. ^(I skinned) Then we hauled the remaining wood from scattered piles (I bucks) up to our wood pile, with the team & stoneboat. I "beamed" the little black boar in the shoulder with a rubber blunt arrow... he was picking/feating apples in the orchard. Made a call for a pilot ^(Mark) from Soldier Bar... needed plane flight back to Bernard w/ Salomon Air.

Weds., Aug. 28th

R.C. flew in with the mail, he then took out several boxes of garbage. It got very stormy in the afternoon... ^(This stuff happened today) wind, rain, electrical activity. Visited several times with Holly regarding horse issues (purchasing). A smallish bear was in our yard apple tree this evening, I ran off w/ flashlight.

Thurs., Aug. 29

Ray flew in this morning w/ Holly. They radio-tracked en route in. Greg ignited one of the big brush piles @ the old bankhouse site. I helped him feed the fire and saw bigger pieces into firewood. Had another active thunderstorm this afternoon. Holly put up peaches for freezing.

Friday, Aug. 30

Greg ignited "big pile #2" this morning, I helped him fuel the flames. He also buzzed up more birch firewood. R.C. flew in with the supplies that Holly couldn't bring in yesterday, and he hauled out 4 propane tanks and 4 or so boxes of garbage. Holly caught up on emails from being gone a week. I sawed & split more cookstove wood @ our pile. Greg put up the framing for the shelter attached to the hydro shed, I helped him some with that. Holly made a tasty buck stew for dinner. Some rain again today also.

Sat. Aug. 31

Today Jim & Holly headed out w/ Erica & The stock to find a moose for dinner. They are scheduled to return on Tuesday. I worked on building a roof for the hydro shelter and also cut more slash/firewood. I built another brush pile for burning as well as cut more birch.

Sun. Sept 1

The heavy airplane traffic started early today. I began the day by lighting the slash pile. I had perfect conditions for burning once again. With tending the fire and cutting more slash that brought me to mid-afternoon. I also put out a smoldering stump that was re-ignited from a previous burn. The ranch is quiet with only myself, Boone, the cats and a few grouse around. The afternoon was spent on the shelter and re-setting traps. I have caught 2 more woodrats the past couple of days.

Mon, Sept. 2

Today started with another burn in a new spot. Conditions were good again, light wind. It was a good fire. I spent a good portion of the day feeding the fire, falling trees and cutting more firewood. It turned out to be a warm September day. I was headed to mow lawns after the burning when I had a couple of visitors. A couple of hikers stopped by on their way, they fly out of Soldier's Bar in a couple of days. I mowed all of the lawns this afternoon and moved irrigation.

Tues., Sept. 3

Holly and I travelled from the W. FK. of Rush CR. to where we are in about 6 hrs. - 15 miles. It was very hot en route, especially from Rush Pt. on down. Mica was desperate for water!! We did not see any moose on our journey from Conyer - W. FK. Rush CR. The old trail from Conyer CR. → Bear Trap is pretty "scout" in upper Canyon CR. near Bear Trap. We ended up doing some "precarious bushwacking" with our 5 head of stock. We did come upon an interesting old cabin up the West FK. trail. Holly took many photos of this 12x14' cabin. Upon looking @ the Caswell Diary it is very likely the one they use (start using) in Oct. 1896. Greg getting ready to go out tomorrow... to attend a friend's wedding in Hawaii. Cleaned pitch off our tent fly from camping under big Lodge Pole Pine

Weds., Sept. 4

I worked on pack saddle oiling & cleaning while Holly caught up on email-computer stuff. R.C. came in late morning to bring us the mail and take out Greg's Boone-dog. Surprisingly, we only had one item in the mail bag... think it must have gotten mis-directed. Hot & windy this afternoon, moved the sprinklers and cleaned tack shed a bit. Holly started organizing our project data files.

Thurs., Sept. 5

R.C. flew in w/ 4 propane & 1 small. Glenn flew in with 5 NMFS people (Beth Sanderson et al), and he made a second flight with additional gear. They will be looking at fish nutrition, relating to steelhead.

We gave the NMFS crew a tour of the facility.

I washed smelly pack saddle pads, and emailed several people. Holly wrote up weather and did other TR admin. Also, last night the local bear-pest pulled all our laundry off the clothes line.

Friday, Sept. 6

R.C. flew in and out 3 times hauling 2 barrels of fuel per trip. We used steel bars (flat) to roll the 55 gal. barrels into the plane... he then skuttled this fuel to "the 13" and Thomas CR. Sanded/stacked cookstove wood in front of cabin. Holly continued organizing data →

for project writing. In the evening we visited the NMFS crew... I came back to our cabin and bumped in to Wheatie at our apple tree... he ^{- jaw popped -} chomped at me and left... soon to reappear @ the duplex trees. We all watched him in the apple tree, then once on the ground I peppered him with rubber buck-shot... later on he was back @ our apple tree! A wood rat is inside the lab, will attempt to "remove" tomorrow.

Sat. Sept. 7

Feels like fall today, damp & cool after yesterday's rain. I harassed Rocky and moved various things with the single-stone boat... move fence posts from the airstrip, "Keepable items" from the fly out junk pile, and scrap wood from the east fence line (gate). Doctored Bo's hobble sores... we had them set high and he must have spooked last night when the storm came down the airstrip (wind, rain, hail). Holly took the day off... except for making a pot of apple sauce & apple cinnamon rolls - utilizing the apples knocked out of our yard tree by Wheatie. Caught the lab-woodrat with a trap set outside... @ dark.

Also repaired & sharpened machete today... need to use it on lower Rush Cr. trail.

Sunday, Sept. 8

Had another bear visit last night, think it was the small black bear, not wheatthru, since few branches were broken... and "apple filling" piles were smaller! I spent most of the morning resurrecting the N. pasture electric fence... had^{to} sawⁱ move many alder & birch trees (burned-dead), that had fallen across the fence in recent winds. Holly & I tried to photograph the 2 Chinook Salmon on a red near the Rush cr. windsock (east of the sock ^{north-} 25 meters). Lighting was not ideal and the fish a bit spooky. Holly made a zucchini-cheese casserole and we had dinner with the NMFS crew.

Monday, Sept. 9

McCall Aviation made 2 flights in this morning to take out the NMFS crew. Pat D. stayed for gingerbread & coffee on the 2nd flight. Holly continued working with project data and supportive literature. I completed the annual capture summary for F&G, and sent our last summary to the F&G nongame program. Took care of Greg's elk tag exchange - letter & tag sent to Lewiston. Replaced 2 poles on the duplex ditch bridge. Also this morning Holly prepared the billings for the NMFS crew - 5 people for 4 nights. Watched a new brownish-black bear come across the bridge today. Still having nightly yard visits from "Little Sowie" not many apples left and the Mt. Ash tree is looking a bit "droopy." Recovered the stock from sage flat where they had escaped too... at dark.

Tues., Sept. 10

Holly spent much of the day on updating project graphs. I repaired the firewood (storage) box and vacuumed "hidden places" ^{T. cabin}. Put up a short span of electric tape off the end of the airstrip where the stock had escaped around the pole gate... today they (the stock) inspected the fencing but did not test it. Raked up several wheel barrow loads of pinecones around the old cabin in preparation for yard seeding (lawn). We had a record day for emails - 15 came in! most were business which we answered.

Weds. Sept. 11

A busy morning with the mail plane coming & helicopter ^{& lunch here.} refueling. I saw 2 head of stock loose across the creek so I stuffed them in the Lower pasture, after some fence repair. Saw where a bear dug a salmon in to the pasture (still wet bear tracks). Sent emails to our local outfitters looking for the stock owner. Continued cone taking and piling. Also seeded yards at the old cabin and lab. Holly worked up phone bill, continued slide show prep., and sent several emails... plus sorted through 2 weeks of mail. The Cascade postmaster admitted over looking our mail last week... which explains the empty bag! Watched several 9/11 programs on TV. Dad took Mom to the hospital today due to swelling from blood clots (in her chest).

Thurs. Sept. 12

Cal from Root Ranch called to say that Bill ^(Caleb) & Caleb would be landing soon with a rider to take their 2 head back to Root Ranch. Had a good visit with Bill & Caleb. Showed Bill around since he had not been here in 30 years! J. Pope & Russ Thrown stopped for a last refueling. Holly spent all day (evening too) working on P. point ^(predation) graphs. I summarized my deer comp. information for last winter. Dug some potatoes - very small! Put a weaker fuel mix in our weedator and it worked great... on our yard. Put out grass seed around duplex and changed all sprinklers. The stock are very fly bothered today... up to 90°! Heard that Mom's stable but still in hospital.

Friday, Sept 13

Another busy day @ the farm! The weather service (Larry Holt, John, Gene-pilot) came in to adjust instruments. Holly finalized the charts, tried to email to UT photo center but no one answered. We vaccinated the stock today... 1 squirt up nose and 2 shots each... they were hard to catch tonight. Had requests from Pete Zager for recommendations on Andrea B. and Nathan Borg. Spent late afternoon & evening doing these. My mom returned home today, but still has extensive body swelling - talked to her though.

Sat. Sept. 14

Another busy day for visitors. First George, from Steve's outfit, stopped in to see if we saw a missing mule, stayed for coffee. Then 3 backpackers came "onto the grounds" to see "what this place" was all about. I gave them a tour of the main bldgs., and the hydro which they were interested in. The group was from Eugene OR. (1) and Detroit Mich. (2). I prepared a pack to go hunting, but by the time the people cleared it was 3 pm... and 88°! Opted to stay @ home, go in the morning.

Sunday, Sept. 15

I got up early and headed up Pioneer Cr., incredibly warm for 6 am! Hiked up around the heliport, not much going on in this heat... up to 92° today, got in a good workout. Holly re-adjusted the wash machine and did many loads of laundry. Holly corresponded many times with Mom... they are attempting to teach Dad how to email... w/ luck yet. Holly did final "touch up" on project graphs for slides... when she wasn't cooking.

Monday, Sept. 16

Not much sleep after 4 am as the little black bear kept getting on the woodpile by our bedroom window! I verbally ran him off once, then "stroked" outside the second time and gave him (her?) a taste of rubber

backshot! Holly basically spent all day reformatting/revising our predation power point slides so they could be sent to WSU for 35mm slide development... she had to send as many emails rather than an internet file... a big hassle. (finally went through @ 7pm)
I went over our predation slide show pulling "gory slides" and figuring out where new ones will go. Hauled 4 wheel-harrow loads of mule manure to the garden. Cloudy but still too warm this afternoon.

Tuesday, Sept. 17

Holly did a bunch of baking this morning... nice cool day for it with some rain. I attacked my desk clearing off a year's worth of clutter, also fiked away most stuff (ranch correspondence). After lunch I worked on shoeing, did all of Daisy, fronts on Rocky & Cricket. Holly retrieved the auto-weather station recorder, but could not get it to download (read it) on our new computer. We continued working on our project slide show. Rained a fair amount this evening, saw an elk herd on the 3rd bench... 14: 9 cows, 5 calves.

Weds, Sept. 18

Awoke to the Little black bear on the porch... ran it off and launched some rubber blunt arrows at (off) of it, then 1 hr later it was back in

the duplex apple tree... rubber buckshot this time, with about the same result... hopeless!

R.C. flew Greg in late morning, Boone was elated to be back @ T.R. Visited with Greg about his trip, then "dove" into shoeing... Cricket & Rocky rear, Penny front... sore back! Holly printed out "data summary handouts" for our DeVlieg meeting. Adam the F.S. wild. guard @ Cabin CR. stopped in, he's camped @ Lower Cliff CR.

Thursday, Sept. 19

This morning Jim & Holly hosted Adam to coffee before he left for the Middle Fork. Jim & Holly readied themselves for a morning departure to Bayview to attend a predation talk for the DeVlieg Foundation, they are presenting at the talk. I worked on clearing brush and collecting the stock after they broke onto the airstrip. Boone treed the little black bear twice today. I introduced some "rubber buckshot" to his butt, but he came back, so I repeated the procedure. I also picked all of the apples on the trees between Arlow's and the duplex.

Friday, Sept. 20

Today I built a cover for the irrigation pump. I also added trim to the roof of the hydro add-on. I also shut down the ditch irrigation for the winter. Boone treed the little bear again today. He treed in the large fir behind the shop. I always wanted to see either

a cougar or bear in that tree, now I have. I went into the Arlow Cabin for lunch and after a bit the bear was down and headed for the apple trees, I got it again with the buckshot. After lunch I was working on the irrigation pump cover and noticed the bear at the apple trees again so I went to the Arlow Cabin to get the gun and shot it '3' times, the last shot sent him up the west side of Pioneer Creek but it will return, not too phased by the rubber buckshot. In the afternoon I mowed all of the lawns and threw all of the apples that were under the tree out into the pasture to hopefully deter the bear from climbing into the trees.

Sat., Sept. 21

We flew from Coued'Alene, via Jimmy Pope, this morning and returned to TR. The D.V. Meeting went very well. Chris M., Katie G., and Crystal S. all did excellent jobs presenting their research and our predation talk seemed well received. Once @ TR, Greg suggested he use the backhaul to "move out" to Cascade. Jim JR. was agreeable, so we said our good-byes and sent him off.

Sunday, Sept. 22

Holly prepared food & gear for her week long moose hunt. Renan was flown in by R.C. early afternoon. R.C. stayed to visit while his passengers @ Soldier Bar finished fishing. Caught up on "Renan's life". Did usual ranch chores & repaired 2 problem sprinklers. Also s mowed Penny's rear today

Monday, Sept. 23

Helped Holly's Roman get on the trail with 4 mules
... headed to Monumental Creek. Took care of several
ranch emails. Visited Nancy M. about the Dean's visit
in Oct. Adam, FS wilder. Tanager @ Cabin Rd., stopped
in to visit en route back from a Crags trip.

Tuesday, Sept. 24

Fixed the small chainsaw oiler, then sawed down
a fence-line tree behind the ^{T. Cabin} outhouse, so it wouldn't
fall on its own. Sawed up & split into firewood. Bill
Burnt stopped in to visit... w/ 3 horses. We talked
TR and Big CR. history. He is a Mid. FK. outfitter
(Aggipah Flat Trips), white "touring him" @ the lab.
I noticed a lot of woodrat activity... in the bldg.,
set 3 traps for "it". Heard about a ram mortality
near Shepp Ranch, sounded like Pasturella so I called
Mark Drew (FIG DVM), and encouraged Shepp folks
to get organ samples for Dr. Drew.

Wed, Sept 25th Tom Fisk and Troy Rohwecker flew in w/
RC. This afternoon, Tom is headed upstream w/ Jim for an
Elkhunt and to assist Holly w/ her Moose. I (Troy) am going
to stay @ the ranch - work on a few projects and
enjoy the quiet.

Thurs Sept 26th J.M + Tom left w/ Bo around 7AM.
Outfitters headed up ^{Pioneer} ~~Rabbit~~ around 9AM. I worked on
screen doors for the lab. Caught a woodrat in back of
the lab... I would say it was a large one. Jay (guide)
stopped by to use the radio - his hunter killed a bull up
pioneer cr.

Friday Sept 27 No woodrats. Overcast today - rain in
the afternoon. Talked to the elk hunter this morning - Jay
went up Cliff Cr while Rob (hunter) waited for another guide
to ride down from Cabin Cr to pick up his elk. worked
on the screen doors, built an end table. Watched an uncoiled
bear walk upstream along the trail this evening.

Saturday Sept 28 Quiet day - trapped another woodrat
at the lab. Built another screen door. Walked around to
the upper pasture - looks like a bear was eating some
of the cubes stored over there.

Sunday Sept 29th Busy day - built the railing for Arlow's deck
in the AM. Then the planes started - 4 loads of cubes + oats
RC also flew a bunch of the metal trash from the snip out.
Finished the steps to the deck in the afternoon.
The bear cruised by this evening - crossed the bridge and
headed up the south side of big creek.

Monday Sept. 30

Troy spent the morning working on the new medicine cabinet for The duplex, then he hiked to Cabin Creek... expecting to meet us but we were a bit behind, although we rode 29 miles today, with the fast pace being set by Star our new "mustang mare". We came from Deer CR, up Monumental CR. Got snowed on up Monumental, then a bit of rain close to T.R. For a quick review: Tues pm Holly shot a big, old bull moose above Big Roney CR, Weds. Renan & Holly continued moose-meat care. Thurs. Tom & Jim up to Monumental (via foot w/ Bo packed)... then on to the moose w/ Renan's stock. Holly finished caping, then we ^(packed mules) hauled back to the Monumental camp. Fri. morning we packed the moose to Acorn... met up w/ Ray who flew the carcass out. Went back to camp... packed it up and went up to "Murderer's Cabin" site. Sat. visited the Jeppson Camp then went up to the trail head... met up with Hanky & Janey... camped below trail head. Sunday we completed the horse sweep... Bo out to become "Bo Jenkins" and Star went with us to Deer CR, had dinner ^{Turkey-} w/ Jeppson crew... big storm hit this evening. Monday morning - had breakfast w/ Jerry, then did the big trip to T.R.

Tuesday, Oct. 1

Cold last night, heavy frost. Spent most of the day "regrouping" and drying out camp equipment.

Troy continued working on the 2 screen doors.

Harnessed Rocky and Troy & I moved 15 loads of cubes from the airstrip to corral shed. Troy caught 2 "woodies" @ the lab last night. Adam (F.S.) stopped ^{by to visit en route} back from Whiskey Spgs.

Weds., Oct. 2

Another cold morning, 29° last night. Did several mail day tasks; including the Sept. weather write-up.

Pulled all the sprinklers and layed out hoses to dry.

Troy continued work on screens. RC came in with the mail... then a second flight with cubes. Troy & I & Rocky moved cubes to the corral shed. Holly got in a big bag of moose meat, so she spent the evening packaging "back steaks."

Thurs., Oct. 3

A fairly nice day today. Troy finished screen doors and began scraping bathroom floors & burned 2 piles of brush and wind-blow damage from last Sunday. Rotted up and stored 24 hoses. Troy & I sawed up a Cottonwood tree that blew down. Holly finished cutting up moose meat, she also did several UI emails and did some baking. The Batis cancelled on the Mile High trip... their horse ran away from home.

Friday, Oct. 4

Warmer this morning. Holly did the monthly phone bill breakdown, and she did several TR emails ... Lynne K., Janet P., Bates, Clara B., and the summer crew on phone bills, & spread 2 bags of grass seed in the lower pasture - west side. Troy scraped the bathroom floor - mostly done. Troy & I used a come-along to assist with falling a hazard tree (18" DB) out by the outhouse. Kurt Becker helped us, he and a pair of friends: Rita & Emelda liked down from Cabin Cr. to visit. Rita & Emelda are from Alaska. Kurt is now retired from the USFS, living in New Meadows and doing some commercial flying in Alaska - Denali.

Sat. Oct. 5

Kind of a slow start today on our pack trip to Mike High, but we did get going before noon. Made it up to the old homestead late afternoon, and mounted and photographed the Cox plaque with nice lighting. Travis was in his camp and invited us to stay in one of his tents - which we did. One of his hunters had an elk (5pt.) and it sounds like his outfit has done well this year - 10 bulls to date.

Sunday, Oct. 6

Awoke to bulls bugling near Travis' camp. Left there @ 10 am. and went to Cabin Cr. strip, where Robert & a hunter were loading a 6x07 bull and a 4pt
↳ Zittel Guide

back onto an A.A. plane (R.C.). We collected a chunk of elk meat for the DNA study @ UI. Rode up to Travis' camp - no one there. Had lunch w/ Adam @ the FS cabin, then rode home... moving some trail obstructions with Adam.

Monday, Oct. 7

Troy did aggressive sanding of the bathroom floor after we removed the water heater & toilet. He also replaced a few "tongue & groove" boards under the toilet. ^{& stained the floor} I took Daisy & Penny to the lower pasture to pack hoses & sprinklers... Penny thought the hoses were giant snakes (even hissing), but she finally "complied." Fixed the chainsaw oiler and buzzed up, and split, firewood from the hazard tree we sawed down last Friday. Heard a bull ^(OR bulls) bogle mid-afternoon up E. Pioneer Rd... answering Troy on the table saw OR Router.

Tuesday, Oct. 8

Awoke to bulls (young ones) bawling in the lower pasture, and saw 25 elk going onto the timbered bench later in the morning... 14 cows, 8 calves, 3 bulls, 2 yearlings, 1 spike. Troy finished the bathroom wall cabinet... and mounted in the west duplex. He also put 4 coats of finish on the bathroom floor. Harnessed Rocky & Cricket and harrowed for 3 hrs. in the lower pasture. Holly helped and piled weed over burden... did about 45% of the flat area.

Weds. Oct. 9

Caught a big woodrat behind the lab... moved traps to the old cabin. Troy & I moved the water heater & toilet back into the bathroom and reinstalled. Holly reorganized the medicine cabinet after we put it back in place.

Prepared mail to go out. R.C. flew in with the mail, and Holly's moose head, Troy flew out... along with John & Carol Miller from Cascade - who had been ranch-sitting @ Yellowpine Bar. After going through the mail we worked on the garden. Holly rotated tilled and I hauled 7 wheelbarrow loads of manure from the corral, 5 into main garden and 2 into alternate garden. Another dozen emails in today, answered all of them.

Thurs., Oct. 10

We spent most of the day harrowing the lower pasture - rest of fenced area. The wind came up and removed a lot of exposed top soil. Daisy's leg abscess (rump) is getting very large.

Friday, Oct. 11

Caught a woodrat behind the lab. Most of the day was spent getting Daisy's abscess taken care of... Keith Ruble (vet) from Cascade was flown in via Ray A. to do the procedure on Daisy. Lance, Robert & Sheep Hunter Jan were here (visiting, helping w/ Daisy) until late afternoon. Set up continuous water "out flow" @ the lab... getting cold at night (25°)

Sat., Oct 12

Another cold morning, We shut down & drained Arlon's water line, Holly moved "freezable" items from the shop into Arlon's basement. Cleaned the lab & duplex... pulled and washed bedding. Holly worked on the intern photo album - on line. We cleaned Daisy's leg of crusted blood & discharge, and gave her ³⁰ 25cc's of penicillin! Did a little afternoon duck hunt... set up decoys. Robert went by with a pack string, he was very curious about my decoy-set at the mouth of Rush Cr. - never saw a duck. Andrea Bristol called about Ranch sitting... another option along with Janet Hohmann for the last 10 days of Oct.

Sunday, Oct. 13

A busy social day! First, Jack Walker flew in (w/ friend Nancy Mann) to visit. Then @ noon our friends Stone & Gloria Bate (& Chinook) pulled in from the B (backpacking). Finally, late afternoon, Robert stopped by to chat en route from Cliff camp to Cabin Cr. I shot a duck (widgeon) today, so Mica finally got to re-experience waterfowl retrieving. Gloria made a Mexican dinner.

Monday, Oct. 14

Had a leisurely breakfast with the Bates before they headed up to Cabin Creek. Steve and I took a saw and ax up Pioneer Cr. and cleared a couple trees and brushy trail obstructions. Sib headed off @ 1:30 pm. ✓ drained and tape-sealed the airstrip waterline. Holly worked with Star^{NEW HORSE} on accepting being sprayed (fly spray). We doctored Paisey's wound, still draining quite a bit. Holly made cinnamon rolls and cooked a chicken dinner... for the Root Ranch guys (Caleb & Justin) who got in @ 5:30 p. w/ 14 head of horses & mules... which we put in the corral with a couple bags of feed (cubes).

Tuesday, Oct. 15

The Root Ranch guys got up before dawn and had their 14 head saddled by daybreak. Holly made sourdough hotcakes and then they were off. Holly finished intern slides - on line. I worked on rat proofing... after using my .22 pistol & shot to "do in" another ^(under duplex) rat. Used hardware cloth and wood slats to plug access holes in W. duplex and the old cabin. Also repaired some disconnected wood rails by the big bridge - east of. Did many business emails, and wrote a couple letters. Holly also did UI laundry

Weds. Oct. 16

The stock were bad last night... Rocky was walking around in the yard at midnight, so we had to get up and "regroup" the herd outside of the yards. Ray came in early with the mail. I sent some bighorn infor. to Heing, Lynn, & Mike @ Shepp Ranch. Today's rat proofing occurred @ the lab... both ends. I stapled hardware cloth over the west attic vent, and used wire mesh to plug other holes under the east overhang. Holly remade the lab beds and did general cabin prep. for tomorrow's group.

Thurs. Oct. 17

Did more preparation for the group, put together a file of pertinent TR reports for Dean Daly-Hansen. Patsy doing better - less discharge. Changed/swapped away propane. Did final cleanup. Started the pit and stove in lab... ^(where the 3 stayed) well in advance of the plane arrival - which came @ 5:30. Had a barbecue @ dark - George LaVar, Ed Kraupe & Steve Daly-Hansen were flown in by Doug Badwa. Had good TR discussions around "the pit." Saw 14-5 elk on the 3rd bench.

Fri. Oct. 18

Toured Steve around the ranch... and property. Went over to the "Sage flat"... saw 6 deer. Then on the benches we saw 17 sheep. Had more good visiting sessions with Steve... about TR administration issues and personal development. Plane came in for the group @ 5 pm.

Sat. Oct. 19

I slept in a bit. My ankle "acked" last night after a hyper-extension¹ on our little walk in Rush Cr. yesterday. H. & I drained the lab water system and Holly closed down the west side of the duplex. Watched a person (sheep hunter?) go up the benches with a heavy backpack. Lots of email correspondence today, Bryan putting things together for trip out... and list for Janet. Holly's nose back strap is very good "table fair."

Sunday. Oct. 20

Another night of lost sleep from the ankle.^(Foot & toe too) We worked on shortening our Fire story (power point) for the talk on Weds. to Lauren Fins class. Holly took Star for a ride up the Rush Pt. trail. More getting ready to go. Changed our water filter downstairs. Continued jotting down a list for Janet... Holly visited with Janet's Vi Webb this evening.

MON. OCT 21

(SAPER)

I ARRIVE JUST BEFORE NOON ON A VERY SMOOTH FLIGHT WITH RC.

JIM SHOWS ME A FEW NEW TRICKS & REVIEWS THE OLD ONES I OUGHT TO KNOW BY HEART BY NOW, THEN HE, HOWL & RC HEAD OUT AROUND 1pm. MICA & I HAVE A LEISURELY AFTERNOON OF PATROLLING UP TO THE RUSH CR. FORD TO SCOUT THAT TRAIL JOB, PEEVING THE TIGHT POLE ON THE LOWER PIONEER GATE, & ENJOYING A BALMY AFTERNOON. SEE A SMALL BAND OF 7 OR 8 BIGHORNS ALMOST ON RIDGELINE ABOVE THE BENCHES - IN & OUT OF TIMBER, TOO FAR TO SEX OR AGE BUT I THINK I SEE 1 LAMB OF THE YEAR. A FEW ROBINS IN PASTURE BUT NOT MUCH OTHER WILDLIFE SEEN.

TUES. OCT 22

CLEAR FIRST THING THIS a.m. BUT SOME CLOUDS MOVE IN BY 9 am. AFTER THE MORNING ROUND OF CHORES, TAKE DOWN FENCE ON EAST PASTURE ACROSS RIVER. LEAVES FALLING FAST FROM COTTONWOODS & OTHER DECIDUOUS BRUSH. AFTER LUNCH, START CLEARING RUSH CR. TRAIL. IMPRESSIVE (OR DEPRESSING??) THISTLES TALLER THAN I AM. 9 MALLARDS FLY DOWN BIG CREEK BUT NO OTHER WILDLIFE SEEN. MULES HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM AIRSTRIP PASTURE & I CAN'T FIND THEM UP ON THE HILL. WILL HAVE TO EXPAND THE SEARCH RADIUS TOMORROW. NO SHEEP ^{SEEN} ON CLIFF CREEK SLOPE TODAY.

WEDS. OCT 23

STILL NO SIGN OF STAR & THE MULES, SO AFTER WEATHER CALL-IN I START A SEARCH. FIND THEIR TRACKS HEADING UP THE BIG CREEK TRAIL BUT THEY ARE TURNED AROUND AT THE CLOSED (THANK GOODNESS!) GATE ON WEST SIDE OF PROPERTY. LOOKS LIKE TRACKS GO DOWN & FORD BIG CR. NEAR MOUTH OF RUSH CR. I CHECK EAST GATE & TRAIL ALSO - TRACKS HERE TOO BUT NO MULES. BACK TO RANCH & GUESS WHAT - EVERYBODY IS IN THE YARD. WHO SAYS STOCK HAS NO SENSE OF HUMOR?! I RUN THEM BACK ONTO AIRSTRIP & BEEF UP THE UPPER GATE INTO YARD WHICH THEY DUCKED UNDER TO GAIN ENTRY. THEN I PAINT NO-CHEW ONTO CORRAL POLES AS REVENGE. AFTER LUNCH, WORK ON RUSH CR. TRAIL AGAIN. NO WILDLIFE OR TRAIL TRAFFIC SEEN TODAY. A BEAUTIFUL WARM FALL AFTERNOON. BAKE BREAD & COOKIES IN PM. MULES COOPERATE & COME INTO CORRAL FOR THE NIGHT. CLEAR. Jim & Holly gave a fire story talk to Lauren Fins class... Fire & The human experience... > 50 freshmen, with many good questions following.

THURS. OCT. 24

LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER NICE DAY SO MICA & I HIKE TO MIDDLE FORK. LEAVE AROUND 10:15 AFTER RADIO + PHONE CALLS. LOTS OF PLANES FLYING TODAY, INCLUDING ONE THAT LANDS & TAKES OFF FROM SOLDIER BAR AROUND 11:30. BEAUTIFUL FALL COLORS, NO TRAFFIC ON TRAIL. 10 CHUKARS ABOUT 1/2 MI UPSTREAM OF BIGHORN BRIDGE. MIDDLE FORK CANYON SEEMS A BIT HAZY (SMOKE?). ENJOY THE RIVER, EAT LUNCH, THEN HEAD BACK UP AROUND 2:15. SPOOK A BAND OF SHEEP OFF TRAIL AT GORGE; I COUNT 10 BUT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN MORE - 2 APPROX. 1/2-CURL RAMS, 1 LAMB, REST EWES I THINK. FIND A PLUCKED CHUKAR ON TRAIL BELOW GORGE (OR RATHER, JUST ITS FEATHERS!). SCARE ANOTHER 14 SHEEP OFF SALT LICK JUST BELOW T.R. IN THIS GROUP I SEE 3 LAMBS + THE REST EWES OR YOUNG RAMS. BACK BY 5:30. MULES ARE WAITING BY LOWER GATE TO BE LET IN FOR THE NIGHT - HOW CIVILIZED! MICA & I ARE HUNGRY AFTER OUR WALK. NOT MANY BIRDS SEEN: 1 PILEATED + 1 ^{HAIKY} ~~DOWNY~~ WOODPECKER, 1 DIPPER, 2 MALLARDS, SEVERAL SPOTTED SANDPIPERS, A COUPLE MAGPIES. SPEND EVENING WRITING + SEWING.

FRIDAY, OCT. 25

CLEAR AGAIN & COLD - 22°. SPEND MORNING WORKING ON WOODPILE. 2 PACK STRINGS COME BY HEADED DOWN BIG CREEK: 1 AROUND 10 AM W/ 2 RIDGES = ABOUT 7 PACK STOCK. ANOTHER 2 RIDERS + 10 STOCK AROUND NOON. THE SECOND STRING MAY HAVE TURNED UP CLIFF CREEK - I DIDN'T SEE THEM GO DOWN THE BIG CR. TRAIL, & LATER ON FOUND TRACKS UP CLIFF CR. MIDMORNING ABOUT 15 BIGHORNS RUN FAST ACROSS SLOPE BELOW FIRST BENCH, DOWN TO CLIFF CR. I LOOK FOR WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE MADE THEM RUN BUT SAW NO LIKELY CAUSE. THEN THEY MUST

HAVE GONE UP CUFF CR. BECAUSE I DIDN'T SEE THEM AGAIN ON OTHER SIDE. FINISH UP WOOD IN EARLY AFTERNOON & MAKE SURE H₂O SYSTEM IS RUNNING, ETC. EVIDENCE OF A PACK RAT PARTY IN LAB, SO I SET A TRAP INSIDE. WALK AIRSTRIP, READ IN THE SUN, & AT 5 GO UP TO 1ST BENCH TO CATCH THE LAST SUN, WHICH SET ON MY SIDE OF BIG CREEK MORE THAN AN HOUR AGO. NO WILDLIFE SEEN. THE TUMBLE MUSTARD GROWTH IN OLD BURN IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE - WHERE DID ALL THAT SEED COME FROM? HOW LONG BEFORE THE BUNOGRASS OUT-COMPETES IT? FINISH CHORES BEFORE DARK & WRITE LETTERS, SEW DURING THE EVENING.

SAT. OCT. 26

CAN'T BELIEVE THIS UNBROKEN STRING OF CLEAR, CALM DAYS. HOLT CALLS TO CHECK IN, & I CALL KEN FOR SAME REASON. MY BAITED TRAP IN LAB HAS BEEN VISITED BUT IS UNSPRUNG. BAKE BANANA BREAD & THEN TAKE DOWN W. PASTURE FENCE ACROSS BIG CR. NO TRAFFIC ON TRAIL WHILE I'M UNFENCING. LATE LUNCH, THEN MICA & I WALK OVER TO SAGE FLAT & RUSH CREEK TO LOOK AT LAST SECTION OF TRAIL TO CLEAR. A BRUSHY MESS! WILL TACKLE THIS ONE LATER. SPOOK 8 SMALL FAT BROWN DUCKS AT MOUTH OF RUSH CR - THEY FLY UPSTREAM BEFORE I CAN I.D. THEM. I THINK I SAW AT LEAST 1 WHITE SPOT ON THEIR FACES. WILL HAVE TO WATCH FOR THEM AGAIN & TURN THEM INTO HARLEQUINS!

SUNDAY OCT. 27

A HIGH THIN HAZE THIS MORNING, OTHERWISE SAME AS PREVIOUS DAYS. I SPEND THE MORNING AROUND THE PLACE - SPLITTING WOOD, HAULING 7 or 8

CLAIMS THE SHOT I HEARD EARLIER WAS HIS -
SHOOTING A COYOTE.

LOADS OF MANURE FROM CORRAL TO GARDEN NEAR COMPOSTER, CHECKING
H₂O SYSTEM (NO PROBLEMS). CAUGHT A PACKRAT IN THE LAB, SO I
RESET THAT TRAP IN CASE THERE ARE MORE. HEAR A SHOT UP CLIFF
CREEK SOMEWHERE. READ ABOUT THE LOBAUER - ESTEP SHOOTING IN
AN AUG. 2002 F.S. PUBLICATION. AROUND 2 p.m. IT CLOUDS UP.
HUNTER STOPS BY ABOUT 2 TO REQUEST A RADIO CALL OUT TO
SALMON AIR TO COME EARLY TO PICK HIM UP AT SOLDIER BAR.
HE'S BEEN CAMPOED UP THE CLIFF CR. TRAIL "ON TOP". REPORTED
SEEING A BIG MALE (?) WOLF TRACK ABOUT "5 MILES UP CLIFF CR.
TRAIL" (FROM BIG CR.) CAN'T RAISE ARNOLD'S OR SALMON AIR
ON RADIO, SO I TELL HIM I'LL SEND THE MESSAGE OUT TOMORROW
FOR HIM. MORE PUTTERING IN p.m.: SPRUCE UP THE FRONT DOOR
WREATH, TRIM BRUSH ON TRAIL TO WATER INTAKE, PHOTOGRAPH
SOME RUFFED GROUSE AT THE DUPLEX, WALK UP TO RUSH CREEK
LOOKING FOR OTTERS + DUCKS IN BIG CR - STRIKE OUT ON BOTH
COUNTS. GETS DARK "EARLY" TONIGHT THANKS TO LAST NIGHT'S SWITCH
BACK TO STANDARD TIME.

MONDAY OCT. 28

RAIN STARTED AROUND 2 am + CONTINUED OFF & ON UNTIL AROUND 8:30 a.m.
SNOW LEVEL IS JUST ABOVE 3RD BENCH. GOT .16" RAIN OVERNIGHT. CLOUDS
LIFT ABOVE RIDGES BY ABOUT 9 am. MORNING CHORES IN LIGHT RAIN.
RELAY HUNTER'S MESSAGE FROM YESTERDAY TO CAROL. BAKE COOKIES, WASH
WINDOWS, SPLIT WOOD IN a.m. WORK ON RUSH CR. TRAIL IN AFTERNOON.
THE THUSTLES + TUMBLEMUSTARD REALLY THICK IN THE BURNT CREEK BOTTOM.
NEARLY FINISHED CLEARING THAT BIT OF TRAIL. SAW MY FIRST - EVER

DEMONSTRATION OF (APPARANT) "DIPPER AGGRESSION" ON LOWER RUSH CREEK: 2 DIPPERS, 1 LOOKS LIKE IT IS CHASING THE OTHER IN CLOSE PURSUIT, BOTH PLUMMET INTO H₂O & COMPLETELY SUBMERGE, THEN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BLAST BACK OUT OF THE H₂O & PURSUIT CONTINUES. THEY SMASH INTO H₂O AGAIN & RE-EMERGE, FLY DOWN CREEK, THEN BACK UP, THEN DOWN AGAIN. THEN JUST 1 DIPPER FLIES BACK UPSTREAM ALONG RUSH CR. THIS ALL HAPPENS IN THE SPAN OF ABOUT 40 SECONDS. QUIT TRAIL WORK IN A RAIN SHOWER & RETURN TO RANCH, READ FOR A BIT, THEN MAKE THE EVENING ROUNDS. MULES COME RIGHT IN ON SCHEDULE; HOW CAN I BE SO LUCKY!! DISCOVER PACK-RAT ACTIVITY IN BATHROOM OF EAST DUPLEX: THEY (IT) SHREDED ONE OF THE CURTAINS. MOVE THE TRAP FROM LAB UP TO HERE FOR THE NIGHT (IT WAS UNVISITED LAST NIGHT IN THE LAB...) SHUT OFF CORRAL H₂O AS PER JIM'S REQUEST, RELAYED AT 5 PM BY CAROL. READ MORE LOCAL HISTORY THIS EVENING.

TUESDAY OCT. 29

WAKE UP TO LIGHT SNOW FALLING AT THE RANCH; ONCE IT GETS LIGHT I SEE CLOUDS OBSCURING THE RIDGETOPS - JUST A TRACE OF SNOW ON THE GROUND HERE, BUT THE BUSHES ARE PRETTY WHITE-LOOKING. THE RAT WAS IN THE EAST DUPLEX BATHROOM AGAIN LAST NIGHT & ATE THE BAIT OUT OF THE TRAP WITHOUT SETTING IT OFF. I REBAIT & RESET IT. DO A LITTLE CLEANING, FINISH READING THE THUNDER MTN. PAPER, THEN GO TO FINISH WORK ON RUSH CR. TRAIL. WHILE I'M THERE AN AA PLANE LANDS AT TAYLOR, UNLOADS CARGO, & LEAVES BEFORE I CAN GET BACK. I THEN PACK THE LOAD UP TO THE HOUSES, HAVE LUNCH,

THEN HIKE UP PIONEER CR. TO THIS FIRST CROSSING. SEE SOME MULE
DEER + A COUPLE RUFFED GROUSE. COLD + BREEZY. SNOWLINE
STARTS ABOUT AT THIS CROSSING. CLOUDS ON TOP OF DAVIS LEWIS PEAK.
BACK DOWN FOR A RADIO-PHONE CALL FROM HOWL: SHE, JIN, + VI
PLAN TO FLY IN TOMORROW AFTERNOON. CALL THE MULES IN FROM
ACROSS THE RIVER (THIS HAS BEEN THE PATTERN FOR THE PAST 5
NIGHTS OR SO. USUALLY STAR LEADS THEM ACROSS) + PUT THEM IN
CORRAL AS DARKNESS ARRIVES. CHECK RAT TRAP IN EAST DUPLEX -
I HAVE A RAT! LOOKS LIKE IT CAME UP THROUGH A HOLE IN THE
FLOOR BY THE SHOWER. RE-SET THE TRAP + COVER THIS HOLE
TEMPORARILY. HEAR A FLOCK OF SWANS IN CANYON AROUND 7 pm. - 9 pm
SOUNDS LIKE THEY MAY BE LOW, FLYING UP + DOWN CANYON. STILL
PARTLY BREEZY OUT. AT AROUND 8:30 pm I HEAR WHAT I'M PRETTY
SURE IS 1 WOLF HOWL - CAN'T TELL WHERE IT WAS OR HOW FAR
AWAY. NO OBVIOUS REACTION FROM MICA.

WEDS. OCT. 30.

21° OUT + SNOWING LIGHTLY WITH A VARIABLE BREEZE. COLD!
MAKE THE ROUNDS (HORSE H₂O HAS ABOUT 1/2" OF ICE) UNEVENTFULLY.
NO NEW RAT ACTION IN DUPLEX OR ANYWHERE, SO I CLEAN UP THE
DUPLEX BATHROOM MORE THOROUGHLY IN ANTICIPATION OF MOVING DOWN
THERE TODAY. (LEAVE THE TRAP SET, JUST FOR GOOD MEASURE.)
RAKE LEAVES AROUND AROUND - DUPLEX YARDS IN MORNING. STOP FOR
LUNCH + THEN A WALK AROUND COUGAR PEN AREA + ACROSS BIG CR.
TO EAST PASTURE. NO WILDLIFE ON RIVER, RECENT ELK TRACKS +
PELLETS IN PASTURE THOUGH. CLOUDS LIFT + BLUE SKY IS VISIBLE

IN PLACES AROUND MID-DAY, BUT THEN THE CLOUDS KIND OF CLOSE IN AGAIN. CHECK WITH ARNOLD'S AROUND 3; JIM + HOLLY ARE THERE BUT IT ISN'T FLY-ABLE ON THAT END. KEEP FIRE IN DUPLEX AS A WATER-PIPE PROTECTION MEASURE. SPEND A COUPLE HOURS RAKING UP BY OLD CABIN. SQUIRRELS, RUFFED GROUSE KEEP MICA BUSH. AROUND 4:30 pm A PACK STRING W/ 1 RIDER, 4 LOADED MULES + 4 RIDERLESS STOCK PASSES ON BIG CR. TRAIL HEADED UPSTREAM.

Thurs. Oct 31 Halloween

We awake to a beautiful day in Cascade (although -6° @ the Bate residence). We had quite a plane load on the flight back in... Holly, Vi, Andrea, myself and an amazing amount of supplies. Janet spent the morning battling with the water system... a lot of slush ice flowing now, which, for some reason, is sticking to the bottom of the streambed screens. The Zettel crew, along with Ron Lowry & Bob DiGrazia stopped in mid-afternoon. The ^(steven & Joel) kids' were ready for some hot-chocolate, cookies, and candy.

Ron had a ^(ribs-leg) horse roll on him and was in considerable pain so we arranged for AA (actually George D.) to come in and take them out. The gals spent a few hours restoring the water flow. Only in mid-20's during the afternoon! We all enjoyed Janet's baking/cooking ... cookies, cinnamon rolls, and a soup-stew. Holly spent a lot of the pm putting things away after Boise area shopping. I'm still "a crisp" but hopeful that 3 hrs. spent in an MRI tube Weds, will give my DR. "the intor."

Friday, Nov. 1

Low temps down to lower teens this morning, and the water system was plugged from slush-ice again. I stayed indoors with my leg elevated (very boring), while the 4 gals did many ranch chores. Vi & Janet raked leaves in yards. Holly & Andrea worked on the Honda generator-inverter connection... can't use generator for power due to "back flow of power"... maybe a faulty switch on the Honda generator. Ray flew in late afternoon and took out Vi and Janet.

Saturday, Nov. 2

Continued catchup on emails in the morning. Once it warmed up a bit we saddled the stock and tried Janet's "trail-clearing" around lower Rush Cr. Rush Cr. icing up quite a bit, a challenge to cross.

Sunday, Nov. 3

Another cold morning but we seem to be beyond the slush-ice phase for this cold snap... the intake now has a protective "cap." Put together some camp gear, saddled & loaded the stock and rode up Pioneer Cr. to the "traditional camp" above the 4th ford. The 1½ mi. (each way) ride about "did me in" for leg pain.

Monday, Nov. 4

A tad warmer this morning. Holly worked on (wrote up) phone bill billing and receipts. Gathered up old M. Hornocker/Seidensticker cougar papers. The ice went-out, in big fashion, this afternoon. We watched and photographed from the bridge. Holly checked out the west-airstrip log jam... all's O.K., but she reported that the flow was 6' above the usual (for this date) waterline. Worked on a recommendation for A.J. Brumble. Repaired tumbled gate @ east main pasture.

Tuesday Nov 5

Wrote up monthly weather station report for NWS. I tried loading the Campbell Scientific meteorological station software on the computer. Brought the storage module from the lower pasture and downloaded data. The download had errors - multiple copies of some data and ~~9~~ months of data missing (Jan → Sept)! Data may have been lost when I could not download successfully a month ago, or is still a problem with proper installation of the programs on this computer. Disappointing to lose so much data (hourly readings). Jim looked at Hornocker & Seidensticker Wildlife Monographs and dissertations for comparative data sets for our work. Andrea worked on setting up ^(replacing) the Taylor Ranch web site.

Wednesday Nov 6

I added info to the maintenance manual - winterizing instructions and printed out a draft. Jim continued with Monographs. Andrea worked on web site. Mark Penninger and Tom McReynolds flew in to bowhunt with Jim. Put 1 1/2 gallons of water in hydro batteries.

Thursday Nov 7

Mark & Tom hiked up Pioneer Cr to their camp. Andrea & I dropped off Jim & gear with the mules at the camp. We left right away since 70 mph winds were @ McCall, but we did not have any trouble with trees blowing down. Trail crossings are still icy and difficult to cross - we let the pack mules run loose. I took the shoes off Star and the mules in the afternoon and continued the daily desensitizing of Star, so she is more trusting of handling. Andrea worked on Web site photos.

Friday Nov 8

Andrea & I saddled up the stock and went back up Pioneer Creek to pick up Jim. He could not get around much to bowhunt, with the air cast and walking stick. I read Hornocker, Andrea worked on web site. We played our nightly Dominoes game. We have been feeding hay to mules 2 times / day since the first of November. Robert (packer/guide) stopped in to visit this afternoon.

Saturday Nov 9

Took most of the day off - trying to get over our colds & Jim's ankle injury. Drained the 1500 gallon water tank for the winter. Helped Andrea with her resume. Steady rain by bed time.

Sunday, Nov. 10

A skiff of snow on the ground. It rained most of the night, turning to snow @ day break. The mules broke a pole-rail around the lab, so Andrea & I fixed the span. Holly made a turkey dinner w/ trimmings. Mark & Tom pulled in as dinner was served.

Monday, Nov. 11

Kind of a gloomy morning... rain & snow mixed. Did several indoor chores... emails and project details. The stock broke the east-gate ^(pole, etc.) and were over around the cougar pen this morning, so we fixed that and included a "fake electric" tape-gate to discourage the renegade mules.

Tuesday, Nov. 12

I went up to the Pioneer camp - stove camp with the stock & Mark & Tom. Holly and Andrea worked at T.R. ^{paperwork} Holly watched on Hornocker manuscript... data comparison to our study, and Andrea continued work on the web-page update... scanning many photos. Holly baked bread, made cinnamon rolls and cooked a big pot of beans for dinner.

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Weds., Nov. 13

Weather socked in this morning but broke by ^{morning-early} mid-afternoon. Ray flew in with the mail and took out Holly and friends Mark & Tom. Holly was able to make her 3:30 Dr. appt. in Boise. Andrea continued web-page work while I primarily worked on predation & study paperwork... pulling references together for abstract writing.

Thurs. Nov. 14

Andrea and I rode up to the stove camp... where there was 5" of snow. Did a little deer hunting (me... feeble effort w/ toe-ankle problem), Andrea checked for wheathin (signal) @ old den site... nothing. Holly was flown back in (via Ray) late afternoon with a load of supplies. Ray & Holly evaluated the electrical problem between the portable (Honda) generator and the Hydro. - inverter set up. Holly spent the ^{early} evening putting supplies away. My big-toe very inflamed again - huge! ♂ & ♀ Cougar tracks up Pioneer switchbacks

Friday Nov. 15

Researched the possible link between my toe-ankle condition and the disease "gout," we all had fun reading our medical books on that one! We all did inside paperwork today, and Holly worked with the Honda generator-inverter connection, then emailed Mark & Laura at UI about the problem.

Sat. Nov. 16

Holly and I took the stock up Pioneer Creek hunting and to pull our camp, quite windy in the afternoon. Saw several deer, nothing shot. Andrea continued working on the web page for TR, and did chores while we were out.

Sunday, Nov. 17

Wind, rain, snow this morning... not great for pulling our tent camp. Got back to TR by noon. Put soggy camp gear out to dry, or away. Saw S.Z. pack-string, with camp gear, coming down benches... a long with 2 Soldier Bar backpack hunters. Andrea & Holly went over the web site details - to date. My foot not any better... maybe worse again.

Monday, Nov. 18

Holly & Andrea hiked up the Rush Pt. trail looking for a buck (last day of the season). I hung pretty close to TR with my foot "flaired up." Did several ranch emails and continued drying out camp stuff. Went through more JWM articles for the 2 project abstracts. Andrea spent the pm on the web site.

Tues., Nov. 19

Hunting season over, the outfitters starting to pull out. Root Ranch will spend tomorrow night here.

We all did paper work - computer tasks today.
Rams chasing ewes across Big Creek, Holly & Andrea
rode Star & Penny down to Goat CR., with Andrea
riding Star for the first time.

Weds. Nov. 20

Spent most of the day on inside stuff... project
paperwork, emails arranging our early Dec. trip to Moscow
Holly worked with Andrea on the web-page. The
Root Ranch string showed up @ 3:30 pm. They left
very early from Root Ranch... 28 miles to the North.
Holly used the ham they brought, plus side dishes to
make a big dinner. The crew is Caleb, Justin, Mike, ^{Knohang} & Allen.

Thurs., Nov. 21

Helped the Root Ranch crew get an early start...
breakfast @ 6:30 after they had saddled their 32
head. Heard rams butting heads early this morning.
Also this am we heard the hydro making that
distinctive "load whirring noise." Anyway, the alternator
was out so we pulled the ^{hydro.} assembly apart and replaced
the alternator... with success. Ray flew in mid afternoon
with the mail. Holly and Andrea did some afternoon
baking... molasses cookies (A), and Zucc. cake (H)...
more calories for my inactive body!

Fri., Nov. 22

We pretty much spent another day in the house on paper work... Holly & I with project stuff (abstracts, bone marrow data) and Andrea continued adding elements to the web page. Also this morning I changed our water system filter... lost the rubber gasket in the yard for awhile. This filter needs changing every 15-17 days. Raining hard @ bed time.

Sat., Nov. 23

A third of an inch of rain last night, still gloomy this morning. Did more inside stuff... many emails back & forth with Janet Pope on the web page etc. Cleaned house, beat dirt out of rugs... in the rain! Holly took apart the bookshelves to reorganize. Played dominos & cribbage for "bad weather entertainment."

Sunday, Nov. 24

Did some indoor tasks, then once it warmed up Holly and Andrea built the "winter dam" in Pioneer CR. Andrea also worked some on the web-page. Foggy all day... and cold. A bald eagle flew by... downstream.

Monday, Nov. 25

Emailed the abstract to OR. (TWS-NW sect.) for a Feb. presentation. Prepared a donation memo for Mike Scott for the journals he's donated. After lunch →

we all assaulted the intake, cleaning muck out from the box and 20' culvert... which was full of fine ash sediment. We used 2 long pike poles and a rope with metal weight to drag the muck out. Holly finished weighing (correcting) for desiccated bone marrow samples. Andrea scanned more photos for the web-page(s).

Tues., Nov. 26

Spent the morning on paperwork details, so far so good on the intake freezing up -- anchor ice should be forming at these temps (20°). Saddled 3 head of stock and rode to the 2nd bench. We watched quite a show of "big horn rut behavior," pretty much saw the works... head butting of rams, groups of rams chasing "estrous ewes," and mounting. We took both stills and video. Spent a couple hours on email response in the evening, particularly to Alton Campbell describing the details of the summer internship... he was suggesting changes (more independent research for them).

Wed., Nov. 27

Fixed the tail fence where the ducks broke it. Andrea worked on her web page, Holly worked with predation data. I wrote several letters, Ray came in late afternoon with Josh and the mail. Food.

Thurs., Nov. 28 -- Thanksgiving

The morning ^{was} spent preparing the big meal. Josh, Andrea, Holly took the stock up on the benches photo-graphing the sheep rut, and getting "comp." on ^{10 above on airstrip} 35 elk.

I worked on the waterline... finally "milked" the air out by closing the jets... clearing ice--slush from intake. I put the turkey & other pre-prepared dishes in the oven midday. The crew was back by dark (5:30), then we feasted... and re-feasted!

Friday, Nov. 29

Holly and Andrea finalized some things on the web page before Andrea is flown out... they linked it (the web page) to the CNR page. Holly & Josh tested the questionable cord/plug between the Honda generator and the hydro. switch box. They disconnecting the plug to be sent to Moscow for testing. Josh & I got the snowblower running. Ray flew in early afternoon and took out Andrea through "slightly broken" low clouds. It sounds like they still had to punch through over "the B." 45 seconds in "the white." Shot a very large woodrat in the bars rafters... which will become a study skin specimen.

Sat., Nov. 30

Still foggy. We did various inside things. Shot hares and did some grouse hunting (1 harvested). Holly evaluated many kit log cabin listings on the web... in Boise. We'll visit some next Thurs.

Sunday, Dec. 1

We celebrated the new month by going on a ride... to Rush Pt. to do the annual deer count... and chukar hunt. The fog made deer counting difficult, but it did make the chukars hold in place, Josh bagged 4 of them for table-fare... and taxidermy. The top of the fog was 6,300', which we reached, and started a needed warming fire. Star, our new horse, got some experience at being close to gun fire, now she "jumps" when chukars fly! Back home @ dark.

Monday, Dec. 2

Still foggy with low clouds. More & more elk around, squealing and eyeing the haystack! Holly spent almost all day on the webpage - editing, and I wrote the history section. Josh spotted a white bighorn lamb, so Holly & he went up to photograph -- truly white! I made a moose casserole for dinner. Searched for more log cabin kit plans.

Tuesday, Dec. 3

Holly's Birthday! Elk around the barn this morning. Holly spent another day on the webpage. Josh & I burned brush/weed piles in the lower pasture. Made Holly a cake and baked a bird dish (grouse/chukar) for her dinner. Did a lot of email correspondence about our trip out and intern program advertisement. Printed out 5 different log kit cabin plans.

wednesday, Dec. 4

A busy morning for Jim & Holly, packing for their trip to Boise and Moscow. A new group of ~30 elk showed up on the timbered bench, but disappeared before they could be counted. The weather continued to be cool with a low overcast, we weren't sure if Ray could get in but it lifted enough in the afternoon for him to make it. His flight out with Jim & Holly was "long and a bit scary." Penny taught Star how to break into the fenced area around the corral shed.

Thursday, Dec 5

Did the usual chores this morning. Star broke into the fenced area around the corral shed again. Rocky and Penny broke through the buck & rail fence onto the airstrip. Spent most of day reading articles and exploring grad. project ideas. Took Mica down airstrip shooting my bow. Spotted 40+ elk near Rush Point... of course I was without field glasses to do a count. Weather finally broke to blue skies around 3 p.m. Jim called this evening to check in. J&H in Boise visited Precision Craft Log Homes and Powder River Log Homes to get prices & info for our replacement building.

Friday, Dec 6

Weather has not changed much since I arrived over 1 week ago; cool w/ a low overcast. Did the morning chores. Rocky and Penny knocked over the new fence to escape onto the airstrip last night. Decided to postpone a trip up Rush Pt. as it looked as if it may snow and the clouds were low on the hills (wouldn't be able to see much). Spent rest of day reading and sending e-mails.

Jim to doctor 3rd time on injured ankle & toe.

~~and sending e-mails.~~

Saturday, Dec 7

After the morning chores I received word from a job I applied for in Maine working with Lynx. We started a game of e-mail tag to set up an interview time. Mica and I left for Rush Pt. around 11 a.m. as the low overcast began to break. I felt "fluish" on the onset of the hike, but felt better when we were well on our way. I saw 14 elk on the sagebrush flat and 7 sheep and 12 deer on Rush Pt. Mica found 2 flocks of chukar along the switchbacks, but I either missed or the gun jammed before my second shot. At the rock wall Mica really started finding the birds. All told I shot 5 chukar, found 1 dead chukar, and flushed 75+ birds. The one dead bird appears to be a wounded bird that escaped from Jim + me last week.

Both Mica + I were happy with our trip but plenty tired. Jim called to check in. He had been cougar hunting (for capture) with the IPFG, but had no luck. ^{training} IDFG

Sunday, Dec 8

I was up most of the night with a fever. Hunting yesterday must have made me vulnerable to the "flu bug". Mica never moved once in the night. Rocky and Penny made another escape to the airstrip last night, again breaking through the new fence! The weather cooled off considerably last night, so I ran the heater in the hydro for the first time. Pioneer cr. is also starting to ice over. Spent remainder of the day "vegging" (sp?) out to try and beat this flu-bug before it gets worse.

Munday, Dec 9

Rather than continuing to make fence repairs, I gave the stock free run of the airstrip last night. After chores and breakfast Mica and I shot some arrows on the airstrip. Mica was back to herself and fully recovered from the chukar hunt. I however still felt fluish and not up for the hike I hoped to do today. Instead I spent (another) day reading, resting, and even watched a movie. Oh, Pioneer or. icing over more - had to clear the water box twice.

Tuesday, Dec 10

If it's not one thing it's another! The water intake is at the phase where the creek hasn't frozen completely over, but the intake screen frequently ices up. After cleaning the screen this morning I was able to restore water pressure to the Taylor cabin but the hydro wasn't working. After trying to restore pressure to the hydro for about an hour, Jim called. He recommended shutting the water off for a few hours. He also said the ex were having little luck capturing a cougar and may stay out for an additional day.

Shutting the water off to the hydro did not work and the bypass valve in the orchard is frozen, so I couldn't bleed the line. Jim called back in the early afternoon and was baffled by the hydro problem. He said he would think about the problem and call back this evening. So much for going hiking today!

Wednesday Dec. 11

Today was spent in anticipation of the mail plane's arrival with Holly. However, a low ceiling in cascade cancelled all flights for the day. I had to make arrangements to conduct a phone interview using the satellite phone. Hopefully, it will not be too long!

After packing up and cleaning, Mica and I went in search of a grouse, with the bang on the airstrip. No birds, but it helped kill some boredom. A young ram watched us from across the creek behind the corral. Both Jim & Holly called later in the evening. Jim was tired from cougar hunting but was unsuccessful. Holly heard back from the doctor and Jim diagnosed himself correctly... goat! I stopped to see Curt Mack (NP Tribe) on the way thru McCall. I picked up a wolf head to boil out for a skull for our display; also discussed cooperative wolf work. Ray picked up Jim's goat medicine. Had dinner with Ray & Carol then I spent the night at Steve & Gloria's.

Thursday Dec 12

Josh had to do his phone interview for the Maine lynx job on the satellite phone, since the weather did not break early enough in Cascade. I flew the whole Main Salmon River mail route (6 airstrip landings and 1 airdrop) on my way to Taylor. It's been awhile since I've been over there, nice to see people (Newt) & places. Josh flew out on the Middle Fork loop of the mail plane (3 stops). The hydro is running fine.

On Monday Jim & I participated at Pat Peek's reception for the 2nd edition of her "One Winter in the Wilderness" hosted by Jeannette Hoover at the UI Pres. house. We got to read segments of our fire story, since the fire story is the forward in Pat's book. Had a facilities meeting to discuss the replacement building and costs. We are looking at a kit log cabin type building ~ 1,200 ft², ~ \$120,000. for everything.

Also met with Gerrard Billington on T.R. trail easement language (USFS) and hydro licencing (FERC). Met with Trina Mahoney on T.R. site map w/ building locations & names & insurance values. Had dinner at Steve & Diana Daley Laurson's and lunch with George LaBar. Still working on who will caretake for us over Christmas and when. Spent nights at Krump's and heard Africa tales. Tuesday informal meetings: Mark Laballe, electrician - hydro x Honda generator problems; Lisette Wait - potential bear research project; Amie-Tune & Dianette Lick - internship poster; slide duplicates at photo service; Jeff Rohlman IDFG in McCall - bear research.

Thursday afternoon I unpacked and read & responded to emails. Jim is still in Grangeville trying to train Renan & Bill on cougar immobilization, but no cougar tracks fresh enough to run with hounds. Weather is still very mild - nights above freezing and snow line > 7,000' elevation.

Friday, Dec 13

Two snowshoe hares (all white, despite no snow) feed on the edge of the garden. They have lived in the thicket below the garden since the forest fire in 2000. I left them some compost treats.

I continued on computer work - new Vandal Mail system, found 148 messages on my defunct email account; ran Windows Update ~ 1 hour! Re wired the new plug for the generator and the old plug to test the generator receptacles - same results ^{as usual} → GFCI trips when any plug from the hydro is connected to the Honda, but either receptacle works direct to 1500 watt heater. I took all of the panels off all of the boxes and traced wiring everywhere. I fixed one ~~loose~~ ground wire (it sparked & shut down system when reconnected) and discovered a blown fuse in a gauge that hasn't worked for a year - but no fix for the GFI generator problem.

Saturday, Dec 14

Jim tried to fly in today, but low ceiling @ Cascade so he went shopping in McCall; stayed with Jeff Halligan & Jenni Blake and went to the Krassel District FS party with them. Worked on house cleaning & laundry.

Wrote Christmas cards. 52 elk on the 1st bench

(35 cows, 15 calves, 2 spikes): unusual for us to see so many elk around Taylor in December, especially since there is no snow above 7,000' elevation.

Sunday December 15

Jim made it in today. I did the satellite phone bill & travel forms and sent them out. Email out ^{about fire essay for} ^{UT press.} Completed maps of waterlines and irrigation ditches for Gerrard's FERC information. Wrote Christmas cards - Clara Bleak, Gene & Mitze McHale, Janet & Jim Pope, etc.

Monday, Dec 16

Web search for info on the hydro Trace Inverter/Charger 4024: found a technical note about problems with GFCI tripping when connected to a generator - a wiring problem → probably why our system doesn't work! Sent the link & info to Mark Labolle, UT electrician. Emailed Nancy Spink (UT Risk Mgt) info for her to check into insurance of our belongings at Taylor Ranch. Coordinate w/ George LaBar about the Christmas caretaking. Jim cleaned stovepipe & repaired rail & electric fences (mule damage), replaced empty propane tanks. He worked on abstract for Mt Lion Workshop and sent out many emails. I looked at web sites about Gout and "low purine" diet - lots of info out there!

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Spent the morning on winterizing chores and many emails. Holly and I both assaulted pole fence repair after last night's "mule breakout." Ray flew in midday (noonish) with the FNAWS guys: Chuck Middleton, Ed Van-Grouw, and Neil Payater. They & Holly hiked down to the gorge - starting the annual sheep count... (5 head counted). I made dinner (ham & huge potatoes, etc.)

Weds., Dec. 18

Got an early start on the bighorn count...
saddled stock and ^{3 of us} went up the benches - white cliff
and 2 of us up to Rush Pt. Holly, Chuck, Ed "comped"
12 sheep up cliff while we comped 11 up Rush Cr.
I also saw a med. sized adult cougar... and
tracks from a single wolf. We also saw 52 elk and
41 deer up Rush. The cliff crew saw 40 or so deer
and 4 large bucks once on top.

Thurs., Dec 19

Got up early to wrangle the stock but they were
across Big Cr. and could not be coaxed back across.
There was also a herd of elk on the airstrip...
that we first misidentified (dark) as the mooses.

Finally got saddled and headed up stream, checking
Lohmer, Browns, and the Cabin Cr. corner for sheep
Ed & Chuck hiked to vantage points and Ed saw the
only new sheep of the day - 9 head. ^{(+ wolf tracks (large buck & 40 elk seen by all))} Returned to TR @
2:30 and the crew prepared to fly out. Ray came in
@ 3:45... ^(took out FNAWS folks) bringing in 3 propaxes. Holly did several loads
of laundry. This brought the stored power down and the
electricity went off. We restored it, I cleared ice from the
instream grate and Holly experimented with the Honda
generator... disconnecting the ground as Mark Labolle
suggested... no luck. So, we have to have H₂O power
for electricity, at least through the inverter.
Holly did up FNAWS lodging bill... 2 nights x 3 pers.

Friday Dec. 20

Responded to emails. Did 20 or so Christmas cards. We put in the winter water line (above ground... insulated with heat tape). Had to thaw out "the hill faucet" using a hair dryer and extension cord. The mules stayed in the north pasture, across Big Cr., all day. They still are more interested in wandering and grazing than eating hay. Saw 15 or so elk walking the trail north of the barn. Organized & packed for the trip out... maybe tomorrow, weather permitting. Also today I repaired the hole in the floor by the E duplex shower... where a voracious woodrat entered and chewed up (or in) and demolished a rug and Joan Labars nice wolf drapes!! The woodie is now deceased. Holly prepared response to G. Billington on F.S. hydro and H₂O rights issues. She also put together the sheep report for Jeff Rohman and Dale Towell. Changed the water filter in the basement... blue, inline.

Sat., Dec. 21

Spent the morning in a big hurry to go out... packing, cleaning, finishing lists for us & Labars. The weather in Cascade "hung tight" and Ray wasn't able to bring in Joan & George. Cut boughs for the airstrip. Did more Christmas cards. Our power went out this evening, we determined that the type of heat tape we're using on the winter waterline is drawing too much power; will change back to lower watt tape tomorrow. Travis radioed to ask us (i.e. Labars) to keep an eye-pecked for 2 missing hounds - lost by Black Butte.

Sunday, Dec. 22

Woke up to snow this morning but broke by 11 am. Ray reported $> 8''$ of snow to plow. We tore apart the hose-water line and replaced the heat-tape with a lower power type to conserve energy... and keep the hydro. breaker from switching off. Elk and bighorns on the 3rd bench and E. T. Nob (30+ sheep). George + Joan Laban in at about 8 p.m. to provide relief for Jim + Holly. ^{5th visited Laban on systems and stock before flying out.} Spent a quiet evening. Lower back up & seeming to behave. Temp. around freezing all day and through the night.

Monday, Dec. 23

The mules had crossed the river in the night. As I walked out on the airstrip in the dark looking for them, I discovered a fairly large elk herd on the strip. Joan + I hiked down to Cougar Creek with Bart (German Shepherd). Sheep had been down to the lick in the night (tracks in the snow) and we saw a couple looking down at us. When we returned, the stock greeted us at the east property gate below the lower pastures. Turns out someone left the gate open on the other side of the river & they just walked through. They returned with no problems. There were ~40 elk (1 spike) right behind the cabin most of the day. Probably the same ones from the air strip in the morning. My computer died! Cough! At least their still work. Cloudy all day, but saw 3 planes.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve. A glorious day, no clouds, blue sky and lots of problems with the hydro system. It got down to 15°F last night, and anchor ice formed on the flat screens. By morning, new ice formed on them within 15 min. of scraping it off. To make a long story short, after 12 trips to the water box, we figured out that the boss screen was probably iced. I "dove" for the screen and sure enough, felt ice all over it. After that, I figured out that you could remove the screen without "diving". After purging the system by opening & shutting the valve many times, we were up to 16 amp, from 2-4. I brought the generator up for the Christmas lights. Ron & Jo Ellen were arrived on the mail plane. We hiked up Pioneer Creek.

Dinner was scrumptious, with Joan's chocolate cheesecake & huckleberry sauce. Oh yes, Perry & Cricket had jumped the fence over by the tent platforms & were waiting by the Lewis Cabin this morning.

Dec. 25. Merry Christmas Everyone! The weather we heard about didn't materialize - a cold, beautiful day. Ron, Jo Ellen, Joan & I walked down to the canyon to see the petroglyphs. Saw ~ 20 elk on opposite side of creek by salt lick and another 30 just before Cozart Creek. Thought we heard a dog, perhaps one of the lost hounds, but didn't see it. Electrical problems continue. After being gone for 6 hours with almost no electrical use, and generating 27 amps, the battery level had dropped to 22.3 v. We hooked up the generator to the heat tape and in 2 hours, we were \rightarrow

back up to 24.9 v. Before it seems that the heat tape may be the problem. Or perhaps there is/are bad batteries? Although the box is icing substantially, I've been able to keep good flow. After prime rib and cheesecake and a game of cards, we called it a night.

Thursday Dec. 26. A relatively uneventful day from an electrical standpoint. We seem to have really found the problem - the heat tapes. I checked the batteries at 4 p.m. and they were 23.4. I unplugged the heat tapes, and in about 2 hours, the batteries were back to 25.9, in spite of routine house use. It was cloudy all day and in the mid-20's, so little anchor ice. Tonight, however, it seemed that the creek had dropped a couple of inches, and the ice shelf there seemed much thicker. We'll see in the a.m.

This morning was a once-in-a-lifetime event for me. About 9 a.m., I scanned across the creek and thought I saw some animals. Sure enough, when I scoped them, it was a group of 6^{sheep} with 2 mature rams. Because they seemed very alert, I scanned around and saw an animal come into view. At first, I thought it was a wolf, but the color was dark brown. It sat on its haunches probably 100 m up hill from the clump of sheep. Then I realized it was a cougar. It just sat there looking down at the sheep with the sheep watching it. After several

minutes, the sheep started moving downhill; the lion didn't move. After several more minutes, the sheep disappeared into a draw, moving toward Cliff Creek.

After several more minutes, the lion started following, at a walk. It too disappeared into the draw. Then I saw 4 sheep, no rams, heading back up toward the 3rd bench. I watched for several more minutes, thinking the lion may have made a kill, but finally the lion came back into view, apparently following the rams up into Cliff Creek. The other 4 sheep went up on the 3rd bench and then disappeared. My first ever mountain lion! What a thrill!

I went up the Rush Creek switchbacks looking for Chukcha with Bert (my shorthair), but no birds. Right down by the ~~last~~ ^{ruffed} track shed he goes on point, and there were two grouse. But I didn't shoot. Joan & Jo Ellen walked toward Cabin Creek for an hour or so (each way). I worked on the haystack; we carried firewood; Ron Force cooked a great Indian meal; Bert zoned. Starting to snow a very little about 9 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 27. A dreary day with little to record. Temp. came up to above freezing, clouds came down and it rained lightly off + on all day. The creek is up + running lots of slush ice. I hiked up to the second bench to look at the scene of yesterday's contest between the sheep and lion. From ^{where} the lion sat at first, for several minutes

(10 or more probably) it couldn't have seen the huddle of the sheep nor they it. I think what may have happened is that when the lion didn't show, the sheep broke ranks, perhaps alerting the lion to their presence. But who knows. All systems go today. It looks like the Forces are here longer than they planned, barring miracle. It is still raining as we head to bed.

Saturday, Dec. 28. A fairly dreary day, with low clouds, valley fog, drizzle. We got 0.25" of rain last night. I went right down full length first thing, on the glare ice on the path. Amazingly enough Ray called just after noon and said he thought he'd try getting in. I had to get the stock off the runway in a hurry, but they do like their grain! Ron & Jo Ellen Force left about 1 p.m. Ray spent < 5 min. on the ground, as the fog was rolling down the canyon from Cabin Creek. Ray did he climb going out. Jo Ellen later emailed and said they had gotten home O.K. We walked nearly up to the Lobar in the p.m. Cell systems go at 10 p.m., with batteries > 29 v.

Sunday, Dec. 29. Another dreary day. It is too soggy to hike, above freezing all day. Snowed heavily for about an hour, but none stuck. We read, worked, sewed & played cards. All systems working well, no visitors. Travis called - will be flying in to the "B" to fly telemetry for his dog.

Monday, Dec. 30. Nearly the end of another year. Today was overcast all day, but no ppt. Not much going on. I finished reading a MS thesis of one of my students, read a couple more chapters from my spring textbook and started ~~an~~ ^{an article} from JWM called "Wildlife Biology and Natural History: Time for a Reunion". Interesting. Joan + I hiked up to the 3rd bench. No critters viewed, and none had been there for > 24 hr. We lost Bart for about 20 minutes, which was disconcerting. Jim + Holly will try to get in tomorrow. Everything working just fine. Should be another warm night - 31°F at 10 p.m. Joan beat me at cribbage - again.

~~Monday~~ Tuesday, Dec. 31. The weather was really bad in Cascade, with > 1 ft. of snow, so no plane today. We are basically ready to go, and the longer we stay, the lighter our baggage will be! Saw a golden eagle flying up Cliff Creek. It actually wasn't bad here. About 2 p.m., I took Jim's rod and nymph and headed to the creek, since there was basically no ice except for shore ice. In an hour I had caught 10 trout (and returned them) and two whitefish, which I filleted, and deep fried. Yum! We read, played cards and not much else, because we didn't want to get too far from the radio. Maybe tomorrow.

Weds. Jan 1, 2003

Foggy in Cascade & McCall this morning. We drove from the Schlegel's in McCall to Cascade @ noon. Loaded 90% of our stuff into the 206 and Ray flew us in. Did a quick exchange with the Labars and hauled a plane load of gear up the icy trail to the T-Cabin. Spent most of the afternoon putting things away and getting resituated.

Thurs. Jan 2

Fairly warm & icy today. We hiked over to the Sage flat, checking out the wolf tracks that George reported. Sure enough, 4 wolves had moved from west to east along the trail... after coming down Rush Cr. Holly shut down the duplex water.

Charlie Daggett from Powder River Log homes called to check on the cabin status, so I explained to him the UI process. Holly figured the monthly weather, making corrections on precip. records while we were gone. She also dug into the hydro. wiring again... still no solution to the Honda generator "feed back." Caught up on business emails and regular mail. Holly did many loads of laundry. Tony ^{& Michael Saranya} Ruth emailed us a proposal (cougar genetics-population study) to review for YNP permits.

Friday, Jan. 3

Holly worked up the receipts for Lynne K. I reviewed the 25pg. proposal for Toni & Michael. The pasture is icy to day after last nights ice rain. I took Mica for a hike to Cougar Creek, on return Ray flew in with the mail... as the weather broke by early afternoon. Holly worked on her wolf head... fleshing and boiling it. I cooked dinner, fed stock, did waterline chores... Kept the electric tape off as the temps have gone above freezing. Went through a big pile of mail.

Saturday, Jan. 4

The stock broke a large span of fence on the east side of the lower flat. Travis B. took 2 head by in the night... ^(probably) not related to the acute (Rocky) breakout. I put up temporary "fake" electric to fill the void. Shot a woodrat under the duplex, set some mouse traps in the corral shed. Holly attacked the back room... doing some major sorting, cleaning, rearranging. I hiked to Lobau with Mica... carrying a shotgun for "ducks & chucks." cleaned house some. Holly worked on our remote camera - setup, and she worked a long time on getting our computer to transfer the map program(s) onto her new GPS.

Sunday, Jan. 5

Today was mostly sunny so we saddled Star & Penny and rode up the Rush Pt. trail to the Rock Wall. Saw many chukar - probably 150! I shot 3, for Mica's benefit... and a meal. We also saw 30 elk: 23 cows, 5 calves, 2 raghorn bulls. Set up the remote camera on Lower Rush Cr. baited with wolf parts... from a head given us for our skull collection by Curt Mack... Nez Perce Tribe.

Monday, Jan. 6

Spent the morning on indoor tasks... I finished the review of Tom Ruth's Michael Sawaya's cougar study proposal -- DNA/hair snag work in YNP. Holly drafted the Fire Story Essay most of the day. I hiked to Johnson Basin with Mica for some exercise and to look for my missing glove... which she found somewhere on the TR premises, once we got back... brought it to me proudly from the airstrip-tack shed. I checked the airstrip ice for safety since it sounds like Doug G. will be flying electrician Ray down from Moscow. We'd prefer that Ray drive to Cascade and fly with Arnold's... oh well, their choice & guess. I'll email Doug the ^{ice} situation tomorrow... a description.

Tues. Jan. 7

- water system in a slush-ice phase -

A cold, foggy morning. Holly spent most of the day working on the Fine Essay. I produced a draft abstract for the "study comparison paper" to be presented at the Mountain Lion Workshop next spring. Checked the remote camera in Rush Cr. - no new photos, but a coyote was fairly close (seen). Installed storage cupboard in hydro. shed.

Wednesday January 8

This morning we heard from Jodi Hilty at WCS that they would honor our request for \$2,000 for hiring someone to help with GIS mapping! Holly sent an email to Andrea Bristol to see if she was interested in the work. The fog persisted today, but Ray found a hole @ Cabin Cr. and made it in. He had Megan on board from Mackay Bar - she's headed to Texas! Rounding out the day with winter chores, Holly sorted through the big pile of mail. Sent out the Tribes remote camera. (w/contact info. for C. Mack)

Thurs., Jan. 9

Communicated several times with Doug Budwa, trying to fly in from Pullman. The fog never broke enough to allow this flight to happen. Holly emailed Janet Rachlow about the NSF grant... ^{-Applications-} due in Mar. She also "restructured" a recommendation ^{put on UI stationary top} for Sam Cooney for Budweiser B for her grouse project. I worked on the M.L. workshop abstract and gathered info for historic "cougar exploitation. We presumed that D. Budwa cancelled, but he never got us a final word!?

Friday, Jan. 10

Icing at the box again, 19° this morning. Hiked to the Rush cr. remote camera, ended up taking it down since it didn't work. Doug G. flew in late morning with Ray, the UI electrician. Holly and Ray reviewed the hydro.-inverter-Honda generator incompatibility. Ray brought in a 24V charger we can use with the generator to by-pass the inverter problem -- still not resolved, but at least we can change the "battery bank." Andrea emailed a decline to our offer of GIS work for the study - surprised about that!

Saturday, Jan. 11

Sent an email to Chris McDaniel to see if he's interested in GIS work. Janet Pope emailed us about her Feb schedule... emailed her back. Holly, Mica, I went for hike: me to Cougar cr., H. & Mica to the Gorge. Holly pulled the data module from the weather stn. in L. pasture, tried (long time) to download the data onto our computer - no luck!

Sunday, Jan. 12

Today warmed up a bit, and in typical January fashion, that caused the ice to go out on Big Creek -- 4 times! We saw the first from the Sagebrush Flat trail (above wind sock). Then, after resetting the remote camera in Rush cr., we observed 2 river otter having a feeding

frenzy on small fish (whitefish?) which we think were spooked up Rush cr. by the ice-out event in Big Creek. Unfortunately, NO camera! The mules and Star managed to cross Big Creek in between flows... lucky! The first ice flow was @ 3 pm... then 5 pm... then 7 pm - and finally 7:00 pm. Must have gone out in segments, starting low and working upstream. Received an email from Ed Krump on recent "New cabin correspondences." Sent an email back to "all involved" on what we'd been doing with it.

Monday, Jan. 13

Holly spent the entire day going over NSF grant application information. I did a variety of paperwork tasks and contacted C. Nowack and ODFW about doing a paper at the upcoming Mtn. Lion Workshop on our cougar bed site habitat information. Cloudy like it could rain or snow. Also today I sent email to D. Botzger & Ed K. about the need for coordinated administration on planning for this new building. Continued gathering info. for "cougar study comparison" paper.

Tues, Jan. 14

A lot of rain and snow today and we actually had some accumulation before rain set in. I went

up and down the airstrip throwing aside rocks that might get sucked into the snow blower. Transferred and consolidated reg. gas to the hydro. site for generator use, also labelled containers. Spent the evening finalizing the "Cougar study comparison" abstract for the Mtn. Lion Workshop. Holly continued OBF station research and wrote on the Fire essay. Also visited with Ed. K. today about the new building -- design, construction... timeline, which H. & I will outline.

Weds., Jan. 15

I finalized draft of cougar study comparison... made hard copy for Maurice Hornocker, emailed copy to Howard Quigley. Made arrangements with Carter Neimeyer on wolf "stink bait." Emailed C. Nowack about cougar habitat paper, and P. Preston about Historic Register listing for Taylor Ranch. Holly email corresponded with Ray Leinhard about inverter programming - tried some things that did not work. Holly also emailed J. Rachlow about NSF grant application - monitoring. I also emailed Lois Melina about post-fire vegetation... regrowth. Ray flew in midday with the mail/groceries and GIS maps from Sam Hesseck - of the 2000 Fire boundaries, and historic. Holly went over all the map layers... I emailed him a big thank you! Hiked to Rush bait - nothing going on.

Thurs., Jan. 16

I spent the morning outlining "things to do" for the cabin building event. Holly corresponded several times (about storage module ^{-weather sta.} battery) with Campbell Scientific. Found out from Tony that we could get a second computer on loan... H. & I are both needing one - full time! We sent our 2002 proj. report to Tom Meier w/ U.S. FWS and Jim Holyan, Nez Perce Tribe -- both requested copies. Holly emailed Eva about GIS work needs. Holly reprogrammed the hydro. inverter, with new infor. from Ray, and this time it worked!! Holly also emailed Lois Melina - again, about fire effects. She (H.) worked more on the Fire Essay. We both hiked to the Rush CR. bait, nothing new there.

Friday, Jan. 17

Holly spent the morning trouble-shooting the hydro-inverter-generator problem... she read a 60 pg. Inverter manual. Holly corresponded with Tony on the remote hook-up (wireless network sharing) for a second computer - maybe at the lab. She also did more email corresponding w/ Campbell Scientific on the module battery. I emailed Carter Neimeyer regarding possible wolf capture effort -- if we see active sign @ Cabin CR., also emailed Tony Ruth to review our abstract for the Mtn. Lion workshop. Put traction shoes on all 4 of Star and Paisey, Bovicum nails... plates front, rims on rear. Water fattering later in the evening so "hit the box" @ 11 pm.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Saddled Star and Daisy and rode up to Cabin Creek. Once in the flat we rode up a hill and ^{-trail knob-} fired a signal on C5. To our surprise we got a mortality signal up Main Cabin. We followed the signal to Travis' camp. We collected the collar and saw that his hunters had taken a tom besides C5. Bumped into Trav. in Brown's Basin. He seemed surprised that we were "disappointed"... I guess forgetting that we wanted to follow her reproductive success, or lack of. Anyway, we now want to go back up to the Kill site and retrieve her reproductive tract, maybe tomorrow. Clear but cold today. Spent the evening copying (printing) some old cougar research files from Oregon.

Sunday, Jan. 19

Holly saddled Star and headed up to Cow Cr., with Mica in case a "carcass search" ensued. I wrote letters to my Doctors and did some house chores... and listened to the mares squawk for their "beloved mare" all day! Checked the Rush Cr. camera set - nothing going. I made a turkey casserole. Holly returned late afternoon. She found the C5 carcass - not much left... no repro. tract. Brenda Bullock called to report that Travis had seen a "peculiar" elk ^{Cave cr.} death, and then in Coxy observed 2 coyotes and 1 wolf on a dead 3pt. buck. Holly will likely go up Cave in the morning to do a necropsy.

Monday, Jan. 20

Got Holly going early en route up to Cave Creek to sample the dead elk that Travis reported yesterday. She rode Star and packed Paisey. I stayed @ TR and worked on business correspondence - about 15 emails, mostly relating to our GIS - Feline & Carnivore locations... map display. Not sure if today was a holiday or not (Mh. King B-day) - I cooked a turkey casserole at 5:00, started to eat @ 6:30... still no sign of Holly. At 7:45 I started upstream, but she radioed before I crossed the bridge. Got her unsaddled and the stock fed. Holly spent 5 hours on the elk necropsy and brought about 1/3 of it back for lab testing. (Bacterial lung infection → pneumonia & heart failure! - Caine Vet Ctr lab report on file)

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Kind of a slow start this morning, ^(skiff of snow too) but the work day went beyond dinner... at least for Holly organizing wolf & cougar location data for the GIS maps. I worked on starting the cougar habitat abstract - outline... from my Oregon work and C. Nowack's MS. thesis from the Catherine Creek study. ^{- to be compared -} I put traction shoes on Cricket, then we pack an elk leg over to the Rush ed. remote camera site... also re-set the Cam-Trakker camera and tested the sensor - which does best set low above the ground.

Weds., Jan 22

Communicated with A.A. about the weather, but the "bottom fell out" in Cascade Forest. Holly spent the morning labelling "elk sample parts," then most of the afternoon she wrote (on computer) the memo to the F&G lab. I finished drafting the cougar habitat abstract (for paper @ ML workshop). We also went over word & fine slides we need for the TWS talk next month. The stock escaped and went up on the 2nd bench, but were back by dinner time. Warmed up today, rained in the evening.

Thurs., Jan 23

The morning started out very wet--rain and low clouds, but by noon the weather broke and Ray started the mail route. Holly wrote a recommendation for Annie-June, for the Urdahl Scholarship. I overhauled the internship slideshow and worked on more slides for the project - Fire effect talk. Ray made it in about 3 pm. We sent out the elk samples for F&G sampling. He brought in the mail, groceries, and wolf "stink bait," compliments of Carter Niemeyer. Also today we got the 2nd computer... sent in by Torry S. Holly spent the evening sorting through mail and paying bills. I sent some emails and fletched a few arrows. Holly and I both bothered by propane exhaust, from the refrigerator

Friday, Jan. 24

We all had a rough night with fumes... Holly had a sore throat, Mica gagging and vomiting, me a headache. In the morning we found the problem... a loose gas line fitting to the refridge - good to have that fixed! Holly spent most of the day trying to get the printer to work from the "loaner-computer"... very frustrating. I put the lion habitat abstract on the computer and sent to co-authors for review. Went over to the Rush bait, first time saw 12 elk bedded around the site so I held back. Next time (others later), Holly, Mica, and I went to the bait/camera... might have 19 elk photos! We put out some "stinkum" attractant by the elk quarter. Exchanged many emails today... P. Preston 2x, D. Bottger, J. Mulholland 6x, A. Dumble, A. Bristol (phone bill), etc. Holly figured the phone bill for the month.

Saturday, Jan. 25

A nice warm morning, threatening to rain. Holly and I saddled 3 head, 2 riders, 1 packer and went up to the Gooseneck to see if the sick/weak elk Holly saw last week was still alive -- found no sign of her. Went over to the Rush bait, saw nothing but elk around it, and the bait had not been touched. ^{- so left it alone -} Holly spent the evening into the night (all night!) writing on her fine essay.

Sunday, Jan. 26

Holly made it to bed @ 7am after spending all night writing on her final essay, so I left bed as she arrived! After the morning chores I went over to Rush cr. and checked the bait. I ended up changing^{ing} film and resetting the camera. Saw 35 elk in the ^{-D Lewis' Rhubarb patch-} little pasture W. of Rush Cr. north. Sent various emails and Holly continued writing ^(on computer) while I watched my team (the Raiders) lose in the Super Bowl. Getting very muddy around the corral and main pasture... light rain all day, temps. near 40°.

Monday, Jan. 27

Yesterday's light rain turned heavy by morning, making Pioneer Cr. run high and off color... and plugging both screen systems @ the intake, I made 3 trips back-and-forth to restore the water. Also, had to replace the basement in-line filter. Holly and I both worked on project data -- wolf/cougar locations and instructions for Eva & Chris on the GIS map instructions. I sketched out an agenda for the Advisory Mtg. late next week. Went over to the bait site, no change with the elk leg so didn't go up to it. The stock ran around like "loonatics" on the soft pasture, tearing up divets and skid marks. Rocky took quite a spill during their "acrobatic chases," hurt himself a bit. Holly took Minshall photos @ Pioneer, Cliff, and Big Creeks, while the water was off color.

Tuesday, Jan. 28th

Holly spent all night putting together location information (wolves/cougars). So like Sunday (last), I got up as she went to bed. I finalized the lion habitat abstract and submitted ^(via email attachment) to Wyo. F&G for the Mtn. Lion Workshop. Spent an hour or so looking for our missing cat - Mowic. Never saw any sign of her, but did find cougar track(s) in 2 places... hum. Spent a lot of the afternoon working on word slides... for next month's TWS talk. After 1 1/2 hours of sleep I started in on the computer again emailing back & forth to Chris about the GIS slides he is making for us. They look good & display the situation well. To bed early tonight!

Wednesday Jan 29

I spent ~~all~~ ^{most of} day again on back & forth with Chris. Also edited 2 abstracts Jim wrote for Mtn Lion Workshop and Inthl. Wolf Meeting presentations. Did some new cabin site measurements for EdK. Looked for Maui - cat while over there: Mica climbed to the base of cliffs and onto ledges with interest, but no carcass; she did find a fresh cougar-sized scat with fine light hair in it - probably Maui's! I worked on bone marrow analysis for the project til midnight. Jim sent receipts to Lynne; Emma Cox photo enlargement ordered. He's checked the remote camera site daily - mostly elk around - still nothing has eaten on elk leg from Cave Cr carcass - even though we documented

a coyote there (flash photo) 2 nights in a row. Rain today, snow at night - 1"! 1st snow in weeks!

Thursday January 30

Jim emailed our abstract, "Four decades of Mtn Lion research" to Mtn Lion Workshop. He spent most of the day making PowerPoint slides & putting digital photos on slides - ftped them to WSU Vet school for 35mm slides. I made email contacts to other field station directors about remote monitoring networks and the NSF Field Station facilities and equipment grant application. Spent the afternoon writing up the TR Annual Report 2002. Ed Krumpe called to tell us the Delling Foundation committed \$100,000 toward the new building construction! Janet Pope emailed with the same news while we were on the phone. "O^h" Jim's tooth ache is a little better, but dizzy from pain medicine he got on the ^{mail} plane yesterday.

Friday, Jan 31

Holly spent most of the day on the annual report, which ^{she} finished and sent up to Diane Holick to copy for next weeks committee meeting. Holly also figured the user days (938) for last year. I cleaned my desk, and I cleaned 2 outhouses! ... ours & the corvats, both had big woodrat nests to remove. We also corresponded

with Chris McPh on the GIS maps, Tom Gorman about maps etc., plus many other work related emails. Had to clean debris at the intake - both screens. My tooth ache worse again today. Saw T. Bullock ride out (to the B) should be his last hunt of the year - 6th cat taken. Getting paper work ready to take out on Monday.

Saturday, Feb. 1

Our morning was spent watching the news as the shuttle craft - Columbia exploded upon reentry into earth's atmosphere... 7 dead, sad. Finalized the GIS maps - for slides with Chris, then Holly sent the 7 GIS slides up to WSU via the internet. 3 elk made a raid on the haystack... I ran them off just before dark. Holly also spent many hours on her fire essay. My aching tooth had me in agony several times today... miserable!

Sunday, Feb. 2

Holly made up another batch of images - for slides and sent them up to WSU. I put together paper work, slides, etc for Moscow, also prepared personal stuff to go. Checked the Rush bait... from above, to visit to elk '14. One of the local elk did some raspy coughing... 3 had been in the haystack... another 30 in the lower pasture. Communicated with Chris about when he'd come to Cascade. My tooth still a "major pain," I'm anxious to see DR. DiGrazia early Tuesday morning. Changed the refridge propane, for some reason the valve seems to leak a bit.

Monday, Feb. 3.

Spent the morning preparing to leave... many emails sent out... and printed out more paperwork to go up to Moscow. Checked the Rush Cr. bait, nothing but elk activity... although a pair of coyotes had been hanging out around the water box. Holly spent a lot of today working on her fire essay. I did some cleaning, and getting things ready ^{for} Chris (stock feed, lists, etc.). Ended up not flying today, so Holly finished her 47 pg. Fire essay and I did numerous chores. The big herd of elk (30+) were on the airstrip just before dark. It also cleared off the last hour of daylight.

Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Jim and Holly flew out today leaving Mica in a very depressed state. Yap didn't seem to notice as he stayed 3 inches from the fire place all day. I spent the day getting settled in, stalling around, and catching myself up on the water/hydro system. Hiked over to the last site still nothing had touched it. I saw seven deer (4 does 3 fawns) above the cabin and 5 elk (4 cows 1 yr) in Rush Creek. On my way up the airstrip I jumped a flock of ducks (11 mallards and 1 green-winged teal). I has snowed off and on all day but not enough to amount to anything.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

I spent the morning doing chores and working on the computer. I saw a bunch of sheep on the second bench and decided to get a closer look. By the time I got up there they had moved off there were 47 but I couldn't get an accurate composition. They sure look fat and healthy though. I hiked up across the timbered bench and then down cliff creek. The only tracks I saw were a set of coyote moving up around horse mtn. The grass on the benches is starting to come up already. it's no wonder the sheep look so good. The rest of the day was taken up writing letters.

Thursday, Feb. 6

This morning was taken up with the usual morning things (e-mail, wether, stock, bait station etc.) nothing has come into the bait since Jim and Holly flew out. Most of the rest of the daylight hours were spent working around the ranch. I put some edging pieces on the outhouse in the pasture to keep the stock from necking off any more shingles. While doing this, the sheep that I saw yesterday came down to the mineral lick immediately across from the hay barn. I was able to belly crawl up to the edge of the river and get some good photographs.

Friday, Feb 7

The water was out in the Taylor cabin when I woke up this morning. It was clear and cold last night and ~~slush~~ slush ice had clogged the intake inside the water box. I spent most of the morning clearing the blockage and making a new filter screen. My afternoon was spent entering Carcass data into the computer and studying. This evening I hiked over to the lower pasture and watched the elk (39 - 29 cows, 7 calves, 2 bulls)

Saturday, Feb 8

After doing chores in the morning Mica and I decided to take a hike down stream. We jumped the group of sheep that have been hanging out on the benches off of the mineral lick and a small band of elk near Cougar creek (6 cows 3 calves) we also cut a fresh wolf track near the mouth of cougar creek which we followed down past the gorge where we ran out of snow. On our way back up stream we cut a fresh blood trail which we followed for a ways but then lost. One of the elk we saw earlier had been limping pretty bad. Maybe that's where the blood came from. This evening I had to chase several elk off of the hay stacks but I would almost bet that they will be back tonight.

Sunday, Feb. 9

After chores and e-mail correspondence in the morning, I spent several hours filling in missing UTM data on the carcass report forms from the last 4 winter field seasons. Mid afternoon I walked over to the bait site and to my amazement found it completely consumed. Temperatures were in the low 40's and there wasn't much snow I did find one wolf track. After consulting with Jim and Holly it was pretty much concluded that only multiple wolves would be able to consume the whole quarter in one night. Unfortunately, the remote camera stationed at the bait site had turned itself off and did not capture any of the action. I replaced the batteries in the camera and reset it hoping for more action tonight ~~even~~ though there is almost nothing left to eat. There was an elk standing at the very highest point on the hay stack when I went to feed this evening. It did the equivalent of a swan dive off the back as I approached and I fully expected to find an elk with a couple of broken legs or at least some broken fence rails when I checked it out but I found neither. Crazy animals.

Monday, Feb 10

I got up and checked the bait first thing this morning but nothing had hit it. Just worked on the computer for the rest of the morning. I spent the afternoon in the lab putting together some new shelving and sorting/organizing all the old Wildlife Society publications. It

looks like a cougar walked around the lab inside the yard. there was a fresh set of 3 ~~1~~ inch tracks circling the entire building and then wandering back toward the old cougar pens. It seems kind of funny that we have spent the last two winters especially looking for cougars to collar and now one shows up right here on the ranch when we don't need it anymore. I guess that's why they call it wildlife.

Tuesday Feb 11 - It was kind of a slow day today. I fought with the water system off and on all morning. I went and checked the bait late morning and still nothing had touched it since twodays ago. I put out some fresh stink bait luckily it was semi-frozen so it didn't smell as bad but it is still enough to about make a person gag. I spent most of the rest of the day working on the GIS projects and organizing in the lab. I saw a pretty nice 6x7 bull ~~elk~~ on the Rush cr. switch backs this evening. He will be a real dandy this fall.

Wednesday Feb 12

Started the day fighting with the water again. The rest of the morning was spent working on the computer and doing other chores. About noon I started hiking up river, encountered a herd of elk in mole basin (20 cows, 11 calves, 1 bull). There is

a pretty major land slide which took out the trail coming into Lobster. The next person to take stock that way will need to take a shovel. I made it as far as the goose neck and then turned around. The only evidence of any type of predation was a pile of chucker feathers. The stock is having a great time romping around the snowless benches.

Thursday Feb 13

The mail plane was supposed to come in this morning and bring in Mrs. Sarah Hoffman, my fiancée, however the weather did not cooperate. It snowed heavily here most of the day. I finished the GIS work that Jim and Holly left. The remainder of the day was spent doing paperwork and studying and generally staying near the radio just in case.

Friday Feb 14

It stormed again this morning, dashing hopes of an early flight. I spent the morning doing small jobs around the ranch and generally trying to keep myself busy. The weather cleared late afternoon and Ray was able to make it in just before dark, labeling himself the "Isleentines express." Apparently they turned back because of the weather but had found one little hole at the last second and were able to make it in. It took them an hour and a half to fly from Cascade to Taylor. Sarah and I were very happy to see each other.

and she was especially excited to be at this place of which she had heard so much. I showed her around the buildings and we spent the rest of the evening making dinner and catching up.

Saturday Feb 15

I had originally planned for us to take the stock up to Cabin Creek today to look for wolf sign but Sarah was exhausted after several hard weeks of school and a few high stress days in Cascade so I let her sleep in.

After chores and breakfast we decided to take a walk down stream. We saw several small bands of elk and cut fresh wolf tracks coming out of Cougar Creek heading downstream. There was some bird activity in lower cougar creek but nothing localized. We followed the wolf tracks and as we got closer to goat creek it became apparent that there was a carcass in the area. Ravens, magpies, and eagles (including 2 bald eagles) scattered as we crossed goat creek. After a bit of searching I found an elk carcass. It had been dead for less than two days, killed apparently by 2-4 wolves. The snow had melted around the carcass and on the scene of the chase but all the evidence pointed to wolves. After ~~an~~ examination of the scene, Sarah and Mica and I continued down stream to the gorge. As we approached the cave in the gorge I noticed orange flagging hanging from a bush and caught the distinct odor of some sort of mustelid scent gland.

Upon investigation we located a leg-hold trap apparently set for bobcat or coyote. On our way back upstream we found another one in goat creek that we had walked ground during our elk investigation. Luckily we had Alice on a leash as she seemed very interested in the traps. It looked like somebody had come up from the middle fork to trap. On our way to check the bait site in Rush creek we cut fresh cougar tracks right above the Taylor cabin. (~3 in ~~the~~ tracks).

Sunday Feb 16.

We got up early this morning to make our trip to Cabin / cave creeks. Unfortunately, by the time we had saddled the stock it had started to snow. We decided to go ahead if for no other reason than to give Sarah (an accomplished cowboy) the opportunity of riding on the real animal that famed the west, the mule, and more specifically, Cricket. By the time we reached Lobau basin we were in a complete white-out and the mules were more than willing to turn around which we did as it appeared that the storm wasn't going to let up anytime soon. Mid-afternoon the storm cleared off enough for us to take a trip up ^{on} to the benches where we watched the sheep and elk. Periodically through the day I checked ~~on~~ the wolf signals on the telemetry receiver but located nothing.

Monday, Feb. 17

Sarah was supposed to fly out this morning so that she could make it back for classes tomorrow. Unfortunately, the weather in Cascade was bad so we had to spend more time together. We decided to hike downstream to look at the elk carcass again. On the way down I showed Sarah some telemetry techniques and let her play around tracking one of the collared big horns. We cut fresh wolf tracks again coming out of Cougar creek and followed them right to the carcass. It had snowed off and on last night and the tracks were obviously from earlier this morning. There was an amazing amount of bird activity all over the canyon. At one point there were 9 eagles circling. The wolves had consumed 50-60% of the carcass. We didn't stay long as there is a chance the Tribe will come in and trap those wolves and we didn't want to spook them. On our way back upstream we stopped at the trap site and saw that the trap was gone. About 4:30 the weather broke and Ray was able to fly in and take Sarah out. It was hard to see her go and it has made me realize how lonely this place can be. I think Mica is liking all of the one-on-one extra attention though.

Tuesday, Feb 18

The computer was sent to Moscow with Sarah yesterday and it is amazing how much less time it takes to get ready in the morning. I hiked over to the Rush Creek bait site this morning and removed the remote camera. ~~At~~ Nothing had touched the bait since the wolves over a week ago. After changing the film I hiked down to the elk carcass and set it up there. There was no new activity on the carcass since yesterday. I spent most of the rest of the daylight hours exploring ground cougar creek and across the face toward cliff creek. Found some fresh Bobcat tracks with tracks about it. When I talked to Jim tonight he said that the Tribe was going to send someone in tomorrow to trap the wolves that have been coming into the elk carcass.

Wednesday Feb 19

Nobody could tell me for sure if Isaac Babcock, the tribes trapper, was coming in today so I stuck near the ranch today just in case he flew in. I spent most of the day working around the ranch, fixing fences and other odd jobs. Isaac didn't end up coming in but it sounds like he will come in tomorrow with Jim and Holly. Holly & I drove down to McCall from Moscow after spending the day in meetings and selecting the interns for '03.

Thurs. Feb. 20

Got an early start and did some grocery shopping prior to our talk/meeting with the Krassel Dist. Folks. We gave a slide presentation "Carnivores, Ungulates, & Fire" and then visited an hour about our findings-implications. Headed down to Cascade, "rendezvoused" with Isaac Babcock --- who is coming in to try an trap & collar wolves. After some lunch and supplies hauling, we headed down to the wolf killed elk @ Goat Cr. Isaac set snares & a foot trap, then we followed bird activity to Goat Basin -- found another kill (even older cow elk) and Isaac, Holly & Chris set another group of snares. Wolves howled @ Goat Basin.

Friday, Feb. 21

We headed down to the wolf traps... nothing in the sets but a lot of wolf tracks nearby and up and down the trail between Cougar and Goat Creeks. Also saw (in Cougar Flat) where 2 wolves had worked some elk off the bottom. Had lunch back @ TR, then Isaac and Chris went down w/ leg traps to put out more sets. Holly and I put things away and worked on catching up with emails etc. I also hike over around Lower Rush Cr. to look for wolf activity etc., nothing track wise, did see 35 elk... 1 ylg. bull, 3 or 4 calves, rest cows.

Saturday, Feb. 22

We checked the Lower Goat and Goat Basin traps... nothing, although a wolf or 2 came in to the upper site and hesitated outside the snare zone. Chris, Isaac, and I went over to the Rush Cr. bait site, set a snare nearby... baited with "stinkum". The temperature really dropped at dark -- mid teens. Isaac became worried about the leg traps so he and Chris went down and tripped them @ 9:30 pm (back @ 1 am). They heard a wolf howl in upper Goat Basin and saw where a cougar slipped under a neck snare.

Sunday, Feb. 23

Holly, Isaac, & Chris got an early start to Goat Creek. I stayed back to get stock saddled for going to Cabin Creek and to do paper work. Jeff R. from F&B called to say that Jimmy Pope would be in soon... with Kent L. and Kevin as observers. No action at the Goat traps. The helicopter crew stopped in at lunch. We headed to Cabin Cr. @ 2 pm. Along the way J. Pope informed us of wolf activity and 2 kills in Lower Cabin Cr. We found the kill (ad. ♀ elk) in Cabin Cr. and Isaac put out 3 neck snares. Holly & Chris saw a dark wolf on Vinegar Hill. We got back in to TR at 7:30 pm, cold & hungry!

Monday, Feb. 24

Got up very early. Holly wrangled stock while I "tripped" the Rush Cr. snare. Chris & Isaac up before dawn... after last night's late trap check. Took the 5 head to Cabin Cr. -- out of hole by 8 am. Once @ Cabin Cr. we saw where the C-pack (or wolves) had come in a hole ($\pm 20'$) from the snare sets and turned around. Heard a couple howls toward the mouth of Cave Cr. Back @ T.R. by noon. Holly, Isaac, & Chris went up to Goat Basin in the afternoon. I stayed @ TR and caught up on > 10 emails (corresponded back) and fixed stew and biscuits for dinner. At 8 pm I heard a wolf howl from our doorway! ... it was downstream and up-slope. Everyone went to bed by 9 pm... already 10°!

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Another day of up and downstream... checking snares. Isaac, Holly & Chris went to Cabin Cr. (very cold ride). They found 2 more wolf kills: a catt elk in Big Creek... below the mouth of Cabin Cr., and a deer fawn in the Booserack. I made a chicken noodle soup and biscuits for late-lunch. We all rode downstream too... nothing happening. Sent emails regarding water right issues/trail easement.

Weds., Feb. 26

Holly and Isaac rode up to Cabin Cr. early. Chris stayed here expecting the mail plane anytime. I worked on outgoing mail... and many bus. emails. Chris and I hiked over to the sage flat searching for wolf tracks - nothing but elk. Ray flew in about 4 pm, about when Holly & Isaac rode down to Boat Basin. Ray flew in fuel & concrete, plus other supplies. Chris was flown out. I cooked an "enhanced" pizza for dinner. Sorted through mail.

Thurs. Feb. 27

Isaac and Holly off early. I did several emails on the FS issues... to Cheryl Hammerzell & Gerard Billington. Repaired the slide projector... cleaning, oiling, replacing bulbs. Hiked up Pioneer Cr... many new trees down. Holly and I swapped for the afternoon, Isaac & I rode to Boat Basin - nothing... not even tripped snares. Holly sent emails to Peter Preston, Dick B., Gerard Billington. Found out from Trish Canaday that our (TR's) National Historic Register listing is very unlikely... D. Lewis not significant enough??, and she claims that the old buildings are too altered! Moved 20+ bags of concrete from fuel shed to lab over hang... Isaac & me pulling the plastic sled w/ 4 bags (220#!)

Friday Feb 28

We pulled the traps from Cabin & Boat creeks. Holly & Isaac saw 2 wolves going up ^{& birds on a kill.} the bottom of Rush Cr., so
(1 gray, 1 black)

Isaac came back and picked up some traps & snares and we went over to the sage flat to locate the kill, which proved easy. Isaac set 4 traps & 1 snare on the ^{bull calf} ~~spring~~ elk carcass... already 85% consumed. I rode down to Goat Basin and pulled the 8 snares at the 2 elk carcasses. Holly found nothing above and pulled those 5 snares from the elk kill in Cabin CR. Late afternoon we (H., Isaac, and I) walked over to the sage flat to look at the sets from above. Upon arriving at the Sage flat - big fir, we bumped into some wolves - 7 of them... 2 black, 1 dark saddle, 4 grays... we were disappointed to have spooked this pack en route down to the kill... bad luck w/ timing!

Mar. 1, Saturday

Holly did the phone bill - receipts - travel for mailing. ^(Feb. monthly weather too)
Isaac and I went over to Rush CR. and pulled the traps... no meat left on the elk, or organs in the gut-pile... consumed in 24 hours! Kind of disappointing to wrap up the trapping, but Isaac needs to be out before bad weather hits... so he can make his Costa Rica flight mid-week. Ray came in @ 2 pm., he brought in 8 more bags of concrete mix and he took out Isaac and his gear. We harnessed Rocky and used the stone boat to move concrete to the lab and feed (cubes/grain) to the corral stock. ⁽¹⁰⁰²⁾ Wolves howling around the cabin this evening, put the stock in the corral for safe keeping!

Mar. 2, Sunday

Awoke @ 6 am to wolf howling... by the cougar pen?
I hiked down to (almost) Cougar Cr. - no sign of wolves
or a kill - just elk feeding. H & I hiked over to Rush
Cr., checked out the elk carcass, don't think it had
been moved since yesterday. We set up a remote camera
on a main trail by the calf elk carcass. I shot my long-
bow and tried to take a day off. Holly did tracking/
cooking, laundry, and started working on the taxes...
"turbo-taxes" on the internet. - and finished them online!

Mar. 3, Monday

Stormy outside today - a squall or 2 every hour.
Holly and I determined linear footage needed for the new
cabin 6" x 6" posts... and specific lengths per 20 posts.
Called this order in ^{to} Ray. Received over a dozen business
emails, responded to each. I also outlined a comparison
of Cathy Nowack's cougar-cache finds (OR.) with my
day bed habitat infor... for our upcoming paper for the
M/N. Lion Workshop. Emailed Clara Bleak about the
new internship students and upcoming intern activities.

March 4, Tuesday

Lots of email responses: To Larry Kingsbury-FS - edit &
return archaeology "participating agreement" for internship; To
Trina Mahoney - ^{-UI} edit (increase for Lewis Cabin) ^{\$20,000} property values of TR
buildings; received reply from Phil Druker - UI - on my fire essay.

Tried to install the new wireless network Jory put together for us, but it wouldn't work - AND the remote computer got "LOCKED" and we don't know the password! - Ah technology!
Jim has had a bad sinus infection that's affecting his teeth. He flew out at 6pm (after taking decongestants) and spent the night with Mike Arnold.

Wednesday, March 5

I wrote up & emailed my self-evaluation to Dick B. Searched the internet for a mule team. Jim Pope emailed that he didn't like some of our (TR) plans for the new cabin construction - I forwarded to UI & Jim A. Jim A tried to call Jim Pope - no answer.

Thursday March 6

Snowed all night - 5" new snow for total of 9 inches. Jim Pope talked to Jim A about cabin construction issues then to Tom Gorman; he emailed plans & ideas on septic system, backhoe, & foundation. I emailed back & forth with Janet & Tom to assure that Popes were happy with cabin plan and understood why we are planning what we have: Janet's good on the project, Jim is still uncertain. Sent Quinn Carver, Krassel Ranger a copy of TR Annual Report and file of TR wilderness use in 2002 (931 user days for research & education) and asked about long term special use permit process. Caught up on the latest on the College "redesigning itself" - available on the CNR web site - major changes proposed from department

based hierarchy to (fewer) theme oriented categories (social, political, ecological). Jim met with Carter Niemeyer ^{USFWS} & discussed mutual plans to trap & radio instrument wolves on Big Creek.

Friday, March 7

Snowed yesterday & last night again - 4 new inches. More emails back & forth with Janet Pope & Tom Gorman. Jim A talked to Janet, too. She's headed to the DeVlieg Meeting to present the (preapproved) plan to support the new DeVlieg Living/Learning Cabin for \$100,000. Jim Pope is on board too! Received acceptance notice from MtLion Workshop - for our "40 ^{decades} yrs of Cougar research" talk and Jim & Cathy Nowak's "Cougar bedding & kill sites in Oregon" talk. Jim & Cathy met in Ontario to discuss their analysis & presentation. I emailed Kathy Ohara - WCS/HWT about Chris' funding - send to UI for writeup on predation work. Emailed cougar photos to friends & past students to catch up on their news. The cougar was captured on the remote camera with a surprised look on its face as it was investigating the camera at night and the flash went off!

Saturday March 8

Worked on Int. Wolf Meeting abstract "Wolf & Cougar". Shopped the catalogs & internet in the afternoon. Cleaned house. Fixed rail fence the mules broke down - again! Jim's at the Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous in Ontario then flew to Portland to be with his ~~brothers~~ & parents - dealing with Mom's terminal cancer.

Sunday March 9

Spent the morning looking at predation data and compiling carcass summary data for 4 years. Checked Rush camera site - no action, but followed fresh bobcat tracks from Old Cabin → along trail above airstrip to Sage Flat where bobcat killed & ate a snowshoe hare. Song sparrow singing in the yard this morning. Collected information for a graph on historic ungulate abundance for predation project.

Monday March 10

Finished outline for Wolf-Cougar abstract for Intn. Wolf Conference. Emailed Jeff R for IDFG data - tooth aging samples, mule deer popl. ... Hike to Goat Basin to collect carcass samples on 2 wolf killed elk: incisor, metatarsus, femur fat. Cougar trv at Goat Creek. 29 elk (21C, 6cf, 2 spike-2pts) at trail lick and 44 elk (30c, 9cf, 5 1-2pts) at Cougar Flat. Heavy elk use in bottoms this winter. Saw whet owl hoot @ Goat Cr.

Tuesday March 11

Added to W-C competition outline & put it on the computer. Emails in & out on NSF grant program for Ecological Rates of Change proposals and Ed & Harold flying in this week. I took down the "above ground" waterline to the Taylor Cabin and stored hoses, insulation, heat wrap until next winter.

Sunday Weds., March 12

Holly spent the morning on usual mail day preparations and outlining more study abstracts. Surprisingly, the weather broke in Cascade and Ray "opted" to fly me first before doing the Main River and other people flying. We did I stop @ Thomas Creek en route in. Put things away and got caught up on the many emails from the last week. Used the shotgun and cracker shell to "remove" 35 elk from the main pasture... after dark. Also this afternoon I ^{EMICA} hiked down toward Cougar Creek... saw wolf tracks starting above (upstream) from the lick extending down toward Cougar cr.

Thurs., March 13

A busy day of emails... mostly regarding the new cabin plans; and to Jim Pope on logistics, the backhoe, and foundation issues. Tried to get the cook tent waterline running... must still have an ice plug; it flows fine to the lower foot bridge. Repaired the trail gate, by cougar pen, where the mules had broken the "rail holders". Pulled the Rush cr. remote camera, still on photo #19. Holly continued preparing an abstract for the Internat. Wolf Conference next Sept.

Fri., Mar 14

Holly spent all day on abstracts for the World Wolf Congress. I worked on "shared paper" w/C. Nowak and hiked to Cougar cr... saw a fresh wolf track. > 50 elk in view of TR.

Sat. Mar. 15

Too much going on to take the day off -- Holly finished the 2 abstracts and sent via Yahoo internet as our regular email has been down for the day... she spent many hours figuring out the problem w/ Direct pc... finally did! I repaired our rocker chair... sanded rough edge, put on temporary finish... rescored stove-floor pad. Spent 2+ hours digging out the "skimp" bypass trail on Lower Rush CR., also sawed out 6 or so small trees blocking that trail. Rain set in late afternoon.

Sunday, Mar 16

A surprisingly nice day, sunny and cool. Holly spotted eagle/Raven activity on the 3rd bench, actually an eagle was perched on the same rock as yesterday. We hiked up there and found a dead calf elk. The calf was in poor condition... lots of ear & winter ticks too. Also found a coyote skull & neck nearby... older. Harnessed Rocky and used the single stoneboat to haul several propane tanks (full & empty) to & from the T. cabin, duplex, and Arlows. I wrote several letters this evening. Holly spent the evening doing the phone bill & receipts as we are expecting a plane or 2 in tomorrow.

Monday, Mar. 17

Sixty elk visible on the benches this morning. Holly and I worked on project data/writing until late morning when Kurt Becker and Mark Schweitzer came in (Kurt's plane). We visited with Mark about the history of the outfitting industry... Mark's Phd. topic.

Tues., Mar. 18

Spent the morning on paper work... reviewing cougar literature and computer ~~literature~~ ^{paperwork} prior to mail day. Holly also measured, or weighed, bone marrow fat content from the '03 kills. Doug Gudwa flew in around noon with Ed K., Harold Osborne, and Blaine Krump. I made a "moose stew" for lunch. After Doug left we toured the property for usable fir trees to integrate into the new building. Also began laying out the grid for the new building - area topographic profile.

Weds., Mar 19

Toured Harold around the ranch, then the survey crew continued mapping the topography around the building site. Doug G. flew in with the log-rock moving arch, and he brought in a salt block and 3 bags of fertilizer. We put the arch together and connected it to the forecart... and harnessed the mules. Harold showed us how to hook up to a rock and we actually moved a very big one $\pm 1,500^{\#}$ from the bldg. site down to an eroded pocket along side the strip. The Moscow crew flew out @ 3:30 pm. Put shoes on Rocky's front. Ray flew in @ 4 pm. bringing in Val and Lovelle.

Thurs., Mar 20

Holly, Val, Lovelle went up on the benches and counted sheep... 52 heads. Then I helped the gals get packed and stock ready for an upstream pack trip. After the crew left I ^{went} over to the Lower pasture and broadcast-spread

->

3-20-03 cont.

1 bag of pasture seed and 3 bags of fertilizer... in the Rain. I was surprised to come back over to the ranch @ 5 to find the stock back in the corral! Found out that Holly had a badly injured finger -- resulting from Star spooking while Holly's finger got trapped between the saddle horn and Rocky's lead rope, ouch! The "spook" resulted from a flock of ducks getting up from Big Creek. Cooked and did evening chores while "vet Val" doctored Holly's finger... and Holly rested.

Friday Mar. 21

The gals regrouped and headed upstream - again. I helped them pack & load, then set up the remote camera at the Rush cr. beaver dam. Did many emails to day (>15). Could see 4 diff. elk herds on the benches and a 5th up Rush cr. Visited w/ Noot at Yellowpine Bar about his Harris Hydro wiring configuration. Put up the airstrip electric which had been "frustrated" by elk and wind-blown brush -- tree debris. Listened/watched the war report on CNN, until college Basketball came on.

Sat. Mar. 22

I did usual ranch chores early then I reset the remote camera at the Rush cr. beaver dam. Reviewed more predation project literature. Made a cabbage-elk stew and rolls for the gals coming in, they arrived @ 8pm after going up to Mte High today. Helped them unpack, wash dishes and feed stock.

Sunday, Mar. 23

Val and Lovelle got ready to go home -- after one of Holly's "Dutch babies" for breakfast. George flew in mid-morning with friends Ed Bottom and Michele Buechler. An hour or so later, after touring Michele and Ed around, George returned in his 182c with Hanley Jenkins and Janice. After settling in, and eating some of my left over soup, we hiked around to Rush CR. and checked the remote camera. Holly made a spaghetti squash casserole for dinner. Over 30 elk came into the pasture before Hanley & I gently "shooed" them off.

Monday, Mar. 24

Saddle the stock, grabbed some lunches, and headed upstream for the day. Holly stayed @ TR and organized elk toothage data that came in via Jeff Rohlfman. She also fixed a great spinach-lasagna dinner... which we gobbled after our 22 mi. ride to the CC. airstrip and the 1/2 way up Cave CR. "Comped" 171 elk & 22 sheep.

Tues
Tuesday, Mar 25

Found out (last night) that Mom was hospitalized with extreme weakness and internal bleeding. Harnessed Rocky & Daisy and used the forecart to pull the harrow around the main pasture... just before it started to rain. Hanley & I also checked the Lower Pasture for new grass shoots (none) and we brought back the chain & harrow - double tree.

Re-organized feed shed feed, hauled 8 bags to the corral shed. Holly made a big list of literature for Chris McDaniel to locate/copy @ U. of I.

Weds. Mar. 26th

Stormy today, first we had heavy rain, then came high winds and side-ways snow... blowing hay off the haystack and breaking big branches in front of the duplex. These branches "almost" broke out the window! Had to use the chainsaw to clean up debris. Holly worked on references and reviewing Seidenstickers dissertation.

Thurs., Mar. 27

Snow squalls and cold wind most of the day. We (all 6) hiked over to Rush cr., saw 56 elk and many deer. Checked the remote camera - which took 6 pictures. Filled the water storage tank about 7/8 full... took 2 hours. Caught the stock and stuffed them in the corral. Ray flew in about 4:30 and took out Hanky, Janie, Edie, Mickete.

Friday, Mar. 28

Holly worked on "project writing" I attempted to determine the status of the building project... but neither Tom G. or Ed K. responded to my email (sent yesterday), so we emailed Janet Pope for the latest info. Sent and received over a dozen emails... mostly work related.

Another elk head in the pasture - 35 or so. A lot of eagle/Raven activity in L. Rush cr. ^{but no carcass found.} Cooked dinner and did dishes so Holly can keep her finger dry and in-active. Mom home from the hospital today and set up with hospice care.

Saturday, Mar. 29th

Holly spent most of the day on project data graph updating and reorganizing elk information. I put on waders and pulled out the Pioneer cr. dam (en route to Duplex). Started the waterline-box filling on east side of Pioneer... all "OK" with this system... I think. Also pulled the "elk straw" electric fence out of Big Creek and put up again at the west end of the airstrip. Right after fixing dinner we heard a plane come in low buzzing the airstrip... it was Ray and somehow the stock had gotten onto the airstrip! I quickly opened the middle bridge gate and got them started across before he landed east → west. He had 2 friends on board and came up for tea & visit. They left just before dark.

Sunday, Mar 30th

Holly worked on "Four Decades of Cougar Research" outline. I repaired the hill gate "sprung" by the mules, and another pole broken by elk last night. Saddled the stock (3)... ran 2 loose, and went up the Rush Pt. trail to the Rock wall. Traced the telemetry... one sheep (#2) somewhere in Cliff Creek, and got a good signal on wheat thin in Lower Lewis Creek. Saw 30 or so deer, a few elk and a few sheep. Also saw a cow elk with a ^{Rear - Femur} severely broken leg near the Rush CR. Beaver dam. Also found one of Sam's banded grouse that had been killed by a ^{saw} goshawk... pink/yellow & silver/white bands.

Monday, Mar. 31st

Started the morning by "evicting" 50+ elk from the main pasture and top of airstrip. One elk took out the electric tape @ the strip head since it did not like the looks of crossing the middle bridge... which several did. Contacted Jeff R (Feb) regarding our ground count data on cow-calfes versus his helicopter crew... we are consistently 28:100 vs. their 20:100. We feel the large variation in calf size caused their error. Also got the go ahead from Jeff to put down the elk in Rush cr. with the nasty leg break... to necropsy and try and determine cause of injury(s). After spending the morning on the computer -- sending emails regarding the new cabin, Holly & I went over to Rush cr. and dispatched the cow ^{via 45-70}. We then necropsied the cow. She had massive internal bleed^{ing} & infection from her compound fracture. We found what could be fang notes... one in hide and one @ the top of the hoof, still could not confirm wolf attack, but the age of the injury seemed to be "older"... like when the pack was around. Holly also took stream photos for Wayne M. and summarized data. Also today I started Arlows waterline, Had to dig it up and repair a big break in front of the front door, other than that, seems OK. Picked up more wind debris, Cleaned around wood pile and burned a woodrat nest, plus a winter's worth of wood chips.

Tuesday, April 1... 1903 (April Fools!)

No it is not 1903, we have way too many elk for that to be the case! Went over to the elk carcass 2x's today -- no activity of any kind - odd. Worked on slides & data graphs for upcoming talks. Big Creek and Rush CR. both are running high after all the rain. Filled out the monthly weather, a least 2" of precip in Mar.

Weds. April 2

(NO MAIL PLANE)

Cold and squally this am. The stock returned, forcing their way through the hill gate again. Saw a fresh wolf track by the gate, headed toward Lower Pasture... smaller wolf. Brushed out a little access trail (spurred off main water box trail) to clean intake screen on east side water system. Holly put together "infor. packets" for the co-authors on our "4 decades" paper-to-be. I started writing a discussion section for my cougar-habitat paper. Sent many emails, one was to Larry Chin about the hydro potential, and energy draws of the ranch... For upcoming wiring. Holly worked on project data until bedtime, or so. The same 60 or so elk down low, around the bridge and in the pasture until I "herded them" back across Big cr.

Thurs., April 3

Both of us spent all day + on the computers doing our respective writing/researching tasks. Ray came in @ noon with the mail. He took out garbage and 5 empty propane. Holly continued expanding literature list to track down. Fortified the hill gate... brought the stock in the corral for night.

Friday, April 4

Most of the day, and evening was spent getting things ready to go out for 10 days. Late afternoon brought a volley of recommendations to do -- Andrea Bristol, Chris McDaniel, and Josh Holloway. Got Andrea and Chris' done, then continued paper writing and desk organizing. Holly continued gathering things together for the 4 decade talk... ^{well after midnight... 3am!} and meetings with Maurice & Howard. Wrote lists for Chris. Continued shagging elk from main pasture... they came back in an hour. Also today I had to flush a bird (bluebird) out of the west duplex... came down the chimney! Elk carcass on Rush not touched, camera roll still on pic. #15.

Saturday, April 5

Holly was up until 3 am finalizing the "4 decades" paper & talk outline so can share it with Maurice Hornocker and Howard Quigley over the next few days. Continued getting ready to go out for 10 days. The "airstrip elk" trashed the electric fence last night. Emailed a recommendation for Josh Holloway... for Alaskan fishing boat observer - biologist. Chared house... waited for Ray, to return from Pistol Cr. and bring Chris in.

Sunday, April 6

It was stormy and cold again today. My morning was spent doing paper work and then investigating the carcass over in Rush creek. It appears as if nothing has touched the fresh carcass since it was necropsied. The afternoon and evenings were spent dismantling the interior of the sauna and preparing the floor for refinishing. The stock came down late evening so I put them in the corral.

Monday, April 7

Woke up this morning to a beautiful blue sky. I turned the stock loose and after breakfast started working on the sauna / bunk house. I finished sanding the floor and put two coats of finish on. Ray flew in about noon and delivered propane. He told me that he was prepared to give me a hard time if I wouldn't have been out enjoying the beautiful day. The afternoon and evening was spent designing and constructing a bed and shelf system for the new lodging. It is staying light until almost nine o'clock. Had to "soft spook" about 80 elk out of the main pasture tonight.

Tuesday April 8

Another absolutely beautiful day. Started the morning by chasing elk out of the main pasture there weren't quite as many as last night but still a bunch. Walked over and checked the carcass in Rusher. Still nothing going on over there. Spent the rest of the morning and most the afternoon finishing the savanna conversion. It looks pretty sharp if I say so myself. About 4:30 I sat down in the sun on the lawn of the Taylor cabin and the next thing I knew it was 7:00. The sun felt so good, it got up to 73° here today. The stock came down again this evening so I put them in the corral.

Wednesday April 9

It must have rained during the night last night because when I woke up everything was a little bit damp and smelled great. Mica and I played our daily game of "spook the elk". There were two bunches today. I've about given up on fixing the electric tape fence along the airstrip as soon as it is up the elk knock it down. There has been a pair of geese setting up residence near the far end of the airstrip and today a third goose appeared. It was apparently a male trying to hone in on the other one, as a great, noisy battle ensued. The two would chase and dive on each other totally oblivious to Mica and I

standing right there. I spent late morning and early afternoon repairing the two mule stone boat. Of course about the time Ray was supposed to show up with the mail, the mules show up on the airstrip. In true mule fashion they made me chase them all the way to the end of the strip only to have them turn and go thundering past me back toward the corral. Elbows - the whole lot of em! After Ray came and went I hiked over to the carcass in Rush Cr. still no activity. I started exploring ground the west side of the river between the beaver dam and the base of the switchbacks and found the semi fresh remains of a calf elk and a fawn mule deer buck, too old to determine any predation information. One last interesting note. Big creek looked as if it had turned to skim milk, all day it flowed an opaque white, very interesting.

Thursday, April 10

We had a very productive day at the T.R. today. It started with turning the stock loose this morning and putting up some new electric tape across the river near the first gate heading upstream. The stock had been crossing high and then coming over onto the strip. Next, I turned the water on in the lab only to have one of the copper lines split in two places and of course they were at the far end of the building so I ~~had~~ got to experience the wonders of belly crawling with the wood rats. What fun. Once the repairs were made the rest of the system seemed to

work just fine. The rest of the day was spent "tuning up" every gas operated piece of machinery on the ranch. Chainsaws, water pumps, weed eaters, generators, lawn mowers and snow blower all got clean spark plugs, fresh gas, clean air filters, oil, and sharpening (as needed). everything should be in top shape for summer. I almost forgot to mention that at noon today I heard what sounded like two different wolves howling one down stream and one up Pioneer cr. I dropped everything and hiked up behind the Taylor cabin and then toward the sagebrush flat but didn't hear anymore. I checked on the carcass but still nothing had bit it. There were two ravens on it though. it will be interesting to see if the wolves bit it tonight. I may head down stream a bit tomorrow to see what I can see.

Friday, April 11

Elk and Stock were back again this morning ~~but~~ after several trips around the ranch ~~the~~ Mike and I were able to convince them that they wanted to be somewhere else. Worked on the water heater and fridge in the lab and built some shelves for the server/bunkhouse out of logs the beaver in Rush cr. had chewed off. Ray flew in 4 barrels of gas for the Fish and Game Mtn. Goat survey crew and a couple of new propane bottles for the ranch the rest of the day was uneventful but beautiful. Still no activity on the elk carcass.

Saturday April 12

More elk/stock video this morning. Time to put up the electric fence. It was kind of a "low key" day today spent a few hours putting the new cart together. of course it is missing about ten bolts and some other pieces. let me just run to the hardware store real quick, right. The rest of the day was spent reading and relaxing and carving a coat rack. It started to thunder and lightning late evening and is pouring rain right now. Creeks should be flowing high tomorrow. 4 days in a row over 70° and then this. I'll bet the plants are loving life about now.

Sunday April 13

Another kind of slow day today. found a hole in the fence where the stock was getting through and repaired it. Made the rounds of regular chores. still nothings at the bait spent most of the day reading and getting caught up on emails and other stuff.

Monday April 14

Havnt seen the elk for a few days so I decided to fix the electric fence along the airstrip. It took a while but seems to be back in top shape. The benches are getting

noticeably greener. Spent most of the day fitting plywood in the new trailer and looking skulls for a display in the lab. Fought with the hot water heater and refrigerator in the lab for a couple of hours but they both seem to be running fine now.

Tuesday April 15

Lots of action today. Got the mules off the strip just in time for Ray to make a "no fly over" landing. One of these days he's going to get in trouble. He dropped off food supplies for the Mtn. goat survey crew. The crew arrived shortly after. The crew consisted of Jim Pope Jr. the pilot, John Hunter and Kent Louden(?). John Hunter was ^(the maintenance man) an intern in here in the summer of 1990 and was interested to see the place again. A pair of hikers also showed up today. They had been rafting on the M. fork and decided to hike up. The man said he had been here before in the spring of 1999. They looked around and left me some buffalo sausage. I split a log for the base of a new wall tent frame that is going to be put in near the Taylor cabin. Also, finished the stone boat overhall.

Holly & I were in Portland this week, care giving for my mother who does not have long to live. Last week we attended the Chico Wolf Mtg. We gave our "Carnivores, Ungulates and Fire" presentation. En route to Chico we met with Maurice Hornocker, and then while racing back to Portland we saw Howard Quigley. Had excellent visits with both regarding: "4 decade carnivore/ungulate comparison."

Wednesday April 16

Wake up this morning with the stock in the front yard. The hikers yesterday had left the bridge gate open and I hadn't noticed. The Mtn goat survey crew flew Big creek today. They saw 14 goats from Egan Pt to the middle fork but none in Cave cr. When they were done here they tried to head for Yellow Pine but got turned back at profile due to weather. They hung out here for a few hours and then tried again and apparently made it. I put the finishing touches on the stone boat, set up a dropleg in the hub and made a cont rack for the sauna bank. This evening I worked on our sheep presentation and Jim called saying that they will be coming in tomorrow.

Thurs, April 17

Holly & I drove from Baker City to Cascade with a shopping stop in Ontario. Purchased vice pine boards in Cascade for the "Taylor Cabin tent platform." Ray flew us in about 3 pm, a bit blustery upon landing. Ray & Chris soon flew out... with 3 fuel barrels. We came in with a large plane load of supplies, so most of the evening was spent putting things away. Inspected Chris' work -- impressive job with the Sauna Cabin conversion to sleeping quarters! The utility cart also looks very good. Got caught up on mail & emails. John Scidinsticker sent us a letter and 3 books that he had co-authored, plus a nice letter about project-finding comparisons. Holly went to the Rush cr. elk carcass, put in new film... took out "shot Roll!"

Friday, April 18

Wolf howled 6x at 6AM. Scats @ airstrip ^{& tracks} & Rush Cr.

Spent a good part of the day getting caught up on carnil & mail business. Holly put together work stuff for next week in Portland. Checked the Rush CR. elk carcass - 12 pics. taken. Oh ya, we awoke to wolf howling. Found tracks on the main trail & mouth of Rush CR. Elk everywhere... dragging electric fencing around, knocking rails down off wood fence. Determined that stock went up to Cabin Creek.

Saturday, April 19

Continued getting Holly ready to be gone a week. Ray flew in @ noon with a load of supplies: 8 sacks concrete, 12-12"x10' planks, and a propane. He also took out a load (2 barrels, 10 empty boxes, gar bag) and me to be dropped @ C.C. w/a saddle to bring the stock back... Ray & Holly went on to Cascade. Had to catch the beasts and lead them back to the airstrip for saddling. Spent an extra hour clearing small trees off of the trail en route home. Locked stock in corral tonight.

Sunday, April 20

Replaced front shoes on Daisy, Cricket, Star and pulled hind shoes. Hauled planks (carried) from airstrip to here. Began sending Chris Power Point slides. Sued down a couple trees for wall tent platform, and prepared site west of compost garden. Added another gate rail to the N. of Rush CR. gate. Stock being a pain-in-the-neck!

Monday, April 21

Big Creek is milky-green this morning. Went over to the Rush Cr. carcass, saw that a bear had knocked the camera down so I went ahead and pulled it... all the roll had been "shot." Used the little chainsaw to rip another log for the wall tent foundation, worked the 4 1/2 Round pieces. Fought with the computer, which insisted on "locking up." Worked some on my habitat paper and yard work. Caught the stock & corralled after they broke back into the main pasture. Flushed 60-70 elk out of the pasture & off airstrip @ dark using a crackern shell & shot gun.

Tuesday, April 22

A long day of battling the computer... lock ups, dysfunctional mouse, lost text... etc. Finally went outside and worked on timbers for the wall tent platform. Holly reported that Mom had a "panic attack" while gasping for air. She controlled the condition with a dose of Lorazepam (sedative). It's tough being so "out of position" to help. Got some mail ready to go out. The stock broke the hill gate, forded Big Cr. (@ fairly high flow), then Rocky broke the Pioneer Cr. gate. I caught them and locked them up. Kept the elk away with target practice (in orchard) with my .44 pistol. Found out that Josh probably can't make it, their family dog died... I can relate with that grief. McCall High group "on" for May 11 & 12.

Weds. April 23

Rained hard last night, in fact, the water was off to the house - determined that muck had plugged the screen, so I shut the system down and cleaned it out.

Repaired gates broken by the stock yesterday... put fake electric up @ the hill gate and down the hill side where "the herd" was going around the fence line.

Worked $\frac{1}{2}$ the day on my lion habitat use paper.

Josh back "on" for covering the ranch this weekend, with his Dad too. Fish Bios with the Rocky Mtn.

Research Sta. will stay here May 5. It sounds like they will be doing extensive measuring of woody debris between TR & Cabin cr. Took the stock up on the 1st bench to keep them from breaking valuable fences!

Cleared this evening. Mounted Holly's sheep head (from '99 found on Horse Mtn.) above the main desk... atop the bookshelf. Also did a load of laundry today. Ray came & went with the mail mid afternoon.

Thurs. April 24

What a day... extended combat with the computer until I finally located the source - a bad plug connection to the internet. Took out my frustration by hauling rock - ^{7 with the barrow loads} to erosion sites by the waterbox and along the airstrip corner - base of hill. The stock returned and I left them on the pasture until dark... its either them or the elk! Corresponded with Andrea B. about her many job options, all at once of course. Sent my sheep Summit talk outline to Holly & Chris in case I can't make it out.

Friday, April 25

My dad (Larry) and I (Josh) flew in this afternoon to look after the place while Jim attended a FNAWS meeting in Boise and then travel to Portland. Jim gave me a brief run down of the current projects and happenings around the ranch before leaving. Gave dad a tour of ranch from the cougar pen to Rush Cr. Kept an eye out for "destructive" elk and the mules until dark... no sign of either. Many elk and 3rd band were spooked by scattering and grouped together in a tight defensive circle for a while... we never saw what caused it. Talked with Jim on phone. Chris will be flying in to relieve us on Sunday. He was having difficulties with his presentation... ^{on Power Point} hope he can fix it in time.

Sat. April 26

The stock snuck back into the pasture last night and must have discouraged the elk. Dad worked on recording wildlife data from the Caswell diary. The snow (wet) and wind alternated with the sun all day. We went downstream in afternoon to see sheep and pictographs @ the Gorge. Saw a very large bear between cougar and cliff creeks. It looked like wheat thin but larger and no collar. Had a great steak dinner at night. Spoke with Jim... FNAWS meeting went well but had a rough night in motel. Chris will fly in tomorrow afternoon.

Sunday April 27

I (Chris) flew in this evening and Josh and Larry flew out. We got to visit for a few ~~minutes~~ but of course not long enough. He said that they had spent a good part of the day leveling the foundation for the new wall tent platform near the Taylor Cabin. I moved several bags of cement from the head of the airstrip and then went for a hike down to cougar creek. Located the remains of a yearling cow elk on the flat just this side of cougar cr. Not enough left to determine anything.

Monday April 28.

Jim's Mom passed away last night. Jim and Holly were both able to be with her which was good. Our thoughts are with them. Spent most of the day doing little jobs and putting the main ~~platform~~^{Deck} on the tent platform. After completing this I decided to hike downstream staying on the south side of Big Creek in order to check out a carcass that Josh had seen. The carcass was located on the river bank just downstream from the swimming / fishing hole. ~~It~~ It was another yearling cow elk and judging by evidence was probably killed by a cougar about two weeks ago. There were signs of bobcats, coyotes and even a fresh wolf track in the immediate area. I continued

down stream as I have never really explored this side of the river. Across from the Indian flats I came across yet another yearling cow elk carcass. This one was fairly old and no evidence of predation remained. I traveled that side of the river down until I was across from cougar creek and then came back up. I saw quite a bit of fresh bear sign but no bears. I also jumped a buck mule deer and was surprised at the amount of antler growth he had already accumulated.

Tuesday April 29

No sign of the elk or moles this morning - a pleasant surprise. I intended to put a stain and sealant on the tent platform but the weather wouldn't cooperate. Spent most of the day inside working on the computer. ~~and~~ I got kind of a wild hair and decided to refinish the countertops in the kitchen here. Spent most of the afternoon/evening scraping and sanding. It will be ready to finish tomorrow. I did manage to get a coat of water sealant on the platform before dark.

Wednesday April 30

A rainy day today. Spent the day working on the counter tops, sanding and putting a finish on. Built a new backsplash for the sink to prevent further water damage. Sarah was supposed to fly in on the mail plane but the weather didn't cooperate. Spent the evening going through the Caswell diary noting ungulate observations. Made it through the whole thing.

Thursday May 1

Weather was much nicer today. Spent the morning mucking out the sediment from the water box. A bigger chore than I had originally anticipated. Finished putting the new cart together and then put a couple of coats of stain on the tent platform. Put several more coats of finish on the counter tops. Sarah flew in with Ray in the evening. We walked around the place and had to chase the elk and mules off the airstrip and generally just enjoyed ourselves.

Friday May 2

Sarah and I decided to take advantage of the sunshine today and go for a hike. We hiked to the top of the Rush Cr. switchbacks then started sidehilling parallel to Rush Cr. We were looking for antlers and bears of which we found neither, lots and lots of chuckers though. After lunch we cut down to the river and followed it back to the ranch. We came across one fairly fresh elk carcass. Predation was tough to determine but there was fresh wolf and bear activity evidence. The cow was very old (teeth down to gums) and her bone marrow was almost zero. The stock was in the pasture when we got back so we caught them up and fly-sprayed them and turned them out again.

Saturday May 3

Today we just worked around the Ranch. Our big project was refinishing the desk/counter in the Taylor Cabin kitchen. We also put a 3rd coat of finish on the sauna cabin floor and put a step on the new tent platform. The mules were particularly frisky today and gave us quite a run around when we tried to chase them out of the pasture.

