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December 23, 1998

Jim Porter
HC 79 Box 111C
Melba, ID 83641

Dear Jim:

I've been tying up loose ends this week and again came across your letter and ideas for Taylor Ranch. This fall we discussed the internship program and agreed with your assessment that an expansion of the program would be desirable. We are exploring ways to make that happen, including the volunteer system that you mentioned. Your contacts were helpful.

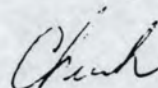
Private fundraising is one of our strategies to expand programs at Taylor Ranch. I've asked my development officer, Lynn Mineur MacEachern, to arrange a meeting with Bill and Jack at the Craighood Wildlands Institute. We would also welcome an opportunity to explore this topic with you. Your insights from last summer's trip with "3 high rolling women from Seattle" would be most useful.

We have also been active in developing remote sensing/GIS data sets for the central Idaho wilderness region. Enclosed is a copy of a manual that describes GIS themes of vegetation type, life form, canopy cover, tree size, slope, elevation, and aspect. Dr. Leon Neuenschwander lead this effort in collaboration with the USFS. We believe this and similar efforts are critically important in the design and implementation of research programs out of the Taylor Ranch. I'll also send Bill and Jack a copy of the manual since it should complement their programs too.

I hope you and our students have a great time this holiday season when you visit the Taylor Ranch. I visited with Jim and he and Holly are excited about your visit. Your assistance sure makes their life more pleasant. We all really appreciate your support and service to our program.

I'll look forward to hearing about your winter outing. Thanks for participating in our educational and research programs.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Hatch
Dean

Enclosure