

WILDERNESS RESEARCH CENTER 1984 BI-ANNUAL REPORT

THEME LETTER

In 1983 and 1984, the Wilderness Research Center expanded its education and outreach activities on an unprecedented scale. Conducting a national workshop on wilderness management, directing a national steering committee in developing a five-year wilderness management action program, publishing the book ISSUES IN WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT, the proceedings of the conference, were the major accomplishments. In addition, the annual Wilderness Resource Distinguished Lectureship and the Wilderness Skills Trail were continued.

While these new undertakings have challenged the WRC to stretch almost beyond its means, we have endeavored to continue with our traditional programs. Research -- our other driving purpose -- was by no means shortchanged. An archeological study funded by the National Geographic Society and the U.S. Forest Service continued at the Taylor Ranch; an assessment of Glacier National Park's science program funded by UNESCO and the National Park Service was completed; a new study evaluating indicators to monitor wilderness conditions and a new study on bighorn sheep's

use of winter range were initiated. The Center also continued to submit research proposals for additional funding.

In summary, the past two years have been ones of activity, outreach, and growth. The following pages offer detailed information about these activities. As in the past, the WRC welcomes any questions or comments about its activities from concerned wilderness users and scholars. Let us hear from you!

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Wilderness Research Center's purpose is to promote research and educational programs leading to a wholistic understanding of natural ecosystems and the means to protect them in perpetuity. The Center strives to focus and coordinate efforts of scientists at the University of Idaho and at cooperating organizations to support an ongoing program in wilderness research. Our five specific objectives are:

To promote research into long-term natural phenomena and ecosystem dynamics.

To pursue comparative and experimental investigations yielding information useful to the management of man-altered environments.

To promote research to define wilderness impacts and use limits.

To pursue studies of human perceptions and values of wilderness.

To provide educational programs that explain:

- 1) The dynamic processes of natural ecosystems,
- 2) The value of comparing natural systems to understanding the conservation and management of man-altered environments,
- 3) The proper uses of wilderness in keeping with its continued, unaltered preservation,
- 4) man's ecological and social role as a member of the natural world.

The First National Wilderness Management Workshop

October 11 thru 13, 1983

"Taking care of what we've got"

The Wilderness Research Center sponsored this workshop to direct concern to the protection and proper use of wilderness areas already established. The workshop brought together decision makers and resource managers with wilderness responsibility -- from the Bureau of Land Management; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the U.S. Forest Service; the National Park Service; state fish and wildlife officials; state tourism representatives; user groups involved in mining, grazing, outfitting and recreation; and citizen groups concerned with environmental protection. Key issues and problems implicit in managing wilderness were deliberated, to collect and synthesize the best available ideas.

Conservationist and author Michael Frome opened the conference; the directors of the four federal land management agencies delivered talks, and Idaho's senior senator, James McClure, gave a keynote luncheon speech. Over 400 participants came from across the nation, representing great diversity of viewpoints and experience but sharing a unifying commitment to managing wilderness.

*At this workshop we are pulling together what we know about wilderness at this time. I think this will be the beginning of several years of dialogue.

Max Peterson, Chief, USFS

*More trails and more access, not less, in our opinion, would provide better distribution of hunting and fishing pressure and really ease impacts overall.

Jerry Conley, Idaho Department of Wildlife.

*We know now that we cannot depend totally upon natural sources of ignitions, primarily from the standpoint of location, frequency, timing, adverse air quality impacts, risk, and loss. Many wilderness areas simply do not have the natural fire frequency needed to reverse the conditions which have occurred due to the numerous years of fire suppression.

Everette L. Towle, Director of Aviation and Fire Management, USFS

*The notion of management of the wilderness versus management of use deserves attention, too. The preponderance of our efforts should be involved in managing use, but let's not lose sight of substantial biological issues and problems with which we have to deal -- issues that don't, except in an indirect way, involve use.

Robert Barbee, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

*Without question, we need consistent principles faithful to the Wilderness Act, but consistent principles, however, may not lead to identical practices.

Max Peterson, Chief, USFS.

*I don't think there is any substitute today or in the future for concerned public opinion. People who visit parks universally come away impressed with their patrimony; they want to protect and save it and to pass it along to future generations. From the standpoint of wilderness, the most important lesson of all may be to continue to educate, inform and depend upon public support to carry us through.

Russell Dickenson, Director, National Park Service.

(* These quotes will be ~~be~~ set off in a separate box.)

The workshop undoubtedly met its stated goal -- that of bringing together people with diverse viewpoints to establish a dialogue focused on managing wilderness. It also had lasting effects. The deliberation helped to define wilderness management as an emerging profession requiring a great sensitivity to both resources and people. On a more tangible level, the conference inspired several ongoing outreach projects to use the knowledge base that emerged from its workshop sessions. These projects, the action plan, the book, and the videotapes, are detailed on the following page.

SPECIAL OUTREACH PROJECTS

Five-year Wilderness Management Action Program

On the last day of the workshop, Max Peterson, Chief of the United States Forest Service, called on the other Federal agencies to join with representatives of user groups to develop an action program based on the wealth of ideas generated at the conference. The WRC chaired the national steering committee which was formed to undertake this task. Public input was sought from across the nation. From this input, the committee developed a list of 23 priority recommended actions to address major issues confronting wilderness management in the next five years. Published in booklet form, the Five-Year Wilderness Management Action Program is being distributed nationally by the agencies, conservation groups, and the WRC.

ISSUES IN WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

Based on the proceedings of the workshop, this recently published book complements and extends the impact of the workshop and the action plan. The book, edited by conservation author Michael Frome, contains additional material on management issues as well as position statements by agencies and conservation and other user groups. It distills diverse viewpoints and establishes a dialogue in print which should serve as an

important contribution to the growing field of wilderness management. The 225 page book was published by Westview Press and is available through bookstores or from the publisher at 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, Colorado, 80301.

Workshop Videotapes

These Full color video tapes were recorded live and provide a complete record of the conference. They contain speeches, panel discussions and pertinent questions and answers from the many resource managers who participated. The tapes are offered for use by schools, conservation groups, and agency training programs as a useful tool for understanding the implications and applications of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The thirteen video tapes are available both for sale or rent. For complete descriptions and prices, contact the Wilderness Research Center.

RESEARCH NOTES

There are a suprising number of archeological sites along the major rivers of the Frank Church -- River of No Return Wilderness Area, yet archeological research in the area is still characterized by what is not known. "Settlement-subsistence in the River of No Return Wilderness Areas: Developing a model for prehistoric survival" is a project pursued by Dr. Frank Leonhardy and Fred Thomas of the Univesity of Idaho Laboratory of Anthropology. This project is a long-term study, funded by the

National Geographic Society, that uses the Taylor Ranch as a base for summer field research. Initial work discovered the remains of a prehistoric settlement 1/4 mile south of the Taylor Ranch. Later excavations at this site and others in the area suggest that the ancient inhabitants adapted closely to the area's resources, resulting in a fairly unique subsistence pattern. It appears likely that the prehistoric inhabitants survived during the winters on big horn sheep.

The boreal owl is one of the least studied owls in North America. Formerly, its range was thought to be limited to northern Canada and Alaska, but researchers found a breeding population in central Idaho and Colorado during 1981. Thus, a study was undertaken by Gregory Hayward and Dr. E. O. Garton (assisted by Patricia Hayward) titled "Habitat Requirements and Distribution of the Boreal Owl in Central Idaho." Boreal owls have been found to be the most common predatory bird in the the Chamberlain Basin, and the researchers seek to learn more about the population, its habitat needs, the distribution of suitable habitat, and potential effects of man's activities on the bird. Cosponsors of this project are the U.S. Forest Service, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the North American Bluebird Society, and the Wilderness Research Center.

Monitoring wilderness conditions is crucial to management; yet, there is little information on how to select indicators that will yield the most appropriate knowledge on soil, water,

wildlife, vegetation, and social conditions. A study titled "Evaluation of Indicators of Wilderness Resource Conditions" conducted by Linda Merigliano under the direction of Dr. Ed Krumpe is focused on identifying and objectively evaluating the usefulness of potential indicators. The study is to be co-sponsored by the McIntyre Stennis program and the Wilderness Research Center.

The focus of the "Glacier National Park Science Assessment" was to develop a synthesis of scientific information about the Glacier National Park Biosphere Reserve and to provide a basic reference guide to completed studies. Glacier has been blessed with 500 documented research studies within its borders. The study report consists of two volumes: the first is devoted to a narrative description of the various studies; the second to indexing, abstracting, and summarizing the studies. The study was funded by the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) through the National Park Service; additional funding was contributed by the Wilderness Research Center.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES

The Center sponsored the eighth annual Wilderness Resource Distinguished Lecture in November, 1984. Brock Evans, a well known Northwest environmental leader and former vice president of the National Audubon Society, was the speaker.

the struggles and urged the audience not to fear the fight to preserve wilderness resources.

University of Idaho PhD candidate. The students were on an extended educational trip in the River of No Return Wilderness.

The Center has continued to solicit donations for the Michael Frome Scholarship for Excellence in Conservation Writing, established in 1982 in cooperation with the University of Idaho Foundation. Proceeds from the sale of ISSUES IN WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT will go directly to the scholarship, which will be awarded to students who demonstrate a sincere commitment and talent for environmental journalism. Competition for the award should be announced during the Fall of 1985.

FACILITIES NOTES.

The oldest cabin at the Taylor Ranch, built in the 1890's by homesteader Dave Lewis, is in the process of being converted to a field laboratory to support current and future research projects. The project should be completed during the summer of 1985.

A team of mules was added to the Taylor Ranch personnel in an effort to make the ranch more self-sustaining and harmonious with the wilderness environment. The mules are used for mowing hay, hauling firewood, and maintaining the field station's airstrip.

W R C (Annual) Report

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As reported elsewhere in this report, the National Wilderness Management Workshop drew a crowd from across the nation to focus on the theme, "Taking Care of What We've Got." Keynote addresses were presented by the directors of the four federal agencies which manage wilderness--NPS, USFS, BLM, and USFWS. A hallmark of the Workshop was the series of small working group sessions in which all participants identified and prioritized key issues facing wilderness management. This formed the basis of our next undertaking.

Max Peterson, Chief of the USFS, called on the other Federal agencies to join with representatives of user groups to develop a Five-Year Wilderness Management Action Program based on the wealth of ideas generated at the conference. The WRC chaired the national steering committee which was formed to undertake this task. It sought public input from across the nation and developed a list of 23

priority recommended actions to address major issues confronting wilderness management in the next five years. Published in booklet form, the Five-Year Wilderness Action Program is being distributed nationally by the agencies, conservation groups, and the WRC.

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While these new undertakings have challenged the WRC to stretch almost beyond its means, we have endeavored to continue with our traditional programs. The Wilderness Resources Distinguished Lecture was presented by Brock Evans, long time wilderness proponent and former vice president of the National Audubon Society. Mr. Evans also conducted two seminars on campus for university students. The wilderness skills course was conducted in cooperation with the USFS and attended by approximately 350 members of the public. The Center also obtained additional support for improvements at the Taylor Ranch, most notably, the remodeling of one cabin into a field laboratory. Finally, the Center continued to help support other research efforts and to submit competitive grants for research projects. In summary, the past two years have been ones of activity,

outreach, and growth. In the pages that follow we offer more information about the programs and activities of the Center.

Outline

WRC 1984 Annual Report

* Recommend calling it a bi-annual report.

I. Theme letter

34 short ¶s

1 page

ED

- A year of outreach
- Focus on management - turning ideas into action.
- summary of activities related to above themes.
- Stress continuity of other programs.
 other programs are still ongoing
 Increased visibility

II Goals, Objectives, & Organization

1 page

- one liners condensed from previous goal and objective statements
- organizational graphic (abd) modified to include advisory board.
- summary statement highlighting any changes

816 X 100

III Workshop

1 ¶

26 short

1 ¶s

- introduction including theme, organization, who, where, when.
 - quotes - positive, profound, key points made at the workshop; should represent main participating agencies and main topics such as fire mgmt, wildlife mgmt.
 - conclusion ~~introducing~~ ^{introducing} the tangible results of the workshop
- ~~incl. Nat'l steering committee who (list) book - title, availability (address)~~

title?

IV Workshop-driven projects

- Nat'l steering committee
who (list names & titles)
description of committee's role
- Book
title; brief description n;
availability; address & cost.
- 5 year action plan - purpose
who: names, titles, roles.
highlights.

ED

BOOK
VIDEO
TAPES

V Research Notes.

(Brief descriptions of WRC-sponsored research, incl. statement of res. question and key findings.)

1. Prehistoric survival Leonhardy
2. Glacier Science Assessment Hayward et al
3. Bighorn Sheep -olly
4. Evaluating Indicators Linda
5. Owls Greg

VI Educational Programs.

(News clips on this years events)

1. Lectureship
2. Wilderness Skills Course
3. River Symposium
4. Nampa High School Science club -our of Ranch.
5. Scholarship program.

book proceeds →

VII Facilities.

1. Herbarium collection
2. Conversion of TR. building into lab.

Outline p.3

3 mule team.

Back page should include ^① List of lectureship speakers w/ availability information.

② Request for donations, esp. for Michael Fronte Scholarship program.