

19 January 1982

Worthie M. Rauscher, Administrator
and
Larry A. Hippler, Airport Development
State of Idaho Transportation Department
Division of Aeronautics and Public
Transportation
3483 Rickenbacker Street
Boise, Idaho 83705

Dear Sirs:

Thanks very much for your letter of 11 January and for the document describing landing strips in the River of No Return Wilderness Area. We were not aware of being in violation of aeronautical regulations pertaining to activities permitted for certain landing strip classifications. However, we were aware that air traffic associated with the hunting concession was at the heart of many misunderstandings by the general public.

The agreement between the University of Idaho and the owners of the concession expires at the end of the 1982 hunting season. This past Saturday we met with the outfitter and informed him that the lease would not be extended. This action should remove a major image problem with the public, as well as solving a legal issue.

We agree with the designation of the Taylor Ranch landing strip as state owned but open for emergency use only by the public. We have never objected to business use of the strip nor to "friendly visits" by back country pilots. The problem has come from recreational use of the area by the public; from pilots bringing in parties of clients totally uninvited and unwanted. The listing you propose should take care of the problems.

We too have a discrepancy in elevation of the Taylor Ranch landing strip. I believe we can discount the FAA figure of 3500 feet as being too low. Pilots who use the strip accept the figure of 3760 feet. The Great Falls listing of 3835 feet could pertain to the upper end of the strip whereas the Idaho Facilities Directory could be based on the lower end; there is a substantial elevational difference between the two ends. We will clarify this discrepancy by measuring the elevation.

We invite you to visit the Taylor Ranch at any time. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance

Sincerely,

Ernest D. Ables
Associate Dean/Academics