

7/11/12

TODAY WAS A LITTLE CHAOTIC ON THE RANLH. AmyTUNE AND TYLER ARE ALL SET TO FLY OUT TOMORROW SO DARRELL STOUT AND MYSELF (BRUNO WILSON) RECEIVED A CRASH COURSE IN HOW TO MAINTAIN THE PROPERTY. MOST OF THE VISITORS AND STUDENTS WERE SAD TO SEE Amy AND TYLER LEAVE, BUT THE CHANGE WAS MOST LIKELY FOR THE BEST. THE TWO OF THEM WERE READY FOR A CHANGE AND AFTER SPENDING SEVERAL YEARS AWAY FROM REGULAR SOCIETY AND CIVILIZATION WHO CAN BLAME THEM. ~~THE~~

THE MAJORITY OF THE CHORES ARE FAIRLY STRAIGHT FORWARD... MOVE THE SPRINKLER, SORT THE TRASH, STOCK THE CABINS. SOME OF THE CHORES ARE A LITTLE MORE SKILLED. SUCH AS MAINTAINING THE WATER SHEDS AND CHANGING FILTERS AS WELL AS PROPANE TANKS.

DARRELL AND I PUT IN MORE THAN A FULL DAY OF WORK, JUST TRYING TO GET UP TO SPEED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE TRANSITION AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE BUT Amy AND TYLER HAD ALREADY CHECKED OUT. THEY SPENT THE BETTER PART OF THE AFTERNOON FLOATING THE RIVER WITH THE ASSISTANT MANAGER AND HIS GIRLFRIEND. IN MY OPINION IT REALLY SHOWED HOW MUCH THEY CARE ABOUT TAYLOR RANLH AND THE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES THAT THIS RESEARCH FIELD STATION CAN PROVIDE.

BRUNO WILSON

7/12/12

Amy June and Tyler DEPARTED EARLY THIS MORNING. THERE WE HUGS AND HAND SHAKES ALL AROUND AND EVERYONE PARTED WAYS WITH NO HARD FEELINGS. LANDON, THE ASSISTANT MANAGER, WILL BE AROUND FOR TWO MORE DAYS AT WHICH POINT HE WILL BE LEAVING FOR TWO AND A HALF WEEKS FOR HONDURAS. THE TIMING OF HIS VACATION COULD NOT BE WORSE. THE UNFORTUNATE TIMING REALLY IS NOT HIS FAULT. HIS VACATION HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND NO ONE COULD HAVE PREDICTED AMY AND TYLER PUTTING IN THEIR TWO WEEK NOTICE.

THINGS WERE PRETTY QUIET ON THE RANCH TODAY. DARRELL AND I HIKE OUT TO SURVEY POSSIBLE WATER RIGHTS FOR THE PLOT OF LAND LOCATED ACROSS BIG CREEK. WE DISCOVERED, OR RATHER UNCOVERED, A TWO INCH PIPE THAT WAS ONLY USED TO TRANSPORT WATER FROM THE REVER INTO THE PASTURE. WE ARE EXPLORING OPTION FOR HOW TO MAKE USE OF THE ABANDONED PASTURE.

FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, DARRELL AND I HAD NO TROUBLE OCCUPYING OUR TIME TRYING TO CLEAN THE TAYLOR CABIN AS WELL AS THE HORNOCKER. I WAS ALSO ABLE TO ASK PAM BRUNSFELD (A FREQUENT VISITOR) A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BILLING AND BOOKING PROCESS. THE PROCEDURE IS VERY INFORMAL AND I'M NOT SO SURE THAT THE RECORDED "BOTTOM LINE" IS ACCURATE.

Bruno Wilson

7/13/12

TODAY WAS MY BUSIEST DAY SO FAR. DARRELL FLEW OUT EARLY THIS MORNING SO I PUT MYSELF IMMEDIATELY TO WORK. I STARTED WITH DAILY CHORES AND SURVEYED THE PROPERTY FOR AREAS THAT WERE IN GREATER NEED OF ATTENTION. MY FOCUS WAS QUICKLY DRAWN TO THE "BONEYARD". THE BONEYARD IS THE AREA BEHIND THE SHOP. WHERE ALL OF THE UN-USED MATERIALS AND BROKEN EQUIPMENT END UP. THERE IS SEVERAL YEARS OF NEGLECT SITTING BEHIND THERE.

I BEGAN BUILDING A RACK THAT WILL HOPEFULLY MAKE A GOOD PLACE TO STORE THE VARIOUS LENGTHS OF PIPE THAT ARE LYING AROUND THE BONE YARD. MY SELECTION OF LUMBER IS NOT IDEAL BUT I THINK I CAN MAKE IT WORK IF I GET CREATIVE.

OTHER THAN THAT I DID A LOT OF PASTURE AND LAWN WATERING AND THE STUDENTS WERE FAIRLY QUIET.

Bruno Wilson

7/14/12

ANOTHER BUSY DAY TODAY. LANDON AND MARCIE HAD TO CATCH A FLIGHT OUT OF HERE AT 8-O-CLOCK AM SO LANDON AND I GOT TO WORK AT ABOUT 5:30AM TO DO A FINAL WALK AROUND AND COVER THE FINAL DETAILS. WE WENT THROUGH THE POWER SHED, RAT TRAPS, SUPPLY ORDERING PROCEDURE, WATERING THE AIRSTRIP, AND MAINTAINING DEVICES AND LAB CABINS.

HIS PLANE WAS RIGHT ON TIME SO WE LOADED HIM UP AND I TOOK A SHORT BREAKFAST BREAK AND GOT TO WORK IN THE BONEYARD. JUST AFTER I BEGAN IN THE BONE YARD, EMILY WALKED UP TO ME WITH A MOUSE PROBLEM. A MOUSE HAD BEEN GETTING INTO HER FOOD PANTRY AND HELPING HIMSELF TO HER CASHEWS AND OATMEAL. I WAS ABLE TO LOCATE THE NEST AND BLOCK ANY POSSIBLE ENTRANCES INTO THE PANTRY.

OTHER THAN THE LANDON'S DEPARTURE, EVERY THING WAS PRETTY QUIET. I WORKED ON THE BONEYARD, CLEANED THE BATHROOM IN THE TAYLOR CABIN, LOOKED FOR THE DEAD MOUSE SMELL IN THE HORNOCKER AND FINISHED MY DAY BY WATERING THE GROUNDS AND GARDEN.

Bruno Wilson

7/15/12

Due to a huge storm the night before that dumped 1.23 inches of rain according to our rain gauge, I awoke to complaints of no water pressure in the Lanham Lab as well as the Deulieg Cabin. I spent several hours clearing debris from the water sheds and intakes as well as changing sediment filters in order to restore pressure. My efforts paid off and everyone has running water again.

After dealing with our water issue I did some administrative tasks such as scheduling and answering emails. I inventoried our supply shed and placed an order with Arnold Aviation. At this point I was in work mode so I continued cleaning the Boneyard. I finally made some noticeable progress.

It is also note worthy ~~to~~ to mention the flaw in the Hornocker filtration system. Jim Kimberly noticed a lot of debris in the water coming out of the Bathroom so I went down to explore the plumbing. I discovered that there was no sediment filter in the system but there clearly needed to be. I put a filter on and a couple of hours later Jim informed me that there was no water coming out of the faucets at all. After inspecting the water filter I found that it was completely clogged with dirt. I believe that is the reason why there was no filter in the first place but all the same, the problem should be addressed.

Bruno Wilson

THE DAY STARTED fairly routine. I CHECKED THE WATER SHED, MOVED THE SPRINKLERS AND TRIED TO RESTORE INTERNET ACCESS TO THE CAMPUS. AFTER THAT I BEGAN MOWING THE AIRSTRIP AND CONTINUED TO DO SO FOR SEVERAL HOURS. AT AROUND 2pm a storm CAME THROUGH THE CANYON SO I DECIDED NOT TO GET WET AND HEADED INTO THE TAYLOR CABIN TO TEND TO SOME ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES. AT ABOUT 2:45 pm THERE WAS A LOUD KNOCK ON THE FRONT DOOR OF THE TAYLOR CABIN, WHICH I THOUGHT WAS STRANGE BECAUSE I DIDN'T NOTICE ANY ONE WALKING UP THE TRAIL. WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR I WAS LOOKING AT AN UNFAMILIA FACE. IT WAS A SLENDER, BEARDED RED HEADED BACKPACKER THAT INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS "Brooks". AFTER TALKING FOR A FEW MINUTES I FOUND OUT THAT BROOKS HAD BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH AMYTUNE AND SHE HAD ADVISED HIM TO TAKE A ROUTE THAT WOULD LEAD HIM TO TAYLOR RANCH SO HE COULD REST UP FOR A NIGHT AND CHARGE HIS PHONE ETC. I HAD HIM SIGN A WAIVER AND GAVE HIM THE GENERAL RULES OF TAYLOR RANCH THEN TOLD HIM WHERE TO SLEEP AND WE PARTED WAYS. AFTER MEETING BROOKS THE RAIN LET UP SO I WENT TO CHECK THE WATER PRESSURE AROUND THE PROPERTY. I DISCOVERED, ONCE AGAIN, THAT THE LANHAM LAB AND A COUPLE OF SPRINKLER WERE LACKING PRESSURE. AFTER RESTORING PRESSURE TO THE LAB I SPRINKLERS I CONTINUED TO MOW THE AIRSTRIP UNTIL AROUND 10pm AT WHICH POINT I WAS FINISHED WITH THE PROJECT ANYWAYS.

Bruno Wilson

7/17/12

IT WAS a GOOD DAY TODAY. WE GOT A LOT DONE AROUND THE RANCH. BY WE, I MEAN MYSELF AND a STUDENT NAMED TYLER JACK. TYLER MOWED THE YARD AROUND THE DEULLEG CABIN AND THE LANHAM LAB. I MANAGED TO BUCK UP a COUPLE OF PILES OF PVC PIPE AND FLEX TUBING THAT LITTERED THE PROPERTY. I CUT THEM INTO ROUGHLY 1 1/2 FEET SECTIONS AND PUT THEM IN THE STAGGING SITE. I HOPE TO GET A LOT OF IT IN THE BACKHAUL OF THE TWO ARNOLD AVIATION PLANES THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO LAND TOMORROW. I ALSO HAD a COMPLAINT ABOUT another MOUSE GETTING INTO THE CABINETS OF THE DAVE LEWIS CABIN. I FOUND SOME 90° D-METAL AND I BELIEVE THAT I FINALLY MOUSE PROOFED THE CABINETS... BUT I FOOLED MYSELF INTO THINKING THAT THE LAST TIME THAT I WORKED ON THEM. THE REST OF MY EVENING WAS SPENT PREPARING TO RELIEVE 3 NEW GUESTS AND HOLDING a COMMUNITY MEETING. I HAD TO FILL THE STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS IN ON THE 9 NEW GUESTS THAT WERE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BUT THAT # WENT DOWN TO JUST 5 OVER THE COURSE OF a COUPLE OF HOURS. I ALSO ADDRESSED THE INTERNET ISSUE. SINCE THE INTERNET HAS BEEN HORRIBLE OUTSIDE OF THE TAYLOR CABIN I AM ALLOWING STUDENTS TO USE THE INTERNET AT THE TAYLOR CABIN FROM 5:30pm - 8:30pm TWO AT A TIME.

Bruno Wilson

7/18/12

ANOTHER PRODUCTIVE DAY. THIS PLACE HAS BEEN RUNNING SMOOTH LATELY. (KNOCK ON WOOD). DENNIS AND LYNN ARRIVED TODAY, AS WELL AS JENA'S FATHER MIKE. AFTER RELIEVING THE PLANES AND LOADING THEM UP WITH AS MUCH OF THE PIPE THAT I STAGED IN THE STAGING SHED, I PROCEEDED TO GIVE DENNIS THE TOUR OF FACILITIES AND GAVE HIM A RUN DOWN OF DAY-TO-DAY DUTIES. WHEN WALKING THROUGH IT, IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKE A LOT BUT ADD THE PAPERWORK AND HANDY MAN JOBS AND IT QUICKLY BECOMES A FULL TIME JOB FOR TWO PEOPLE. IT IS MY OPINION THOUGH THAT BETWEEN ANYTUNE, TYLER AND LANDON, THAT THE JOB WOULD BE VERY MANAGABLE.

DENNIS AND I WERE ABLE TO MOVE ALL OF THE OLD OFFICE FURNITURE OUT OF THE WEST SIDE OF THE HORNOCKER MAKING A WHOLE NEW ROOM AVAILABLE FOR GUEST. THIS WILL BE A BIG HELP WHEN THE DONORS START TO VENTURE IN FOR THEIR VISITS

BRUNO WILSON

July 23, 2012

Taylor Ranch, Day One. I am the new interim manager. Flew in on a later flight - didn't leave Cascade until? 11:00 - noon. Bumpy flight (& landing) winds were crazy but Ray of Arnold aviation fame got me here. After we were all out of the plane he apologized for the rough landing. Apparently my first landing on the Taylor strip was not even close to smooth. Luckily I was in the back seat & couldn't see the strip so had no fear!

I came in w/ Jory Shultz who is here to fix the internet connection (WiFi). We were on the second plane of the day. The first brought Darrell Strat in & two (NBA?) guys out. Taylor is in a deep transition phase & I am part of the new. Was introduced to the Taylor Cabin today, my new home, & allowed to clean it. Surprising how much stuff the last managers left behind & how much cleaning there is. Supposedly one or two other UI employees have been cleaning the Taylor Cabin already. But still days of work ahead to make it sort of clean. I did wipe down Friday and clean the moldy blood off the bottom! Also very dusty (emptying)

On a more positive note, I met the interns. Two will leave Wed.

July 24, 2012

Met plane this AM. Jory left & Bruno Arrived. Bruno works for UI & also sat in as manager for a week or so during this transition. He gave me the facilities tour (much of the day) so that I will know what needs to be checked each morning (water box, intake, hydroshot) and how to fix it. We walked the airstrip & went over the budget to the lower pasture. Ran back for another plane.

July 25, 26

Busy days! Trying to understand how this place works! The coordination w/ incoming, outgoing people, planes, schedules, beds! Facilities! I'm always asking questions but ~~probably~~ probably should refrain from doing so as it approaches mid night & I just want sleep. Difficult to stop asking, as D & B leave on the 27th!

(26) Jenna & Eliza (interns) left this morning. Jim King, a UI professor arrived.

Liza, Emily (2 grad students @ Taylor) completed their float trip from the headwaters of Big Creek. They brought Rick Heathson & Ben Soderquist, who assisted them collecting on their way down.

July 27

Darrel & Bruno leave. Even though Darrel's been saying it, it hasn't been true until they leave. I am in charge. Being in charge and having time to learn ~~my~~ the ropes on my own is so much more comforting than being told I'm in charge, but watching actions that prove it otherwise.

Christa & Kathy from the UI herbarium also left today.

~~Janet~~ Janet DeVlieg Pope arrived! She seemed a little uncertain of who I was & how I got here. But we talked for a few hours & she is very invested in Taylor.

Baxter group also arrived. 6 hiked in.

July 28

First full day as manager! Spent some time w/ Janet, Jim & the interns as interns presented their projects. Jim had powerpoints from the students who left. This year's intern program sounds like it was broken, but the presentations were great. Then spent more time w/ Janet discussing

the journals (his) & the Taylor bibliography. 2 projects of importance.

July 29

First Plan: Landon & Marce (Asst. caretaker & 'volunteer') though Marce is on pay roll this week & next to help clean for the donor trip. Was not expecting them until tomorrow. Last I heard (through Darrell) Landon was sick & hoping to be back Monday (tomorrow). Surprise, & welcome to Taylor! Apparently the "Schedules" after aren't correct.

Steve Hacks & Murray Telling showed up on the second plane. Steve is the development guy for CNR VI & Murray a potential donor. Jenef split her time between them & Marce (tour the DeVlieg, showing what to clean) & me. Steve also met w/ me to walk me through donor trip which is now "friends & supporters" trip & describe expectations. We don't need to do the usual (orientation, tour, garbage talk etc) but I do need to be available for answering questions/helping in any way.

July 30

Mass exodus! Patrick (Larry's son (intan), Ben, Rick, Janet, Steve, Murray all ~~left~~ left today. 3 Baxter students also hiked/kayaked out.

July 31

Baxter + daughter + student fly out to Challis.

Aug
5, 2012
A Weather

Long Day @ Taylor. Trying to get everything done to make the placard manicured! The mowed saga continues. Landon uses the ϵ push (non-motor) but it takes a lot of hours to mow around the DeVlieg & Lab. Ouch! I wedwhacked in the area since.

As L. moves on to the Hornrock / Arlen I stop & clean up Hornrock & paint bottom of lab (tough up) May wrists were tingly from wed whacks for a long time. Hopefully I didn't damage anything.

Ended evening w/ fire, food, spirits. & Liza did return from Big Creek today.

Aug 6 Day One of Friends & Supporters Week. Darrell Stout & Bruno Wilson from UT facilities arrive early; first. Katy Kavanaugh departs to Boise on their plane. Darrell was pleased w/ how Taylor looks! The next plane to arrive carried Jim Pope (Janet's husband) & a couple hours later, the Dean of CW Kurt Pregitzer plus two guests Laine & Dave flew in from Hailey. They all got settled in, did a tour ~~of~~ led by Kurt, myself & Darrell, ate lunch & went fishing. So much food was brought in for this event that we (Darrell & I) ended up preparing food for everyone @ Taylor. A busy day.

Aug 7 Day Two of Friends & Supporters. I walked the property w/ Kurt & Darrell, looking for property line & corners on north side of Big Creek. The Pack train arrived today: Janet DeVlieg Pope, w/ 2 mules Pete & Clyde, Jim Atkinson (the former manager for 20+ years!), Pat (UI development & his son Cooper) plus Jim's mules Penny, Bert & Bud & 2 horses that I did not get introduced to. Dinner = steak night.

Darrell & Bruno took ~~over~~ some of Landon's duties & meant to ease my load but it's tough as I needed to be present & especially learn about Taylor from Jim Atkinson. Jim presented his powerpoint slide show about living her 7000 days in the

Wilderness. Plus all on campus were fed/drank

Aug 8, 2012

Day # 3 of Friends & Supporters week.

Kurt, Louie, Dave & Maria flew out to Hailey. Nat (WI development) came in from Cascade & Charlie Ford. A little later, Charlie's dad, Bud flew in from Moscow with Steve Hacker. Darrell/Pete gave Steve a hard time for not buying enough liquor (much of which was consumed at the campfire the night before). Darrell ended up taking the plane Steve came in on to Cascade, driving for more liquor. During that time it was discovered that there was no kahka @ Taylor (which Bud really wanted) so Steve asked me to inquire of Carol @ Arvid if some couldn't be sent in tomorrow on the plane that Darrell & Bruno were taking out. I did, but it was too late for Darrell to get it so Carol obliged. Darrell also brought out a watermelon. By the time he returned (noon?) Bud had already repeatedly declared it everyone's day off & proceeded to hand out whiskey drinks. Some of those drinks stealthily watered the DeVlieg lawn.

Jim Atkinson showed me how to use the Backcountry radio today. It's been very smoky due to 2 fires, the Halstead to the South (40 miles) & ~~the~~ maybe even the Mustang to the North (20 miles). ~~No~~ No one heard us on the radio, meaning no one was listening or the fire weather interfered. We will try again before he leaves.

Matt & Larry, the last two interns liked out this morning. We are shipping their stuff to Cabin Creek (because they didn't want to carry it) & to Cascade for them to pick up after a week of work in Cabin Creek.

Aug 9, 2012

Day 4 of friends & Supporters

Late last night I realized I lost a filling. Noticed it after brushing, before going to bed. Luckily no pain. Informed Darrell that I would need to go out & thought I could take next Wednesday's mail plane & MESA's flight scheduled for Friday. I'm a little disturbed I have to go out so soon. It will only be 3 weeks in plus 2 days. Further, it seems like such a waste of my hard earned money! No fun, but no choice my teeth are a priority.

Darrell & Bruno left this morning. I found out they went night snorkeling last night & Darrell w/ like a little kid (also quite intoxicated) luckily he had a sober life guard (Liza) Emily apparently has pictures I am trying to see!

Brad was up to no good again today. Handing out more drinks, not taking us for an answer & informing everyone it was their day off.

London got more time off, & helped Jim Atkinson & Peter Volk w/ the pack animals for the experience. The MESA crew got their stuff packed up to the ridge north of / above Taylor. They are staying there for ~~some~~ a few days installing sensors in a tree & then coming down to the third beach.

Jim tried the radio again, no luck.

Less people to feed at the campfire tonight, which is probably good. Apparently all the steaks were eaten on Tuesday night so everyone (except me=vegetarian) had to suffer w/ Salmon!

Aug 10, 2012

Friends & Supporters left this morning. Two planes. Soon after Taylor experienced dark skies & rain. Lightening & thunder. It was like a cleansing. We don't expect another plane until Wednesday. I took a much needed nap!

Aug 11, 2012

No planes today. Hiked to Burnt Creek w/ Liza & Emily.
"Day off." ≈ 9 PM radio call from the 3 on the ridge.
Sun is down. They see a plume of smoke 30° E of N. Next
drainage/basin not the one they are in.

Today has not been smoky at all. First day in a while.
Tonight is dark, beautiful stars. No wind.

The 3 on the ridge are checking in at midnight to let
us know if they can see anything (like plane, more
smoke, wind conditions, etc). I will hike up early
A.M. & assess.

Landon did morning chores & slept most of day (9-7³⁰)
^{after big breakfast}

→ Fire NO
Visual: smoke NO
cloud NO

Smell: NO
wind: calm

— time up/ visual off ridge? ~~tree~~ tree vs. tent site —

Aug 12, 2012

I got up early & hiked to the ridge the MESA crew is
camped on. Beautiful hike. I brought map, binoculars,
gps, ~~the~~ compass to assess more of what they
saw & have them explain white standing on the ridge.

They were finished, so moved their stuff down to the
third bench. I stayed on the ridge for a while to get
my bearings up above the canyon. that holds Taylor.
I like the high country! Would have stayed longer
except that it was so smoky up high, it was
difficult to see very far to be able to triangulate
w/ bearings. Did my best. On the way down,
thinking about the location of the "mushroom
cloud" they saw, I started to wonder if it could just
be the Mustang fire? Back @ Taylor I looked into
it & the ~~the~~ bearing seems right. I emailed
Tom Bates DMO of Payette N.F. ~~about it~~ just to report it

to find out if he's the right person to contact.

Aug 13, 2012 Monday

Going on Inei web in the morning, it looked like the Mustang fire doubled in size 2 days ago. Tom Baker got back to me, confirming that is likely what the MESA crew saw. He gave me more contact info for reporting starts/if I have questions.

Landen & I went over our lists of priorities (now that I am back @ work).

Just to be safe I ask others not to burn their trash, we are in a red flag warning. Plus the MESA crew checks in @ 8 PM every night. My priorities today included catching up on emails, trying to get the internet to work & exploring our emergency procedures.

Aug 14, 2012

MESA crew came down this morning! they are done (for now) I asked them to move the Dintell cell out of my house, just in case it is causing internet problems. They assure me its not, but the problems are increasing bad. ~~Landen tried to show me the~~ Landen tried to show me the water pumps for fighting fire today - says he worked on them in the spring & they checked out just fine. Not so today. The trash pump had a gas leak. The orange pump ~~was~~ sounded good, motor started up just fine but pumped no water. He is working on getting them going now. All days except the one the MESA crew saw a plume of smoke are smoky! It is fire season, need to get the pumps in action.

Wednesday, Aug 15, 2012

I flew out on the second plane to land today which was also the second plane since Friday. Things are slowing down in their own way. Before flying out, had even before 7AM, Emily was at ~~my~~ my door, then Doug, then Landon. A busy morning. Didn't get out until about 11AM, & finally got some out haul / backhaul out also. Mainly Dats (the sprays/packs) stuff & garbage from the friends & supporters week! Landon worked on pumps a little before my departure & discovered the third pump we hadn't tried works! Yay! He will continue to work w/ the 2 broken today & move the airstrip tomorrow, since there should be no plane traffic.

Friday, Aug 17, 2012

I land @ 8 AM (thanks Walt) Marcie returns to Taylor on the same flight.

Emily & Lizer take a shuttle to Big Creek. Derek goes along to fly more, ~~then~~ upon return the rest of the MESA guys load up & depart for Cascade. Landon checks in w/ me. By the end of the day, all 3 pumps work! I go & start one for experimental practice & work on emails/computer stuff / talking w/ Landon about fire procedures. End the day w/ moving sprinklers & a dip in Big Creek. It is quite back. Only Landon, Marcie, Dustin & myself at camp. Saw the Bald Eagle soaring above Big Creek today.

Saturday, Aug 18 2012

Quiet day at Taylor. I worked on making the grounds behind the Taylor Cabin more fire safe. Weed-whacking = ~~the~~ trials with the weed eater. Slowly but surely made progress even though weed eater wasn't feeding cord well. When it stopped spinning I switched to topping lilacs that crossed the road behind Taylor. Slow process, but part of it is looking better. Landon & Marcie took the day off & hiked up stream to cabin creek, floated down. Finished the day with sprinklers.

Sunday Aug 19 2010

Day off for me! Defrosted fridge (again), moved food to freezer, cooler & dorm fridge that came out of Hornocker.

Monday Aug 20 2012

Got Landon's help w/ the weed eater 3 times. Had to interrupt him from mowing each time. But the last fix worked - the weed eater ran better than anytime I've used it since I've been here! Good thing, I had resorted to using a yo-yo to fry & whack the weeds manually but it didn't work nearly as well. It was much quieter & does align better with wilderness ethics.

Mules escaped today. Apparently a cottonwood fell onto our split rail fence down behind the pole barn/corral area. And the mules found their way out.

This must have happened overnight. Marcie tracked mules on our side but they were no longer on the airstrip. She checked the trail on the other side of Big Creek & sure enough they had crossed Big Creek. were headed "home" (two had come in from Big Creek originally). Marcie & Landon figured the 4 mules went up to Cabin Creek to graze, so they grabbed trail food & headlamps in case they weren't all the way back by dark & headed to Cabin Creek.

Finished weed eating & raking & hauling waste away from Taylor Cabin. Evening sprinklers saw 7 ducks swimming up stream. Marcie & Landon have not returned.

Tuesday Aug 21 2012

I awoke ~~so~~ early in case I needed to do morning sprinklers. Sure enough, I did. Plus a plane was expected to pick up Dustin & take in Crystal. Once I finished the airstrip, I saw Dustin ~~and then~~ and then while moving pasture sprinklers Marcie, Landon ~~and~~ hiked in from the B.C. trail w/ Lucy & Jack (Flying B mules). No Clyde or Pete (Janet Pope's mules). They went to Acorn creek yesterday, no luck. A pack train came through headed towards Taylor w/ Lucy + Jack following. They had seen the other 2 mules a couple hours outside Big Creek trailhead. Marcie & Landon got a ride back to Cabin w/ the packers who gave them a sandwich a wall tent & sleeping pads & mastic for blankets. ~~They~~ They got up early and dug the 2 mules back to Taylor in hopes

of arriving before the A.M. plane. Just barely made it. Landon wanted to fly in the plane & look for mules, then get dropped ~~to~~ at closest airstrip (likely B.C.) While he was packing for overnight I discussed this plan w/ Mike Davis the pilot. He had a little time & would help w/in his time restrictions. But the longer we talked (& I thought about it) it seemed as if other options existed & were better. I tried calling Arnold's on the backcountry radio. No luck. Mike tried, no luck. Mike tried anyone in B.C. no luck. We did a radio check (no luck). I emailed Arnold's to get their help contacting Big Creek people to be on the look out for the 2 mules. Then went to inform Landon he didn't need to fly out & that we'd try to get others to help. Alerted Janet of situation & then the Dean/Darrell @ UI since all three are supposed to be flying in together tomorrow. ~~plus~~

Aug 22, 2012

Visitors. Kurt Pregitzer, Dean of CNR & Darrell Stout, facilities manager of CNR arrived on a plane from Moscow this morning. They met with Landon, Assistant manager & then ~~with~~ ~~with~~ the Dean & I met. I am moving forward on the emergency peice. Their trip was quick but focused our efforts moving forward. Liza & Emily's stuff arrived on a morning plane, they were dropped off at ~~Big Creek~~ Cabin Creek. Walt (the pilot) let us know Janet found her mules at Big Creek! Yay! that made everyone happy & relieved. Liza & Emily liked back ~~to~~ currying in the dark.

There was a storm last night - lightning, rain, hail. .39 inches of precip! My lettuce & tomatoes & beans look sad! Glad we got rain w/ the lightning though! Hopefully no fires.

Rattlesnake in pasture today around noon, full sun. Rattled & then got into strike position when sunball was near

Aug 23, 2012 Thursday

Landon & I played with the Fire pumps today. hoses + nozzles. All 3 pumps work - the trash pump took a long time to successfully pump water from Pioneer to the Taylor Cabin. 7-10 minutes. The red pump is the winner of all, it is easily transportable, plus it ~~is~~ can actually be attached to most of our hose! The other two only attach to 2 soft sections of blue hose. It has been cooler since the storm the night of the 21st. Though the wind has picked up this afternoon. It's still fire season.

Aug 24, 2012 Friday

A long day. Landon's hours are long, ~~and~~ I burnt this morning, ~~the~~ first time, but it was cool & calm, no red flag warnings. So much old office/paperwork to burn. ~~That's~~ worked on the old barrel & some stuff that was dryer / not even burnt. Will have to do this once a week through fall to get all this & then start on my own!

Worked out our schedules the next week or two. Trying to ensure I have time off when Michael's here. Unfortunately, that's not looking too good. I spent ~~most~~ most the day in the office & towards the end got an email from Brian Kennedy who wants to take his fish ecology class out here labor day weekend! \approx 20 people. Plus logger sports. Not a lot of time w/ Michael. Not sure how we'll work this out, hopefully I can get him on a shuttle Monday since it looks like we are not hiking out, together, & I just want to see him during the time he has off. Hopefully with the online scheduling, professors & clubs will have to get their shit together sooner (& administrators) because as the managers it is difficult to balance work life w/ personal if you can't plan. Of course working hourly just exasperates the issue.

Landon spent some time working on the ^{new} mower. It wasn't starting & I needed him to now since NOAA comes w/ islanders on Monday. Finally got it going (yay!) but scary - why does everything have to break down? He moved to the airstrip before cutting 40 hrs. I will finish the rest Sunday, when I have more hours.

Aug 25, Saturday 2012

A day off! For Landon & myself. I did sprinklers/chores but took most of the day off. Skype worked well & most everyone at some point hung out on my lawn to use the internet. Everybody is Crystal, Emily, Landa & Marcie.

Plus Liza left this morning. Flying to Janet Pope's ranch, then Janet will get her to Moscow.

Sunday Aug 26 2012

Thought this would be a half day, but the work never ends! Ended up cleaning the DeVlieg longer than I had hoped. That cabin is huge when it comes to cleaning.

This is the end of the post donor trip cleaning. NGAA comes in tomorrow & they will use this cabin. Landon is off in prep for him having plenty of hours later in the week. I moved sprinklers well off the runway (near brush line) in prep for the islander tomorrow.

Also corresponded w/ Carl @ arnold to learn more about what is happening on Labor Day Weekend since Darrell has not gotten back to me, even though he took over the correspondence. (?)

Thunder storms this afternoon. Lightning plus some rain.

A brief downpour. Hopefully no new starts. We don't need a fire!

Finished mowing the airstrip this morning. I discovered its very difficult to keep trac of where you are in some places. Might be easier to do it all at once, but it worked out & I finished by noon!

Monday Aug 27 2012

NOAA arrived today with 2 islanders + 1 Zolo.
10 people. They have all been here before & are friendly, open
to direction. Landon hiked Horsethief w/ Marcie & Snowball today.
I saw a bald eagle before they arrived while moving
morning pasture sprinklers. NOAA folks brought newspapers!
An interesting novelty. Not sure younger people would appreciate
the tangible paper, but I did.

They all asked about bears, but we haven't seen any yet, knock
on wood! (Or any Big Horn Sheep)

✓ Dave from Root Ranch came by to pick up Lucy & Jack (mules). Also
the Zettles sent a ^{guide} training group to drop off 4 new animals. 2 mules, 2 horses.
Their guide did not resemble a typical Idaho packer. Looked more like a backpacker,
hydration pack & all. Apparently they are
raft guides in the summer. Emily (research
student) said he was the cutest packer she had seen!

Tuesday Aug 28 2012

A surprise plane this morning. Walt came in with some Aviation
Fuel. We finally sent out the bundle of barbed wire! So it turned
out well. Landon moved the Devilg/Lab lawn. Can't wait until
the grass slows down, so much spent funding it. I'm trying to
get as much done as I can before Michael my husband shows
up tomorrow. In reality, I've been in this mode for several days
now. But the more I do now, the less I have to do when
he is here, and as always I know things will come up when
he's here that I can't predict, but will have to attend to,
especially because NOAA has 10 folks, they leave on Fri &
26 arrive, followed by 8 more on Saturday. Looks like
Wed & Thurs will be my least busy/easiest to take time
off days, which because of these late additions to the schedule
(fish ecology class (Brian Kennedy) & Logge Sports) totally
reversed my "free" time. The permanent managers should
consider forcing people to reserve 1 month in advance. Or
at least 2 weeks, but it will be difficult to have a personal
life otherwise, since trips out or visitors in have to be
pre-planned. And the University wants people in here to
separate their personal from work time, so it should
support the 1 month reservation notion.

Aug 29, 2012 Wed

Worked until the mail plane! Got the best "mail" ever! My partner & our dog. Tiked to the Middle Fork, saw 2 fishermen on the way down from Cabin Creek. Saw their camp on the way back East of the gorge. Very peaceful day. Swam twice on the way down & at the confluence. It was still "cold" at noon when we left - no longer shorts weather. The day heated up however to be hot & sunny. Fall is coming.

Emily flew out to Big Creek. She is lucky or smart to avoid this weekend. I am storing her computer in my cabin, since all others (including hers) will be occupied. I also have Lisa & Emily's cold & frozen stuff in my fridge/freezer. And walked through the Dave Law's w/ her this morning to see how clean it was to make sure the Logan Sports Club leaves it this way. Family Emergency for a NOAA guy. He may leave tomorrow. IDFG Crystal left. Dustin arrived.

2 planes this morning. One for the USF's Rocky Mtn Research Station people who showed up 2 days ago. They stopped by to check in & confirm we knew they had a flight. Good thing! They were not on our schedule. They liked up the ridge but left some of their gear here so they didn't have to carry it.

Metell Arrick also flew in to pick up 2 NOAA guys that turned into 3 at the last minute. Greiness with inches. I had already prepared them for 4 nights.

Finished w/ their invoices this evening & ate dinner w/ NOAA group. They really love this place. NOAA saw a bear (cash creek)

Aug 30, 2012
Thursday

Aug 31, 2012 Fri

NBAA departs. They did a good job cleaning, but I didn't check the fridge. Will push no leaving food for the rest of the weekend, unless its left w/ a resident, who wants it! 3 islanders! Then food removal, sheet washing, touch up other un-lived cabins - I finally cleaned the poop splatted toilet from the staff person on the donor trip. And put clean sheets in Hornocker (x2), Dave Lewis, plus the lab.

Amazing at how much time this all takes. In the middle, 2 more planes show up w/ fish ecology class gear. The class was dropped @ Cabin Creek. They slowly made their way in. Stragglers, especially their professor, Brian Kennedy.

I checked in w/ Rick his grad student a couple times, moved evening sprinklers, etc. Waited. Finally met Brian asked when his class would be all together so I could say hello/give brief orientation. Dinner. When? An hour. Okay I'll be back. ~~As~~ I return & he's eating, (everyone else seems done), he said "I didn't know when you were coming back..." so he scheduled a class meeting for 8:30. (30 minutes) I came back @ 8:30 & welcomed/shared rules. Long Day, especially for having Michael & Anya here. ~~I~~ Walked the airstrip in the dark with them.

Sept 1, 2012 Sat

Logger Sports arrived this morning w/ Ross (retired from the UI experimental forest). They were a breath of fresh air!

Relaxed, fun, ready to work. ~~But~~ Sent some garbage & recycling out on ~~their~~ one of their planes (other ~~was~~ was not headed to Cascade), got them settled in cabins, then they met w/ Landon @ the shop. I was ~~was~~ doing a little office work

~~was~~ a couple hours later, & noticed their chainsawing, the bzzzz. I was trying to figure out which Brian Kennedy travel ~~didn't~~ didn't have a waiver filled out. And I realized I hadn't seen the Logger Sports waivers. So I dble checked my emails from Darrell, printed some just for the ~~contract~~ emergency contact info & went down to talk to the 3 chainsawing. Tess, their president, confirmed they had ~~signed~~ signed waivers & given

them to Darrell. I noticed they didn't have chaps. I asked about that. They didn't bring their's because Darrell had said they were going upstream w/ crosscuts, ~~the~~ & float poles down. (No chaps needed). Oh. ~~She~~ She also told me ^{Taylor} we don't have chaps.

I went to discuss w/ Landon. Apparently he didn't even know what chaps were. So I told him I'd send them for poles.

I did send them & referred them to the back of the permit for specifications. However I find the permit incredibly ambiguous. Are we not supposed to cut beyond the slope above the airstrip? Are we really permitted to skid? Should we be skidding 8ft logs (buck them first?) Or was Jim Atkinson allowed to skid 4 years ago & that does not carry over? Why do we need so much wood if only the 2 cabins w/ rocket stoves are used during winter?

I can see why the USFS doesn't want us to take any more logs after the fire. There's not much out there & it is all potential habitat & ~~as~~ as it breaks down nutrients for the soil.

Landon told me this evening that Logger Sparks found 4 logs & were just going to carry them back.

Sun Sept 2, 2012

Made sure no one but employees chain sawed & did so sparingly. All logger sports was on the hill skidding today. I was hoping to hike up the ridge w/ Michael & Anya but realized I had to be around in case something went wrong on the hill. (Ross & I had talked about how I would be available ^{with} sat phone in case of emergency). So we decided to go up in the evening. Logger Sports didn't leave the hill until ~~late~~ (after 7:30) We didn't hike - good thing we did the first day! It's just been so busy. Logger Sports saw a small bear on trail on hillside above them.

Mon Sept 3, 2012

8 Planes this morning to get everyone out! fish ecology + logger sports + Michael + Anya. Happy Labor Day! Emily returned, so I changed the sheets in the Dave Lewis, & let her hang out in my house until everyone left & her cabin was hers again. It's difficult to check cleanliness of cabins - of all cabins at once. Overall, things looked good. I just found extra condiments in the Delliger, so asked Brian Kennedy to take them out. He did. After everyone was gone I enjoyed the quiet, peacefulness. To bad my husband can't be here for this, ~~because~~ it gives such a different view of Taylor. I imagine most the year to be this way. I walked the airstrip this evening ~~after~~ and found 3 deer towards the end. Even the wildlife return quickly once the traffic is gone.

Tues, Sept 4 2012

Cool mornings, no wind = good time to burn! Spent a couple hours burning some of what has been in the old burn barrels since I got here. (they were cleaning out the files, it's a lot). This will take several more mornings.

Many planes late in the ~~morning~~ ^{morning}, none for us! Mused, Emily (~~is~~ UW grad student), Landon + Marcie & Dushin IDF&G are ~~on~~ and Cara (Masters Fine Arts Student) are here.

After burning, caught up on journal/log, emails, worked some on invoices & researching ~~the~~ potential emergency numbers. Also called Darrell. Didn't have satellites for several minutes of the window, almost gave up. Then bam! We spoke for maybe 4 minutes, then no satellite. The sat phone is the exact same model I used from 2001-2004 in the desert. Old school.

Wednesday Sept 5, 2012

2 planes today. IDF&G switched out, Chystal is back until Monday & Dushin left.

The mail plane came quite late in the morning. It took Emily & Cara. This was Emily's actual departure. It's odd to think about moving forward without our resident researchers. I did get some sour dough starter from her! I was surprised at how much she had to take out with her. Luckily the plane was not full^{ish} (looked empty) and it all just fit. She meant to bake a pie for the Arnolds, I don't think she did which is too bad.

Walked the skidding operation w/ Landon & Marcie

THURSDAY, Sept 6 2012

SKIPPING IN THE MORNING! FIRST THING. LANDON WAS ON THE HILL, MARCE WAS @ THE RUNWAY/LANDING AND I WAS ON THE AIRSTRIP RUNNING THE BACKHOE. BACK & FORTH. WE TOOK 3 LOGS THAT WE HAD CUT. IT ALL WENT FAIRLY SMOOTHLY. THERE ARE STILL TWO LOGS ON PROPERTY THAT WERE CUT 2 YEARS AGO. I CHOSE NOT TO BRING THEM DOWN BECAUSE IT REQUIRED TO MOVE THE WHOLE PULLEY SET UP & PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TAKEN ~~THE~~ ANOTHER ~~DAY~~ DAY. WE ALREADY HAVE MORE LOGS THAN WE NEED (AND LIKELY DID NOT COMPLY WITH OUR FUEL WOOD PERMIT~~s~~ IN VARIOUS WAYS THAT KEPT POPPING UP WHILE WE WERE ~~BRING~~ IN ACTION. I'D LIKE TO FIX THIS BY TALKING W/ THE USFS. DARRELL SO FAR HAS TOLD ME NOT TO, BUT I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR WHOEVER IS OUT HERE TO ~~KNOW~~ KNOW ANSWERS SO THEY CAN DO THE RIGHT THING & HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP W/ THE USFS.)

Friday, Sept 7, 2012

Crystal left me the IDFG schedule, it was confusing to read, but I figured it out & added it to our electronic schedule so we always know when their planes are coming, at least. Caught up on emails this morning & confirmed Liza's departure plane w/ her, Aronella Araton & Paul, who wants to come back in on her outgoing flight (MESA). Not sure why that took as much effort as it did. Haven't heard back from Paul. Also, checked in on MESA's closest tree across Big Creek on Cliff Creek. They contacted me asking if I could see visual problems - apparently data disruption, something's wrong w/ a sensor. It stopped reporting the same time we had a wind event 8/18! I circled the tree at a distance w/ the gnomonous Devlieg binoculars. Sounds simple, but it's so

FRIDAY SEPT 7, 2012 (cont)

high in the tree I needed binoculars, but all the other branches (& then other trees) get in the way also, so it was a project to get a good sense of the exact positioning of the hardware in the top of the tree. Describing it was even more challenging and involved talking about "goal-posts" & spinning cylinders & the angles they were pointed, etc.

Landon started to mow the pasture today! This is a ~~big~~ large project that we were asked to do — maybe three weeks ago (?) when the Dean & Darrell came by for a few hours, but there just hasn't been any time. So, finally, it begins. He spent a lot of time marking rocks in the quadrant he was starting in. Unfortunately, he missed one — it was loud! It was hidden under woodier shrubbery that Darrell was worried about encroaching upon the pasture. Encroachment does seem like an issue or a potential issue, definitely warranting merit. At that same time, Marcie was tending to a cut on Jack (Zettie's horse). He bolted, she had tied him to a rock-pile corner fence down by the bridge over Big Creek. ~~He~~ That part of the fence subsequently got ripped down. All was well in the end. Landon fixed the fence, sharpened the blade on the ~~the~~ mower, fixed the timing & the mower was ready for its next pasture session. Hopefully no more rocks! Were steering clear of woody shrubbery for now — focus on getting the rest mowed first.

SATURDAY SEPT 8, 2012

I HIKE~~D~~ UP PIONEER TODAY. LOST THE TRAIL AND JUST KEPT GOING. NICE CANYON. LOTS OF BURNT TREES, CAME BACK & LOOKED FOR A MAP W/ TRAIL ON IT-- PROBABLY LOST IT RIGHT AROUND WHERE IT TAKES OFF UP THE RIDGE, NO WONDER I NEVER FOUND IT AGAIN! FUN DAY.

RICK HARTSON BRIEFED US ON RIVERNET BOXES & DESICANTS SO WE CAN HELP THEM OUT & CHECK ON THE DRYNESS OF THIER SENSORS/ COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. ITS SIMPLE ENOUGH. I DO WONDER WHO WILL BE HERE TO HELP W/ THINGS LIKE THIS OVER THE WINTER.

Sept 9, Sunday 2012

Summer is officially over. Liza (& the three w/ her) departed ~~the~~ today. Liza has been here (on & off) since I arrived. She is the last of our summer residences to clean up & pack up & fly out. She joked as the plane returned from shutting her compatriots back to Big Creek, ~~that~~ and asked me while the plane was landing "what would you have done if I had just ran away into the woods?" "You still could," was my response.

The plane was quite late this morning, which was probably good, there's always more to do when actually departing Taylor, final departures have more gravity than shuttles to B.C. when you know you will return to your stuff/home here in 3 days. It was late because Walt waited around for over an hour for Paul Robinson who did not show up. (He sent Arnold Aviation & myself an email late the night before explaining this, but Carol who reads their email doesn't show up until midday on Sundays, so there was no way for Walt to know.) I didn't know Walt would wait so long! I've heard that Ray wait, though he's often late in general, unlike Walt, ironically. (Ray might wait for the ladies!)

Sept 10, Monday 2012

Yesterday, we saw the Rocky Mtn. Research Station (USFS) folks in a helicopter counting Redds. This is an annual occurrence. I first heard the helicopter and ran to my window to see it - it was below the Taylor cabin over Big Creek. I had to look down on it! A man in orange/red jump suit was harnessed & leaning out. Sort of crazy to see if you aren't expecting it.

They came by & landed this morning to refuel. They cover ~~at~~ over 200 miles in 16 days in the helicopter doing the middlefork watershed, all the tributaries. Count was similar to last years.

Also, found Liza's wallet & sent it out w/ Crystal (just barely!) was lucky, she was in McCall & intercepted Crystal before her wallet made it to the post office!

Two men w/ trailers came by today they were from Olympia WA & had visited 3-4 years ago. ~~at the~~

Sept 11, Tuesday

A quiet day. Good for remembrance. One visitor, a rafter ran up from the middle fork to see the place & ran back. Landon got back to the pasture project & I spent all day trying to order the right fixtures for the fire pumps/hoses online, and from one place. Did get the order in, hope it is the right stuff. ~~at the~~

~~Propane died in the middle of the night tonight.~~

Sept 12, Wednesday

The mail plane was very late today, but it arrived with Marcie's dad & Uncle. I felt tethered to my cabin/plane radio until arrived, had to fight that instinct, don't go far ~~to~~ a plane is coming. It was exasperated because Landon was mowing the pasture, I was afraid I wouldn't hear the plane until it was right over & he definitely wasn't going to hear it, so I needed to, ~~to~~ in order to shut off the runway sprinklers before it landed.

It all worked out though I almost gave up on it! Researched chaps, burned a little, worked on invoices & changed one of my propane tanks in the middle of cooking it went out! Difficult to get up the hill on my own (especially on the soft saw dust/shredding) but I was hungry & get it done! Sad that both were empty. Will deal with second tomorrow.

Thursday Sept 13 2012

Alex, one of the Zettel's guides stopped by to pick up Jack the horse & Bronnie the mule. He was looking for a pack saddle that was never found. He is new & did not drop the ~~the~~ mystery saddle off, so we are not sure it exists here.

Resubmitted chaps order today. Not sure what happened, when computer mysteriously restarted, had to double check w/ Landonville that order actually made it through.

Got assistance w/ the second propane tank today plus had Landon check at the water pressure in my cabin.

It's always been low, but now that it's getting colder it bothers me, makes me not want to shower because the water just dribbles out of shower head, so even if H₂O is warm, overall you are cold! It was easier when it was hot & swimming was refreshing. Recently I've checked out the shower water pressure in the other cabins & considered showing in ~~my~~ the Dave Lewis or DeVlieg. Luckily, that's not necessary. We changed the ~~the~~ ~~the~~ sediment filters under my cabin. It had 1/2 cm caked on sediment peltres covering the bottom half. It was awful. I have better H₂O pressure now though!

Landon = pasture project. Maria = laundry project → DeVlieg + Dave Lewis + Hornocker, plus I actually submitted some invoices! Which has been a work in progress. Especially because I am not in possession of the log book, so have had to piece it all together. I thought it was being returned to me, but guess not.

Sept 14, 2012

Day off for me! Landon worked on the pasture project...

Sept 15, 2012

Ray Arnold brought by Caswell's great granddaughter, her husband, their son (Caswell's great great grandson) and his wife. They were touring the area & wanted to see the LAM, which came from Cabin Creek. Cabin was their last stop. Nice folks, though I wore BSV shirts.

I hiked to the lookout west of ~~Boat~~^{Rush} Creek, and somehow avoided most all the smoke until I got back down to Taylor elevation.

Landon finished the pasture! And started on replacing/fixing the shutoff valve that is deeply underground for the LAB. The handle is broken off, but it is necessary for winterization. So now is the time to get cisterns!

Sept 16, 2012

Quiet day, office work, invoices, inventory sheets & a little more cabin laundry... won't finish w/ this project until after I get back since ~~there~~ there are shirts in the ~~laundry~~^{laundry} being used. The DeVlieg is patched

having mice issues. each time I check there is at least one mouse, dead or alive. Dead ones are in traps or toilets. Live one found in washer. Not in good shape though. I wonder if it had been washed?

Sept 17, 2012 (Monday)

Smoke cleared at fir most of the day until 4-5 PM when it started to come back in. Things are cooler today. I hiked up the ridge after a day of office/computer/journal work. On the way down moved sprinklers, on the way up to my cabin in the almost darkness I ran into a bear! Eating berries on the trail up to the Taylor cabin from the airstrip. I startled the bear it saw me, paused & took off up the trail towards the cabin. Glad to finally see some wildlife other than the resident deer on the airstrip & the grouse around my house. Also glad it ran. Too many stories of "problem bears" here - "problem bears" mean "problem people" as far as I'm concerned, there's no need for it. With that said, it would be better for the bears if we didn't have an open pit of food we call "compost."

Sept 18, 2012

Smoky up high this morning, not down here though. Mike Dorris flew in for IDFG, dropping off Crystal, picking up Dustin. He circled twice, once really big & high, once lower, due to the smoke. After that it got worse down here.

Both Landon & Dustin report seeing a lot of rattle snakes lately. Landon, Marcie, her dad & uncle hiked down to the Middle Fork yesterday & saw 4 on the trail on the way back!

Snakes & Bears oh my!

Wednesday, September 19th, 2012 (LCMC)

The smoke stuck around all day, and I ended up moving sprinklers under a crimson sunrise. After morning chores Maria and I met to go over the ever-changing schedule for the coming week. Uncertainty established, I began dismantling the rock anchors on the airstrip. Glen and Al came down to help, and we all moved rock until Walt circled. There were pictures & goodbyes as half the people on station flew out with the mail plane. Nam free from an expected plane, I glued the replacement handle on the lab shutoff and finished ~~the~~ taking down the anchors. In the mean time Marcie turned over the Dave Lewis cabin and packed up some of her things. I was exhausted by the end of the day, and took a nap before supper. Over food I talked with my parents over skype, and afterwards tried to get to sleep early.

Thursday, September 20th, 2012

It was another cloudy, smoky day. With only the three of us on station I concentrated on infrastructure work, finishing the lab shutoff fix and working on the lower waterbox. Strangely tired, I rested the afternoon away before starting on evening chores. Crystal had us over to the lab for burritos and we all sipped wine and chatted into the evening.

Friday, September 21st, 2012

Upon waking, I mistook the dense smoke for an overcast sky. After morning chores I checked inclinometers for fire activity, and found nothing new. Comforted, I spent the day finishing projects. The lab now has a 1" fire hose attachment in the back and the lower waterbox is all ready for the leaves to fall. It was a lazy afternoon and an early evening, I think the fading light is starting to get to me.

Saturday, September 22nd, 2012

The sun rose through more dense smoke as I went about my morning chores. Work was a flurry of little tasks that have been sitting on the back burner for a while. I sealed up a piece at the Dave Lewis cabin, checked the electric fence, fixed the DeVlieg sink and cleaned up the shop yard among other things. Marcie spent some time cutting knife blades out of a scrapped circular saw blade. About the time we were both settling down for lunch, Dave from Steve, a wrangler of Steve's, dropped in. He saddled up Josey and Max (the big horse) and headed for Soldier Bar. Marcie and I managed to sleep a bit after lunch, and she joined me in ~~the~~^{my} evening chores. As I was moving the DeVlieg lawn sprinkler, Snowball keyed up and started barking, looking up on the hill behind the lab, I spotted a small black bear watching us intently. He moseyed away, encouraged by my dog's less-than-welcoming reception. Dinner ended up being a bit late, but we were fortunate to be able to share it with Scott from the Flying B, who rode in with five head about 9:00. I settled him into the Dave Lewis and crashed into my pillow.

Sunday, September 23rd, 2012

I woke early to move sprinklers and see Scott off. As I was updating the Taylor Book Mike Norris flew in to switch Crystal and Dustin. Crystal was excited to get back to McCall to celebrate her birthday. With all the ~~switch~~ turnover complete, and my propane changed I went back to bed for a while. Waking up for lunch I noticed the wind had picked up and blown much of the smoke off. Marcie then helped me set up to sight in my rifle as a thick overcast rolled in. By evening chores it had begun to sprinkle, and by supper time we were enjoying the chatter of rain on my tin roof.

Monday, September 24, 2012

The welcome rain left us with a beautiful misty morning that draped clouds like embroidered shawls over the stark shoulders of the mountains.

After my chores Marcie and I enjoyed a hearty breakfast and packed up for a hike. We left Dustin a note and a radio ~~and~~ ^{before heading} up the benches to the white rock. While up there surrounded by clouds I proposed to Marcie and she accepted. We came down in time for me to do my evening chores as the clouds thinned & parted. After cleaning up we ate a celebratory supper & went to bed.

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

By morning the clouds had burned off, leaving only tattered remains to glow orange in the sunrise.

The rain had beaten the smoke back, but it was still visible at any distance. I busied myself with short ~~and~~ tasks around station, ^{and} ~~then~~ decided to give the wall tents a little more time to dry. Before too long I settled into fixing the hole in the pack bridge across Pioneer. After while I was working Marcie chased a Piliated woodpecker into the woods around the cougar pen and ran into a young bear. After a few pictures she came and brought me to haze it off property. It responded well to yelling, so I didn't escalate ^{any more} ~~it~~. She went on to spend the afternoon talking to friends on skype as I packed up some non-essentials and moved them to the staging shed. During evening chores I checked in with Dustin, who found another salmon carcass while fishing. He got what FVG needed from it, but it was apparently long dead. With that savory thought, we had fried bluegill for supper.

Wednesday, Sept 26 2012

I returned to Taylor after a week absence on the mail plane this morning w/ a very happy addition -- Arya, my dog! Or the dog that ~~she~~ has me. Ownership between beings what it is. She is excited to be here & makes me very happy. ~~After~~ After unpacking ~~the~~ we walked down the airstrip just to get her out & walked up the pasture by the cabins. Then she slept as I caught up on ~~the~~ 1/2 my emails & Landon checked in w/ me to update me on his projects progress.

Arya came out w/ me for evening chores. I am working on keeping her w/ me / in sight while out of the cabin / off leash. It is a work in progress, but w/ meat treats she is more responsive. Her prey drive or puppy make things run / fly drive is strong. Distractions are many. But she loves Snowball, Marcie & Landon. Will keep working w/ her.

Marcie & Landon saw a bear behind the orchard ~~to~~ this afternoon. Snowball alerted them to it. It ran off w/ yelling / barking. So far, so good. It is much less sneaky today than the day I left & the days before. Very welcome.

Thursday, Sept 27 2012

MESA flew in today, just Paul Robinson & Derek Neal this time. They are staying through Sunday or Tuesday, depending on how their time goes up on the hill. They had hoped to head up the ridge straight away, but in actuality did not ~~make~~ start the ascent until late afternoon.

Luckily, Marcie is working with them. She is their "mule" & taking the place of their third member, Doug who usually is at the bottom of the tree. It's good for Marcie to be on the payroll & it's good for MESA ~~to~~ - it sets a precedent for future interactions that managers aren't here to carry your stuff uphill.

I brought Arya down to greet them @ the plane. Unfortunately, we got to the airstrip & there was

London who she gets all excited to see & 2 deer.
She was crazy hype fast on the beach - especially
because he was chasing them off! Made her extra
crazy w/ the arrival of the plane. Goodbye - she
wanted to get on board!

3 hunters also came by to say hello, one had been
an intern here in 2003, Cory Shakes (sp?)

My cold has been awful - brought it back from S.D.
am staying busy w/ indoor tasks much to Angie's
dismay.

Sept. 28, 2012 (Friday)

Got a plane from Moscow today - Katy Kavanaugh, &
Tim Link & came for MESA, Jill Maxwell
came from CNR marketing. All three repacked &
went up the ridge.

Feeling crummy, I spent much of the day inside,
trying to download old Taylor logs (like this one) so
I could print full chapters & read up on winterizing.
No luck, but I did email for help from the University
& did read some online, but that bothers my
eyes, hence, I would rather print. This is a great
project that Steve Atkinson (author of many of those
journals) recommended. Also good because Darrell is
coming to discuss winterization in a few days.

Sept 29, 2012

Walked through cabins today, no new dead mice (!) assessed what would need to be done tomorrow.

Woke up & had no balance! My cold is really dragging me down. Read more journals, chased the local bear off lit was near the orchard again, probably a year-ling, very respectful of running off w/ yelling & now dog barking).

As Jill was hiking down, just below the "J" 2 hunters & one dog were hiking up Big Creek, below pack bridge. Once they got out of site, into Cliff Creek draw "Bang!" I never saw them hike out or what they got. Neither did Jill. She stopped when the shot rang at & waited for some time. A mystery.

Sept 30, 2012 Sunday

Balance was good this morning, but still feeling poor. Started w/ A.M. chores because Landon's day off. Marcie brought the intelcell back to the Taylor cabin this morning, so it is sure to have internet. The internet has been so bad everywhere but here. I (& everyone else) are trying to patiently wait for Tony to replace everything (hardware). I gave Jill a tour of the Ranch, facilities based because I don't have all the history down. I ~~to~~ shared what I know, she took pictures, we saw a bear when we went to the lower pasture, it was on the far side. Anya did good, she sat & watched intently. The bear ran off downstream.

Katy & Tim returned from the dike.

I got the Harnden ready for Darrell.

Oct 1, 2012 Monday

Morning chores = coughing fits! They circles around the sprinklers, but not freezing at night yet. That's coming up. Forecast says Thursday morning we'll get our first "real" freeze. Katy, Tim, & Jill flew back to Moscow. Interstate triking is canceled when departing Taylor, Brian flew Katy + Jill to cabin creek & then came back for Tim to cabin creek, where oxygen gets back on. I was surprised they use the shuttle system because it is not very warm there day & they didn't have much extra equipment / weight. Darnell Strif came in on that flight.

He, Landon & I met & discussed winterization tasks / possibilities / got caught up. I informed Darnell I'd like to leave I dump early if that's okay. And Landon jumped in to say he'd like to secure mid-let October (before we). Darnell seemed dumb-founded. What is odd because ~~he~~ I have reminded him of my end date repeatedly. Instead I got the impression he just thought I would stay. He did (Pinelly) have the permanent job description. I edited it for him (when asked) & asked many questions — it was all very research based which seems odd to me.

Yes, this is a research Station, but in my experience most researchers are it out to manage ~~people~~ things beyond their research, especially people, which this job seems to be about. That's living in a remote setting. Oh well! Good they (almost) have a job description at this. They still have to fly it for a month, then interviews/etc. Not sure when it will be filled.

Darnell actually walked to the barge w/ Landon who went fishing in the afternoon/evening! We think it was his first venture off campus. Darnell (upon return) thinks that it's more than 3 miles one way. I think he isn't used to walking. MESA came off ridge.

Tuesday, Oct 2 2012

Funny morning! Got an email from Paul right before stepping outside, so I knew he was in my iPhon using internet. He was letting Carol @ Arnold know it would just be ~~Paul~~ Derek on the plane at his morning. I tried to explain to him that @ 7:00 am no one was reading Arnold email & that Carol likely wouldn't be in before the plane left since I remembered they had requested a plane first thing in the A.M. He thought he was helping by explaining their change in plans right before the plan was carried out, I tried to explain that there were not people waiting around to get on the plane @ Arnold's or in the backcountry, it's the slow season, etc, plus also is better if you try to figure out your plans & change earlier, that's really the only help. 2 1/2 hours later I have been wondering where that plane is & then I realize the last email I got had a vague departure for WEST, either Sunday or Tuesday. I to check my past messages, & sure enough, the last one sent by Derek said just that. I realize they could have emailed or called Carol & just talked to her the morning I left so I headed down to the airstrip to find out. Paul & Derek were waiting. I brought this possibility to their attention, their response "that would be embarrassing!" And it was. They never scheduled their departing flight! Carol was short a pilot, but eventually she got it sorted out here! I spent some time going through the junk pile & filling 5 gallon buckets w/ the little things & getting stuff packed up in the staging shed. Landon & Darrell fixed the split nail fence between the Carol area. Sounds like Darrell really enjoys fixing fence. Paul walked me through the medical stuff. ~~was~~ He cooked a pot roast & we all gathered in the lab, I brought some of Darrell's garbanzo's w/ quinoa & sweet potatoes & an apple crisp. Turns out it was Landon's 25th birthday so Marcie brought a birthday cake! Feast

* Also bitted heads on whether the Taylor cabin is a private residence or not. Darrell always says it is, but today treated it otherwise. I hope that changes for whoever is here next.

Wednesday, Oct 3, 2012

Both Paul & Darrell left on the E mail plane - it was late, afternoon. ~~to~~ Crystal arrived & swapped places w/ Dustin (LDFG). Both Landon & I were up; ~~about~~ early, we decided to check in (find Darrell around 9 and make sure we got to meet again before he left. We found him eating breakfast in the Dave Louis, ~~to~~ and met when he was done. We sketched out a "to-do" list & discussed priorities. Unfortunately, we may not be able to winterize much prior to Landon's departure because the Range Club, MEST & then another round of Bud (see journal entries from donor trip, first week of August!). It just so happens that with all those possible numbers we would need all cabins. Well maybe not the Hornocker. My goal is to get the DeVlieg winterized prior to the busy weekend, but that is only possible if Bud + StackHacker are not coming that weekend! Well see. Hopefully the weather holds, but ~~if~~ we are headed into our first cold snap. Should experience our first hard freeze tonight. Because of that, & the fact that sprinklers already make a frost circle in the mornings even w/ no freeze, I took down the airstrip sprinklers. It took me all afternoon/evening, but ~~to~~ it was warm today so I wanted the hoses to drain @ the head of the airstrip, before I looped them up & put them in the tac shed. Darrell asked us not to do the pasture airstrip because we are getting 8 more head of stock on Sunday & he wants the grass to grow more. I told him ~~to~~ about the forecast, he said to take em down if we have ~~ice~~ icicles hanging off the sprinklers. Long Day. Many trips up & down the airstrip. Still need to label hoses for their positions. Tomorrow, it's dark now!

Thursday, Oct 4 2012

* we did take picture of sprinklers (nosedown) after it "warmed up"

Met w/ Landon in the morning to plan the rest of the week - my last work day, his next 3. Beautiful sunny day, no smoke. This morning was COLD. Our low was 26 & all the sprinklers in the pasture froze in one place, after creating a frozen ice circle around them, icicles hung off the sprinklers, the fence, even the hot wire & some taller blades of grass I saw it @ 8 AM, didn't have a camera, got busy, but so little melt took place between then & noon that I still took some crazy impressive photos. It is fall! cold & crisp. Fired up the rocket stove in the Taylor cabin for the first time.

It is amazing. So efficient. 1 ball of crumpled paper & 3 sticks of kindling, then fed it for 2 hours. The bench is cozy. So enjoyable.

Tom from Root Ranch came by with 5 heads, stayed in the Hornocker on his way to Flying B. Didn't join us for hummus night. Danell's garbanzo beans again = yummy hummus.

Friday Oct 5 2012

Day off! Hiked to Goat Basin. In the afternoon. The flat was fine, the uphill reminded me I'm still recovering. Beautiful basin, its not very high. Can't wait to feel better & go further w/ pup. Smoky today, sunny. Another freezing morning. Landon took a tent down.

Saturday Oct 6 2012

Day off! Skyped w/ Michael. Saw the permanent position was out. (Danell must be psyched!) Baked bread all day long plus sourdough biscuits for breakfast. Sort of smoky today.

Sunday October ~~7~~ 7, 2012

Caught up on emails this morning after checking the weather station / doing morning chores. Another cold morning, lots of leaves ~~in the~~ over the grate for the upper water box. Arya & I walked the fence line, making sure all gates were closed & there were no new problems. Stock arrived in the PM - Zettle's, showed up late almost dark. I had ~~not~~ given up on them, since they wanted to fly out. Luckily Arya was distracted by Snowball ~~banking~~ @ a bear when they arrived. Will be working w/ her & her manners around stock this next week. 9 head, mules & horses. Dan the wrangler was very appreciative that we would do this. We are appreciative of having the stock! Took a wall tent down in the afternoon. Slow going. ;)

Monday, October 8, 2012

Lander was off yesterday & today. So I started morning w/ weather & A.M. chores. It was warmer this morning. The low was still in the 20's but at 8 it was a couple of degrees warmer than the low. The first time in a while. Dan flew out around 10 AM, middlefork aviation. I sat down & transcribed the last two months of comings & goings into the official log book that Darrell FINALLY returned last week. Also was sure to count stock today & spent the afternoon taking a wall tent down & ~~in~~ disassembling cots. It's slow for one but possible. Folding the wall tent is the most challenging part. Thankfully we have a ladder!

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Met with London in the morning, made a game plan. We are running out of time. He only has 2 weeks. I learned that I didn't understand what he was saying about the key to winterizing. I thought temps (day-time) had to be in the 20's / not break freezing. But actually it is night time lows we are concerned about. If they are below 25 for 3-4 days (in the forecast) we winterize. If they are in the high 20's for ~~at~~ 5+ days we winterize. So it seems there is more of a chance that we will need to winterize ~~now~~ possibly before leaving. Though the current forecast looks warm, highs in the 40's again. Seems unbelievable, but okay. Learned mid day that MESA changed their plans at the last minute & instead of coming next week, are showing up tomorrow. Got Dave Lewis ready, & did sheet laundry. Dry times have slowed down so much outside.

Wednesday, October 10 2012

Changed my water filter again (3rd time in a month!). I think the use of the washing machine somehow increases the silt in the filter. There still might be ~~be~~ some backed up silt from the lack of changing it all summer. (The first time we changed it it had a thick layer of mud clogging it!) I knew it was time because when I thought of showering last night, I realized my H₂O pressure was low, so before actually getting ready to shower I just went into the bathroom & tried to turn it on. Dribble. No shower for me. It's a bummer when you don't shower a lot to not be able to when you need one! Will wash another load soon, see if I can clog up filter again!

Thursday, October 11 2012

Defrosting Taylor Cabin fridge again. Up to 55. Some days its barely that in the cabin if I don't use the Rocket stove! Finished cleaning the DeVlieg - that cabin is huge & takes time. Turned mattresses on their side & trash cans upside down, removed perishable & mouse prone food, TP, etc. wiped everything down, swept & mopped... Derek Neal (MESA project) arrived at 6:30 from Moscow. Late plane. sent out one wall tent for repairs. - the one missing a skirt. Used the horses & mules to mow DeVlieg lawn. Put all 8 in since which worked well since I was down in DeVlieg & could watch. Arya also helped alert me to their movements. They ate the grass & fertilized the lawn.

Friday, October 12 2012 + Sat October 13 2012

Mostly days off for me - put a few hours in on Friday (unintentionally) but things come up on station & or via email & I ~~got~~ focus on trying to get things done so that I may get to some time off peacefully. Also had a pot luck dinner. Arthur, David & Paul hosted & cooked. I donated brown rice and soy sauce. It was delicious. They've supplied us w/ brownies & ice cream! What a treat. Noa evening on the Dave Lewis.

Sunday, October 14

Back to the grind! Landon's off Sunday - Wed possibly. He only wants 40 hours in the next 2 weeks. This plan was to go hunting, but instead he ended up in McCall due to a bat encounter. It attached to the back of his collar last night on the short trip from the Dave Lewis to the Ato. Luckily Marcie noticed it once they were inside. It was gnawing on his collar, & not attached once inside. He had to take the shirt off. They put it outside, he showered scrubbing back of neck/back with soap & H₂O for 10 minutes. - Marcie directed him to do that (vet knowledge). She also directed him to come & make some Sat phone calls in the morning to find out if he needs to have any vaccinations for rabies can be sent in. (NOPE) I ended up doing web research, giving him #'s to call. Landon made it out in the late afternoon/evening I called Deirdre & let him know what was happening.

Monday, October 15

~~Star~~ Incident Report Day! Not a bad online form overall. Only problem is it asks for phone numbers & addresses. Sat phone is a bit convenient for phone calls. And we are all departing in a matter of weeks. Hopefully this will be a simple workman's camp damn. Amber Kostoff (seasonal USFS) came by today. It was great to see her! She noticed a mule had snuck between the white tape & Pioneer, & helped lead him to the proper side of tape. When Marcie came down from the Ridge (work with MESA) she got me to help hold a horse with a wound, as she explored the puncture in its front right armpit. Not looking good. Very calm horse. One of Zett's.

Tuesday, October 16 2012

Crazy stormy morning. Surprisingly, a plane landed! Came in from Challis. Dan, Zettel's wrangler was on it w/ gear. He was white as a sheet/ghost & had a bag 'bag'. It was a rough flight. Marcie talked to him about the horse. He emailed Steve Zettel for further instructions. He left the horse & a companion mule & loaded up the other six, went up the ridge. I changed the propane on the lab for the stove. This time it was needing propane, not just a pilot light issue. There are 4 tanks on back of lab ~~at some~~ changed the wrong one to begin with & brought over a tank that didn't work. Overall what should be simple was complicated, & long in the rain. Hauled 3 tanks over when all was said & done. In the evening, Paul Robinson came over to tell me the water pressure in the Dave Lewis was too low to get the hot water heater to turn ~~on~~ on! It was dark, but I grabbed a flash, Anya & a headlamp to trek to the water box. Paul came with. We scraped leaves ~~at~~ for both boxes. The D.L. box was so low! Leaves totally covered the intake. It filled right up but no luck. No hot water for them tonight. Will ask Landa about it tomorrow.

Wednesday, October 17 2012

Scraped more leaves off intakes during morning chores wrapped up a little invoice project before the mail plane, in an effort to take the rest of Wed. & Thurs. off. Michael (my husband) came in on the mail plane. A Best mail ever! We hiked up the ridge in the afternoon. Ran into Dan & told him I had worked it out w/ Steve via email. The horse

and companion could stay until ~~the~~ Zettell was leaving the area.

Thursday, October 18, 2012

London winterized the DeVlieg! Yay! Michael & I had a relaxing day. I got the cabins ready for the Range Club tomorrow & finally met Steve Zettell. He flew into Cabin Cr in the A.M. w/ clients & was headed up the ridge. Stopped by to pick up the lame horse, since it can be corralled at their high ridge camp. Marcie almost went to get owl boxes but it was 1-2 pm & she wasn't feeling well so decided not to go. That's good because they are 4 all around Rush Creek Point & leaving that late in the day, solo, feeling crappy just didn't sound like it would end well.

Friday, October 19 2012

The Range Club flew in today. London didn't have many hours left that he wanted to work & so we discussed that either Danell wouldn't be on the plane & London could go hunting, saving his hours for the ultra important winterization of cabins after the ~~the~~ Range Club leaves, or Danell would be on the plane & we'd discuss that plan with him.

~~I~~ I made sure I knew when everything we would need was in the Shop, since I would likely be leading the work crew. I was set to run the backhoe & haul logs too. First plane arrives & Danell was on it! We discussed some with him, he tried to say he wasn't in charge but whenever I started ~~proposing~~ something (getting 2 women going hauling the ATV wagen w/ hay) he would change it. He moved the big wagen down & wanted them to fill it w/ the hay because it would

hold ~~no~~ more. Only problem is he'd take the backhoe down the airstrip and be gone for 2 hours while they stood around w/ hay forks. I was originally going to have a few people on hay (moving it manually) so that I could get logs without slowing work down. I think we could have got the hay moved & the orthorse fixed & some rounds moved ~~to~~ (most of our goals) all done Day one. But instead the hay wasn't even moved. I didn't react very well. Out of frustration, I started splitting the rounds. After lunch some of the workers started splitting too. They all wanted something to do. I brought down shoe tools & told them when asked that splitting was just bonus, our goal was to get the hay moved & rounds stacked under the pole barn. They are amazingly good workers. Some didn't know how to split, but caught on & were very productive.

Saturday, October 20 2012

The Range Club finished splitting all the wood! Amazing. Only a couple gipes. Danell did not get all the logs off the landing, but the hay did all get moved so all the ~~stacked~~ ^{split} wood is in the pole barn. Yay! They did a great job!

Sunday October 21 2012

Range Club departed. Landan flew out in for another in his series of rabies shots. Michael & I hiked out to Rush Point to collect owl boxes. We left late, waiting for the second plane. There was snow upon Rush Point. It got cold as the sun went down. Gorgeous sunset. Got the last owl box in the dark. Did not look for cones. Night hiked back w/ a half moon &

some clouds. Nice night. Anya enjoyed it. We ate dinner at the Taylor cabin after midnight.

Monday October 22 2012

Tired & sore today. Waited most the day for a plane that didn't come due to inclement weather. Chris Beasley + Zathers are trying to get in to do maintenance on the PIT arrays. I cleaned the Dave Lewis kitchen Range left it and

Tuesday October 30, 2012

MARIA Bromley flew out this morning, her tenure as interim manager is done. ROD BELL (ELECTRICIAN) AND I FLEW IN TO RUN POWER AND NETWORK TO THE WATERSHED ABOVE THE TAYLOR CABIN FOR THE MESA PROJECT. ABOUT 1/2 DONE AT DUSK, SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO FINISH BEFORE THE FLIGHT TOMORROW AFTERNOON. A NEW INTERIM MANAGER SHOULD BE FLYING TOMORROW AS WELL. ONLY OTHER PERSON HERE IS DUSTIN w/ ~~hanna~~ FISH AND GAME. SPENT THE EVENING REPROGRAMMING THE WIRELESS BRIDGES AND ACCESS POINTS. ALL SECTIONS OF THE NETWORK ARE BACK ONLINE AND WORKING WELL. HAD A GREAT EVENING TELLING HUNTING AND FISHING STORIES WITH ROD.

Jory Shelton

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 31, 2012

HAPPY HALLOWEEN! ROD AND I WERE BOTH UP LONG BEFORE DAWN SO WE WOULD BE READY TO WORK AT FIRST LIGHT. FINISHED THE POWER & NETWORK RUN TO THE WATER SHED FOR MESA. GOT AN EMAIL FROM THE ROOT RANCH THAT THEIR STOCK WENT MISSING DURING THE NIGHT AND WERE HEADING IN OUR DIRECTION. ROD AND I CLOSED ALL THE GATES EXCEPT THE ONE AT THE BRIDGE SO THEY WOULD HOPEFULLY COME RIGHT IN. ALSO GOT AN EMAIL THAT I HAVE TO STAY UNTIL FRIDAY. GOT ROD OUT ON HIS FLIGHT, THEN WENT TO WORK ON FENCE THAT I NOTICED WAS DOWN WHILE CLOSING GATES. SAW SEVERAL HUNTERS THROUGHOUT THE DAY ON THE BIG CREEK TRAIL, BENCHES, AND ABOVE TAYLOR. I TACTFULLY CONTACTED EACH ONE AND WARNED THEM ABOUT THE HORSES. HIKE AND CLIMBED MORE MILES THAN I HAVE IN YEARS. THE HUNTER ABOVE TAYLOR WAS COMING DOWN ON HIS WAY TO SOLDIER BAR. HE'S BEEN HUNTING SHEEP FOR 16 DAYS WITH NO LUCK. HE SHOT A 4 POINT BUCK THIS AFTERNOON AND WAS BEGINNING HIS 5 MILE PACK FROM THE KILL SITE TO SOLDIER BAR, HE FIGURED HE COULD GET IT ALL AND HIS GEAR IN TWO TRIPS. 15 MILES TOTAL, IN THE DARK. I DON'T ENVY HIM. GOT AN EMAIL TONIGHT, THE ROOT RANCH CAUGHT THEIR WAYWARD HORSES.

JORY SHELTON

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012

Mostly maintenance today. I noticed the rocket stove was not drafting well last night, so I spent a couple hours cleaning it out. Hopefully tonight it will work better. I gave the horizontal surfaces in the kitchen a scrubbing, the stove was pretty dirty and dishes were sticking to the counters. The countertops are pretty rough, will talk to Darrell when I get back to Moscow to see about getting them and the backsplashes refinished. Drove a fence post about 15 feet west of the water shed for MESA to use for the ICell antenna. Set guy wires and a tension cable that they can use to support the cable. Two people on horses with four pack mules made their way up the cliff creek benches and to the top of the ridge. Made amazingly good time. They came back down about 3 hours later with everything unloaded so they must have set up camp not too far from the ridge. They stopped by the ranch to look around, are thinking about applying for the manager's job. I told them how to apply and the deadline, they didn't think they would be out in time. Had a rainstorm blow through around 3:00, great rainbow over the benches. If the weather cooperates, I'll fly out to Moscow tomorrow morning.

Jory Shelton

TUESDAY NOV. 6TH
ELECTION DAY

- SIMMY VIDONI -

I HAVE BEEN FILING IN FOR A FEW DAYS IN BETWEEN SORY LEAVING FRIDAY AND HANSON FLYING IN TOMORROW. THIS HAS BEEN MY FIRST EXPERIENCE AT TAYLOR, IT IS A BEAUTIFUL AND SPECIAL PLACE TO SAY THE LEAST. I'VE SPENT SOME OF MY EVENINGS READING THROUGH THIS JOURNAL. IT IS AN INTERESTING PERSPECTIVE INTO THE GOING ONS HERE, IT'S ALMOST HARD TO IMAGINE SO MUCH HAPPENING AT ONCE HERE. RIGHT NOW IT IS QUIET + SLOW.

THIS MORNING DOUG + DERRICK FLEW OUT, PAUL + JUSTIN REMAIN. EACH UNSURE OF WHEN THEY'LL LEAVE. THIS WILL BE MY LAST FULL DAY HERE.

I'VE KEPT BUSY THIS WEEK WITH A FEW SMALL PROJECTS. I PRUNED THE TWO APPLE TREES BY HORNKNOCKER THEY BADLY NEEDED IT. IT'S BEEN SEVERAL YEARS, I AM NO ARBORIST BUT FROM WHAT I'VE READ FALL IS NOT THE BEST TIME FOR PRUNING. SPRING WOULD BE BETTER. THERE IS MORE TO PRUNE, IT SHOULD BE DONE IN THE SPRING. I LIGHTLY PRUNED TWO TREES IN THE ~~ORCHARD~~ ORCHARD. SORY TOLD ME THESE TREES ARE NOT PRODUCING FRUIT ANY MORE, PERHAPS THIS WILL HELP.

I FINISHED WEATHER STRIPPING AND INSTALLED THE STORM WINDOWS IN THE KITCHEN + BATHROOM OF TAYLOR CABIN. I ALSO ATTEMPTED TO FIX THE STOVEPIPE IN HORNKNOCKER EAST. THE STOVEPIPE IS BENT INTO AN OVAL WHERE IT MEETS THE STOVE, THIS TURNS THE PIPE FROM A 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ~~DIAMETER~~ TO 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ~~DIAMETER~~ DIAMETER. BECAUSE OF THIS THE SPINDLE ON THE DAMPER WON'T STAY IN PLACE, NOT LONG ENOUGH. I DRILLED NEW HOLES FOR THE DAMPER 3' UP. UPON RE-INSTALLING THE DAMPER IT BROKE, OLD. DARRELL IS SENDING IN TWO NEW ONES, ONE EXTRA FOR NEXT TIME.

JUST MEANT ~~THE~~ HUNTING NAMED BROCKLIN. SEVERAL MORE IN HIS PARTY SHOULD BE COMING THROUGH TODAY WITH DEER.

I CLEANED TAYLOR TODAY. SWEEP, MOPPED, WIPED DIRTY SURFACES. CHANGED WATER PRESSURE.

Wednesday, November 7, 2012 (Landon Moore)

I flew in about 10:30 am with Ray, happy to get to talk to Jimmy again. After the switch Paul and I spent some time catching up and I moved the gear & food all to one place. I also ~~ran into~~ ^{ran into} ~~met~~ John Hunter & we talked a bit. With my mind on food I dug up the rest of the potatoes I had planted in June & settled everything into the kitchen. While checking in with loved ones, I found a promising job application, and between that and chatting with Marcie I was a bit late to share the Dane Lemis, where Paul had invited me to come share some burbon with him. The whisky & conversation were good, though I got to sleep a bit late.

Thursday, November 8, 2012

First light came through falling snow and I decided to take a rest day. It continued to rain & snow for most of the day, so I was surprised to see Walt fly in about 12:30. He dropped off Mark Sands, a friend of John Hunter's, and they made plans to fly out on Saturday. Most of us stayed inside all day, I did laundry and made some bread. After talking to Marcie, I went to bed early to get ready for the next day.

Friday, November 9, 2012

I got up early and got ready to head up into the hills. It took longer than expected, but it was still dark when I hit the trail. John & Mark went up Eliff Creek I believe. In response to the cold, Dustin pulled the fish trap, and it looks like Laurie & Kim are coming in to help winterize. Paul worked on the lower tree & did paperwork. I ended up getting a bit lost in the snow storm that rolled in, and wasn't back on property until 5:30-ish. Cold, tired & sore, I ate supper & crashed.

Sat, November 10 - Sun, November 11, 2012, Paul Robinson

Landon left Saturday afternoon for his last rabies shot. Since we were worried about the water system, with a predicted low of 5 or 7 °F, depending on the weather service consulted, I moved up to the Taylor cabin to watch things. Arrived at 21:10 to find the porch thermometer at 23 °F and the water pressure good. Got myself installed and burned a fire in the rocket stove. By 22:22 when I went to bed, still 23°.

00:50 22 °F Pressure fine

04:07 23 °F "

07:25 21.5 °F, " lit another fire.

08:40 now, I'm headed back to warm up the Dave Lewis and listen for airplanes. Weather is predicted to warm up. Landon expected back today.

Monday, November 12, 2012

It was a dreary looking day, overcast & cold. I got an early start up the benches & glassed around. The ungulates were up and active. Once up on the ridgeline I saw several mule deer and a bighorn ram with his herd. It was comforting to see a good number of lambs & fawns, though I worry that one of the ewes was coughing. I came down by 4:00, seeing some stock & people back on the ridge right as I got to cliff creek. Paul had mostly spent the day working inside & making plans for the soil moisture sensors at the lower site. Back on station I did some chores and made sure the lab drains had anti-freeze. After an early supper and some cleaning I went to bed. ~~out~~

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

The sun rose through a surprisingly clear sky. I started the day up in Boat Basin, arriving back on station about 10am. After an early lunch I headed up Pioneer crk. On the way up I flushed a fork-horned mule deer with a paralyzed right side of his face. Up at the saddle and leading up to it there were fresh mule tracks headed toward the West Fork of Rush Creek. I got back on station a little late. Paul had spent the day setting up a different solar setup for the lower ~~site~~^{site}. We talked about his plans for the middle ~~site~~^{site} and I got to bed a little late.

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

It was snowing again by 4am when I headed up east Pioneer Ridge, and kept up most of the morning. I got down early enough to meet Ray who came in with the mail plane about 4pm. I was exhausted and struggled to focus until I bed. Paul got some equipment on the mail plane & prepared to work on the middle ~~site~~^{site}.

Thursday, November 15, 2012

I took a rest day, and apparently needed one. It was 10am by the time I crawled out of my sleeping bag. Before breakfast Paul let me know that he was headed down to his mid-site from the top. I quickly ate, then packed Paul's climbing gear & stepped out into a beautiful sunny day. Since they got a kit ~~the~~ batteries didn't get a full 2 hours to equalize last time, I set them to equalize again before heading up to meet Paul. He was still updating software when I arrived, so I gassed around as he finished. While he climbed the tree, I found a cozy spot to doze ~~while~~ between looking around for wildlife. We both came down a bit late, though I still got to bed early.

Friday, November 16, 2012

The sky looked ominous as I got another pre-dawn start up the hills. I went up the benches today, and sure enough got pounded by a snow storm from about 8am until noon. While making my way up the trail in the snow, I ran into a ~~to~~ considerable herd of sheep. There were three big rams jostling each other, and the smaller two (still at least $\frac{3}{4}$ curls both) gave me a good show of head-butting. On my way ~~at~~ up on the ridge I heard a wolf howl & saw some ravens caching meat, though never found a kill. On the way back down I ~~got~~ ^{got close} ~~to~~ a beautiful 3x4 male in full rut. Throughout the day clouds floated in sheets up & down the valleys under a pretty consistent ceiling. ~~At~~ Thus it surprised me to hear at least 5 flights coming in & out of Soldier Bar. Paul had a very productive day, though his actual achievements surpass my technical ability to explain. As it was his last night on (scheduled) station, we ate together & shared part of a bottle of wine. He got to packing & I went to bed afterwards.

Saturday, November 17, 2012

Paul's headlamp light streamed through my window as I got up & around at 4am. Damn low it was a foggy, dreary day but once I got above about 6 1/2 k feet it was sunny & beautiful, the clouds breaking against the mountainsides below me like waves. While ~~drinking~~^{I drank} a cup of tea a doe ran by me, followed at intervals by no less than 4 bucks. Must be close to the end of the rut. I came down a bit early to close gates & do some chores, and was surprised to see Paul still here. He hadn't slept in order to finish packing, and Cascade got soaked in with fog about 1:00pm. After my chores we enjoyed another supper together, both opting to go to bed early.

Saturday Sunday, November 18, 2012

It was a long day. Having spent lots of time relatively close to Taylor, I left early up Big Creek Ridge trail towards Rush Creek Point. It took me a while to reach the outfitter camp, as I was taking extra time to not spook any deer. It turned out that my efforts were in vain. They were done for the season, and in the process of packing up. From there I walked down to the West Fork of Rush Creek, seeing plenty of deer and a few eagles. The trek back was long, and partly in the dark, putting me back on station around 8:30pm. Dave, his brother and another wrangler had arrived by then and gone to bed in the lab. I did some chores, ate a can of cold spaghetti & crashed.

Paul flew out at some point in the day.

Monday, November 19, 2012

I woke up early to see Dave, Tom & Jesse off, then took a relaxing morning. The weather was indecisive, bouncing between sunny & overcast. Lots of planes came over, assumably flying hunters out. I packed up a little, cleaned a little, but mostly rested from the hike yesterday.

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

The sun struggled to rise through a thickening overcast. I slept in ~~wait~~ before doing morning chores. My unfocused action continued, and I didn't get as much done as I wished. Still, I got all ~~the~~ Taylor projects done that I wanted to, and should be able to just pack & clean tomorrow before the plane. To commemorate my last flight scheduled to be responsible for Taylor, I smoked a cigar on the bridge before bed. We'll see what tomorrow brings. The weather looks dicey, and it sounds like Darrell may not have anyone to send it. God help this place.

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

The threatening weather hit with vengeance. It rained, sleeted, and snowed, sometimes all at once, for most of the day. I stayed inside and waited, after packing and clearing. Word came from Darrell that he can't get anyone in until Monday, so I passed some time figuring out how to drain the Taylor cabin. Ray tried to make a run in, leaving about 4:30 pm, but couldn't find a gap before it got dark. Once I got the news, I ~~settled~~ unpacked the essentials, and settled in for one more night.

Monday - November 26, 2012

Isaac here, back at TR for about 3 weeks to caretaker. London left Thurs. Nov. 22 (Thanksgiving) and turned off the main cabin water. TR has been unmanned for 4 days... I don't think that happens too often.

Flew in with Ray A. and David Stolt. Good to be in the air with Ray again - last time I flew with him was the day or two before his knee surgery turned heart surgery (March 2008). Being at Arnolds this morning was like hanging out with family. Björner stayed out to feed & look after our donkeys. Wish they could be here, this place feels somehow empty & lonelier w/out stude.

Got the Cabin (Taylor) water running again - London left it real easy & nice to re-start (thank you) - cleaned the intake - some bottom ice, but not bad. Futzied w/ the BC radio trying to get it to work - no avail.

Water went to the cabin ~ 11pm - check hydro... not turning. Went up to intake. Lots of slush ice covering intake plates and pipe screens. Cleaned all up. Hydro running again but ~ 800 RPM. TR cabin H_2O pressure not great. Return to ~~the~~ intake box, All iced up again. Spend the rest of the night going up to the intake every 30-40 minutes and cleaning the ice.

Tues. Nov 27, 2012

Still have water, but I'm tired. Heard from Tyler and got a nice write-up on cold weather procedures. Some how it makes it easier just knowing that this is par and will pull through. It's warming some today.

Wed. Nov 28, 2012

Got more sleep last night. Checked water box every 2 hrs. Some ice build up but not bad. Hydro Bath up 2200 RPM today. Getting warmer. Sheep in rut on benches. Split wood cleaned up cabin. Set Rat traps. Put Bed/Boxspring from out at wall tent and put in B. Side Hamster.

Thurs. Nov 29, 2012

Water back to normal. Hiked down to Coast Basin + Gorge this morning. Worked on snowblower upon return. wouldn't start or run good. Chained carb. got started or ran for a while. See if it picks up good tomorrow. Need to replace shear bolts on it. Started cleaning basement of main cabin.

Fri Nov 30

Poured rain most of the day. Did ranch chores + clean up. Hiked up river this evening just a couple miles. Trail was like a slice box. All the ice has practically melted, water is a little turbid as well.

Sat. Dec 1

Rained most of day. Walked Sagebrush flats loop @ dawn. Then started a kitchen scrub down after ranch chores. Followed kitchen w/ front room and bedrooms + bedrooms. Got the place "cleaner" and a bit more "homey + welcoming". All relative terms in the eye of the beholder. Still have the Basement, Utility room - and maybe the attic?? to take on. Sorted the staging shed yesterday - sorted recycling + trash. Set up a reasonable trash pile to fly out. Going to get a lot bigger once I start on the basement cleaning.

Spent afternoon futzing w/ water intake. Darrel wants to try a baffle over the intake to help w/ ice-up issues. I'm failing to come up w/ anything that I think will really work that well - and the potential to disrupt/have to turn off the hydro/water line at this time of year scares me. In the end, I left it just how it was. Lots of rain + warmer. Quiet, not too many critters! Surprised at that -

Sun. Dec 2

Rained all day (nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ "). Regular chores then started utility room. Compost pile is full, so buried old compost hole and dug new one next to it. Caught a woodrat @ lab today.

Mon Dec 3

Storm seemed to break today. Hike to Sagebrush flats at dawn. Pretty quiet from animal standpoint. Return - do ranch chores. Start on outside projects b/c it's finally nicer.

Water intake has been doing great, some leaves, All ice is gone and the water is up. Guess we'll re-play all the freeze games when it gets cold again. Work on fence repair down by bridge.

Tues Dec. 4th.

Rain returned in Sat. drizzle or more all day. Regular chores then worked on utility room + basement first half. Continued on fence in afternoon, took a walk in evening up to goose neck. Saw one ram in the distance on the way back @ Ram Canyon. 1 Eagle, couple dippers and a mallard hen. Snow in quiet from a cr. Her standpoint.

Wed Dec 5

9 Elk on 3rd Bench this afternoon. About time! Worked on basement all day today. Now walks - just down in the hanta dungeon. If I don't end up with hanta virus I'll be impressed! This is less than my favorite job. I look forward to being done with it and moving outside to work or fence etc. I think I'll be done tomorrow. Weather broke today. Rained off & on but was beautiful at times. Long light! Nice. Grouse (ruffed) 4-or-5 are hanging around the cabin a lot. Must be a grown up clutch. Burned burnables tonight and a lot of musty mouse turd cardboard from basement. Getting a lot of garbage bags in transfer shed (steering shed).

Started giving Carol the weather again yesterday - she likes it, just because it's something that was done for 20-30 years until the last few years. Talked w/ Greg & Sue at YP Bar the last couple days as well - it was nice - felt like part of the BC radio community again. I think it is good for TR to be a strong part of that community - they have been for so many years - but are separated by a big hill. BC radio is big in that regard.

Thurs. Dec 6

30-40 Elk came down off the benches this morning about 7⁴⁵. They crossed the river in the lower pasture just above the hook (river hook). Then they stayed on the S. side just 200 yds, and crossed back over to the salt lick. About half of them continued on and crossed the river again and went straight up the mountain. The other ~~some~~ half lipped behind at the lick, then ran & crossed and caught up steep climb! Finished the basement today. I imagine the new

residents will find the pavement to be dirty and mouse infested...
 but it is a world different than it was. Hauled off about 6 garbage
 bags of trash, one of glass, and burned gobs of coffee moldy, stinky
 mouse ridden boxes etc. Glad to be done and going back out
 to work on outdoor projects for the rest of the time. Walked the
 Singshush/Brush Loop this evening at dark. One lone roan on the switch-
 backs across Brush. Still very quiet... means all the coyotes I usually
 see? and no wolf sign or sounds... Making coffee tonight!

Friday Dec 7

Worked on fence today down by the bridge. Cavalier drill doesn't
 will change very long. Got fence rebuilt and mostly finished to the
 corner. Started a big stout corner brace. Will finish tomorrow. Evening
 took a walk downstream. Got to Cougar at a dark. Returned in
 dark.

SAT Dec 8

Finished fence, corner and gate all done by bridge. All pretty
 solid. Would like to replace a nail or two on the gate w/ screws, but
 will have to wait until drill batt. charge again. Took out gate by
 Dave Lewis cabin w/a hand saw, judo. Tried to clear back around hinge
 hole. Working in the dark so that's it till tomorrow. Supposed to get
 cell tonight... will have to wait the water!

Sun Dec 9

Water duty started last night. Keeping up with it. Ok so far
 (12-Noon). Hope it freezes over or else tonight will be epic!

Spent all day close by the water box and going up every hour to scrape
 the slush ice & clean the screen. All is well, Hydro pump's still a bit
 low... Ground the brush pile by the shop & fixed the Dave Lewis cabin
 gate... All these things in close proximity so I could keep checking on all
 of them. Fire kept trying to get into the grass. Was out with the fire for
 20 min or so. No walk tonight. As of 9:00 PM water still doing well,
 only building slush ice at a ~~slow~~ nominal rate.

Mon Dec 10 2012

last night

Am checked the power in power shed! Batteries running about 2/3 full or so, so keeping power minimal on the place. Hydro still running ~1000 rpm (976) ~ I would think it's best to 2k by now. Will keep close eye on it. Water is doing well, last night only 5-6 trips up to clear ice, not bad. Internet wouldn't work this morning. Reset all boxes, up + running now (had power off last night). Batteries still around 2/3 or so. Ordered sediment filters + snowblower shear pins from Carol Arnold via email.

PM - Batteries back up full. Hydro still ~1000 rpm. Big Cougar was on the place last night/this morning. Tracks came up airstrip - over to airstrip side, then crossed bridge (covering tracks) and went on to Dealing cabin right next to park. I lost them after that - coming snow.

Tues Dec 11

Up early today - 6⁰⁰ - Clouds + water but dry. Water is doing well, no ~~ice~~ ice ups. (Culled in weather + go to Carol then went upriver for ~~stamps~~. Wolf tracks came on the trail + Rusty Elk and continued to cabin, and up cave. I went about 4 miles up cave creek then turned back. Found a large bighorn ram had been killed by a cougar. Very old! - cat decaying (rip too well, maybe 11 yrs? could be as young as 8 too. Very rough measure scars around 165 or so. Got back of back. Water box! wood etc.

Wed Dec 12

Expecting m. I have today - first since I've been here. Haven't even heard but one plane since they were. 2-3 inch. snow today. Debated snowblowing but very wet heavy snow. cut ~~some~~ brush and lined runway for water. Worked on Gates. Or radiator a bit w/ cascade, not flyable. Put up to second bench in evening. Saw a couple magpies and a kill of some sort in the cliffs way up cliff etc. May try to go there Friday(?) will be tough to get to. Cat??

Thurs. Dec 13

Will have today. I think I killed Ray's cat off, guess I haven't talked to anyone for a while! Got shear bits for snowblower and water filters. Installed

Friday Dec 14

shear bolts. Finished 1st thing before by staying still. Trouble shooting on hydro - turns out 1 jet is plugged, or at least the line is right as it enters the hydro unit. The line of the clear tube, the first in line coming from the intake. At 4:30 took a bike up Cliff Creek and found the kill. Mule deer farm, looks like coyotes, but could've been a cat and coyotes scavenged. A bit of a scramble up there. Back to cabin, will offer dark, checked intake + hydro again, will again get better.

Probably not full day. Regular climb + weather then messed w/ hydro. Shut valves next to the unit itself and removed the clogged line via union. Got a couple rocks out. Re-installed + opened again slowly. No love, still clogged. Wurf and got bathroom hand mirror + water pump. Took apart again. See multiple small rocks at the "operator" of the jet. Take of 4 bolts nuts on housing holding on the jet. Wurf in hand remove the rocks + gravel re-install. It all has O-rings which makes it real nice to assemble + disassemble. The unions are nice too! Open valves slowly and RPM's riding up nicely, and felt the - before - from suddenly slow down again, turn off/on valves one by one and determine that another jet has just plugged! Repeat procedure, valves, stream engine humming along @ 2280 RPM! Go down to power sled + check hydro input → 16 Amps @ 55 Volts = 880 watts. Very nice! With power back up I do laundry - sheets + dish towels. Move backhoe down to hay crib. Back up rest of firewood logs to short lengths and stack in hay crib out of weather. Still need to cut them to forward size + split/stack. Crunch @ 11 burn barrel, ask Groce inside so will have to sit on a 4 burn pile till then. Walk up to 3rd bench at dark. See Golden Eagle, sleep on top of ridge + handful of Mullis.

2012

SATURDAY DEC 15.

I'm Back! By "I'm" I mean Bruno. THIS IS MY 5TH time into TAYLOR But I HAVE NEVER SEEN IT LIKE THIS. THERE IS A FEW INCHES OF SNOW ON THE GROUND AND NO PEOPLE. ISAAC DID HIS TIME (GOT NOT DONE) BUT HAD TO RETURN TO CIVILIZATION SO I REPLACED HIM. I REALLY ENJOYED MEETING HIM, AND I REALLY LIKE TAYLOR RANCH, I WASN'T ON THE GROUND FOR TWO HOURS AND I SPOTTED 4 WOLVES. THE WOLVES APPARENTLY SPOTTED ME TOO BECAUSE THEY CAME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT ME AND MY DOG GUS. I WAS ABOUT 200 YARDS AWAY FROM THEM AND THAT IS ALL THE CLOSER EITHER PARTY WANTED TO GET. I WENT ABOUT MY BUSINESS ONCE THEY HEADED BACK UP THE MOUNTAIN. ME AND GUS DID SOME CHORES THEN TURNED INTO THE CABIN WHEN WE RAN OUT OF DAYLIGHT. @ AROUND 9:00PM I COULD HEAR THE WOLVES AGAIN AND THEY SOUNDED PRETTY CLOSE I OPENED THE FRONT DOOR TO GET A GOOD LISTEN AND I COULD SEE THEIR EYES REFLECTING IN THE BLACK NIGHT CANVAS. IN FACT I CAN HEAR THEM RIGHT NOW AS I WRITE THIS. I HOPE THEY ARE NOT STARVING FOR FOOD, THEY MIGHT BE NUMBLY ENOUGH TO TRY SOMETHING NEW IN THEIR DIET I.E. ME AND GUS HAHA. NO BUT REALLY I MIGHT CONSIDER CARRYING A LARGE STICK AROUND WITH ME, MAYBE A GAME OF FETCH WILL DISTRACT THEM LONG ENOUGH TO FORGET TO TRY AND EAT ME. ALSO, I REALLY WANT TO SAY HOW INCREDIBLE MY TAYLOR RANCH EXPERIENCES HAVE BEEN AND HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE YET ANOTHER ONE. I GUARANTEE THAT I AM THE ONLY UNDERGRADUATE @ THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO THAT HAS BEEN ABLE TO HAVE A ONE-ON-ONE RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS PLACE AND I GET TO LEAVE MY TWO SENSE IN THIS JOURNAL!

2012

← Sun: DEC 16TH

- Not alot happened today. I made my rounds in the early morning (ie. weather and water intake) then I headed up the mountain to get a look @ the view in every direction. It was pretty amazing. When I got back down I tried several times to radio in the weather to Carol @ Arnold Aviation But I never did get a response. It is too bad that this transitional period is happening right now. If I was more qualified and finished with school I would love to have this job. Perhaps I can come back here for a year or so after I graduate.

- Mon. DEC 17TH

IT SNOWED ALOT LAST NIGHT AND TODAY. I plowed the runway only for a blizzard to come through and dump another two inches of snow. It is my third day here and I am really enjoying the solitude. The cabin stays pretty warm, that rocket stove is a neat contraption. Tomorrow I plan on putting the final touches on the runway the addressing another project. Perhaps I will fix the rockchuck damage around the outhouses.

- Tues. DEC 18TH

IT GOT DOWN TO 9 DEGREES LAST NIGHT AND THE WATER INTAKE BEGAN ICEING UP. I probably made a dozen trips to the intake today to scrap ice. The hydrol seems to have made a full recovery and the water pressure is back to normal. I have alarms set to go off throughout the night but I really hope the iceing has all but stopped. On second thought I hope the iceing has completely stopped.

2012

WED. DEC 19th

I bucked up and split some wood today in between trips to the intake. The sky has been clear lately and I am enjoying the sunshine. I also introduced myself to GREG @ yellow pine bar over the back country radio. He seems like a nice guy. I bet him and his wife Sue have spent a lot of years back here. Maybe I will have a conversation with him in the morning about his experiences in the back country.

THUR. DEC 20th

Brian Kennedy, a professor in the fish and wildlife department @ the college of natural resources asked me to check on his RWERNET gear today. It took about 3 hrs of hiking up one side of Big Creek then back then up the other side. I probably could have been done a lot faster but I got sidetracked by tracks in the snow twice. The first set I followed looked like a ~~bob~~ bob cat I think they call them Lynx around here? The second set was a Big Horned sheep I followed it up to the water edge then it looked like the sheep crossed the river because there were no return tracks. I only checked the intake twice today it was quite a bit warmer. I hope this is true through the night as well.

Friday DEC 21st

Good day on the ranch today. Took care of some odd jobs, got the snow blower running again (leaky carb), cleared the runway. I was awake @ 4:30 am. Had time to play a little guitar and was making my rounds @ first light. Saw a Bald Eagle this morning then I saw 4 Big Horn sheep on the hillside in the evening. I think I am working hard but it never seems like enough. Paul Robinson is scheduled to arrive on Sunday and stay for 5 days.

2012

SAT DEC 22ND

WELL, IT HAS BEEN ONE WHOLE WEEK SINCE I FIRST ARRIVED I AM REALLY ENJOYING THE SOLITUDE BUT SOME TAYLOR RANCH FREQUENTERS ARE SCHEDULE TO ARRIVE IN THE MORNING. IT SHOULD BE FUN THOUGH PAUL IS A REAL NICE GUY AND IT WILL BE GOOD TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH SOME ONE OTHER THAN GUS (GUS IS MY DOG AND THEREFORE HIS COMMUNICATION SKILLS ARE LIMITED, HE IS A GREAT LISTENER THOUGH)

SUN. DEC. 23RD

- PAUL ROBINSON AND HIS SIGNIFICANT OTHER FLEW IN TODAY (I DONT REMEMBER HER NAME, I WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE SIGHT OF PEOPLE WHEN THE INTRODUCTIONS WERE MADE). I WASN'T SURE IF THEY WOULD MAKE IT IN TODAY OR NOT. THEY DIDN'T LAND UNTIL 3:00 PM OR SO. MY PEOPLE SKILLS FELT A LITTLE RUSTY, I HOPE I DIDN'T COME OFF AS A CRAZY PERSON. I DIDN'T DO ALOT TODAY, I MOSTLY BROWSED THE INTERNET FOR INTERSHIPS. THATS OK THOUGH IT IS SUNDAY AFTER ALL AND TOMORROW IS A NEW DAY. HOPEFULLY I CAN GET THE REST OF THE BURN PILE TAKEN CARE OF.

MONDAY DEC 24TH

- I HELPED PAUL AND SARAH PACK SOME GEAR UP THE MOUNTAIN FOR THE MESA PROJECT AFTER SERVICING THE REVERNET LOCATIONS. I CARRIED A LADDER ALL THE WAY UP THE TRAIL. MY SHOULDER WILL PROBABLY BE SORE TOMORROW. IT WAS WORTH IT THOUGH I SAW 5 SHEEP, 4 EWES AND AN LAMB. IT HAD A NICE BLACK PROP. 3/4 CURL. MADE IT BACK JUST BEFORE DARK. PAUL AND SARAH MADE ME SPAGHETTI AS THANKS.

2012

TUESD. DEC 25TH

- IT IS CHRISTMAS DAY. I DID THE BARE MINIMUM AS FAR AS CHORES GO BUT I WOUND UP GETTING CABIN FEVER AND SAT OUTSIDE AND LISTENED TO NATURE WELL AFTER NIGHT FALL. NOT A BAD WAY TO SPEND CHRISTMAS. THE BACK COUNTRY RADIO WAS LIVELY ALL DAY WITH EVERYONE SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS. IT WAS A CLEAR DAY SO SIGNAL WAS REACHING AS FAR AS NYSSA.

WED. DEC 26TH

I SAW THE BALD EAGLE AGAIN THAT HANGS OUT ON BIG CREEK. I ALSO SPOTTED SOME MORE FRESH BOB CAT TRACKS ON THE RUNWAY. I WONDER IF THEY ARE NATURAL. I AM TEMPTED TO GO DOWN TO THE RUNWAY EARLY MORNING/LATE NIGHT IN HOPES TO CATCH A GLIMPSE BUT IT IS PROBABLY TOO DARK TO SEE ANYTHING. SPENT MOST OF THE DAY PLAYING WITH FIRE BURNED A LOT OF BRUSH THAT HAS BEEN CLUTTERING UP THE PROPERTY.

THURSDAY DEC 27TH

I STARTED CLEANING THE ATTIC OF THE TAYLOR CABIN. I FOUND A BRAND NEW LAPTOP UP THERE. ~~AND~~ THERE IS A LOT OF JUNK UP IN THE ATTIC I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO KEEP AND WHAT TO THROW AWAY.

FRIDAY DEC 28TH

PAUL AND SARA DECIDED TO STAY ANOTHER DAY. I HAD THEM OVER FOR DINNER TONIGHT IT WAS GOOD MOTIVATION TO GIVE THE TAYLOR CABIN A DEEP CLEAN. I CLEANED THE BATHROOM, KITCHEN, AND I MOPPED. THE CABIN SHOULD BE JUST ABOUT MOVE-IN-READY FOR THE NEW MANAGERS.

2012

SAT DEC 29TH

Paul and Sara left this morning. Ray was happy with the condition of the runway. I hope it doesn't snow, I am not sure if there is enough fuel to snow blow the entire thing for the 3RD time.

Sun Dec 30TH

I made a list of supplies needed around the ranch and requested that they be flown in with the next caretaker. Will Nellis I am told will be here on Friday to replace me.

Mon Dec 31ST

- I went on a hike today after my morning chores. I walked east along Big Creek for several miles and wound up right in the middle of a wolf den! I saw 7 or 8 wolves, I was so excited to get an accurate count. I did manage to snap a picture though. After that I decided that the hike was well worth it and headed back.

~~THURS~~ TUES JAN 1ST

- After my wolf encounter everything seems boring. I fixed the fence behind the Deville cabin with what poles I could find.

2012

WED JAN 2ND

- I finally finished patching up the HOLES IN THE FOUNDATION AROUND THE OUT HOUSES. IT WAS TOO COLD TO TRY AND MIX CONCRETE BUT THE ROCKS ARE BIG ENOUGH, I DON'T THINK A ROCK CHUCK WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE THEM.

THURS JAN 3RD

- I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MY TIME HERE BUT I AM READY TO GO BACK TO MOSCOW. LOTS TO DO BEFORE THE SEMESTER BEGINS. I SPENT THE DAY PREP'ING THE CABIN FOR A NEW TENANT. CLEANING, LAUNDRY, KINDLING FOR FIRES. HOPEFULLY WILL FEEL RIGHT @ HOME. GOOD LUCK WILL.

FRIDAY JAN 4TH

Will here - this is my 3rd time at Taylor Ranch. I was lucky enough to come when I was 11 years old or so with my dad, a UofI professor. My second time was in 2010, when I did an REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) here. Now I'm back - solo and in the winter. I'm excited for the solitude and I really love this place. I definitely had the large cougar tracks on my mind, though, as I went out to scrape ice off the water intake in the dark!

SAT JAN 5TH

Saw one bald eagle three times or three bald eagles one time. I hiked up the high ridge across ~~the~~ Big Creek and found a deer on top. Gorgeous sunny, cold day with great views. Scrambling down scree with snow on top is difficult.

SUN JAN 6th

Weather rolling in so I decided to get another good hike in before the snow. Hiked up to Cougar Creek where there is a waterfall (small) about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream from the trail. Photographed the frozen falls, then hiked a little farther to Goat Creek. Found where Bruno saw the wolves, based on the tracks. Also saw one bald eagle.

MON JAN 7th

Warmer and snowier in the morning. Cleaned up the cabin and worked on the computer most of the day. Went down to the Rush Creek confluence in the evening and found fresh wolf tracks (hours old). Also found a chewed up hunk of deer or elk (couldn't tell) that some wolf had been enjoying.

TUES JAN 8th

Counted 14 bighorns on the benches today. Things are melting for the first time in a while. Ice is thinning out on Big Creek and the ice on the Pioneer Creek intake is a breeze to deal with.

WED JAN 9th

No wildlife sightings today (at least large charismatic mega fauna). Hiked up Big Creek a couple miles in the afternoon. Another above freezing day. Found a $\frac{1}{2}$ mammal tracking guide in the lab and I'm trying to improve my identification. I love trying to decipher all the stories in the snow. The mail plane usually comes today but as I just got in on Friday, I didn't need any supplies. Looks like another week of solitude ahead!

THURS JAN 10th

What an awesome morning! Woke up to a lot of new snow (3") and went out to check the weather and water intake. As I came back I shouted "Good Morning Taylor Ranch" and to my surprise a wolf howl answered me! So I howled back, and we exchanged howls for a couple minutes. It sounded like he was over by Rush and sure enough he was just above the landing strip. As soon as I got close he started barking - sounded very similar to a dog. He stood his ground on the hill and barked until I went away (to get a camera + tripod). I came back and found he had doubled back to the high rock outcrop above the Taylor Cabin, so I postholed up the hill until I could get some good photos. He kept his distance (and I kept mine) but neither of us went anywhere for a while. Whenever I got too close he would bark. Finally he loped up the hill up the Pioneer drainage. When I looked at his tracks later he had come all the way up the airstrip and within 50 feet of the Taylor Cabin. I wonder what he was doing - no pack? Maybe a young male (I don't even know if it was a male). ~~The~~ Amazing encounter.

FRI JAN 11th

Mostly worked on the computer today. I am editing video for a documentary about the Colorado River. I can't get over the incongruity of Wifi in the wilderness. This is a great place to get work done, though. Hiked up the benches in the afternoon.

SAT JAN 12th

Woke up to low water pressure. After several days of warmth the temp dropped quickly. -4 when I checked this morning. Found ice on the intake filter (all over). I'll have to watch the intake carefully today. Also

spotted a large herd of bighorns at the salt lick. Got some great photos. They didn't seem to mind me only 40 feet away but were alert & cautious. A couple rams and ~~or~~ maybe 15 ewes scattered around. One almost full corn ram.

SUN JAN 13th

As I was coming back from checking the weather and water intake, I heard a muffled scream. A couple more steps and I found a Great Horned Owl on top of a still-kicking rabbit. He flew over to the lab where I got some good pictures of him. Pretty awesome to see a big old owl carrying a rabbit through the air.

MON JAN 14th

Put on skins + skis and tried to ski up Rush Creek. It's pretty ~~of~~ frozen over but still I figured skis would help on the thinner ice. I didn't get more than a quarter mile up the creek before I skinned through wet ice/snow, which stuck to the bottom of my skins, making it almost impossible to ski. As I was in ski boots I couldn't hike very well so had to turn back. I'll be back up Rush!

TUESDAY JAN 15th

As I was heading to the water intake I saw some cougar tracks with a little blood spatter. I followed the tracks for about an hour up Pioneer Creek, then up the ridge ~~at~~ between Pioneer + Rush. Finally I abandoned the tracks as they headed up the ridge out of sight, because I hadn't had breakfast yet. One spot on the ridge where the cougar stopped and looked over a cliff - I wonder if he saw me? The blood was ^{back} also a mystery - carrying some food away? Snowed all day.

WED JAN 16th

No mail plane today - I'm pretty set on food for the week and I didn't have any mail (it's all ~~the~~ electronic these days). Tried to fish, but my line just got iced up and I got hung up on the ice shelves anyways. I've definitely never gone this long without seeing another person. It's been pretty relaxing though. I baked some bread.

THURS JAN 17th

Found an old leg in a tree down by the tack shed. Looks like deer. Wonder who put ~~the~~ it there? Cougar maybe? Still got some meat on it.

FRI JAN 18th

Warm(ish) and a beautiful sunny day. Hiked up to the ridge above the benches and ~~found~~ found a deer up there. Also some sheep on the benches. I've been walking around at night a bit because the moon is out + it's so clear.

SAT JAN 19th

Opened the door this morning and I'm pretty sure a pine marten was just outside. I've never seen one before but I've seen pictures, so I think it was a marten. It scampered down into the bushes after a minute or so. I went looking for it and noticed black shapes down on the ice - otters! So I went down to the creek and watched the otters for a bit. They were also watched by a Bald Eagle - maybe waiting for a stray fish? 3 otters cruised a patch of open water. I've seen way more wildlife with a quarter-mile of the Taylor Cabin than any hike I've been on.

SUN JAN 20th

Walked down to the Middle Fork today. No wildlife except a juvenile bald eagle. Middle Fork was mostly frozen over under the bridge with a lot of slushy ice in the water. Makes me want to float the river again! Only saw the sun twice because the gorge is so narrow. Walked back by moonlight for the last mile.

MON JAN 21st

Mostly stayed inside and edited video. Also cleaned out the cabin and put some things away.

TUES JAN 22nd

Snowblower was giving me hell today. The tire was flat and came off the rim + is very difficult to get back on. There's not that much snow on the runway but I wanted to clear it off just to be on the safe side. Finally got the tire back on but can't inflate it. I'll have to figure out how to jury-rig the air compressor to blow into a Schrader valve on the tire...

WED JAN 23rd

Ray came in today. First real human being in 2.5 weeks! Although he didn't get out of his plane so my total social interaction was about 5 minutes. I got a bunch of groceries and some whoopee pies from my Dad. Of course just before Ray came a bunch of deer decide to cross the landing strip, but they cleared out before he landed. Also sheep across the creek.

THURS JAN ~~23~~ 24th

A wild day! I finished up a large portion of my video project so I was pretty happy about that. I walked down to the bridge and it was so warm (above freezing) that I couldn't resist the call of the river. I blew up my packraft (a glorified inner-tube), put on my drysuit, and paddled the $\frac{1}{8}$ ~~mile~~ section of river that's ice-free. Three times. It felt great to float for a minute, even if it was just for a minute.

Later at night the wolves were howling up a storm. The moon was almost full so you didn't need a light outside. Wolves up Cliffs + Rush. As I went to the water make there was a very close howl up Pioneer. I walked a little farther and sure enough spotted a wolf in the moonlight just across the creek. A pretty magical experience as I stood outside and listened to their music. But what a cliché point in the lunar cycle to do all that howling!

FRI JAN 25th

Offers down in the creek. A bit of snow + overcast. Things are above freezing again and much of the south facing slopes are bare.

SAT JAN 26th

A bunch of grouse by the water make. A lot of rain/sleet/snow. Low clouds obscure the ridge tops. Went for a quick hike up the benches. A good day to stoke the fire and drink tea.

SUN JAN 27th

Mostly sat inside + edited video. Went for a little walk up the creek. Busted out the packraft + floated. Ice is rotten and I broke through getting out of the water. It's amazing how much more you can smell when the temp is above freezing.

MON JAN 28th

Wolf kill on the benches! About mid morning I heard some howling up Cliff Ck. I walked up but first encountered a coyote who was listening to the howling as well. Found a bunch of fresh wolf prints on the trail up the benches, then as I came around the 2nd bench saw 2 wolves. We were both a bit startled and they took off, then more howling off to the side. As I went a bit farther up I realized there were quite a few more on top of the 2nd bench. As I pulled out the camera they sauntered off and the benches were literally crawling with wolves - about 7 I think but I was too excited to get an accurate count. They headed up Cliff and although I was tempted to follow I let them alone (not that I could catch up anyways).

I investigated the scene of the crime and found some scattered bones on top of the 2nd bench where they had been enjoying their meal + view. The action all happened in the ravine to the right as you're looking at the benches. The wolves had run a deer into the steep draw, where it slid down into the bottom and gotten picked apart. Not much left but hair, blood, ~~and~~ a hoof, and the skull picked clean by magpies already. As I was piecing together these events from the tracks the wolves started howling again from up Cliff, no doubt stoked to have full bellies.

Wolves ~~and coyotes~~ really do transform a landscape - hearing them howl, ~~and~~ seeing the opportunities they provide the coyotes and magpies to scavenge, and simply knowing they are just up Cliff Ck.

TUES JAN 29th

Again had a hell of a time with the snowblower, but it turned out that the gas was bad. ~~The~~ Maybe water got in it. I swapped out the gas and it started working fine. Cleared the air strip all afternoon. It was actually pretty relaxing, as I put on headphones and listened to TED talks! Chores + an education, not too bad.

WED JAN 30th

Snowed a bit on the freshly cleared air strip, and Ray ended up not coming because the visibility was poor. About 10" on the ground and pretty heavy, too.

THURS JAN 31

Ray made it in today & I got restocked on groceries. I cut the turnaround a bit too small so the back wheel on the plane got stuck when he was turning. Had to kick the wheel, then when that didn't work I grabbed the wingtip while Ray revved the prop (to get it to turn quicker). Can't say I've ever grabbed hold of a moving airplane before. It worked though and he cruised off late in the afternoon.

FRI FEB 1st

Feels like summer. Temps got above 40 and in the sun it was positively warm. Walked 9 ways up the Rush Ct Point trail. Things melting all over the place.

SAT FEB 2nd

Another gorgeous, warm day. The river is ice-free from the airstrip down to the 90° hole so I took the opportunity to float it in the packraft. Cool to see the thick ~~ice~~ sheets of ice along the river buckled & carved into wild shapes.

SUN FEB 3rd

In the morning, right after I checked the intake, I lost all water pressure. It's exactly the right temp to form slush ice and I think when I lifted the cover I took all the insulation off. The filter had been completely iced over in 20 minutes. Checked on it all day and things are improving. The change from warm to cold really brings on the slush ice.

MON FEB 4th

Edited video most of the day. Took a hike up the benches + then up Cliff Cr. a bit. No new wolf sign.

TUES FEB 5th

Cleared off the airstrip again and cut the turnaround much wider this time. Potential new managers are coming in tomorrow. It'll be nice to talk to somebody face to face! I've had about 10 minutes of human interaction in the past month.

WED FEB 6th

The manager candidates, Peter + Meg, + their daughter Taya, and Darrell Stout flew in today. They toured the place and seemed pretty excited about it. They seem like a great fit for Taylor. And what a place for a 4 year old to grow up! I would have loved to have that opportunity. It was nice to talk to some people for a change, too.

THURS FEB 7th

Mostly worked on the computer. I'm trying to finish up this video project before I fly out next week.

FRI FEB 8th

Still plugging away, trying to finish up editing. Went for a short walk down the river. Things have really been warm - above freezing most days.

SAT FEB 9th

I walked down to Big Cr. and was standing on the bridge ~~watching~~ watching the water, when I saw 4

otters moving up the creek. They were rafting up the river in a way that would make any kayaker proud. Cool to see them underwater from above. I got my camera + got a couple good shots.

SUN FEB 10th

Had a good walk up to Cabin Ck. today. There was a good bit of snow on the trail so I was postholing a lot, but not too bad. Sun came out for a minute + I took a nap in a small patch of bare ground. No critters sighted.

MON FEB 11th

Trying hard to finish up my video project before I head out on Wed. Getting close!

TUES FEB 12th

Heading into town tomorrow... got some things packed up but hard to believe I'm leaving. It will be nice to go into McCall though, and my birthday is in 2 days so it'll be nice to celebrate with someone besides the wolves!

Wed Feb 13

Will went out this morning and I (Isaac Babcock) am here for a week. Supposed to be snow coming (but it didn't... it was pretty nice today!) so Walt + I left early b/c he had to run the main afterwards. Left Arnolds before 9:00 - were here by 9:30 or so - Will hadn't quite expected us so early. Worked on shovelling snowpiles + ice jams from porches + in front of doors. N. side of Lab + W.S. Delling pretty stubborn + log - will return to them tomorrow. Took a walk to Sagebrush flat this evening. Saw 12 elk bedded on the profile ledge on the Rush Pt side above Rush Crk.

Thurs Feb 14

checked intake - its great, relatively maintenance free right now. walked to end of runway + to Rush confluence. Tried to re-set the pine boughs on landing strip, but they are frozen in + largely hidden. Did some cabin chores + cleaning + getting situated. Dug out the propane tanks at the cabins and chopped/shoveled the ice @ delling + Lab. Went to power house to do battery maintenance, but couldn't find the notebook or notes on what to do! Will see what I can find tonight + talk to (email) Darnel. Walk to Cougar Crk this evening. Pair of Coyotes mating on the ice down below Indian Face Rock... Happy Valentines day!

Fri. Feb 15

Started cleaning battery terminals in powerhouse. H₂O intake is good! Shoveled through most of the rest of the ice on decks. Found a dead accipiter(?) don't know what kind? ——— Lower pasture - just happened. Eagle was pironetting → did it do it? Magpie was on it when I got there. 12 elk ~~huff~~ at Rush Crossing Log → went up to mineral lick above Sagebrush flats

Sat Feb 16

Finished cleaning battery terminals today - checked water in batteries - most all good, added a touch to a few. Tested cells... all good. Cleaned a bit of corrosion off of some terminals... none on others. Water intake good. Been real warm. Rush Crk Sagebrush loop this evening

Sun Feb 17, 2013

Found TR Power manual last night - outlined equalization process. Intended to today, but woke up to a skiff of snow + cloudy spitting weather all day. Batt. weren't quite "full" charge @ 12:00, and no solar - so wait til tomorrow... supposed to be nice tomorrow. Hauled empty propane tanks to airstrip. Brought a full one to Hornocker. Almost killed me. Went stay in sled (too big, sled tips over) and too much snow to use the dolly. Got it there, but opted not to take one to the Lab yet. Will do it in a week when the snow recedes. Tried to bring one up to Taylor cabin, but couldn't get it up the hill with the ice. Gawd damn! Almost went to get 'olock + tackle - then decide to wait till Will returns + get his help on our exchange. Had to haul an empty back up to Taylor cabin to plug the line... oh well.

Worked on CO₂ detectors + smoke detectors. Will order up a bunch of 9V batteries + some AHA. The tall ceilings in Deuling upstairs hallway + North bedroom will be fun!

Gloomy day weather wise - watched a reasonable sunset from the bridge.

Mon. Feb 18

Battery equalize was a no-go. The directions in the manual don't match quite what you see onscreen. I thought I'd figured it out, and started it and all seemed well... after 3-4 minutes I was about to leave when it beeped + blinked red... Error was DC overvoltage! Now some of this may be OK, because I think equalizing is sending a higher voltage temporarily to equalize the cells... but I'm not into taking out the whole power system in the middle of winter! I was able to turn off the equalizing + clear/reset the fault codes. Called that good enough. Did the regular chores + some cleaning. Trying to get ready for the switch back w/ will tomorrow. One week in is too much transition... get settled, get a schedule, get cleaned up, get out... It's been nice though. Walked down to gorge this evening - not home till 9:00 pm.

Tues Feb 19

Battery work in Power shed + general tidy/clean up - A Attie for water - re-fix washer plumb. →

Short entry - plane is here (Wed)

WED FEB 20

I flew in this morning (this is Will) and swapped out with Isaac. Got a few propane tanks loaded in Walt's plane and helped Isaac ^{empty} get a full one up to the Taylor Cabin. Good to be back here although only for a week.

THURS FEB 21

Water froze up in the morning + I chipped some slush ice off. Low temp was 14. Warmed right up again though.

FRI FEB 22

A bit of snow today, but not too much. Finished up a big video project today, a time lapse of the Colorado River. I've got some great wolf footage from the past month that I've gotta get edited up.

SAT FEB 23

Nice walk up the benches. The south facing slopes are really melted out now. It's cool to see how much it's changed since I first got here. Walking on bare ground is a novelty!

SUN FEB 24

Found a lot of deer hair & chunks down by Rush Creek, but not much other evidence of what happened. Couldn't resist walking in bare feet down the airstrip grass - almost completely melted out.

MON FEB 25

Heard a couple coyotes yapping across the river this morning and walked over to the pasture to find them crisscrossing around.

Also put the finished timelapse video online & watched as thousands of people watched it. What ridiculous they to upload a video from the middle of the wilderness and have people all over the world watch it!

TUES FEB 26

4 deer by the Devley Cabin in the morning, then I found about 10 up on the benches in the afternoon. I practiced my wolf howls on them and they started running towards me! Crazy deer.

It really has been great to be out here for most of the last 2 months. Taylor is an incredible place and its rare to find this much solitude in the world. I wish the best to Isaac over the next few weeks and to Peter, Meg, & Taya when they arrive in March!

Wednesday Feb 27

Isaac here again. Will & I traded places, and I'm scheduled to be here until mid-late March when the new caretakers arrive. I haven't met them, but I keep hearing real good things. I flew in w/ Walt yesterday, and we did the mail route on the Main before stopping here. That was fun - I'd never stopped at any of those places other than Maday Bar. Got a gallon of "real" milk from Linda @ Shepp Ranch - she was real nice. Too bad the owners are telling her to get rid of her cow. I'd buy milk back here ^{from her} if I was a regular. Lots of snow here still. Got settled in, did the rounds, removed some mice, did some cleaning. Walked up the benches this evening - nice to be on firm dirt. Was going to the top but turned back above the 3rd bench because the postholing snow was less exciting than the dirt. Went out on the landing west of 3rd Bench, sat - listened, watched the sunset. Thought about how much the mules used to like this spot. I miss having stock here... it just seemed right.

Thurs Feb 28

Coloony weather today. Started snow/rain in the afternoon, continued into evening. Worked on the shop today. That's going to need a big clean here shortly. Fixed the fence, and other minimal ranch chores. Walked Segebnal flats loop this evening. Golden eagle was down on the river eating the dead hawk/falcon?? from 2 weeks ago. Nothing touches it for 2 weeks - then boom, gone.

Fri. March 1

First of March, and a very warm day. up to 50 today, snow is quite mushy. Magpies going nuts... I think its courtship time for them? Walked up river this evening - expected to make the gooseneck, but the snow is pretty rough travelling right now. Better off trail than on. Made it to Labour. Got back at 6³⁰ and sat outside on the bare spot of grass under the tree and listened to the river. Not spring yet, but coming.

Sat March 2

Started warm today, got drizzly and drearier as day progressed. Worked on Shop most of day, and did some general clean up - brooded and fallen fence, restock wood piles, etc. Sheep were down at lick on Big Lake bank. Saw some deer up on benches. Magpies very active.

Sun March 3

Quite warm this morning, snowing by 10-11:00 and continued until 2-3 pm. Big flakes, pretty. But warm, nothing amounted to much. Replaced smoke detector/CO₂ alarm batteries. Still a couple more in Lab + Reulies. Can't decide how much of shop to clean. Put + re-organizing or just tidy up. Probably the latter, but sure would like to put it + start fresh if it was mine...

Mon. March 4

Nice day today. Started chopping wood up by woodshed. Aim to get that all cleaned up shortly. Couldn't get ladder free from ice to Δ bathing in upstairs hallway, maybe on a warmer day. Walked to Cougar Lake this morning. Snow is best to walk on first thing. Progressing well w/ some projects, seem to be procrastinating too much w/ others. Finished taxes today, wahoo -

2013 Tues March 5

H₂O intake froze again last night. Woke at 2am and faucet wasn't dripping. Only got down to 16, am surprised... but made 3 trips during night and two more in the morning to clear slush ice. Didn't think this would still happen... in March? - And surprisingly - the hot water line froze under the cabin (basement) still had a trickle - and I got it back, but I guess that is what the pipe insulation I found in the basement is for? Fairly nice day, warmed back up to 41. Hiked down river about a mile tonight. Heard a wolf howling from the cabin tonight. First wolf I've heard all winter. Howled for quite a while sounded like upper end of upriver pasture, then continued west.

Wed March 6

Mail day today but it is snowing, and poor weather in cascade. I'm having a cabin cleaning day - laundry re-scrub kitchen, sweep, take assorted tools to shop, etc. Need to finish the shop project & take on the attic yet.

Snowed & rained on/off all day. No mail plane. Dismantled the entire chimney & stove pipes to clean. A real mess. I love the rocket stove, I really do... and I think it makes great sense from efficiency standpoint, makes good sense back here @ TR, but it has a couple major hiccups - cleaning. In my opinion it desperately needs another cleanout to assist cleaning the back tube. I'm going to build one someday, when I have a "permanent yurt" - but it will be difficult from a draft & cleaning standpoint. The old woodstove never drafted "great" - but now w/ the extra 2-90° in it, it drafts terrible. + the pipes don't seal right ~ angles are off B/c of chimney and rocket stove... oh well. Had soot & creosote all over living room but the fire I was done. Mapped, dusted, good excuse for heavy cleaning.

Thurs March 7

Mail came today. Water intake was frozen again this morning. Am doing some figuring on how to improve that. Have some ideas, but will require some other supplies. Worked on the starts of that. Broke ladder free from ice & replaced batteries in Deadly detectors. Except for the "Sealed" detector in N. Bedroom (Sealed 10yr battery) Went up the bundles this evening - must have been over 70 deer up there!

Friday March 8

Beautiful day. Took an early hike downstream & took old Dave Lewis trail to Goat Bend

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and did the loop. Was right behind a group of wolves at mouth of goat cove. Had to be less than an hour because the crust had just begun to soften up. They went downstream. Worked on the intake box today. Fixed up the Ketch pole (screen grabber) and built a new + more stout screen. Will also build another with $\frac{1}{2}$ " hardware cloth when mail plane comes. $\frac{1}{8}$ " is good for summer, but $\frac{1}{4}$ " might be better for winter. Also not a bad idea to have 2 screens, can swap on icy nights and bring one in to thaw.

Sat. March 9

Up early + walked up to 2nd bench. Sheep + Deer. Getting windy + overcast. Returned, ate breakfast, got email from Darrell about 7(!!!) people coming in Tuesday. Worked on cleaning shop till dark. Walked down to confluence in the dark + did sagebrush loop.

Sunday March 10

Found H₂O buckets, sheets + Pillows + cases, etc. for incomers. Hauled propane to lab on snow crust first thing in morning. Intake still freezing up but did better - don't know if that is temperature or screen that makes it better. Finished cleaning shop, start prep for new folks. Daylight savings time. Wolves howling tonight at 11³⁰ PM. Lower Pasture area, 2-3 animals.

Mon. March 11

Quite warm today. Spent all of day readying for visitors. Sheets + Pillowcases on beds, sweep lab + Dave Lewis, clean counters, outhouses, start propane - other general cleaning. Build H₂O sluice for filling H₂O buckets. Built collar for Rocket stove feed tube ... works much better. Sat on bench @ Rush Confluence this evening. Cold Wind!

Tues. March 12

Mike Dorris arrives w/ IDEG, Lauri, Chrystall, Bruce + Tim. Ray Arnold arrives w/ Brian Kennedy, Jaime, Paul Robinson. Holy Shit! I thought about hopping on the plane out! (Saker sort of). Help get everyone settled.

Worked on Bathroom sink in Taylor cabin. Been clogged all winter, getting much worse (not draining at all) Very nasty in there, whole trap is plugged w hair + scum! Saw 10 wolves tonight. They killed an elk last night - went over the cliff at the confluence point. All gray. Got back after dark. Visited with folks in lab.

Wed. March 13

First Merganser today. Also Canyon wren + bluebirds up on 2nd bench. Hiked up to 3rd bench in evening. Mike D arrived $\approx 11^{30}$ to pick folks up. Had a bumpy flight in. Brian, Jaine, Lewis, Tim departed. Brice, Chrysal Paul⁺ still here. Different place, getting busier. Picked up muddle from cow elk to age. Dinner at Dave Lewis w/ Paul, Chrysal, Brice.

Thurs. March 14

Up early to intake - out of habit, but it has been five whatever temps. Built the other intake screen today. A lot more surface area and much more robust. I think it will help in winter. Snow has gone off like crazy this week. Almost gone around Taylor cabin. Still repairing 5" weather station. Did sheets and laundry for departing guests. Didn't go out this evening - invited to ~~Paul's Cabin (Dave Lewis)~~ ^{Lab} for dinner w/ Brice + Chrysal.

Fri March 15

Bighorn lamb in river midway down airstrip. hole below ribcage on side, about 7" diameter, vital organs gone. I suspect bobcat based on feeding appearance, and a cougar would've hauled it to shore. Just a guess. Raked up yard today, snow is gone enough to. Worked on the attic a few hours. Walked downstream this evening to the gorge. Back @ dark. Did some nighttime star laps.

Sat. March 16

Woke up + did scrubbed flat loop. Returned for weather @ 8⁰⁰am. Then went to Cabin Ck. Back @ ≈ 300 pm. Cleaned shop this evening. Then walked down and set above rock ck @ dark.

Sun. March 17
Wolf this morning of dawn - was about 15' behind me and didn't know I was there - down of Peak Ck. Finished Ship today. Worked on attic some more. Really warming up, but supposed to get cold tonight. Rocket stove is doing ok - really think it needs back the cleaned. Emailed Tyler about it - concurred.

Mon March 18
8-9 walked on knob just north of hay shed. Left @ 8:15 and travelled up either Ck to west bank. I snuck up there and blindfolded right into them. They went to top of Cliff Ridge. Cleared up all the wood chips + debris around hay shed from last fall. It finally thawed enough. Uccerbarh when to put it, so moved it into pile. Supposed to be stony today, but not to bed.

Tues March 19
Hilled down stream @ dawn to canyon Ck. Mike Dennis came today + picked up Chrysalis. I spent all day on attic. Down!! Walked up benches in evening. About 30 elk on 2nd bench. I bugared them up to third bench. I left them alone. Set on the second bench for an hour + 1/2 dark.

Wed March 20
Mail day but not flyable in Cascade. I spent morning working on Paul's store in Dave Lewis cabin. He had a simple leak cause chimney cracked open. Put some screens in stove pipe and put new bolts in stove legs. Spent all day and a lot of night cleaning and picking. Not as clean as I'd like it, but would require a boiler for that.

Thurs March 21
NEW MARKERS. Pat, Mes, Tanya GSS
1st day at Taylor. Hew in with what on two places. Darrell, Jerry, Meg, and Tanya went first with full gear. I returned the U-haul to Ticeall and Hew in with full load of belongings. Corcoran sat in my lap and worried that I was planning to toss him out the window. Got to do my first official landing coming in from east over the pasture. Spent some time hauling belonging up to Taylor cabin and carefully shifting the place around to accommodate. Isaac Babcock was our guide to understanding the ropes and was a great help in every way. We ate lunch and relaxed for a few minutes and promptly began cleaning the rocket stove. Spent a couple hours getting

the rocket stove going and then turned to cleaning the Taylor cabin. Isaac did a great job preping the place for us. Had dinner as a group in the Lewis cabin and ended the day with a dark stroll to find lost Grouse. Recovered lost and worried Bitter in the steep rocks down stream well after dark, no luck with Grouse. Returned to a mobilized group coming to look for me, I was the only one who wasn't worried, go figure. At midnight Grouse returned a little worse for the wear whimpering at the door. I guess we likely don't need to worry about him getting lost.

Friday, March 22 Gays

Awoke to cold morning with poor visibility. Spent the day running through the daily process and going over the inner workings of the place. Isaac gave good instructions and was careful to explain how things work or where to find the necessary information to figure it out. Had a wolf howling close, somewhere up pioneer creek, while a dozen elk bedded just in sight along the opposite slope.

Saturday, March 23 Gays

Awoke early to Meg shaking me and saying the dripping stopped in the sink. Oh great, so much for using the dripping as an alarm to a frozen water intake. Jumped in my pants and stumbled up the trail in a panic as my first official day in charge of the place crumbles much earlier than I had hoped. Fixed everything I could figure and thankfully headed to the Hornocker to fetch Isaac. With his toothbrush still in his mouth, Isaac responded with a gurgled "good," thinking this a great safe way to learn the process. We walked back to the intake and looked it over, discussed issues, and assessed the hydro generator. The generator slowly recover over the course of the day as the air worked through the water line. Jerry, Darrell, and Isaac left in the early afternoon after leaving some materials behind that would not fit in the 185.

Sunday March 24 Gags

Intentionally woke up at 2am thinking I would defeat the freezing intake in one fell swoop. Went back to bed, eventually, and awoke at 5³⁰ to "no dripping in the sink." Proceeded to run in a panic up to the intake to fix the problem. I spent the better part of the morning running back and forth between the intake and the Taylor cabin trying to keep the ice at bay. Finally, got some sun on the situation about 10⁴⁵ and started to relax. Got back to cabin and Meg had blown a fuse while she was deep cleaning the bedroom. We had no idea how the electrical was organized and kindly took to Paul Robinson's offer to help. We went through the general electrical setup and figured out how things operate, so we can solve future issues. Solved the frozen intake, blown circuit, and ran into a water heater that was producing no hot water. After some fiddling around, we figured out it had partially drained when we lost water pressure. It refilled and returned to normal service.

Monday March 25 Gags

Starting to feel practiced. Awoke to 18 degrees and lots of ice, but managed not to completely lose water pressure. Meg continues to clean and organize the Taylor cabin, likely the most important task. It's always nice to have a comfortable home to be in when you start a new job. I had a chance to help Paul with some of the MESA project sensor sites. We walked the benches and stopped at the middle and upper sites. This gave me some time to hike to top and look out to the north. Saw about 40 sheep, 30 muleys, and two coyotes along the way. Found wolf tracks from the previous night and heard a lone howl on the way down.

Tuesday March 26 Gags

Got up and picked away at cleaning every place I turned. I continue to find things that should be thrown, trying all about. Mike Dorris from Seward Airy Services flew in from McCall with IDFG fisheries tech Crystal. Bryce and Crystal switched out for their week long period of sampling. Crystal kindly showed us their process and was a great teacher and inspiration to Tehya. Worked on various projects throughout the day and ended with a potluck at Lewis cabin. 1st day with no water issues, but I still struggled to sleep due to worry of freezing.

Wednesday March 27 Gags

Another nice day of late afternoon warmth and a low above freezing. Not having to deal with a freezing water system frees up a lot of time to accomplish other things. I worked on cleaning up the exterior of the Arlo. It seems it was left in a rather neglected state. The lab is also experiencing its resident wood rat knockings. A trap has been set and we will see what becomes of that. Sheep and deer were visible all day on the benches, with the sheep stay low on the first bench. Midnight brought in Coyote calling followed closely by a chorus of wolves very close to the ranch, I slept through it all.

Thursday March 28 Gags

Today Meg continued to work on the house, cleaning the kitchen draws, cupboards, and dishes that have remained. The exterior of the Arlo has been cleaned up and organized and the junk pile is being sorted.

Friday March 29 Gags

Today is the first day we have not noticed wildlife on the benches. Meg continues to deep clean the house a piece at a time. I started the day by cleaning the Hornocker roof and raking up what fell from the roof and what was on the ground and moving it to the orchard debris pile. Removed the last of debris around the Arlo and continued to sort the junk pile. I also tried to fix the ranch sign and ended up breaking it down. Set a trap for rats in the lab attic and caught one before bed, assassinated it with the 22 mag. Reset the trap.

Saturday March 30 Gags

Tried to enjoy the day without work, hard, Meg is finishing up putting our stuff into clean cupboards and drawers. I moved down to the solar shed to organize the materials scattered behind. Ended up thoroughing some and nicely stacking the rest. Caught another

rat in the lab, but lost it as I moved the trap. Need a BB gun more than a trap. Looked around at the east end of the lab for some organizational needs and some sealing. Screwed $\frac{1}{8}$ " hardware cloth over the lowered vent using metal strapping tape pieces as a washer.

Sunday March 31 Gags

Happy Easter! Started the day with another polecat murder. Hopefully will get them out of lab and get it sealed up well. Been having a lot of trouble with the backcountry radio since we got here. Isaac thought it was bad too and it may be the new wireless system. I climbed the tree and moved the east end of the antenna up about 10 ft thinking the clearance may help. It didn't, so my next test will be to shut the wireless off with the radio on. Also worked on turning the water on. Have the water in Davis Lewis, but have yet to turn on the water heater. Saw a dozen or so muleys close to the top, above the benches. The sheep showed up around 6pm just above the 1st bench on the east side.

Monday April 1 Gags

Started the water and water heaters in the Dellieg and Dave Lewis cabins. The Arto should have water, but in assembling I either have yet to find a valve or the line remains frozen. I'm thinking it's frozen because there was and still is a lot of ice between the Arto and shop since both roofs shed snow there and it's protected. The Dellieg hot water heater had no markings for hot and cold, so I ended up turning off the water and switching the hoses. Needless to say, it's now labeled. Eyeballed some gaps on the west end of the lab that will be sealed to help keep out the rats we've been catching. Have caught two and left the trap set.

Tuesday April 2 Gags

Started the day by fixing the eroding creek bank by the main water intake. I moved rocks, larger than I should have, down into the creek to make a retaining wall. Still needs some more. Placed gravel and sand into the hole below the overflow, where the water seems to be

leaking out. Started the water in the Hornocker in prep. for our first real guest of the season. Meg and I stayed working until 10 pm to get the Hornocker clean and presentable for Eric, "the poet." Also, worked on sealing up the west end of the lab with hardware cloth. Up under the eaves were a couple places that may have been entries into the attic. Started fudging with the lab water, it made me think we could use intern labor to dig in some flashing to help winterize and rodent proof the place.

Wednesday April 3 Gags

Eric Greenwell flew in today to stay a week for the Writing in the Wild program. Eric came in on the mail plane and Ray let us ship out 8 feet bags full of trash that we have been generating while cleaning things up. I continue to pick away at the junk pile behind the shop.

Thursday April 4 Gags

Finally got the Hornocker water heater squared away. Try not to pay attention to the color of the shut off valve. The plumbing in the Hornocker is all crazy. Meg and I are working on getting the Dellig organized for the MOSS group coming on Monday. Meg has ripped into the cleaning and interior work, while I decided to straighten out the outside. We are going to consolidate the materials scattered around and stack them very cleanly off the ground, underneath the Dellig. I have put extra effort into making the materials being stacked as unfriendly to animals as possible.

Friday April 5 Gags

It's Megs Birthday and we started the day with rain and wolves. I spotted a wolf when I heard howling on west side of cliff creek clearly visible from the ranch.

Bryce (IDFG) came out of the lab when he heard so we both headed for our glass. I ran and told Eric, who was headed up to the Lewis to make coffee, and he dropped everything to meet Bryce at the lab, where he already had his spotting scope set up. I hit the Taylor, grabbed my binos and told Meg and Tanya. We all met on the deck of the lab and proceeded to watch for at least a half hour. By the time we gave up, it had been 2 hours and Bryce, Eric and I were on the first bench. After our excitement we all headed for coffee in our respective homes. We then continued to work on the Dellig and the snake cage. We are going to eliminate the home and comfortable space that storing materials on top of the snake cage has created. I'm determined to rid the lab of pack rats.

Saturday April 6 Coags

Worked on cleaning up the packrat mess above the snake cage and all other materials behind the lab. We have the yard around the lab and Dellig nicely cleaned and organized for the season. Made up all the rooms, starting to, for the MOSS group coming Tues. Made the mistake of thinking they would be here Monday. Stayed up late three nights to get things done. The best thing was that we got it done early.

Sunday April 7 Coags

Finished up the cleaning, now only the Aldo remains to be cleaned. May be working on the junk pile until we are old folks. Spent one last night making sure all the necessary supplies and licenses were in the cabins.

Monday April 8 Coags

Decided to make today our weekend. Spent a few hours working on various projects and then took a hike. Walked up the ridge behind the Taylor to about 6000'. I found three unmatched old elk sheds, saw several chukars, 6 elk, and a few muledeer. It was really nice to get out see some new country. Looking

forward to doing it a little more frequently.

Tuesday April 9 Cags

Today the Moss group came in two loads on the McCall Aviation Islander. Big plane to be landing here. I'm going to cut out some of the brush around the airstrip turn-a-round before they come back in with the islander. Spent a couple hours giving the Moss crew a tour of the Taylor infrastructure. It really helped me think about the process and structure. Saw 6 wolves about 10 am, just after Boice flew out and Crystal flew in with George Dorris. The white and gray wolves shined in the sun to the west of the third bench.

Wednesday April 10 Cags

Today we started cutting out the brush around the airstrip turn around. The Islander would drag its wing through the brush around the creek and still be very close to the other side when completing the turn.

Thursday April 11 Cags

Kept working on the airstrip brush. Darrell, Joey, and Mark? flew in to deliver a new fridge and take a look at the stream courses for some potential compliance issues.

Friday April 12 Cags

Moss group flew out this morning. Will lift the bedding and do, hopefully, only a little cleaning.

Saturday April 13th

We are going to take the day to our selves.
Took a nice walk and enjoyed a little scenery.

Sunday April 14th

Worked on odd jobs across the ranch. Need to carry some tools, it seems like there is always some thing that need attention.

Monday April 15th

Finished taxes yesterday, the latest I have ever left them. That's probably good, since I can only procrastinate them one more day.

Tuesday April 16th

Leveled out the soil/grade in front of the staging shed and moved the soil to the holes in the upper end of the airstrip. Tanya and I seeded and watered after getting a garden hose siphon going out of Pioneer creek.

Wednesday April 17th

Mail came in and Walt told us there was an elk herd up near creek (West side slope). We liked down to look after he left. Continued working on chipping material to spread at newly leveled area in front of staging shed.

Thursday April 18th

Worked on chipping for far too long. The chipper needs sharpening and repair or to be gotten rid of. Without exaggeration, I had to flip the breaker in the hydro-suck 50 times over the days I was using the chipper.

Friday April 19th

Moved back over to the shop for organizing and cleaning. I continued sorting through the old mess of scrap material. I have created quite a pile of trash and burn material.

Saturday April 20th

Disassembled the heavy steel framed box from the hydro shed, so I can use it as a new rack for the shop material. I going to remove the existing shop rack and build a better one that will make looking at and using materials easier.

We also took a walk down to the flats before Cagar Cr. They walk the whole way and wanted to complete the hike on her own two feet.

Sunday April 21st

Kept working on the shop while running laundry in the Dellieg.

Monday April 22nd

Drilled and used the heavy angle pieces that are all over the place to make a second shelf on the frame I took from the hydro shed. Started going through material hiding behind the Lewis. There is actually some material (wood) that is in good useable condition. I plan to combine all the material at the shop.

Tuesday April 23rd

Moved all of the material from the old wooden rack at the shop over to the new rack. I used some metal cages, either used for hay bales or LP tanks. I assumed they were hung from the structures and LP tanks were fastened into them. I moved all the useable pipe, iron, tubing of smaller pieces and placed it into the cages, now bolted together, making a caged box with an open top.

Wednesday, April 21st

Mail came today with two passengers heading out from Yellow Pine Bar. They were the owners Mike and Tamara DeBoer, heading back to McCall, where they live. Visited for an hour or so before they headed on their way. Continued working on the shop.

Thursday, April 25th

The elk came down to the water pasture for the first time since we've been here. There were 27 that came down off the benches and strolled down the east side of the first bench. Bryce, Tanya, and I walked around so we could watch them for a while.

Friday, April 26th

I've also dug into the pile behind the Lewis cabin. Materials from when it was remodeled have been stacked back there deteriorating. I'm going to clean it up and consolidate what it saved at the shop.

Saturday, April 27th

We are taking the day to play. It's always harder than it sounds, we end up working projects into our family time. We are doing laundry for bedding to help prep the place for the IBU group coming in Wed.

Sunday, April 28th

Had a nice pancake breakfast this morning. Bryce came and supplied some Moose breakfast sausages from last year's harvest. Meandered down to the beach for some relaxation.

Monday, April 29th

Worked on the wood stacked in the covered rack attached to the shop. Went through most of the left over hardware on the uppermost shelf and organized it. It was put up there after the completion of the Dablieg and never touched.

Tuesday April 30th

Finished up cleaning the Delling for the ISU group. Need to fix the water heater and kitchen sink faucet. The water heater needs a rebuild kit.

Wednesday May 1st

Got a load of gear from Middlefork aviation at about 9 am. We decided to move it all to the Delling and unload their coolers into the fridge. The group was dropped at Cabin creek and then walked down, showing up about 4:30 pm. Had another guest stop on the mail plane. Dan, the caretaker from the root ranch. Ray was dropping him at Big creek (town) to camp and hike for a few days.

Thursday May 2nd

Started the water in the lab, much to crystal's pleasure, but conveniently found a freeze break in the wall to the shower cold water. Started pulling irrigation stuff around to get situated for the onset of irrigation season.

Friday May 3rd

Keith Bernhardt and group flew in and proceeded to hike all the creeks for their research. Tehya and I were hiking to catch the class as they were touring dam towards the confluence. Tehya took a spill and cut her wrist, turning us back home early. She was a trooper, quickly getting over the blood running down her hand. Pretty good for not quite 4 1/2.

Saturday May 4th

Had a couple ISU students help me move a few wheelbarrel loads of large rock up to the 1st diversion. I'm going to start changing the water intake to getting increased flow across the screens. I'm hoping to limit the frazzle ice development during freeze up.

Sunday May 5th

ISU group left today. We will be here only with IDFG people until 5/9, when McCall H.S. comes.

Saturday May 25th

Keiti Reinhardt flew in with three students from ISU to get Ike Browns undergrad research started. Ike will spend the season here collecting data on vegetation - bird - insect interactions. We walked around looking for sampling locations on Taylor property (chocolate cherry).

Sunday May 26th

The Delling/Bleck interns arrived about 9am on Arnold. Ray and Carol both said these were the most organized group of interns they have had come through. We went through the rules and planned a Monday meeting. We had dinner in the Lewis cabin as a group, but not pot luck. We were rained out at the fire. After dinner we met in the lab to talk about everyone's projects and introductions to all projects and people currently here.

Monday May 27th

Katy Kavanaugh and Paul Robinson took us on a tour of the MESA project sensor array. We all walked up and learned about some of the vegetation and past uses of the benches and the ranch. The group walked up above the white cliffs and gassed for a bit and headed back down to be back by 6pm.

Tuesday May 28th

Students got started on their projects. We worked through some of the logistical and theoretical issues with some of the projects. The students had the majority of the day to get started and work out some of the kinks.

Wednesday, May 29th

Started the day with an 8³⁰ meeting and a tour of the IDFG screw trap. Bryce Oldenweyer spent about two hours going over the basics of the screw trap and the data purposes. The students ended the day with 45 minute IDFG presentation by Bryce, filling in the rest of the pieces that were not covered at the trap.

Thursday May 30th

Today was the 1st of the intense work days. We started the day with a tour of the facilities, where they got an in depth look at the infrastructure, so they may be able to trouble shoot problems. Starting at 11am we moved into cleaning out the brush over Pioneer Cr and mowing the airstrip. Big material was cut for the mass heaters and smaller material was clipped to cover the high traffic area entering the airstrip.

Friday May 31st

Took the day to walk with the students to the gorge. looked at and talked about the Tukidika historical pieces along the way. Teuqa came with and walked 6 of the 7 mile trip. The group split up after reaching the gorge and meandered back at their own pace.

Saturday June 1st

Today the students had a good opportunity to get further in to their projects and sampling. We broke the push mower (reel) and spent some time trying to come up with a good method to fix/replace the break. If turns out our most experienced welder on site, is Sarah, the artist. Sarah has use steel welded sculpture as one of her medium.

Sunday June 2nd

Another day for the students to focus on their projects. Brian and Kevin have completely taken over the irrigation work. The three of us worked at opening up the flood irrigation from the diversion at the shop. We now have water running in to the pasture under the Hornedeer cabin. Tanya has named it Tanya Cr.

Monday June 3rd

Everyone is conducting various work projects across the ranch, cleaning up before the Dean comes. We are working on some grooming of the outside cabin areas.

Tuesday June 4th

All of the interns have gone down towards cabin cr. for the day to look at sampling areas, sample, and explore. I worked on the mower again, initially with Paul Robinson and then on my own. We learned that the shop power is only adequate to run the MIG welder for lighter gauge steel. We gave up and I chose to bolt the materials together. I ended up finishing the mower and started mowing around the cabins. The students came back at 7pm, just as they had said when they left.

Wednesday June 5th

Today Dean Proffiter, Tom Gorman, and Steve Hacker came to visit and talk about our needs and vision for Taylor. We talked about all of the questions that Meg and I had for them and then talked a lot about maintaining communication. The Dean thinks we should wait a year before we try taking on stock. The future may also hold a place for a new bunk house and cook house.

Thursday June 6th

Ed Krump and E Oe Cartan came in today to work with the interns. Ed proceeded to lecture about wilderness and wilderness policy in the early afternoon on the deck of the Delling. Took a long lunch and continued afterward until late afternoon. We ended the day with a nice fire at the Lewis.

Friday June 7th

The students, Boyce, and I went down to the gorge today to talk about anthropogenic uses of wilderness. We learned to sample camping areas for use, addressing some of the policies and practices that are employed by users and agencies. We ended with a discussion of some leave no trace practices just beyond the gorge. Most of this topic focused on digging a cat hole in the woods. Use unscented TP with a dash of water to speed decomp.

Saturday June 8th

Today Oe Cartan lectured about wolf research he conducted using models. We spent most of the day in and around Taylor

Sunday June 9th

Monday June 10th

Cut down the first river birch to give a hunk to Ed Krump on his way out. It is nice hardwood wood that will make a great bowl.

Tuesday June 11th

Cut down and hauled the dead river birch over hanging the fire pit. We cut it into short 8" lengths for splitting and hauled it to the Taylor woodshed. It should make for great winter heat.

Wed June 12th

Cut down the remaining river birch and hauled to the Taylor woodshed. This has been a slow process mixed with many other tasks. Brian, Paige, Chris, and I finished it all up today.

Thur June 13th

Today the students are out in the field. Meg & I worked on various projects around Taylor. I put in a 4" diameter length of PVC on the orchard blow out to prep for burying it. We also cleared around the wall tent platforms and put up the tents. We also pruned, cleared brush, and cleaned up the area around the wall tents to prep for use.

Friday June 14th

Started digging the ditch on the upper cliff cr. diversion. We started about 50' from the edge of the Cr and worked towards the pasture. We worked about 3 hrs with 5 of us and stopped about 75 yards short of the cut bank adjacent to the trail. We planned only to work for 3 hrs in the morning prior to the sun coming over the benches, when we reached our time limit we headed back and worked on cleaning the Arlo.

Saturday June 15th

Tanya and dad took a walk up the benches. We walked to the first bench and sat and had a snack. As we sat several planes came over only a couple hundred feet overhead. We used our signal mirror to shine Brian and Paige and Chris. Brian was up Pioneer Cr. and Paige and Chris were on their way up to the Rush Cr Point lookout.

Sunday June 16th

Father's Day - Meg, Tanya and I hiked up the ridge towards Dave Lewis peak. We only went up about 1000' vertical feet since the trail is steep and Tanya walked on her own. The students worked on their projects.

Monday June 17th

Paul and Sarah Metcalf showed up today. The students and I were finishing the digging/repair of the cliff Cr upper diversion for flood irrigation to the lower pasture. We also pulled the 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " hose to the lower cliff cr. diversion out into the pasture after starting to cut the brush inside the pastures fence gabions. Sarah stayed back to help Meg clean the Arlo. After finishing with the pasture we went back to help with the Arlo.

Tuesday June 18th

The students had a work day (their projects). Everyone was out in the field for at least the first part of the day. I worked on various small projects, wrapping up several and continuing with the fence around the solar shed with Brian's help. Ended the day with a great gathering in the lab to avoid mosquitos.

Wed June 19th

A foggy and rainy morning. We met in the lab and figured there would be no way that Ed and Jim Kingery, or the mail plane would get in. Much to our surprise, until we thought about who was flying, a plane came husseling in through the clouds. We worked on project around Taylor while Ed and Jim got settled in. We are planning for getting together tomorrow.

Thurs June 20th

We met at 8³⁰ in the classroom and listened to a couple hours of lecture from Ed Galindo about the American Indian perspective in our culture, education, and the Frank church. We had great interaction among the students and all others present. It was followed up by the cutting of willow stems from the upper pasture to be used to make a fish trap. It was a group project intended to place us within the context of the Tukidika people. It was a great exercise that really helped us understand the circumstances that dictated centuries of life in this region. We ended the night with a nice fire and dessert prepared by Bryce in the Dutch areas.

June 21st

Today we walked to the gorge to get Ed Galindo's informed interpretation of the petroglyphs. Ed derived an answer from several Shoban elders based on photographs he had taken. Ed put forward the idea that the modern looking image is actually a diagram of a fishing structure that was placed over the river in that location to net from. So, we walked down and back eating everything insight, because of some ethnobotanical teachings of Jim Kingery, while learning about the Tukidika historical significance of the place. I was a great outing and all the participants enjoyed it.

June 22nd

El Galindo left today. We spent a couple hours in the lab talking about etimobotany, plant botany, and our varied interpretation of natural. To follow we went for a Three and half hour tour around to the sagebrush flats looking at and learning about the plant species we came across. When we ended we had discussed at least 41 different species, and I'm sure I missed some, It was really great. I learned that I can eat almost everything here without dying, but I might get a disagreeable belly.

June 23rd

The interns, Ike, and I set out to hike to Black Butte to watch the sunset and moonrise. The two events are going to occur within minutes of each other and the moon will be full. We thought it would be a great excuse to get out over night. We didn't make it to Black Butte, rather spending the night on the route about two miles shy. We had a great camping spot on a wooded ridge at 8100' where we could overlook the headwaters of Cliff Cr. We didn't get to see either the moon or the sun, since cloud cover moved in. We ended short because the trail faded out after 4.5 miles and it becomes a little slower and more difficult to travel.

June 24th

We hiked out, thinking initially to come down Horse Mtn, but that dream faded with difficult travel. Everybody did great coming cross country getting back to our original trail, even with all the log hopping.

June 25th

Jim Kingery took the students, Broke, Teresa, and myself on a tour of the riparian vegetation along Cliff Cr. We spent a few hours talking about the species and their niches as we walked towards the lower pasture. At the pasture we discussed restoration, the species to use, and the process of removing the invasive species that have become prevalent. After we finished, we sat and ate lunch and talked about the importance of maintaining the group morale and help to spread it to all those who will be at Taylor this season.

June 26th

Four flights today. Emily, Davis and Jenna Kretzer on the first mail flight with Jim Kingery out on the second. Bryce and Crystal (IDFG) made their switch and Brian Parks (intern) father-in-law and brother flew in to drop off his nephew, Blake, for a week. I managed to finally get the stair for the Dellieg ripped off and the gas line for the water heater replaced. We had a nice potluck with all the old and new residents and ended it with a bobcat sighting on the rail of the fence to the upstream side of the bridge at about 8¹⁵ pm.

June 27th

Shopped the center step for the Dellieg deck stairs. Used the chainsaw to rip a log and shopped it with the belt sander. Took all the remaining pieces apart to stain and seal them up. We gave them many coats, hoping to help slow the decay that is spreading. I'll plan on getting them replaced with dimensional lumber sometime in the near future.

June 28th

Had a productive day. Mostly finished moving the fence around the solar panels, got the Dellieg steps back to a state where they can be put together again, and figured out more of the electrical after tripping the Dellieg breaker with the chippers. Ended the day by breaking my foot while running with the dogs on the airstrip. Meg and Brian hauled me up to the Taylor cabin in the green wagon.

June 29th

Big day for lawn care. The interns helped to power trim around the fence and structures across the ranch. Everything got mowed and the Dellieg stairs reassembled, but have yet to be reattached. The group got together and finished up the last of the fence by the solar shed. They had a nice potluck around the fire pit and then I showed up about 8³⁰ when Ray dropped me off. Ray had picked me up at 10³⁰ am and flew us to Root ranch to swap out a couple guys and brought us all to Cascade. Ray took me to the McCall hospital and hung out in the room with me. We went to lunch afterwards and headed to Wheelers in Cascade, for drugs and a smoothie.

June 30th

Slow day for me. I actually got a sore back and neck from so much laying around. Meg and Paige worked on cleaning up the gardens and chipping material around the Horrocker. Brian and his nephew Blake hiked up rish creek point trail and down to Cabin Cr for the night. Kevin went way up Goat Cr and the Cantis hiked to Cabin Cr along the river.

July 1st

After painting the remaining boards for the Dellieck deck stairs, Brian and Chris put it all back together. The stair turned out very nice and easily blends in to the original staircase. I had Brian reinforce the back of the stringers to help pull the deteriorating wood together. I'll plan to replace the steps with dimensional lumber in the near future. Today was otherwise a normal day of intern work except for Sarah being out with her family.

July 2nd

All of the Cantis headed up the benches for a last day hike. Shelly Cantis (same intern name) had some doubt about reaching the ridge, but was nicely surprised to have made it and they all commented on the amazing view. I sat tending my foot today while Meg worked on cleaning the Horrocker for the coming Peck and Alenson visit.

July 3rd

The Cantis left today after a nice visit. We had a nice time having them all here. Pat Peck arrived today on the mail plane, a couple days ahead of Jim and the Alensons on the stock. The three of them are riding in from Big Creek. We had a potluck up at the house for my benefit and we all had a better chance to get to know Pat.

July 4th

The students are all out working on their projects. Bryce came over to visit and he and I used the 2x6's I ordered to replace the steps on the south side of the lab. We did all three entries, replacing all three steps on the east end.

July 5th

At about noon today, Jim Peck and Jim + Holly Alenason rode across the bridge on to Taylor. Holly is returning for the first time since the Alenasons left in 2009. The students were scattered around working on various things, but gathered up to help the three unload and get moved in. We relaxed for the day and then had a potluck for a more relaxed way to get to know one another.

July 6th

Jesse Barber BSU group showed up today and sampled for insects through the night of the 6th. Jesse said Taylor has an extraordinary diversity of insects and he was very enthusiastic about that. The interns met the Alenasons in the lab and then head to the tack shed to learn some ways of mounting up to a pack saddle.

July 7th

Jim Alenason put the students through a pack course today teaching the the pack method (knots, barrel, sling) tying. Once the students were familiar with the way of tying and loading, then they had an opportunity to load the string and get the morning around. Each student had a chance to ride and lead two animals at one time. The idea being to give them a chance to feel/see how a pack string will function.

July 8th

This was the day to learn how a team worked together to pull. They use the hay wagon and stone boats to haul different items around Taylor. The stone boats were used to haul propane up to the Lewis cabin and the hay wagon was used to haul a brush pile down to one of the burn locations by the old kecut bunkhouse. The day ended with breaking a cross member on the hay wagon and some of the fittings on the stone boat.

July 9th

Today each student had the opportunity to drive the team around without a load. While Jim and Bryce repaired the stone boat and hay wagon the rest of the group received a lesson on driving from Holly. After everyone had this chance to drive, Holly gave a class on identifying skulls of native species to the Frank Church. We also talked about some of the research they conducted and what they learned about wolf, lion, and ungulate behavior after the reintroduction of wolves.

July 10th

Meg, Tehya, and I flew out on the mail plane to head to Boise to get my foot officially looked at. Pat Peck and Janet Pope left as well. Jim Peck had left on the 9th and was planning to get Pat with their truck and trailer in Cascade after driving out from Big Creek.

July 11th

Holly Alanson is here to watch the place while we are out for a Orthopedist visit. Jim and all the other students here will be out on a pack trip up Goat Cr and around to Cabin Creek and back. They will be out for only a couple nights (back Sat.) with the stock carrying their gear and all students taking turns riding and leading stock along the way.

July 12th - 13th

We spent our time shopping in Boise for food and Taylor supplies. We came back with a car full of tools, hardware, linens, and cleaning supplies. Hopefully next time we will get some more time to have our own fun.

July 14th

We flew back in today after spending the night in Cascade and drive up the night before. We brought in lots of ice cream and soda to make floats and had a nice party in the Delling in the evening. The entire group was there to greet us and help pack our store items up to the cabin and shop. I was nice to come back to the group.

July 15th

Today we started working with our trash pumps and hoses to see what equipment we have working in the Popocate fire becomes a threat. We got one of the three pumps up and running and ran hose all over the pasture in front of the Lewis. We also worked on removing brush from around the Lewis cabin and the lab. We used the tractor and new fixed hay wagon (Brian fixed joint) to move brush down to the brush pile under the feed shed. Jim + Holly left in the morning with Jim heading out on the plane with the dog and Holly riding out with the stock. Bryce rode with Holly to Big Creek, taking a second riding animal and leading a mule.

July 16th

Today we had a group gathering to talk about fire equipment and what we have and how to use it. We all had a chance to get a nozzle and spray it all over the pasture. We also used the 1.5 inch line from the spigot by the hydro shed to refill the cistern above the Taylor cabin. Brian also took the time to teach the students his 9:1 system to move heavy things with a rope for mechanical advantage.

July 17th

Darrell + Bruno flew in to bring items for the upcoming donor trip and to help prep some areas around the ranch for the potential of the Papoose fire coming. After getting things distributed Bruno worked on getting the two pumps working that we could not yesterday. Darrell assessed the grounds and chose a few spots that he wanted to focus on for fuels reduction. The students were out working on their projects.

July 18th

Darrell and Bruno spent the day using the tractor and hay wagon to haul brush and other dead fuel from the east fence line. They hauled several loads of material down to the, now huge, pile of brush below the feed shed. We wrapped up and organized the fire fighting equipment to prep for the Kresell district fire management folks coming tomorrow to talk about a fire plan in preparation for the potential of the Papoose fire making it here. The Papoose fire is now 5100 ac and working its way south along the middle fork.

July 19th

Today we had two folks from the Kresell district fire management group come to go over the fire plan for Taylor and the potential of the Papoose fire. We walked all around the perimeter to look at any issues that we will need to address to help defend. They gave us a list of items to address to help protect all of the infrastructure at Taylor. It was a great meeting and we proceeded to get working on several of the suggestions. Shawn, one of the Asst. FTMO, will be back in a few days with 4 others to set up equipment and hoses and cut out more of the end of the runway, so the Otter can be used to deliver a larger crew. Shawn will bring in 5 pumps and 10000 feet of hose.

July 20th

Spent today getting up to date on many of the note taking standards for Taylor. It's easy to let things go for a couple days when you get distracted by work projects. A flurry of email started today talking about when we need to remove people from Taylor. Seems a little premature from the stand point of being at Taylor, but we are not the final say and so the decision is made by those drawing an image in their mind of the situation we are experiencing. We will do what we can while we can to make sure the place is prepared for a fire before we get shipped out.

July 21st

We were surprised this morning by a sneaky landing of the Islander with a five person FS crew. The initial plane was followed by another Islander and a 206 bringing in pumps, hoses, sprinklers, fuel, and other gear so this crew can stay and set up a perimeter around the infrastructure at Taylor. There was additional talk of bringing a larger crew for suppression activity in an Otter, so some runway thinning is necessary. The entire group at Taylor quickly got together and started thinning both sides of the down river end of the airstrip. We cleared out brush from the LP tanks down about 75 yards and back to the old fence that was unknown to exist. At the same time others were working on the other side of the strip, cutting material up to the edge of Pioneer Cr and in some cases beyond. We piled all the cut material on the hay wagon and drag it down to the biggest opening on the side of the strip. Additionally, we cut about sixty yards of brush from the river side of the strip at the dogleg and drag that material across to the pile. We generated a huge pile of material that will need to be burned this winter.

July 22nd

Today we continued with more brush clearing while the call was made by UI risk management to remove all non-essential folks from Taylor. Brian and I started the day by removing brush from around the Lewis cabin and up behind about 75 yards. We cut out ladder fuels below the Doug-fir and limbed up all the trees as far as we could reach with the pole saws. Chris joined us while Lisa and Matt pulled material down and loaded it on the hay wagon. After we finished around the Lewis, we headed down and brushed out both NOAA fisheries panels, moving all of this material to the burn pile by the old bunkhouse. After lunch several of us cut out around the LP tanks and fuel shed, back to the old fence.

July 23rd

Today we started with an early flight from Arnold Av., bringing in a much needed chipper for the DR mower and a barrel of fuel. Darrell went to Sphaere to pick up a DR and get it all the way to Taylor in less than 24 hrs so we could stop creating piles of fuel. Meg, Tanya, Holly, and Cody hopped on this flight to head out of Taylor, as mandated by Risk Mngt. After they left we immediately started assembling the chipper and getting ready to trim out around the airstrip shed. While this was going Arnold Av. was flying Holly and Cody to Chellis with the return stopping to pick up Emily, Jenna, and Chris. Shortly after the Islanders came in and picked up the remaining folks and took them to McCall, where many will stay at MOSS for at least one night. The jeep, in the meantime, finished around the airstrip shed and moved over to the brush below the DeVlieg. Here they piled most and we will chip all material possible along the fence closer to the lab. At 3pm we met and had a walk through on the FS hose and irrigation system, firing up the pumps and walking the line all the way around to see if and how things are working. We ended the day with an FS supplied dinner of steak and potatoes around the fire pit.

July 24th

Today we had a Jet Ranger land in the pasture with the IC team for the Papoose fire. The IC team was from the Salmon-Challis and was visiting to talk about need and structure with Payette fire crew and Division boss in place. They all needed to get on the same page since the payette crew is being absorbed by another forest.

Otherwise, the work continues with brushing below the Dellieg and pruning up all the trees between the wallhead site and the back of the Lewis cabin. We used the chipper to remove most brush, but also picked up and hauled all the material off to the airstrip pile, which is huge. Everything at this point is in place and we have been told that we do not need to worry about moving more fuel.

July 25th

Finished clearing brush and limbing trees below the Dellieg. Brian, Kevin, and Bryce used the tractor to pull brush out of the dense tangle of Hawthorn. They drag material and piled it down below the cargo cage, making a large burnpile. Steve Mellow gave me good instructions to burn the pile when we get a good snowfall to help moisten the branches with the heat of the fire. The pile is squished between the creek and cage, close to several trees that we may lose from scorching. Now with irrigation in place, it should be easy to protect the space if fire is to move through.

July 26th

Today Steve, Shawn, Kot, Steve, and Kevin helped our guys move material that was generated from felling one of the beetle killed trees behind the Lewis.

Steve Mellow, the smoke jumper and arborist, gave us an instructive process in felling a large tree. Steve cut the tree in to 16.5' logs and we hauled them out and started a pile in front of the Lewis cabin in hopes that we can get a band mill to start cutting wood for an eventual cook and bunk house.

July 27th

Today was my first actual use of a crosscut for felling a tree in the wilderness. Steve worked the crosscut to fell a tree in front of the sauna shack. He called that it would fall of a specific rock and he managed to get it within 1.5 feet. This tree was felled, bucked, and mostly cleaned up and then we moved on to another. The diameter of these trees is pushing the limits of both the log arch and the tractor. Even with the log arch there is not enough weight in the front of the tractor to keep the wheels on the ground. Our pile of saw logs grows.

July 28th

Today we continued with two more trees being removed from behind the Dave Lewis. We started with 7 dead Doug-fir and now have 5 trees felled. The closest 5 were removed and 16.5 logs were cut out of as much as possible. There are now 15 logs stacked and ready to cut into dimensional lumber. The two newest fire fighters were tasked with bucking and cutting limbs into small fuel wood for the rocket stove. They got the job to get some saw practice after just completing the basic saw instruction course with the FS.

July 29th

Today was a cleanup day for the area behind the Dave Lewis. The logs have been removed and limbs piled. The FS crew cleaned out the area around the sauna to make it a little more fire proof. Between the material removed from the dead DF and everything around the sauna the area is very open and a natural fire break. We ended up with 20 saw logs, all but 2 are 16.5'. The 2 oddballs are 12.5'. Should be a lot of wood if we can mill it. I think I will write woodmizer and propose a class/education surrounding the wilderness and NIPF forest management. Maybe they'll give us a deal.

July 30th

Today we awoke for the second time to the USFS twin Otter flying over to make a resupply drop. Two passes over the airstrip yielded 5 parachutes and a lot of food. The first drop occurred on the 27th, just a few days before. It ends up that they are essentially feed themselves and us every night at the fire pit.

After the excitement we went up and moved into the Orchard. I cut everything that seemed to be impinging on the light to the fruit trees. We clipped the vast majority, but the Hawthorne got trailered to the airstrip brush pile.

July 31st

I spent most of the day doing "office work". I also watched very closely for the word from the Dean + Risk Management on opening Taylor up or not. I'm ready to get things rolling again after 9 days of great task accomplishment. More brush and trees cleared in the past week and half than the last few years, so I have to keep it this way. Brian and Kevin spent the day cleaning out the Delling. Lots to clean in that place. The ISU group made it down from Cabin Cr and were pleased to find out they could stay after the closure was lifted.

August 1st

This morning Steve and Kat (FS) lead the ISU group downstream into the closed area to allow them to sample. It was generous of those two to take the group; they were out half the day. The rest of the group worked around here cleaning and packing up for the FS departure tomorrow morning. Gary Phillips also came in to replace the RAWS sensors with newly calibrated ones. He is also interested in the MET signal in the lower pasture, so we looked at that. USFS wants to accommodate Taylor so he said we could use the data and also add our own sensors. This of course started the process of working out the said details so all parties are happy.

August 2-6

Pete flew out on the 2nd with Kevin Fuchs (intern) who is heading out after 10 weeks and some volunteering. Pete is heading to Boise to see the podiatrist about the foot, again. I found out that I broke it again and moved the bones. While we are out Paul Robinson and Brian Polkes (intern/volunteer) will be taking care of things until Darrell Stout flies in on the 5th.

August 7th

We returned on the mail plane in the morning and spent the day getting settled back in and figuring out all of the things that have been neglected while the focus was shifted to fire.

August 8th

While we were out Brian worked on cleaning out more of the orchard. Upon our return we moved in and cut down two large birch that hung over Pioneer Cr at the bridge behind the shop. These trees were the last connection in the canopy. Removing them will create a great barrier between the upper and lower creek. I piled the trees in the trail and backed it all up so it is ready to be chipped. Usable pieces were cut to collect stove lengths and hauled to Taylor wood shed.

August 9th

I used the chipper today to remove the remaining birch from the trail behind the shop. Well, I actually communicated the material on to trail. Afterwards I cut much of the larger material behind the Lewis cabin where I then loaded and hauled it to the Taylor wood shed.

August 10th

Liza Mitchell left today for a backpack sampling trip from Big Cr. on down. She will meet up with Bryce, Emily, and Jenna and they will all sample their way back to Taylor. We continued with mowing the pasture after Brian mowed the upper pasture to start, clearing the place up for the donor visit. The pasture adjacent to the Delling received care today, cutting from the trail to Big Cr bridge to the east.

August 11th

Bruno showed up this morning shortly after Brian kicked off for his trip out towards Big Cr. We will miss Brian after all his help and insight into the management of Taylor. We learned the process with Brian doing and will always remember this summer. Darrell sent Bruno in to help get me off of my foot, which I proceed to push to its limit. I'm a little worried that it will never be 100% percent again. In the afternoon I mowed along the west side of the main pasture down to feed shed while Bruno patiently cut rocket stove length fuel from all of the branches left behind the Lewis cabin.

August 12th

The first day I will be solely on the irrigation project. I very quickly will be turning the set up into something my own. I will start with the waterline running down Powers Cr, that is intended for getting water to the corral and old bunk house location. After pulling the line from the creek, I noticed that the lower end is 1.25 inches while the upper is 1.5 inches. Buried in the brush of the creek is a restrictive coupling that was holding the fix to the low pressure at the corral. I climbed into the brush and used the loppers to cut the line to remove the rock that is blocking my water. I pulled the line from the creek and put in two new hose fittings to help irrigate the west pasture. Additionally, I removed the Forester spray nozzle from the line off the lab and replaced it so I could get more pressure to the sprinklers.

August 13th

Bruno mowed away on the center of the pasture, spending at least 4 hrs finishing it up. Now all that is left is the pasture below the hill, down by the solar shed and creek. I reconnected the line to the corral and now have full pressure to run another 2-4 sprinklers.

August 14th

Today we hauled more rocket stove length wood to the Taylor wood shed. If we keep it up we will have a very nice stack of wood for the stove. Bruno continued on with the mowing, finishing up the remaining pasture. I cleaned up the orchard, trimming some loose ends, raking, and piling what remains of fuel wood to be cut. I moved brush and limbs to the pile south of the orchard for future burning and used the tractor to push it all in to one large pile. There is now also a decent pile of material that can be cut for the rocket stove.

August 15th

Bruno continued on cleaning up wood around the Lewis cabin. He also tuned up and looked over the chainsaws in the shop. He gave suggestions of purchasing a couple bars and chains. Emily Davis, Liza, Bryce, Jenna, and Taylor Joyal liked in today after floating from Edwardsburg. They got a lot of sampling done and seemed to have a good time. Dinner at the fire was nice with a great musical accompaniment from Paul, and Sarah and Emily Metcalf who flew in w/d.

August 16th

Bruno was out on AA first thing this morning. I proceeded to finish cleaning up around the Lewis. I had some straightening of the wood pile, raking, cutting brush, and moving debris up behind the cabin. I filled in the holes (big holes) behind the Lewis with a dozen wire baskets of material removed from the yard. The Thunder City fire kicked up about 6pm, shaking us out with a column 19 miles away.

August 17th

I moved straight in to finishing the raking around the Lewis this morning before it got warm. Meg has been working on cleaning structures and Bryce moved and put away the trash pump and fire hoses. We still have the FS fire hose system in place and should have it in place for a while. Sarah and Emily Metcalf and Paul left today after a few nights of visiting. Paul will be back at the end of the month. Some boxes of irrigation stuff came in on their plane and I proceeded to go put it all out as wanted. The coral and old bank faucets are both giving us good watering now.

August 18th

Meg finished cleaning the Dellieg and the Homocher. I scrubbed the main level and bathrooms for the Senator's staff visit. We work to shine up the whole place some to make it look good for our visitors.

August 19th

The first plane came in at 8³⁰ am with Steve Hacker and Mike Rader, Senator Risch's Director of Natural Resources. The second plane followed at about 10 am with Dean Pregitzer, Tim Petty, Darren Parker, and Mike Hanna. Everyone got settled and then we met for lunch at the Dellieg. Following lunch we had a brief history and current issues review about some of the challenges facing Taylor. Then we went on a walking tour through the facility, to the 1st diversion, down to solar, and over to the lower pasture. After the tour group went swimming and fishing at Bush Cr until 6-6³⁰, when it was time for dinner. Steve Hacker made dinner at the Dellieg and everyone at Taylor came to visit. We ended dinner on the deck and then moved on to the fire pit. Risch's staff, Steve, the Dean, Jenna, and I stayed until the full moon was up and 11 pm rolled around.

August 20th

The group had a continental breakfast on the Dellig deck this morning while waiting and preparing for their flight.

Steve Hacker and Mike Roach flew out first with Ray at about 9am. The others waited until 10am for Interstate to arrive and then shuttle to Cabin Cr. to get a full load out of Taylor. Meg started cleaning the Horvoker and Dellig sheets and towels. We ended the day with some swimming down at the lake.

August 21st

Today I started working on the 1st water diversion for the main water intake. Since we are limited on wood, I used 8 1"x6" to fashion a 14' dam to span the creek on the culvert. I overlapped the pieces to make sure I didn't have more than 1 seam in any location. I sandwiched the boards and placed some holes to allow the rebar to run through for holding it in place. I took 3/4" rebar and ran it through the tabs on the side of the culvert and pounded them in about 16" each.

August 22nd

Today I brought the dam up and set it on the rebar next to the culvert. It's a little tight for the slots after hammering on the ends and mushrooming the end. We also had a nice dinner in the Dellig for Bryce's going away party. After almost 6 months of weekly rotations, Bryce is off to school for the start of his MS. He will be back next year and likely the following. After we ate we played Dominos, chicken foot style, for Jenna's families sake. We played for an hour before giving up to head home.

August 23rd

I spent the morning changing the water intake after Bryce got on his way with Sautoth Av. I pulled the boards and put the new one in place. It seems to be accomplishing the same task with more control over the water level. I also backfilled much of the hole to the downstream end of the culvert. Probably moved a cubic yard of rock.

August 24th

Had a nice Saturday pancake breakfast before heading to do some chores. No traffic today, so I did some cleanup around the airstrip shed, moving cut wood and mowing. Crystal (IDFG fish) helped me load the trailer with wood and I hauled it up to the Taylor wood shed to unload. Emily + Jenna headed to Goat Co. and Liza ran down afterward.

August 25th

Rick Feraday (May Hardware) flew in a load of lumber and hardware in exchange for some fishing. I took 1"x4"s to the 1st diversion to cover the rot around the edge, under the lid, so it wouldn't get torn up any more. We also spent several hours cleaning the Delling for the NOAA crew and SITW. As usual, we were up until 10pm cleaning.

August 26th

We loaded to trailers of wood into the Taylor wood shed, leaving a large pile yet to split. What is up there should satisfy the rocket stove for the winter, but will be slow to split since it needs to be small. Also, got a lot of computer stuff done and had the NOAA group (10) fly in to sample and maintain the array. We ended the night with setting 3 traps around the Lewis to catch the wood rats that are harassing Liza and Emily.

August 27th

NoAA group was at early electro-fishing a reach of Big Creek from below the Delling to above the screw trap. They caught just over 600 fish that were tagged and measured and allowed to arrigut in containers in the creek. They will release the fish Wed morning after they are sure of their survival. I moved the majority of the airstrip after talking with Gory (islander pilot) yesterday. We'll plan to keep the irrigation off to try to get it dried out some so its not so soft for the islander.

August 28th

Mail came and took Liza out to Edwardsburg. The cordless electric hedge trimmer came and I immediately took it to the bushes at the airstrip along Pioneer cr. I have been waiting patiently to trim them back down as they were in May. I think this trimmer may need to be carried all the time to help trim. I also finished mowing the strip and trimming everything I came across with the hedge trimmer. I also mowed and hedged the trail from the end of the strip to the beach at dusk.

August 29th

Used the hedge trimmer around the Taylor cabin to trim all the lilacs and bushes around. Raked up the debris and moved it to the burn pile by the orchard. Also got the Honda 3500 generator running today. Since the pull start is broken I cut a rope to use, but ended up starting it with the cordless drill using a wood paddle bit and the right sized half inch drive socket. I took a lot of cranking to start. From what I can find, it has not been used since 2008, but was probably used in 2009 or 2010 when the solar shed was constructed. After the generator was running, Paul Robinson welded the broken part on the reel mower. It's fixed and ready to go again.

August 30th Friday

Today we received a new notice from Tom Bates (FMO) about a new fire west of Mile High 1 mile. It is a lightening start and is burning in grass in east Coxey Creek. They got the notification late and will fly it early Sat. Outside of fire news, we moved rock from various places around Taylor to a localized site above the feed shed. I will continue to move large rock there to use as material to construct some raised beds for a garden. We also spent a little time sighting in the rifles for hunting season at the end of the day.

August 31st

This morning we got and did the morning chores and started breakfast. I checked the far ranch email to see that Tom Bates had emailed back, mentioning some details about the new fire. He said they would do structure point protection and that some smoke jumpers were on their way. It wasn't a half hour later when the twin Otter came flying over tossing streamers, jumpers, and gear into the pasture. We had 4 jumpers in and then Crew 6 returned on the A-star B3 helicopter. We all settled back in to old routines with Crew 6 here again. Eudy and Jenna left for 4 days of sampling at Cabin Creek.

September 1st

Today I moved another trailer of rock to the garden spot as I moved the tractor from the orchard to the Dellig. I wanted the tractor at the Dellig to use as an anchor for climbing rope to get on to the roof. The plan is to clean the stove pipe and secure the top to stop birds from getting inside. We were also sent an email from Tom Bates about the potential for flash floods. At this time the SFTW group is headed down Big Creek in hopes of getting past the Coxy fire.

September 2nd

The drama begins with trying to get the SFTW group to Taylor. The IC flew in on the Astar (A5350 B3) to talk with us and share about the group. He was relieved to know that it was a class and we decided to hold them up given the flooding, fire, and lack of urgency. They will hike from Acorn Creek back to Big Creek and wait.

September 3rd

With heavy rain forecasted we are trying to figure out what we can do with SITW, who are maintaining things out at Big Creek. The plan ends up with them heading back in to McCall to regroup and reevaluate. Meanwhile we climbed on the DeVlieg roof with ascension gear rather than ladders to clean the stove pipe. I used a ladder to go to the roof and a rope anchored at the tractor on one side and a footing on the other. With a prusik I could climb and be secured regardless of which side I fell off. Shamu (USTS) and Meg helped, screening the stove pipe cap with $\frac{1}{2}$ " hardware cloth to keep the birds out. When we were done on the roof I took the tractor over and buried the compost and dug a new hole.

September 4th

Mail came with a big grocery order for us. Jenna and Emily returned on the mail plane from 4 days at Cabin Creek. I used the tractor to bury the blow out in the orchard, so it can be used in the winter. After that I took another load of rock down as I brought the tractor back to the barn. Damon, USTs smokejumper, spent a lot of time teaching Paul and I the proper technique for sharpening a cross cut saw. Also, Meg and I are finishing up the cleaning of the DeVlieg for SITW. We got help from the AS crew and it will be a great example of clean for the students.

September 5th

Today we learned that Crew 6 and the smokejumpers will be heading out tomorrow. Their task for the day was to wrap up and box all the hoses, pumps, and sprinklers that they said. Meg and I finished the DeVlieg up and we had a nice party with all. Tim Hettrager and Birk Birk stopped for the night on their way to the flying B.

September 6th

Surprise, Semester in the Wild showed up at about 11:30 am after we were told they would be dropped at Cabin Cr and be hiking in two more days. It took 2 flights from the 206 and 185 to get all 13 folks in. On top of these flights, we also had 2 McCall Aviation flights and two flights from the A-Star to get crew 6. The smokejumpers took the 2 McCall Av. flights, combining at Cabin Creek and heading to McCall. We had good meeting time with SITW. And I started hanging the new antenna.

September 7th

Emily Davis and Taina Kerton left today for the season. The SITW course continued course work and hiked to the gorge to evaluate the morphology of the bench terraces along the river. We ended the night with a nice meeting with the SITW group. Their enthusiasm is starting to show through to us. For work we have had a few trees blow down recently that I went around and cleaned up. I also climbed the second of four trees that will be used for the new backcountry radio antenna.

September 8th

The SITW group had a lot of class in the J. Peek classroom. They were also given some free time to fish and swim. I mowed around the shop and Aelo and started mowing the airstrip for the Islander, if it comes in for the FS gear on Tues or Wed.

September 9th

The SRW students had another classroom filled day. They did have a plane full of gear come in with Liza Mitchell on it. A few students received none of their items and we opted to not send another plane and have their gear come on Wed's mail plane. Paul climbed the third of four trees for the antenna, putting an anchor in to run a cord that will lift one end of the antenna. I cleared the w/m. maple and dead aspen from around the fourth tree and the pear tree. I kept all of the maple stems for firewood and will chip the remainder tomorrow.

September 10th

Continued with cutting the dead aspen around the DF below the pear tree. I stacked the sections (~4 ft) in a pile next to the bridge to be moved. Tightened the north bathroom toilet to the anchors in the Dellieg, it started leaking at the floor. Cut all useable pieces of stem from the material around the pear tree and left all of the brush piled for chipping.

September 11th

After sharpening the chipper blade and reinstalling, I started chipping the piled material around the staging shed and pear tree. Didn't get a whole lot done, since it was mail day and there is always stuff to take care of.

September 12th

Spent the day installing ArcGIS and related course materials on the PC laptop. Had issues getting a lot of the stuff squared away with the slow connection. Spent the majority of day carrying climbing equipment to the middle MESA site for another bent mast issue. Paul and I both climbed the tree and looked for solutions to simplify the fix. A new mast will be ordered as well as an additional for the bottom site.

September 13th

Finished cleaning up all the material around the pear tree. Afterwards I worked on my class and then climbed the DF to install an anchor for a climbing rope and a higher anchor to raise the eastern end of the backcountry radio antenna. I spurred up the tree and left the anchors to rappel out and belay those that would like to learn how to use gaffs.

September 14th

We had a good meeting with Beth Kocouvar about Semester in the Wild. Afterward, Paul Robinson climbed the DF with spurs on belay. He ended up climbing to within 10 ft of the top and then climbed down and rappelled out using the figure eight. Five of the SITW students hiked to the confluence for the night while two hiked to Cabin Cr. We went over and visited with the 4 remaining students for a couple hours in the evening.

September 15th

The students returned from their trips down to the Middle Fork and up to Cabin Cr. Bonnie + Cali hiked to and up Goat Cr and back down to Big Cr and then up the ridges. The day was left for the students to conduct their research for their final projects.

September 16th

The SITW students had the day to write and prepare their projects for presentations tomorrow. The ISU two (Matt Sheink + Lundbox) finished up their work and caught a Middlefork plane back to Challis. I walked to the other pasture and pulled down the acoustic sensor of Keith Bremhardt's. I also pulled the other acoustic sensor and left both of them for John Whiting (ISU) to bring back to BV.

September 17th

We spent 3-4 hours of the day in the lab listening to the SITW students final river ecology projects. Taylor Joyal and Liza Mitchell wrapped up the class and will have two days to prep for departure. We had a nice group dinner as a class ending celebration.

September 18th

The mail plane came today and was a hit for the SITW students, since they all had received something from friends or family. Jess, Liza Mitchell's help and a fellow UI grad student left on the mail plane after helping sample along Big Creek and spending some time working with the students.

September 19th

The 11 students, Beth, and I left today for a hike to Bush Creek Point for the night and then down to Cabin for a second night. The climb to Bush Cr Point was a nice challenge that was handled well by all. We had a nice relaxing evening camping on the ridge. Liza Mitchell and Taylor Joyal flew out late in the afternoon and we were able to watch the AA 300 fly in and out of Taylor from about 6900 ft

September 20th

We woke after a rather cool night on the ridge to a nice blue bird day. Our travels were short, hiking down hill from Bush Cr Pt. to Cabin Cr. We crossed the river and headed to the airstrip where we will camp. Several of us took time to hike to the cave creek cave and then also got a quick tour of the USFS cabin that Shilo lives in at Cabin Cr. Shilo is finishing his 5th season by mid October and will be heading. We had a nice evening of fun and relaxation and will head back first thing in the morning.

September 21st

We woke to a nice cold and dewy morning at Cabin Cr. The group made breakfast and we agreed that everyone would trickle down Big Creek back towards Taylor. Everyone was back by 2pm or earlier and the rest of the day was spent relaxing. We had a group dinner at the fire pit at 6³⁰ and ended the evening with a SITW meeting.

September 22nd

Spent 2 hrs this morning siphoning sand and silt from the culvert and sediment box at the first point of diversion. The two lengths of trash pump intake line worked well once the line was filled using a 5 gallon bucket.

September 23rd

Scott Slavic came in yesterday and is today working with students in the lab. We are working on cleaning the hornocker and Lewis cabins for SITW faculty and instructors that will be visiting. Started pulling all the sprinklers and garden hoses to prepare for the cold weather.

September 24

I've been working away on my first class write up, but constantly thinking of work and maintenance that needs to be accomplished. Today and I took a little hike up behind the Taylor cabin and saw a bear on the Dave Lewis ridge that comes down into the ranch. It was fun for both of us to share the moment as it walked down towards Rances Cr and the water intake.

September 25

Rainy day today, as we all anticipate the mail plane. Todd's knee is badly infected and he being on the plane is one of those anticipations. We would like his knee to be treated with antibiotics. No luck with the plane, better luck tomorrow.

September 26th

The SITW group is very anxious for the mail plane. They say it feels like Christmas. After missing a day to rain, we are all hoping it makes it today. The plane did come as did the IDFG charter out of McCall. Todd went out with Crystal on the Sawtooth Av. plane, so he could go straight to McCall to avoid the extra trip.

September 27th

Today was the first day since April that we have lost power due to lack of sun. The power went down in the morning for only a short bit (5-10 min). We have had three consecutive days of very little sun. The whole campus had a conversation and discussed options for cutting usage and raising awareness.

September 28th

I spent all day working on my project report with only breaks to work on the chores. While walking back from the Shop over the bridge and into the orchard, I startled a bear that trotted up the hill in segments, turning around with each pause and looking back at me. I turned in my paper in the late evening, expecting that it was sufficient, but not where I wanted it to be.

September 29th

Today was a very wet work day for me and the SITW students. With no resistance, I went and got them started at 9am. A group of four disassembled the ISU enclosure project on both the ranch and lower pasture sides of the river. The rest of the group cleared up downed material behind the beavis and then moved to cutting brush on the airstrip logleg. We all got wet and cold as the morning progressed. We started the airstrip brush pile on fire and used the tractor to push brush in as the pile burned down. Lunchtime came and everyone went in for the day. I worked until 4pm finishing the burn and moving material with the tractor.

September 30

Woke up today with the power out after losing it briefly last night. It worked to turn on as the power came and went several times before 9 am. It may have gone out for a while during the night. I brought the generator to the solar shed and looked it up. While I waited and worked, I worked on my monthly solar maint. The surge from the warming refrigerators made the recharge to the batteries difficult, pushing a normal 800 watts to 1400 watts. Eventually the sun came out and it quickly remedied the problem.

October 1st

Saw the cinnamon bear again close to the Orchard this morning. Saw him about 25 yds away on Saturday just outside of the orchard. The dogs get their labels up every time we go out the door as they stick their noses into the wind flowing down from Pioneer creek. Based on the dogs behavior, the bear has been coming close for the past couple weeks. Matt Amick (DFG) came back today and spent a few hours helping with mowing, burning, and splitting wood while the screw trap is pulled for high water. Also started rewiring the Taylor cabin's 12 volt system.

October 2nd

Received a full plane of mail today, plus we had beta fly out and my dad in. The wilderness Mgt course has been going well, but seems to be challenging the students. Spent much of the day tidying up for Janet Delliege Pope and the Deans visit to meet the SITW students. We had many power outages through the night and morning due to all the rain. I went through the battery/solar maint while I worked on repairing the generator.

October 3rd

The rain continues for the fifth straight day. It did manage to stop for period long enough yesterday to get the mail plane in. With all the clouds, I have been worried about battery power and needed to run the generator again to catch up. Ended up running the 3500 watt Honda for 9 hours over the course of the day. Had to end the night by preventing the students from consuming any more power when they wanted to watch a movie using the projector. The rain has also lead to a drippy leak in the IDFS lab bedroom. I went in to the attic and realized it was screw that was through a rotten hole, dripping every several seconds.

October 4th

Took a walk down to the close pictographs to show my dad today. He wants to fish, so we also looked at structure in the river along the way. Checked the power in the morning, on the way out, and back, when we came back I tried to run the equalize function, but could not, because the batteries were still not full enough to desulfate. It was sunny today and should be for a few days, so I'll try again tomorrow and will likely have things topped off soon. Also finished cutting, soldering and hanging the new antenna with some help from my dad.

October 5th

Semester in the wild had their student presentations for Troy Hall's Wilderness Management class. The presentations started at 9 am and ran through 1³⁰ pm. We are trying to stick to a Sunday workday and the students felt they have had no time to play. Since they have been here they have only work a half day for Taylor.

October 6th

We got started today on the second SITW workday since they arrived on 9th. Gary Thompson showed up as Troy Hall and Jesse Engelbrecht. Gary helped Art and Todd split wood and stack all of the worksheds and wood boxes in the housing. Meanwhile, the rest of the students, me, and my dad worked on cutting out all the brush between the Dellieg and what is becoming the campground. After completing this and generating another huge burn pile, we went and cut out the north side of the Big C bridge. We then went to the lower pasture and cut brush and piled it for burning.

October 7th

The students headed back in to class with Gary Thompson, working on leadership curriculum. Meg, Tehea, my dad, and I walked to the gorge to take in some scenery. This was the first day long family outing since Fathers Day. We got back around 5pm and the students were out of class and feeding around.

October 8th

I am once again trying to get an assignment done for class, spending much time with reading. We had a nice breakfast and finished wiring the antenna through to the radio location. Somehow, the antenna feedline wasn't 6 inches too long to make the connection. The SITW students spent the day planning their 3 day pack trip with Gary.

October 9th

The mail plane came early and took my dad back to Cascade so he can head home. When the plane left, the students packed up and headed out. Sadi's friend Eric will stay as a volunteer and work on several projects around Taylor.

October 10th (Thur)

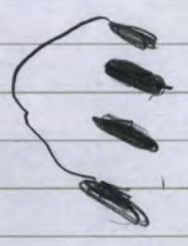
The SITW students are out with Gary Thompson on a leadership course backpack trip. Taylor is quite and the internet is almost cursed. The weather has been cold at night (28-30) and we are wondering if any of the group will be cold while out. The bear, or bears, are in visiting the compost/landfill and the apple trees around the Hornocker.

October 11th

The students returned today from their 2 night 3 day pack trip. They trickled in as the day went on, with the last few coming in with Gary. I worked on the last touches of the second class paper for Landscape and Habitat Dynamics. Once I was finished I worked on the tractor carburetor and ordering some basic maint. materials (plugs and filters). The Serial # is nicely hidden under the starter.

October 12th

Saturday was a free day for the SITW students. A few went on hikes and the rest seemed to spend their time watching movies on the computer. Sarah and Bonnie both came over individually to talk and visit with the two of us. Sarah ended up climbing the big DF in front of the Taylor with climbing spurs. We had a rope anchored in the tree from putting in the new radio antenna, so she was belayed on her climb.



October 13th

Sunday was a work day and Pete went on an overnight hunting trip - the first hunt of the season for him! The SITW students displayed a good attitude about the day (for a while). A small group of students helped Paul haul gear up to the second bench and Bonnie stayed behind as Paul's spotter. Another group hand sawed brush stumps east of the beavlieg; Sarah, Will, and I ^(Mog) continued to mow the airstrip and move brush; and Susie cleared. Gary left and Scott returned for his second stint. The bear continues to feast on apples. Prepped cabin for Scott.

October 14 - Monday
Spent the day cleaning and getting ready for Janet's visit. She arrives tomorrow and Pete's mom arrives on the mail plane. The students have planned meals for Janet's visit, ordered the food through Brian and Beth, and will do all of the cooking. Beautiful weather and fall leaves
October 15

Janet arrived a bit late. She was at her ranch and had a flat tire on her horse trailer. Had to back up the length of the road in, get the horse out and back into the barn, repair the tire, and leave without the horse. The students' food arrived with Janet. They had lunch and went on hikes to write. Sarah and Bonnie invited Janet to hike with them for the afternoon and they had a great time. Group dinner and campfire. Met with Janet. The bear remains active
October 16

Pete and Paul climbed the MESA mid-side tree to install the new tower - the old was bent from high winds this summer. Was and Janet met. Group dinner. Bonnie is student coordinator and is doing a great job. Janet discussed TWR's library with students.
October 17

Rearrange breakfast and meeting with Janet until her plane arrived at noon. The students did a "cinnamon role" w/ w/ her and she was a good sport! When posing for a couple of pictures, some students whined about the sun being in their eyes and Janet said, "Well... toughen up!" There were smiles and nods from all of the "adults" in the group.
October 18

Students are having class on the benches. Pete and Paul climbed again. They cleaned and repaired. Nana Kate and Tehya went looking for bears.

when mom's work is done

October 19, Saturday
 Pete, Meg, and Tehya went to the third bench and Paul's mid site to core trees for Ph.D. students went on day hikes and Sarah and Aric went camping. Thorough off-site plan. Beautiful weather all week.

October 20
 Work day. One group shoveled gravel off of the Big Creek bridge and then organized and cleaned the airstrip shed. Finished mowing the airstrip. cut stumps to the ground by the beavies. Check extinguishers and detectors. Prepped cabin for Jenn. Scott does a good job of cleaning. Earlier in the week he said he didn't have enough hot water for his daily shower. We discussed the water heaters' need for flow and the timing of clearing the intake. He's considering the notion of showering a bit less frequently.

October 21
 Traded the big cook stove for the smaller one from the airstrip shed. We're concerned that some folks will be unhappy given the history of the stove. But after some months of trying to make it work we decided we need the space to have a kitchen table for family meals. We hope folks will understand. Met with students to get their perspective on staying after the water is shut off. Discussed leaving a practice run per Troy's suggestion.

October 22
 Worked on stoves. Dave and Keith good enough came in and will leave tomorrow. Had a great conversation with them and got walked around with them. What great guys. Was not with the students about the upcoming conference call about whether they will stay with the water is off. Want to be sure they are being realistic about what it will be like.

October 23, Wednesday

(chilly) → Darrell and Keith came up for breakfast and a meeting. We had a nice time, Darrell helped fry the cakes and we had a nice chat. Keith ducked out to the pasture for a satellite phone conference call - when returned, he said with a laugh that the call only dropped three times. They, along with Pete's mom, flew out today. We had a meeting with the GROW students to discuss whether they want to stay after Nov. 1 if we have to turn off the water - told them our ideas to make things work and get ideas from them. Pete got sick.

OCTOBER 24

Today is the students' practice day without water. They will go about 24 hours without. They don't want to go longer so they can prepare for their backpacking trip on Sunday with Gary and Beth. Inventoried supplies for water storage, etc. Had a conference call w/ U1 to discuss students and faculty staying w/o water. John came up here to Skype. They couldn't hear us, so Darrell spoke for us. He did a great job relaying what we discussed and was a great advocate for us = both that we should have a say in the decision as the people here managing the facilities and people - and also advocated for us as being capable of managing things well. Darrell is great to work with! Pete is really sick - flat in bed which is very unusual for him! Cleaning cabins.

OCTOBER 25

Pete is still sick. I met with students for more discussion. They voted and decided to stay. I met with Susie about her project. Cleaning

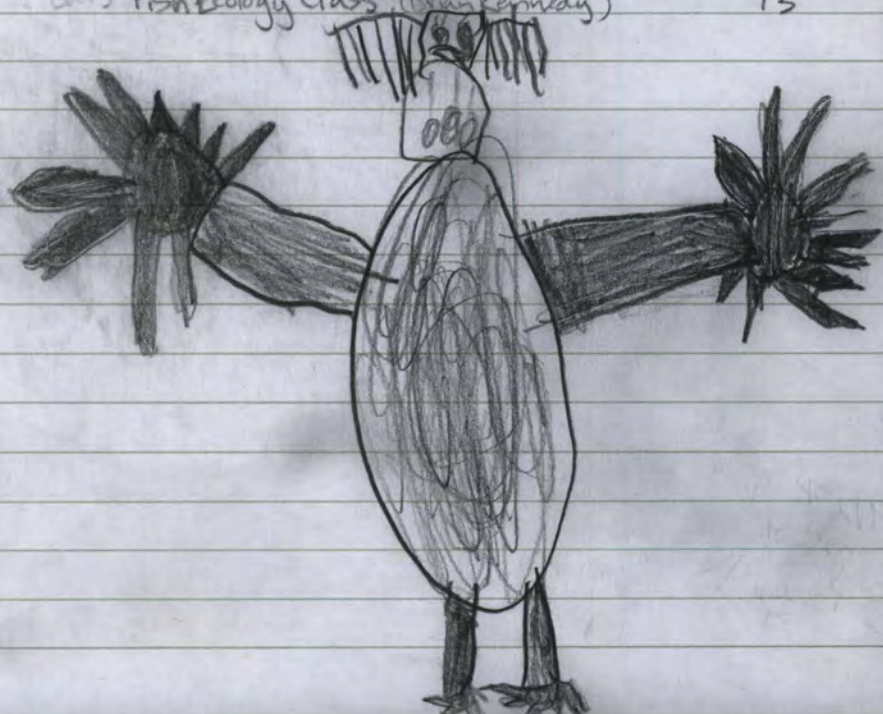
OCTOBER 26

Pete still sick. Met with students about their upcoming week. Many have concerns about their backpacking trip and are worried to talk with Gary about it - some are concerned that they will disappoint him if

IN

Date	NAME	group/comments	Out
8/22	Kurt P.	Dean CNR	8/22
1	Darrell Stou	Facilities CNR	1
8/25	Dustin Allen	IDFG	8/25
8/27	Crystal Allen	IDFG	8/29
8/25	Liza Mitchell	Fl, # Janet Pope's ranch → moscos	8/25
8/27	Steve Achard	NOAA	8/31
	Scott Davidson		
	Louis Tullios		8/30
	Nathan		8/30
	Ron Marr		8/30
8/28	Walt Stewin Aviation fuel, took out donor trash, recycle + barked wire		
8/30	Stitch Pope	hiked in from Cabin Creek = ranger, neighbor	8/28
8/28	Dave from Root Ranch/Flying B	picked up Jack & Lucy (mules) in	8/28
8/28	Taona & Dave(?)	USFS Rocky Mtn Research Station; McCall	8/28
8/29		camping w/ their tents in pasture	8/30
8/28	Zetel's guys w/ 2 horses, 2 mules. (forgot his name)		8/28
8/29	Crystal Allen depart	IDFG	8/29
8/29	Dustin Allen arrive	IDFG	9/5
8/29	Michael Jew on mail plane	manager's husband!	9/3
8/31	Brian Kennedy	Louis Fish Ecology Class (Brian Kennedy)	9/3

- Jeff Caisman
- Rick
- Larry Hendron
- Sam
- Mikaela Campbell
- John Hansen
- Christian Brown
- Jamie Jell
- Sierra Cantrell
- Dylan Galken
- Earl Beasley
- Christopher Pike
- Erin Landers
- Ken Bannister



Omega 3
900 ml algae
DHA / day

8/31

con't

Fish Ecology Class

9/3

~~Josh Stradman
Taylor Lasley
Jeff McDonald
Ron Irvin
Will Kennedy~~

9/1

Logger Sports

~~Ross Apple
Tess Pinkney
Dulcie Peters
Kevin LeMieux
Luke Handricks
Joseph Dice
Burl Wade~~

9/1

~~Carra Stoddard~~

~~UI Fine Arts Writer Retreat~~

9/5

9/3

~~Emily Davis~~

~~UI~~

9/5

9/5

~~Crystal Allen~~

~~IDFG~~

9/10

9/10

~~Liza Mitchell~~

~~UI Grad Student~~

9/9

~~Rick Hartson
Nick Janson
Rachel Hutchinson~~

9/10

~~Russell~~

~~RMRS Boise REDD surveys~~

9/10

~~Ron?~~

~~helicopter pilot~~

9/10

9/10

~~DK?~~

~~2 old guys on a pack trip~~

9/10

~~Bob?~~

~~visited Supra ago Jim & Holly~~

9/11

~~Greg~~

~~rafter from Middlefork~~

9/11

9/12

~~Glen Lodgson~~

~~Marcie's Dad~~

9/19

9/12

~~Al (Lodgson)~~

~~Marcie's Uncle~~

9/19

9/13

~~Alex~~

~~Zettles picked up Jack (husband) & Brandy~~

9/13

9/15

~~Ray Arnold~~

9/15

~~Frida Babbit (Bennett?)~~

~~Caswell's ^{great} grand daughter~~

~~Gene Babbit~~

~~→ husband~~

~~Mike Babbit~~

~~Caswell's great great grand son~~

~~Jenny Babbit~~

~~→ wife~~

9/18

~~Crystal Allen~~

~~IDFG~~

9/23

~~Maria Bramley~~

~~out for San Diego wedding~~

9/19

9/23

~~Dustin Allen~~

~~IDFG~~

9/26

~~Maria Bramley~~

~~manager returned~~

9/27

~~MESEA (Paul Robinson, Derek Neale)~~

~~MESEA~~

9/28

~~MESEA (Kathy Kavanaugh, Tim Link)~~

~~MESEA~~

10/1

~~Jill Maxwell~~

~~CR Marketing~~

9/10 Dustin IDFG in 9/10 out

shakes (infant 2003?)

9/27 Carey (Jenny) Carl → sheep tag
McKenzie

How It Works:

1

Affix stickers
for year and
month



2

Attach tab for
quick reference

Voici comment il fonctionne :

1

Apposer les
autocollants
d'année et de
mois



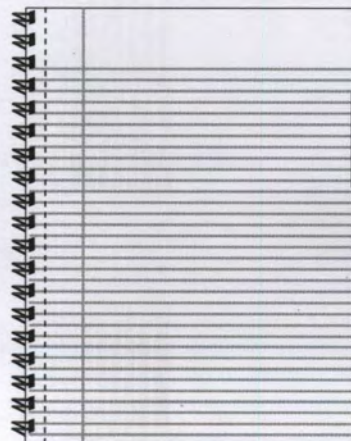
2

Attacher un
onglet pour le
consulter facilement

Cómo funciona:

1

Pegue las
calcomanías
del año y
el mes



2

Ponga la
lengüeta para
rápida localización