

8269

COMP BOOK

Taylor Ranch Journal

Dec. 18, 1993 - May 1996

80 SHEETS • 11x8 $\frac{1}{2}$ • COLLEGE & MARGIN • 43-481



DENNISON NATIONAL COMPANY
Holyoke, Massachusetts 01041

CARE TAKERS

12-18-93 Paul and Joan Clarke
to 5-2-94

9-24-94 Gary Macfarlane
+o

5-2-95

8-17- *Lynette Nelson*

9/24/95-11/29/95 REED & KAREN LEWIS
12/13/95-

11/21/95-12/13/95 TOM KOLASCH & JERRY

visitors - stay overs
(since 10-1-94)

Tim Chem UofI student
doing a senior project on
the facilities here. 10-27 to
10-28.

Dr. Jim Peck 10-28 to
10-29; 1-27-28;

Guy Weyer (10-1 to 10-19;
10-27-11-10; 12-2 to 12-29;
1-4 to 1-25; 2-2 to 2-16; 3-8 to
3-19

Brian Holbrook 2-2 to 2-14; 2-22 to
3-15; 4-5 to 5-2

Beck Mulloy (tree feller, friend of
Guy Weyer's) 2-8-2-16. He felled a
downy fir by the Arlo Cabin (the large
dead one leaning toward the cabin).

Mike Schlegel, Kevin Primrose &
Jim Pope (pilot) IFG censusing
team 3-6-95 to 3-10-95

Terry Holubetz & Brian Beth, IFG
fisheries at Cookhouse 3-22-95 to
3-24-95. Mike Larkin & Dan Mudd,
IFG fisheries in Bunkhouse, 3-23-95 to 3-24

Mike Schlegel & Steve Capps,
IFG darters for Brian & Guy's
Studies 4-10-95 to 4-12-95
at the Cookhouse.

Matt O'Connell, IFG darter for the
sheep 4-17-95 to 4-20-95, Cookhouse
Sandy Holbrook 4-18-95 to 4-20-95 in
Arlo with Brian Holbrook

Terry Holubetz & Brian Beth for weir
work 4-21-95 to 4-22-95 Cookhouse

Visitors - Stay Overs

8-30-75 Paul Nelson - Honey mooned with the
→9-6 Cito Brunette that I found
standing at the end of the runway
when R.C. dropped me off. It
only took us 1 1/2 years to have
one, but it was worth the wait!!!

12/18 The sheep are up on the benches - small group of nine, 2 rams, 1 young, 6 ewes. Two collared ewes - one white collar, one green collar - the green collar appears to belong to the young one. The big ram is $\approx \frac{1}{2}$ curl and seems to be inches. Very light snow this morning.

12/26 A bit behind in the journal, but not not much to report regarding wildlife. It seems the herd of 55+ elk have roamed farther East for the time being and the herd of 24(+?) sheep have just not been spotted in over a week. Wildlife highlight of the week goes to the coyotes. They still frequent the station and screeched Joan and I 2-3 times a week. Yesterday one of two coyotes caught a rabbit just on the other side of Pioneer. Joan + I watched from the cabin as she (we believe) ate bones, feet - almost everything. The coyote had hardly took a step in leaving and half-dozen magpies were on it. I took off down there trying to beat the scavengers in order to see the remains. There was a small pile of intestines, a small blood stain and 3-4 scatterings of fur. (and one urine spot left by the coyote). Hard to believe with all the chomping that it would all end so neat and orderly. Of course immediately after + left, the magpies cleared up the intestines and picked through the fur.

Christmas was wonderful. A perfectly decorated Charlie Brown tree and many presents. And what a feast - we'll probably be eating turkey through next April.

12/27 Nice treat today for my birthday - Saw 7 big horn sheep move from the benches on the east of Cliff Creek to the hill on the west side. There were 3 ewes, 2 young ones, 1 young ram and 1 big (3/4 curl) ram. The big ram kept everybody moving from the rear and one of the ewes led the way as they moved across. No collars on any and haven't seen the others.

We went for an evening hike to watch the ~~sun~~ moonrise. We hiked up above the cabin and had a great view of it as it came up over Big Creek, looks about one night short of being full.

Paul gave me a great birthday party complete with streamers, balloons and party hats. He was going to bake a cake but we still have so many sweets left over from Christmas it wasn't really necessary. (And I did get candles to blow out.)

12/28 Seems that the coyotes make a fairly regular run through the ranch in the early afternoon. Had a good view of one as he/she went by in front of the cabin. They look very healthy and warm in their fluffy coats. With all of the coyote tracks around here one would think we were keeping several dogs with us.

12/29 Coyotes made their rounds again. It's seems to be a particular pair we're always seeing. One is much bigger than the other but both look fully mature. A male/female pair?

12/30 Elk are back! Saw small group of ≈ 6 on benches. All cows, no bulls. Jeff called and said a group of grad. students would be coming in on Mon. Jan. 3rd. They'll be doing big horn sheep collaring.

12/31 Lots of elk today. Two groups, one of 12 cows was down near the bridge working ~~their~~ their way up to the first bench. The other group of 14 cows was just below the third bench.

Did wash today, good day for it, ~~pretty~~ fairly clear and quite warm, $\approx 30^{\circ}\text{F}$. We're going to try to stay up for the New Year but as 8:00 is about our usual bedtime and 9:00 or 10:00 feels terribly late to us I'm not sure we're going to make it.

~~12/29~~

1/1

Happy New Years! Didn't wait up for it but greeted it enthusiastically this morning. Some good snow but it's so warm it may turn to rain. Saw a small group, ≈ 8 , of elk cows on the benches. Did some clean up and preparations for the students coming in, mostly just checking on things and ~~to~~ a bit of sweeping. Did set some mouse traps in the lab and duplex. Not much sign of them in the lab but they're definitely in the duplex. Everything looks pretty good.

1/2

Busy day. We did a big first of the year clean up of our cabin and it does look nice and fresh again. Amazing how quickly the dust accumulates. Check the mouse and didn't find any mice in them so either the mice weren't fooled or ~~to~~ maybe they've ~~found~~ found different winter quarters. The coyote pair came through again today in the early afternoon, they're almost predictable. Saw 29 sheep way up on the top of the ridge across from us.

1/3

We seem to be having a burst of Spring-like weather and McCall is fogged in so our visitors didn't fly in today, maybe tomorrow. Couldn't see much because of fog + low clouds but did see a few elk on first bench. Spent a lot of time walking ~~to~~ up & down the airstrip with snowshoes in preparation for the flight, snow didn't seem to be packing down very well but it may help.

1/4 Continuing to be more Spring than Winter here. Foggy, Cloudy and Raining, with temps in the 40's. (Good for snowball fights though.) Not sure of the status of the incoming students. McCall said they had cancelled their flight for now but that Fish + Game people are scheduled to fly in ~~tomorrow~~ ^{tomorrow}. We'll just wait and see. The big herd of elk is on the benches again. Haven't seen the sheep yesterday or today. Busy getting ready for mail day tomorrow and hoping they can make it in.

1/5 Still bad weather - No mail plane
Continue to snowshoe runway in anticipation.

~~1/6~~

1/6 Weather much better - Mail plane came with lots of goodies. Fish + Game people cancelled flight - may come in tomorrow.

1/7 Very cold again, down to 9 last night. Fish and Game were going to come in but decided not to, said next week if good weather. Saw elk and sheep. Both down on ~~the~~ mid + lower benches.

1/8 ewes, 1 1/2 ant Ram
29 elk and 9 Sheep and 2 coyotes (← regular pair)
Elk came way down then headed up Cliff Creek. One of the ewes has white collar and they came down to lower pasture across Big Creek. Coyotes sang for us again last night and by their prints came quite close to cabin.

1/8 cont. (≈ 21) a big group of elk crossed Cliff Creek not far from the bridge and took the trail west along Big Creek.

1/9 Same group of sheep on benches again.

1/10 ~~§~~ Still not good flying weather in McCall ~~so~~ Fish + Game didn't come in. We're continuing to snow-shoe runway. Found out they're not planning on spending night, just coming in for 2-3 hours. Curious to know what they're going to do here.

Didn't see sheep today but found the ~~elk~~ elk on my short hike behind the cabin. Made a loop above the cabin to Rush Creek + airstrip. Saw lots of elk tracks and finally ran into some. Rather unexpectedly and they didn't care for the company.

1/11 No sheep and no Fish + Game. Saw small bunch of elk on benches. Continues fairly warm days.

1/12 What a morning! Two elk in the front pasture, one went into the hay barn. They can jump it very easily. Also small herd on benches. Best of all, a pygmy owl flew into one of the birches just in front of the cabin and hung around for some time. We really enjoyed watching the little fellow. Saw the sheep again. This time the group

a eight has expanded to thirteen. Same white collared ewe and $\frac{1}{2}$ curd ram in charge. Also two young rams, the rest ewes. They moved from the west ~~side~~ side of Cliff Creek on the big hill, crossed Cliff and over to benches. Snowing quite awhile this morning

1/20 ~~1/20~~

Whoa - how do we get so behind in the journal. It's been a wonderful week except for the weather. It's pretty much been a spring thaw around here although it finally turned a bit colder yesterday. If the ~~month~~ warm weather had continued much longer I would have expected water back in the cabin. It seems as if the warm weather has also incouraged our little friends to visit. After almost 3 months of no mice at all, we were suddenly hit with a plague. The Egyptians never had it so bad.

We awoke with them in bed with us, and hearing them in the living room. After a couple of unsuccessful counter-attacks we just lay in bed and listened until morning. Then we found they had gotten hold of Juan's homemade coconut pie, the mice never had it so bad! That was 3 days ago and now all is well. We discovered 4 entrance ways that they were using and plugged them with steel-wool. All the entrances were via the basement and we discovered 3 ways they were using to get under the cabin. These are now plugged but apparently (I hope) we trapped one fellow. We've had no more visitors thus far but we hear someone ~~knawing~~ gnawing behind the kitchen pipes. We're trying to trap what we believe is the last. Time will tell all. I'm confident they will continue to work at other ways to get in but it's nice to have at least a little control right now.

Also, Brian finally made it in with Jim and McCall. Got just set up by the lick on the 1st bench. Eleven sheep watched us from the east side. Brian and others are planning to come back next Monday to stay for about a week. I'm looking forward to some great experience with the trapping & hopefully, telemetry work.

This morning after radio hour, Juan & I hiked up & roamed the benches. We had hoped to find some antlers but none were found. Up top in the treed section (of the 3rd bench) I met 6 mule deer does (1 fawn included) face to face. I think we just sort of ran into each other as we were approaching a small hold at the same time. We were only \approx 10 yds apart when we saw & stared at each other. They left & then we saw several pale hind ends of some elk, not sure how many there were. In the same place, there are no less than 8 hairy woodpeckers. I've never seen so many at one time. There is apparently something special in the Doug fir trees and the woodpeckers are going to town on them.

Looks like another cool, clear & starry night (1/2 moon setting early). Nothing better.

1/24 Brian called yesterday and said they probably won't be coming in today, more likely Tuesday.

We saw just four sheep on benches today and have only seen a small group of ≈ 3 (saw 3 clearly) actually at lick since Brian set up his stuff there. We're to keep Brian posted on sheep numbers + activity.

1/25 Elk and sheep on benches. Small group of sheep, ²⁷, we did call Brian to let him know. It sounded like they may not be ~~com~~ planning on coming in soon though. Jeff called and we ~~to~~ discussed the letter we had sent to him and he mentioned that he may not come into the Ranch until after the 1st week of May and wanted to know if we could stay. I said that as of now that would be fine.

1/26 Saw 11 ~~sheep~~ sheep up on benches, they didn't go into lick though. We hike up Rush Creek and poked around a bit. Saw sign of current/recent beaver activity. Also came into an area where lots of saplings had been rubbed and ~~peel~~ bark peeled off. Probably elk I guess, There ~~had~~ have been lots of them in that area.

1/27 Lots of sheep! Counted 20 sheep in one group up above 2nd bench or on side hill to east. Called Brian but he said they couldn't make it in until Monday but maybe he'll come in this ~~to~~ weekend. Paul decided to go outside to sing and play his guitar since it was

quite recently →

so warm today. Well, he attracted quite the audience. 13 elk came into the pasture by the hay barn. They moved across the pasture, pausing to listen, they all crossed but then came back and stood in a bunch in the middle of the pasture listening to Paul. It was really neat. Paul felt quite honoured. Lovely full moon!

1/28 Today was the day for the sheep. Saw them in two groups. One of 13 sheep up around the third bench and another of 15 that came into the lick and actually bedded down there for awhile. Elk were out and about as well. ~~Had~~ Had a bit of a surprise this afternoon. We went for a hike along Big Creek and saw fresh horse and mule tracks. Very strange feeling when you've been under the very strong impression that nobody else is anywhere near. We had found out that ~~the~~ people were cougar hunting out of Cabin Creek but we didn't think they'd be down this way and I really didn't think there'd be any stock in here this time of year. There were only eastward tracks so we're hoping we notice when they go out.

1/29 Elk on third bench. Coyotes sang to us last night. Beautiful nearly full moon in clear sky. Sheep on benches.

1/30 15 sheep took a nap at the lick.
Great opportunity for using the net.
Did lots of wash today, have it
hanging all over.

1/31 Brian Holbrook, Jules Mulhalem (sp.?) and
Mike Schlagel came in today for the
sheep study. They all didn't get here
until rather late in the afternoon but
they did go out on to the benches with
their gear because they'd spotted some
sheep. As they were headed up they
flushed ~ 46 elk out of the trees
along Cliff Creek.

2/1 We all went out today. Saw quite a few
sheep and were close a few times but
never any good shots. Beautiful day
to be hiking, cold but absolutely clear
and sunny.

2/2 Paul went out with the sheep collaring
expedition and I stayed here for the
mail plane. Plane came in about 4:15
and about that time they got a ewe.
I watched the video tape Paul
took for them and it was very interesting.

2/3 No luck finding and collaring anymore
sheep. They did find some but no ~~one~~ more
got collared. Everybody flew out today,
very quiet here again. Felt real busy
for awhile.

- 2/4 Just had an easy day today. Didn't see any sheep or elk but didn't look very hard for them. Still very clear and very cold.
- 2/5 Talked to Brian, he said he'd probably be back in Tuesday, weather and all permitting. He said there was a storm possibly on its way Sunday or Monday. Clear night now.
- 2/6 Saw three sheep - 1 ewe with two young ones, they came down from the lick, crossed Cliff Creek and headed up the slope west of Cliff Creek. My arms are still sore from the ice breaking on Wednesday. While the weather is so cold we decided to clear the ice from the thermometers every few days so it doesn't build up so bad again.
- 2/7 Well, we did get the snowstorm after all. Not really that much snow but its fun having a fresh covering on everything.
- 2/8 Brian's not coming in, maybe Friday or over the weekend, if not then next Monday.

2/12 Big Break in Journal - Not much happening, - no word from Brian, they'll probably come in Monday. Saw 3 sheep on 1st bench, 1 collared ewe, collar is off-white, and she had a big yellow ear tag, also one young ewe + one young ram.

2/13 Today we watched as several small groups of sheep, incl. yesterday's 3, seemed to come together and meet in the lick area, counted a total of 14.

2/14 Last night we saw our first bobcat in the area. He was hunting across Big Creek in the flat across from the airstrip. Very big with a collar. We watched him for quite awhile. Brian + Mike are sick and won't be coming in until they're better. I'm still having problems with my arms. The right ones is better but the left one seems to be getting worse. Its very sore right now.

2/16 Big day today with mail and all. Not one of our better ones unfortunately, some of our packages didn't arrive on time and most of the mail seemed to be bad news but that's the way it goes.

2/17 still no word from Brian. Paul saw 19 sheep up Cliff Creek on a hike.

2/18 Sheep and elk all over. We've been having very warm weather lately, feels like spring is coming. Also saw brief but exciting high winds, really shook things up for awhile.

2/19 We went on a hike to the top of the lambing cliff. Not the best footing with snow here and there and the ground being soft but we made it and had a great view from the top. Saw several sheep and lots of elk.

2/20 Brian called and said they'd probably be coming in on Thursday. Saw some elk, no sheep.

2/21 Weather's been very spring like, unpredictable. Warm + cloudy, cool + sunny, bursts of wind, rain and snow. Looks like February will give us more precip. than the rest of the winter. Saw 2 people with five horses heading west on Big Creek. From the sound of all the planes they must still be hunting out of Cabin Creek.

2/22 Went on a great hike today, up to Rush Pt. or Peak or whatever it's called. Not really easy going near the top with lots of snow but not too bad. Great views, think we saw all the way the Cabin Creek. Big news today is the radio finally seems to have quit transmitting altogether. It had been giving us problems again lately but was mostly working after being resaturated. Well, we tried resaturating the problem spot again, several times, but that didn't fix

it this time. Checked the whole thing out and cleaned it up but nothing helped. Right before it went out we did get a message to Carol to have Ray bring in a new one ~~of~~ ~~the~~ with the mail & groceries with they don't hear from us.

2/23 Snowy, rainy, cloudy day. The birds seem to think its almost Spring as well. Haven't caught sight of any new ones but we've been hearing some beautiful new songs. Worked on the radio again Paul really checked it carefully and ~~it~~ redid some connections but nothing helped. Hopefully the news will get passed on and Brian will bring in a radio when they come in.

2/24 Winter again! It started seriously snowing last night and we woke up to lots of snow on the ground. Its been snowing nonstop all days and has really accumulated. Paul and I snowshoed the airstrip all the way one time through. Figure we'll be working on it quite a bit over the next few days. No chance of anyone flying in today.

2/25 A little more snow fell during the night we have \approx 20 inches. Its beautiful. Warm today and its melted some. Worked a lot on the airstrip, the top half is in real good shape. ~~that~~ Had some brief visitors today. \approx 30-40 Hoary Redpoll finches came and fed on the alders in front of the cabin. They only stayed for a few minutes but were fun to watch. hooked them up in the

bird book and it seems they're probably on migration to the far north.

2/26 Warm and rainy today. The snow will go quick if it stays like this. Snowshoed a bunch more on the runway, looks good. Heard lots of planes going into Cabin Creek, actually one plane making several trips, looked like the all silver one from McDell that Pat's brother flew in here once. Saw a big ram eating on the slope below the lick. Paul was able to get real close to him for some good pictures, hopefully. He is the only sheep we've seen since the snow, have seen quite a few elk.

2/27 Snow's disappearing. Saw the packer from Cabin Creek heading out, Paul ran and was able to catch up with him and asked him to call Arnold's and let them know our situation here. The packer, Dave, said he'd call as soon as he made it to Flying B this afternoon. Heard Mary and Ron discussing our possible fate on the radio this morning. Hopefully the mystery will be cleared up later today. Saw some elk up on the third bench. We were surprised to see one with a huge rack. We haven't seen any racks since around Christmas even though we've seen lots of elk.

2/28 Busy getting ready for mail day. Saw some sheep on benches.

3/2 Brian & Kevin came in this morning. They are going to try using the net at the lick to catch sheep. They'll be here about a week. We played pinochle together this evening.

3/4 Found out from various conversations on the radio that starting now, (next Wed.), there will be weekly mail/grocery delivery from now on. Had Brian & Kevin up for dinner and more pinochle.

3/5 The sheep are consistently arriving at the lick in the mornings and hopefully will give us a chance to trap/net some. Paul and I are helping, if they catch some they figure they'll need more than two people to work the sheep. Have been seeing lots of sheep.

3/9 Well, Brian and Kevin took off today on the mail plane. Didn't get any sheep. For the last several days we tried to anticipate the sheep arriving at the lick in the early morning. If the net had been bigger we would have caught some but the sheep and the net were never quite in the right position. Amazingly there weren't any elk around to interfere with the maneuvers this week.

3/15 Mike Schlagel and two others came in to try luring the sheep. They got one right off the bat. Paul is helping, and did the videotapping like before.

3/18 Mike and the other^s left today. They were fairly successful although the sheep didn't cooperate as much as before by being nearby. They got 2 ewes.

3/22 Paul has suggested I go out for a week and visit my family. Probably a good idea, it'd be nice to go do some things I've been missing. Asked Arnold's to put me down for a flight out tomorrow. May change my mind but I'll probably go.

Friday 3/25 Well, Joan took off Wednesday on the mailplane and will visit her family in the Portland area. It should be a great time for her to fill up on seafood and go to a movie. Meanwhile I'll live it up here (I haven't cranked up the Bluegrass and flat-footed in the kitchen since last November). Days continue to be warm and I still watch lots of ungulates. Yesterday a group of 21 sheep wander all over the benches before they finally settled down west of the second bench. This morning about 12 broke off and are now on the east side and the remaining group is stayed put. After pattering around the cabin this morning I washed 2 loads of clothes and then enjoyed a sunny shower outside. I then planted myself in the middle of the patio to read. I read about an hour and then got up and noticed 5 mule deer does \approx 30 yds in front of me. They were less flighty than usually even though they saw me. I watched them wander over to the cougar cages before I left. I saw three more in the corral about an hour later, but I'm sure if they are some of the same or not.

I've been seeing more robin and rufous-sided towhee around the cabin. Also spotted a west-bound bald eagle yesterday and just like last fall, Mr. Grouse is enjoying the garden as he counts.

in. 3/27 Another beautiful day. Spent the day hiking to the middle fork. Ticks are out and still waiting on the water. Hard to believe with all the warm weather that the upper pipes are still frozen.

3/29
Tuesday.

Mike and Brian flew in unexpected today. They got set up in the lab again and then the three of us set out towards goat creek. Attempted at slope just west of goat creek was a near-miss but no sheep collared.

3/30
Wed.

Boise vet with 3 others flew in today to help with the collaring and to certify Brian with the drugs. They added much excitement to everyone's day when they land high and hot. They overshot the runway and settled into Piavea Creek. The Pilot received a nice cut on his forehead and the vet possibly cracked his arm. (?) Other than that everyone was shaken up but otherwise fine.

They manage to get Ray to fly them out and will return later to work on the plane. (They also collared one more ewe in the meantime bringing the total to 4). Joan also flew back in today!

4/2
Sat.

Yesterday Brian shot and collared his first ewe and in the afternoon Mike flew out. Today, Brian and I explored the slopes up cougar creek. Found an old collar probably from a cougar study. I also managed to get one more ewe on the high benches just west of goat creek. Now there are 6 out of the 10 needed sheep collared.

4/3 Sunday

Easter, and Joan is once again busy in the kitchen. Henry rains all day here made it a good one for staying in and enjoying a book and the wonderful smells from the kitchen.

4/2

Marr (the pilot of the plane that crashed) and a friend came in and lightened the plane. I helped and with a few precautions we were ~~not~~ able to off load the fuel without any problems. So far it looks like there has been no ~~or~~ or just very minimal leakage to the creek. Took several pictures of the set up and goings on. Very warm day.

4/4

Marr, an insurance adjuster and two mechanics came in today. The mechanics ~~to~~ gave the plane a going over, removed the wrecked landing gear and checked the engine. Also set the plane up on barrels so that it could be lifted out. Think they may have it flown out by helicopter in the near future. When they were working on the engine a leak of red fluid started from around the propeller. Marr stopped it up with some absorbant material and ~~it~~ it should be o.k.

4/8

Not the best weather this week although it would have been good to get more rain. The radio air has been quite bad and we have only intermittently been able to communicate with Arnolds, phone calls have been difficult to impossible. Paul + Brian have continued to go out when weather permits but haven't got any more. Ticks have really come out these last few weeks and we regularly find them on us. Just after getting back in found one in my head and pulled it out. Developed a big swelling and very tender gland on back of neck/head. Still there but seems to be getting better.

4/10 Strange day today. The three of us went out looking for ~~the~~ sheep on the benches. Didn't see a single sheep but saw lots of deer & elk. A nice day for a hike, yellow lilies are in bloom up on the hills. When we came back at 4:00 p.m. we found a mess of caramel corn in the kitchen and some cans moved. Looked for signs of mice and other explanations but didn't look like mice. Later on found a bottle of whiskey missing, maybe misplaced?, but have looked everywhere. Definitely feels like something going on that shouldn't be.

4/11 Found out what's happening. Discovered 5 soda pops missing and definitely know someone took them, also found 1/2 case of beer gone. Guess they were thirsty. Fish & Game came in on helicopter and told us they were looking for three guys heading this way. We said they'd already been here and made themselves at home! The Fish & Game took off saying they'd be back in \approx an hour. Heard them go over a few hours later. ~~Fig~~ Figured they must have caught the ~~the~~ guys so didn't stop in. We went over the ranch checking everything and locking up just in case. Nothing else seemed out of place or missing. Heard the F & G go over several hours later, they didn't stop, so we figured they must have caught up with the 3 guys they were looking for.

4/12

Well, turns out the F+G only got one of the three yesterday. Today was rather exciting. Paul & Brian went sheep collaring and then about noon the F+G came back in with the deputy sheriff from Yellow Pine. They hadn't been able to get the other two guys yesterday and they had last been seen heading back this way, not far from the ranch. The F+G and deputy caught up with them just about 1/2 mile from here. I am very glad they showed up when they did. I really wouldn't have wanted to deal with them alone. Definitely not the nicest people one might run into. They confessed to everything they did here. They're to be flown out tomorrow. In the meantime they are absolutely forbidden to cross the creek to the ranch. The weather got bad and the F+G couldn't fly out, they tried a few times but had to set back down. We put them up in the bunkhouse and had dinner together. I was already planning spaghetti and just made lots. I was actually quite glad they couldn't leave while the two men were still just across the creek.

4/13

Mail day and Ray flew out the two men. I'm glad that's over with. The F+G headed out this morning and we asked Larry to call Jeff and let him know the latest since we've still been having very unpredictable and mostly bad air for the radio.

4/15

The F+G is going to be doing a follow up investigation and recovering ~~the~~ personal belongings and stolen property which the 3 men left behind. They'll be starting at Cabin Creek and working to the Middle Fork and stopping off here inbetween and leaving from here on Monday.

4/16

Paul ~~B~~ found the first rattlesnake of the season. Paul + Brian spent the day up on the benches trying for sheep. No sheep collared but they did get very close to a group of rams. Actually the rams moved close to them. Nice warm days lately. The bats have returned and we watch them catch moths off the window at night.

4/19

Been doing lots of Spring cleaning lately. Have had good weather for it this last week. Have greatly improved the appearance of the yard and cleaned up the area behind the cabin which looked like the leaves have been piling up for some years. Paul's been doing lots of work on the rose bushes on the runway and today cleaned out all the left over food from the basement. Composted the food and clean and packaged the containers for recycling. Brian helped out with

this rather unpleasant chore and made it all go faster. Very warm day, in the 80's. Keep expecting the water to break loose and come back to the cabins but not yet.

4/21 Wayne Minchell and 3 students arrived and will be staying until Sunday. Jeff had said just two people for two days but we got them all settled in. Very warm day, did more work around the ranch. Started to get stormy this afternoon. Thunder and lightening make a bit of a show.

4/22 Very stormy today. Lots of rain and thunder. Good day to stay in and do some baking.

4/23 Cloudy but nice day. Not too hot or cold. Brian + I went looking for sheep up on the benches. Found one group of 5 lambs, then farther up found big group of 16 ~~ewes~~ w/ 2 lambs but they are very mobile and nervous lately and wouldn't let us get close. We followed them all the way to the ridge top and had a great view really way up there. Ran into another group of 4 ewes on the way down but they took off after seeing us even quite far away.

4/24 Wayne Minchell and crew left this morning and just as we walked back up to the cabin after seeing them off and found the water gushing! Had to make a minor repair to the cold water faucet then everything worked fine. Checked the basement for leaks and all is well. Very nice to have indoor plumbing again.

4/25

Very rainy again. Paul made pizza and I made pecan pie and we all had a good dinner together. Brian's getting ready to head out. He's been in for about a month now and will be back in this summer. We're really enjoyed his company and have learned a lot about wildlife from him.

4/27

Busy, Busy day! F + B were here and in the area working on sheep counts. Counts seemed to be down from previous years. They also saw some bears and goats not too far from here. I'd still like to see some bears before we leave. Brian flew out on the mail plane and we sent some more of our things out with Ray, to make ~~the~~ moving day that much easier we hope. Also had a visit from some folks on a longish camping trip in the area. They were riding and each had a pack horse as well. Served lots of cookies and coffee today. It was fun to meet them and talk a bit. Bad news is that after making it all winter without slipping and falling today I took ~~a~~ a pretty bad fall. Just carrying things down the trail from the cabin and tripped over a root. Went down very hard and really hurt my knee. Landed on my right knee and hand then fell on my left side. Took awhile to get up and I'm hobbling around this afternoon. Hopefully will feel better fast. ~~For~~ Call from Mark, they should be in tomorrow to start dismantling the plane and getting it ready for removal.

5-2

Our last day, Jeff will be flying in soon. It seems like we just got here but were heading out already. Overall, the experience has been fantastic and we've loved it. We've both stored many wonderful memories. Besting luck to those who follow.

5/3

I got in yesterday morning. Two plane loads needed to get all the Clarke's belongings to Caswell. So I got all the equipment, mugs, wheel barrows, etc. flown in. Fixed the refrigerator in Taylor Cabin today. Also broke ground for the garden & muddled. Planted Jettie's various plants around the Taylor Cabin & Duplex. Sunny, warm day so I worked up a sweat. Scott Patrick flew in to remove more plane parts. I helped him shuck one wing under his 206. Looked pretty tense but his take-off looked okay. The wing underneath didn't bounce around.

5/4

mail plane in today. I finished planting the garden. Found a beautiful small arrow point while hoeing in the furrows for seeds. Amazing that it would turn up now after this garden plot has been used for decades. Also, a male ruffed grouse has chosen a rock next to the garden to drum. He doesn't seem to mind me mowing the squabblers or taking pictures just a few feet away. Walked up to the 3rd bench this afternoon. Tim had the shock collar on but saw no animals to chase. Balsamroot still leaping out. Sheep, elk, and deer on all 3 benches every day. Saw last year's lamb so at least a few were born last year although I never saw any.

5-5

Walked on benches again today. Ran into 2 bunches of sheep. Young ewe & ram on 1st bench. Tim was about 50 yds ahead & spotted them. Sheep took off but I called to him to sit & he did. So I rewarded him. Later ran into 9 sheep bedded on second bench. Tim took off after them. I pressed the button but no response from Tim. He came back pretty quick and I upped to shock strength to maximum. Later he ran over a hill & didn't appear after I called him. I pushed the button & heard a loud zip. So it works.

5-6

Very warm today. Working on the met. station. Apparently something caused the data logger to lose the program last December. Possibly low battery although the battery reports okay now. So no data through the winter. I rewrote the program, recompiled it & loaded it back into the data logger. Hopefully, this will work but may have to replace battery or something. Ran into my 1st rattlesnake this year while going to & from the met. sta. Fairly big on trail above lower pasture gate. Also, fellow ("Jeff") packing in USFS home to Chamberlain. Said Middle Fork trail in bad shape with lots of rocks on trail.

5-7

Repaired broken water line under lab & turned on water. Amazingly nothing else was broken. After last spring's 6-week fiasco fixing waterline breaks I'm being very cautious this year. Climbed to 3rd bench this morning. Nothing for Tim to chase so no training accomplished. Unable to call out an ewe yesterday & today. Very hot last 2 days - low 80's.

5-8-94

Chris Robinson, Donna R., and Jeff Davis flew in with Bob Plummer this morning. Jeff is a new M.S. student working w/ Wayne Marshall. He'll study nutrient uptake in periphyton. Walked to Big Cr. gorge w/ Tim. The channel is twice as wide as last fall after the slide closed the gorge. Encountered Patti Schwin on trail between Cliff Cr and Canyon Cr. She's checking outfitter camps.

5-9-94

Marc Gregson & Scott Patrick flew in at 0700 today. They expected a helicopter to lift out the 210 fuselage. After 2 hours & no show they flew to Stanley to discover what happened. Returned a couple hours later with New Zealand pilot and helicopter (working under contract w/ IDFG on wolverine study). The fuselage lifted off fine & Scott & Marc followed in hot pursuit in Scott's 185 because the helicopter pilot didn't know where he was going. Climbed the benches again & encountered Patti Schwin again as she toiled her way up to Zettel's Cliff Cr. camp.

5-10-94

Reached my gear for trip to Chalkin tomorrow. Locked all the cabins and closed all gates. Bob Plummer will pick me up tomorrow morning. Still very hot - high 80's. Hope it cools off for my trip back in with the horses.

5-16-94

Returned Sat. evening with horses. Susan Han, last summer's field station intern, rode in with me again this year. We brought in a new horse - 5-yr. old chestnut gelding. I rode him & he did very well. We had good weather - much cooler than the past week but still warm. Many rattlesnakes along the way - about 20. The last reared up at the bend below the lower pasture. I had to get

off to throw gravel at it to get it off the trail. The new horse is definitely wary of snakes but stands his ground rather than spooks. We had no problems with saddles, ropes, or restarls. The easiest trips I've done so far. Didn't look like anyone had been here since I left. Susan flew out yesterday morning with Ray. I've washed clothes, mowed the yard & scrubbed floors today. Also, worked on some data for Admalty, I. research as well as a request from the communications concerned media info about research at Taylor Ranch. The horses all appear rested & in good shape after their 50-mile journey. Much cooler, in 50's, with rain threatening but little coming down. Need some precip desperately. Very little this month so far.

5-17-94

F&G helicopter swung by, didn't stop. Probably doing steelhead red counts. Circled the airstrip but I imagine they were just checking if their fuel barrels were still here. Finally started raining with a vengeance. Snow down to 3rd bench today. Rained all day - about $\frac{3}{4}$ " in last 24 hrs.

5-18-94

Jim Garrett, Ph.D. former student & recipient of DeVlieg Endowment award, came in on mail plane with technician. They'll be here a week sampling cutthroat reds to determine survival rates. Weather still unsettled with high winds & rain, thunder throughout day. Temperatures have dropped about 30° since last week.

Note young cow moose at mouth of Ranch Co.

5-19-94

More squalls today. High winds, some hail. Things are staying wet!

5-20-94

Jim & Brad not finding any spawning cutthroat. Stream temperatures probably still too cold. They found a few adult males but no adult females. Weather continues cold & wet

5-22-94

Glory pulled down half of corral today. Timk spooked him & the halter rope didn't break so the corral came down. New house lost a shoe. So we'll begin rebuilding tomorrow. No sheep sighted since Wednesday — elk coming down benches almost every day, usually 4-10 total.

5-23-94

Brad & Jim tore down corral around hay manger so we can drop big tree. Rebuilt corral somewhat smaller on west side of tree. I rebuilt gate so it's much sturdier. Although smaller, corral is much stronger so Glory's nonsense had positive effect.

5-24-94

Big improvement in weather today. In 80's with clear skies. I put a new shoe on the new house. He was patient with my inexperience. Tim and I walked up to third bench.

5-25-94

Jim & Brad left on mail plane. Cutthroat not spawning yet so Jim may try some other study. Weather continues very warm. I work on monitoring design and summer course syllabus. Beavers on face west of Cliff Ca this afternoon

5-27-94

Major rain storms last night and all today. Very wet, temperatures in 60's. Chuck Peterson dies in tonight, Peter Landree tomorrow morning.

5-28-94

Peter Landree, USFS wilderness ecologist, & Chuck Peterson

5-30-94

David Duncan and Tamaru Van Kouzhnet, summer interns, arrive.

5-31-94

interns spend day w/ Chuck Peterson — learn amphibian sampling methods, i.d.

5-1-94

Chuck leaves. Wayne Marshall & 3 graduate students in.
Guy Wagner & Brian Holbrook in

5-3-94

Peter Candrea leaves. Harassing & driving of Blue Eyes and
Miss Tanki

5-4-94

Wayne Marshall & 2 graduate students leave

5-5-94

begin landbird monitoring & small mammal monitoring

5-6-94

Jeff Davis, Marshall grad student, leaves on foot. Hike thru Big
Horn Crags. Cow & calve moose in meadow across from airstrip

5-7-94

Earthquake at 0730 while eating breakfast. Shock lasted
for over 30 sec - 1 min. Roof seemed to be bouncing up &
down. Whole house creaking. I ran outside as it continued.
Others felt in at Chiva Bar & elsewhere along main Salmon
many rain squalls w/ high winds today. Cold tonight
May be new snow in morning

5-12-94

Jette and Matthias arrive

5-13-94

Guy Wagner is dropping the huge dead doug
fir by the corral. Many difficulties:
decades of nails embedded thruout; saw
having trouble cutting thru the hard wood.
Guy says the last part will have to be
done w/ X cut saw.

Ray flew out 2 old propane heaters; says
he'll take to gas washers & big stove
over time. We're slowly converting to

more energy efficient equipment. Jeff ordered another hand washer for the Conroy Cabin laundry porch and sent ours out w/ Ray to the welder after the Clarkes somehow trashed it. Decided to name the new horse Lupine

Dave & Tamara working on small mammal survey up Pioneer Ck. Dave scheduled to fly Monumental on herp site survey, but weather is iffy. Tree down at 12:15. Roughly 300 yrs. old. Herp site inventory rescheduled for Wednesday.

Poor germination on garden. Replanted beans, peas, lettuce.

David has the tree limbed - it lays there like a beached whale.

6.14.94 Coming down from 3rd bench saw 3 bluebirds, a lazuli bunting, rufous sided towhee & several chipping sparrows all eating insects in the same pocket bet. the benches. At least 14 elk coming down the benches at dusk.

6.15.94 mail plane in unexpectedly at 6 a.m. Guy flew out to work with Briar around Monumental. Will probably be back next week.

6.17.94 R.C. in unexpectedly to haul out old cook stove from cookhouse. Clem Pope & Terry Holibitz (sp) into discuss fish weir. Lots of elk on benches (calves too). Group of sheep w/ 4 lambs & 2 collared ewes across Big Ck from Rush Ck. Moose cow & calf at mouth of Rush Ck.

6.20.94 David flew herp survey w/ Bob's Air.

6.23.94 Mary Fawcett, Dave Burns, John Sibbards fisheries biologists arrived on foot from Big Ck. Mary is the new Krassel fisheries biologist and needed to get an understanding of Big Ck. We had good discussions about increased collaboration and info. sharing w/ Krassel and the Payette. Also discussed David's upcoming Herp Survey.

6.24.94 Fisheries biologists flew out after hiking to Middle Fk. John Sibbards made arrangements to meet David Duncan at Big Ck Wednesday to drive him to potential site & help him connect w/ the supplies we sent on mail plane.

6.25.94 David left on Herp Survey expedition. Guy located the dead ewe on ridge above Lobauer Basin. Jeff & Tamara up to ridge w/ small mammal trapping.

6.26.94 The historic Conyrs? poppies have survived despite my attempt last fall to transplant them to sunnier locations. My transplants died, but the plants that remained behind in the shade by the spigot at the Conyrs Cabin are back stronger than ever. The reason I think Mary Conyer planted those poppies is because there are also poppies at Cabin Ck. where they also ranched.

6.29.94 Dave Orky in to shoe horses - sounds like we can become regular customers. RC took out one of the old washing machines - wish our hand washers would arrive but everyone's

6.28.94 Irene Mueller from Austria in w/ Jim Peck to help w/ sheep study. Peck flew back out.

doing fine w/ the plunger. David left a message that he made it to Big Ck at 2:22.

6.30.94 Incredibly hot. I was standing in the yard by the back door watering my columbine when a rattlesnake crawled up from behind me and gave a little buzz. ^(still uncoiled) I turned and he backed off under the bench and coiled. He stayed in that position motionless until I went in the house, still he waited at least 5 min. longer before sliding off. We're seeing lots more rattlers than usual this year. Saw a red crossbill in the evening energetically eating Doug Fir cone seeds.

7.2.94 Four of Wayne Minshall's grad students in with Bob's Air. Matthias & I spent the night on the ridge & awoke at first light to an elk cow barking at our strange presence.

7.3.94 12 cows & 8 calves on 1st bench in a.m. ewe band w/ 2 of Guis's collared ewes moved to 1st bench in afternoon then over to talus slope (next to face rock) to bed & graze

7.4.94 Wayne Minshall & Chris Robinson arrived on Wayne's horses.

7.5.94 We hauled wood & mowed the airstrip w/ Wayne's horses. Beautiful animals — it's a joy to watch Wayne work w/ them. They also hauled all the old horse drawn equipment under the protection of the Akensons hay "barn."

David returned from his 12 day herp. survey w/ lots of good info. and a "search image". He found ^{tailed} frog toads every-where he went. He also found young western toads at Cabin Ck. He did a great job esp. considering that a back-pack trip of this length was new to him.

7.8.94 Minshall's crew flew out. Wayne and Chris rode out to Meyer's Cove. Jeff, Jette & Matthias headed out to meet Jiff's Wilderness Ecology class at Big Ck. trail head.

7.14.94 Returned w/ class yesterday. Great trip. Found more talus pits. Class did a good job of making it and keeping up w/ each other. Found a little lost dog at Coxe Hole & carried her in (she was exhausted). Kerry Reese in to work on grouse study and Terry Wagner in to work on sheep study w/ Guy yesterday (mail plane). Chuck Peterson in to work on herp survey today (Bob's air).

7.18.94 Chuck flew out this eve. Great success finding tailed-frogs and other amphibians. Class going well.

7.20.94 Kerry flew out. Grouse study going very well - have already banded as many as last year. Took waters to vegetation & butterfly identification groups on 3rd bench. The little dog's owner came in to get her. Class is going well. Tomorrow is their project presentations and final exam.

7.22.94 Class ferried out to Big Ck. - the best class yet - a big success. Peeks in with Tom Stevenson to do vegetation work.

7.24.94 John Hendee, Vicky Rickling (Daily News), Bill Rooney (American Forests) into write stories on Taylor Ranch. We hauled wood w/ horses - Tink caught her wood carrier on a branch going to the tack house afterwards and spooked, hurt Jeff's arm and cut up her legs, but everyone survived. Saw elk coming down the benches last night & 5 ewes on the 1st bench today - now that the class is gone who so wanted to see large animals.

7.25.94 Susan Bernetto^{sp?} in to learn more about methodology for studying sheep from Jim Peck and Guy Wagner. She's contracted w/ the Air Force to do a 1 year study of desert big horn in the Owyhees where the Air Force wants a bombing range.

7.26.94 Hendee et al out in a.m. Susan B. out in p.m. on plane that brought in David's dad, Dan Duncan who will help David with the Crags herp survey. Susan took some plants to help Guy identify.

7.27.94 Duncans left for Crags to do herp survey. Jim Peck, Guy Wagner, & Tom Stevenson returned from Mile High overnight w/ our horses. Peeks & Tom flew out. We've been

having thunderstorms and some rain every afternoon

7.30.94 Lots of Rain in a.m. - much needed

8.1.94 Minshall in w/ 8 people total.

8.3.94 David and his dad, Dan, returned from Crags. Had a successful trip. The lakes they surveyed that had been stocked didn't seem to have salamanders, if there weren't any side pools they didn't seem to have frogs either.

They saw a mountain goat, also sheep and moose. Matthias & I saw a cougar near Rush Ck. Pt. on 8/2/94

8.4.94 Most of Minshall's crew out. Jeff Davis and Jesse? staying in until Aug. 8.

Jeff Davis is collecting stream production data from Cliff, Rush, Pioneer Cks every 2 hrs. around the clock. On 8/2/94 Rush Ck. ran silty - must have been a downpour in the headwaters. Every afternoon and eve for the past 2 wks we've had spectacular thunderstorms and rain. Weather has cooled.

8.8.94 The rest of Minshall's crew flew out

8.13.94 We're seeing lots of beautiful bears now. Maybe the berries are attracting them. Talk overheard on the radio sounds as though the F.S. is closing the Main Fk. due to a fire. We've had smoky air for almost 2 weeks. No fires nearby that we know of except last week there was a fire between the mouth of Big Ck. and Soldier Ck.

- 8.14.94 Kirk Lohman UI riparian ecologist arrived hiking from Big Ck. He saw 20 bears along the way, adults & cubs. He was turned away before Lick Ck due to F.S. fire closures and had to drive in Warm Lake way. Again he was stopped at Yellowpine and warned not to go towards Warren; they were taking everyone's name & address. We saw a big black bear up in a bush and several cubs & a lamb today.
- 8.15.94 A bear knocked around the compost barrel last night.
- 8.17.94 Guy & Terry Wagnor and Kirk Lohman out on mail plane. Air is very smokey from multiple big fires - none are near us.
- 8.16.94 Dave Orkey in to shoe horses.
- 8.19.94 Oytte & Matthias leave. Jeff and I spent yesterday talking about how to get Field Station users to take responsibility for the trash they generate, keep facilities clean, ask to use equipment and return it in good condition. With more research and education occurring these issues become more essential though they've always been issues.

0-3-94
by GM

The ISU stream ecologists flew out today. The weather has been very unsettled. I thought we may have had a freeze last night but the low temperature was actually 39° . The high, however, was only 55° — reached mid-morning when the sun shone. The past two days have seen .03 & .01 inches of precipitation.

A bull moose marched out of the cottonwoods near the end of the runway. We watched it for several minutes.

Guy Wagner got a few photos with his 80-200 zoom lens. The moose was unafraid and came toward us. He bluffed a couple of charges. We kept at a circumspect distance near escape (read: fences, trees & sheds) cover.

Bob and Pete landed at about 10:00 AM. They shuttled the people ~~and~~ and gear to Cabin Creek. They were due in last evening at 6:00 PM. The air has been bad for flying and radio contact.

One benefit of the storm front is the smoke has cleared out of the area. The cool air and razor sharp detail of distant views mean it is fall.

10-10-94
GM

Spent yesterday fixing the gas leak in Conyer Cabin where Guy Wagner is staying. At least for now it is fixed.

I helped guy haul an elk to Cabin Creek last week. (It was quite an ordeal. The two days we had packs of ~100+? lbs. & ~70 lbs.

I've seen more bighorns, thanks to Guy. He found them across from the place overlooking the Big Creek / Cliff Creek confluence. They are quite amazing creatures.

I saw an accipiter yesterday. I am not sure - either an immature cooper's or goshawk. It was much too large & too rounded a tail to be a sharp shinned hawk.

Guy flew on Friday with the Idaho Fish & Game tracking sheep. All went well, there were no problems.

I spent nearly 4 hours yesterday collecting data for ISU stream ecology studies. The usual repairs & maintenance take a lot of time.

10-16-94
GM

Didn't feel well a couple of days ago but I am feeling better today. It snowed on the Cliffs - Cliff Creeks namesake. The snowline is probably 500' above Taylor Ranch but it seems much

closer.

Two hunting parties have stopped by. The first included the Sheriff (Dave) & an IFTG officer (John). They both had sheep tags but saw nothing.

3 hunters in the second party — a husband & wife from Moscow & a friend from McCall. They looked late 20's or early 30's. The woman was 5 months pregnant. She was the one who got a ram near Cougar Creek.

On Thursday, we flew out a dead bighorn lamb. It weighed about 120 lbs.

I've been busy with upkeep & cleaning, except the day or two I wasn't feeling well. I want to paint the tack & storage sheds with linseed oil but the weather won't cooperate. Thus, I've been cleaning here, in lab & in Arlo's cabin as well as repairing tools in the shop (ax handles).

10-19-94

GM

Mail day. Guy flew out with a bighorn lamb, dead of course. I walked with him to Lo Bauer Basin yesterday afternoon to help him & learn where the sick lamb was. He expected it to die while he was gone. It died a couple of days early.

Today, a near rodeo. An employee of the outfitter appeared behind the shop while I was chopping wood. He was going to pick up clients &

thought they'd be at Pioneer or Rush Creeks. I directed him to skirt the airstrip, on its left side, rather than take the upper trail behind the Taylor cabin. While he was going down the left side of the strip (he was courteous & asked if the mail plane had landed) another plane landed. He got the stick off the runway - there was no danger. However, the pilot quickly turned around and took off again. It was a private plane that had mistakenly landed here, or so I assume, given the absence of identifying insignia.

I told the wrangler about the fords to avoid the airstrip. He thanked me and continued on. There has to be a mathematical model that explains this clustering of events, like infrequent & rapid evolutionary change, because most of the time around here everything is quiet except for frantic moments when all sorts of shit happens.

I've seen a few deer around the place. An osprey is still hanging around the west end of the Research Center. Perhaps they are not migratory given the relatively mild winters & open water with fish.

10-22-94
92

Yesterday, I oiled part of the storage shed. There was a bit of sunshine before sunset. Today, I've cleaned a bit in the duplex, here & in the lab. I had intended to work on the box for batteries but it has

been raining. Snow again in the high country. It
been a hard rain from noon to about 3. I
am now catching up on paper work - the monthly
weather report sheet. It doesn't take long & is
due in ten days.

Last night, the husband of the migrant hunter
stopped by. I radioed this morning for them
to be picked up but the weather may
have prevented it. I did hear a plane
go to Soldier Bar so I assume they
were picked up.

10-24-95
CAM

I've been working around the shop & cleaning the
duplex. I'm trying to make a battery box for
the batteries in the lab.

Yesterday after work, I hiked up Clift Creek
& got a view of Brykorn Crags. From that
distance Taylor Ranch seems much less
intrusive on the wilderness.

10-25-95

Almost finished making the battery box. It has
been cold so there are few good hours to do
carpentry which requires, at least for me, unglued
and mobile hands. I also changed the propane
at Taylor Cabin; it went out this evening. Lows
are in the 20's, highs in the upper 40's.

10-26-95

Mail day. I worked on the battery box &
dropped a lot of wood. I'm waiting for clearing
in the weather.

10-30-94
GM

Tim Clem flew in on 10-27 with Guy Wagner. Tim is doing his senior project on the facilities of Taylor Ranch. Tim flew out on 10-28 & Dr. Jim Peck flew in. He is doing vegetation studies. I went with Jim & Guy to look at the studies on the afternoon of 10-28 - my background from USU is in range. We saw eagles, two herds of bighorns & four mule deer. There was a spectacular snow storm coming down Rush Creek & Big Creek. We had snow, for the first time, on the ground the morning of 10-29, only a trace & the rain gauge read .01 of an inch. Of course, most of the precipitation fell as rain. Dr. Peck flew out on 10-29. Radio contact yesterday & today has been bad because of the air. Yesterday, I spent nearly 4 hours doing stream leaf pack gathering for ISU stream ecology. This coming week I'll likely spend 10 or more hours on it. Wash day today, if the weather holds.

I saw a large woodpecker with a red cap. I looked a lot like a N. leucated, size and all, but I didn't notice a crest. All the pictures in the bird work were not right.

10-31-94
GM

It snowed again & was snowing this morning, but turned to rain by 11:00 AM. The clothes on the line didn't dry. I did wash yesterday & left some out. Today I finished the battery box. Now I have to connect the batteries. A task for tomorrow. Also, I need to run the generator & chain saws.

11-1-94
GM

A terrific snow storm came late this afternoon. There is nearly an inch of snow on the ground. The battery box is done & the oil is drying on it. I wanted to install it today, but it has been too cold & the linned oil coat has not dried. I hope it will be dry tomorrow.

11-2-94

Batteries in box. Not hooked up yet due to wrong wire lengths. I'll try some more to find wire.

11-3-94

Wire found! The batteries are in their little home now. I hope it works! The box, that is. The solar stuff is working. But I had to substitute different color wires. The rest of the day I spent gathering benthic samples on Rush Creek. It was very cold. I did a December & January collection.

11-4-94
GM

I spent all day collecting samples on Cliff Creek. It was it as cold as yesterday but with the low light it was dusk when I returned.

11-5-94
GM

A cow elk bounded out in front of the hay barn while I was collecting the weather information this morning. It looked like a day that would snow a lot. But by 2:00 PM, the sky had cleared a bit. Worked on a few upkeep/maintenance projects & did more sampling (stream) in the afternoon.

11-6-94
GM
(Trapped?)

It's been raining or snowing most of the day. I've cut wood & checked on cabins etc. This afternoon 30-40 tundra(?) swans circled overhead for about 20 minutes. It looked as if they wanted to land near Big Creek or Rush

Creek. A nice Sunday diversion. Beaver as well.

11-7-94

GM Spent the day doing weather studies on Pioneer Creek. It was cold! 120 ~~°~~ F seems!

11-8-94

GM The water intake froze up and the water pressure is very low. I don't have the file that shows when all the boxes are. But I don't think any damage was occurred!

11-9-94

GM The water pressure is a bit better. I suspect it is just cleaning out the system. If there is no improvement in a few days, I may shut off the system to prevent damage, but right now all appears to be fine. No mail plane - too cloudy

11-10-94

GM

I flushed out the sediment with the blow valve east of the cabin. The pressure back to normal!! No problems, & a mystery solved. No mail plane yet. Clearing is happening but very slowly. . . . Guy flew out with RC. The mail plane made it, they're very busy.

Big horns are starting to "hang out" on the first & second benches. We saw 5 of them, 3 ewes & 2 lambs. One lamb was small & had a bit of trouble keeping up. Guy could tell if it was coughing from here as we waited for the plane.

11-11-94

GM

Rams, big ones! Saw 4 today, two on the way back from Lobeat (Lobauer) Basin to turn off Guy's rustrack. Up close: 100 feet. But I didn't pull out the camera & lens - didn't want to make a

rachas & scare them. I saw 3 does up close as well. They were yawning & licking, descending, as I was, the ridge.

I spent the morning gathering wood. I'm trying to conserve the cord wood for when it gets really cold.

11-14-94

GM

Saw 11 ewes, 3 big rams & 3 lambs today. I turned off the other rustrack. The past couple of days I've been working around here, trying to fix Guy's sink etc. There are a lot of small tasks - the rodent patrol, fence mending, fixing broken stuff etc. - that need to be done.

11-15-94

GM

I've been checking the H₂O systems, trying to fix Guy's slow draining sink etc. Everything takes a lot of time. I saw 8 big horn sheep across Big Creek. The rut will begin soon (now?) & I expect to hear the head banging.

It's been cold in the mornings, less than 20 degrees. Today, it didn't get above freezing. I like the cold but my nose drips.

11-16-94

No mail plane today. The weather is bad in Cascade, but here, just cloudy. The moon is peeping through the clouds & the coyotes are yipping. It was a good day to do odd & ends - burn the trash, fiddle with the H₂O system some more to ensure sub-freezing viability, tinker in the shop, and continue the

eternal firewood vigil.

11-17-94
GM

Cascade is grounded. And, we're not. Blue skies and 17° F this morning. No mail or Guy. I assume he is returning this week. Laundry day today. Any spilled water froze immediately. Plus, the clothes are drying on the rack inside. The pace here is much slower than the city. It took me all day just to do the laundry.

Things seem to be working. No major problems yet. I constantly check on the water. I hate the thought of frozen pipes. It's sort of like a personal insult.

The ungulates are coming down, as are the hunters. The sheep were not visible today as 5 hunters descended the Clift Creek trail & kept the sheep away from the benches. The elk hunt ends tomorrow, or so I've been told, and I don't expect any more people to be on the trail disturbing the big horns. I've heard "booms" but I'm not certain it is the sound of rams sparring.

10-18-94

Mail plane today. Finally. I watched two rams spar & saw 2 others by Rush Creek. Spent the day chopping ice, checking on batteries

10-19-94

Coyner cabin only has a little water to the bathroom. It was starting to freeze from kitchen sink to bathroom. I spent the day heating the cabin, looking for burst pipes & running water. I need to keep all faucets on, both warm (a little, so as not to use any fuel) & cold.

Guy's sink is now fixed. Eyes across Big Creek - they are cautiously proceeding up the 2nd bench.

10-20-94

GM

It looks like I caught the Conger Cabin in time. H₂O is running well. No visible leaks. I'm resting my back today. It hurts - I've never had back problems until this year. It's hell to get old. I don't think anything is wrong other than strained muscles. I ~~don't~~ ~~bulging~~ or ruptured disks. I did check on H₂O systems & chop wood - tried to keep my back straight.

11-23-94

GM

Conger Cabin still okay. Water is running. My back isn't okay, it's really fucked up. I've never had back problems before. Yesterday, I slipped & fell on the ice & that aggravated the situation. I don't know what caused the pain in the first place. I'm still doing things & keeping up. Back stretches I used for basketball help. Rains banging heads;

11-24-94

Thanksgiving Day - Everything is okay. H₂O in Conger still runs though some of the splashes have frozen on the sink. My back feels better, I didn't strain it very much today. It was warmer, got up to nearly 40°. It snowed "4" last night. This morning there were what appeared to be wasteful tracks. Fisher? Marten? I don't know, but it had 5 digits, feet slightly smaller than a coyote.

12-25-94

GM

A minor disaster: The hot H₂O pipe in Conger, behind the shower, came undone at the seams. Hunk of H₂O on the

carpet, but not too bad. I've turned off the H₂O to the Conyer cabin & I'm fixing the pipes now. I don't think the dampness is too big a problem. Tomorrow, I'll pull up the carpet & see if there are any major problems. Did I bump the H₂O stopper knob too hard? A possibility when I turned on the warm H₂O last night. I was running a small trickle of warm in the shower, sink & kitchen sink.

11-27-94

GM

The Conyer Cabin is cleaned up, the carpet that was damp removed. No damage to the floor boards. I was lucky I caught it in time.

The bigbears have been frolicking on the hill. There are about 20 of them. Bobcat tracks behind the cabin, in the orchard.

11-28-94

Well, the carpet is dry & most of it is back down. The pipes are fixed. Tomorrow ~~the~~ I will test the pipes & finish up. I expect to see Guy on Wednesday. From now on, I'll turn off the H₂O whenever somebody leaves.

11-29-94

GM

34 sheep & 28 elk on the hill. The elk were grazing with the sheep. The sheep didn't seem to mind.

The carpet in Conyer is back down & the pipes fixed. However, I turned the H₂O back on but didn't get a flow to the cabin. I suspect the problem is in the line between the cabin & the spring box.

4" of snow! A great day!

11-30-94
GM

Well, there is a bit of water to the Conyer cabin. Low pressure. I hope to fix it tomorrow. No leaky pipes, however. No Guy or mail plane today. Guy is expected back. Maybe they'll fly tomorrow.

Sheep & elk are sharing the range. The sheep don't seem to be too bothered by this arrangement. But, I believe the sheep are a little less tolerant of the elk than vice versa.

12-1-94
GM

The H₂O pressure in Conyer is improving! No leaks! What a job though, many hours at work & several days!

The boykows & elk are still high on the ridge. Today it was balmy, in the 40s. It rained last night and turned most of the snow to slush.

Raccoon tracks. And, no mail plane.

12-2-94
GM

Mail plane today. Guy is back, I'm glad to see him. He is a good person. I finished his bathroom. I hope all is well.

12-3-94
GM
(Sat.)

Rush Creek: I spent all day, it snowed, doing the H₂O studies for ISU. In the cold it is a real pain. Mid 20s°F.

12-4-94
GM

Sheep & elk on the hills; Guy's knee seems to be working well. He's taking it easy, which is triple-speed for most folks. He's a good biologist & an even better person. The bathroom in Conyer is fine; H₂O pressure is back to normal.

12-5-94
GM

I spent the day on Cliff Creek - only got 40% of it done * c!#!?! It was so cold the eye droppers, water bottle nozzle, nets and filters froze when wet. It became almost impossible to use the equipment. ~~There~~ There has to be a better way, this is such a pain in the ass.

12-7-94
GM

No mail plane today. Snow & cold. It's a bit frustrating waiting for the mail plane especially if there is something we need to give Arnolds. It's impossible to start anything because if the plane comes, it may not be noticed. But that's the way it is out here - a slow pace. I'm actually liking a slower pace, it just takes a while to get into the rhythm.

12-8-94
GM

The mail plane came. We had to unload 3 55 gallon drums of aviation fuel for FFG, and loaded the net (rocket net) into the airplane. That took some time & back pain.

12-9-94
GM

Boyzoms were banging yesterday. Guy saw & heard them ~~to~~ smash heads. I heard the noise. It was exciting.

I checked Oldgss today. Everything seems okay - the usual rodent patrol, checking for H₂O damage, leaks, repair needs etc.

12-10-94
GM
(Sat.)

Spent over 2 hrs. on Cliff Creek and only one sample. It is cold, high of 19-20° F. The stuff just doesn't work, not to mention my hands. Gloves are useless because they inhibit the needed dexterity. Besides, rubber gloves offer ~~no~~ little insulation. Even the ones made for duck hunting with insulated liner gloves. And

even if my hands stayed warm, it wouldn't work. The rocks for the periphyton samples freeze immediately. The tweezers jam up. I'll try Pioneer Creek tomorrow & see what I can do. Still, I only have 60% of Clift Creek. Rush Creek is done, however.

Other than these small aggravations, the place is great. Large cougar tracks seen on Rush Creek & the lower end of the landing strip. Coyotes have been wailing away at night - a prelude to the call of wolves (the wolves, we hear, are to be reintroduced near this area in the next several days)?

12-12-94
GM

Spent today doing "office" work & trying to get H₂O samples for Pioneer Creek. Pioneer is frozen over, it is impossible to gather benthic & periphyton samples. I've written a letter to ISU to advise them of the situation. Staff gauges are frozen as well.

Yesterday, I fiddled around the buildings a bit seeing what needed to be fixed, fixing little problems etc. Of course, the semi-daily check of the water systems. So far so good. Even with the creeks frozen over, the flexible rubber hose pipe feeds H₂O into the spring boxes. I put the pipe in place for the Taylor Cabin about 3 weeks ago in anticipation of the problem. The Conyer Cabin's pipe intake is already of this design.

Guy's knee has been a bit of a problem. Tomorrow, I'll probably have to fetch one of the Restracks for him. That will take a few hours.

It's snowed all afternoon. Tomorrow morning I'll need to do the airstrip.

12-13-94 I did about 3 miles on the airstrip today. It takes a while with snowshoes & the toboggan. I also cleaned out Guy's chimney again. It looks like a job that should be done once a month or so.

The irrigation ditches must be free of water during winter. All head gates / diversion structures should be removed. If not, the airstrip & areas around the lab, duplex & shop — especially the walking paths — become treacherous. I've fallen twice from the ice under snow. Once was with a full tank of propane on the dolly. Luckily it didn't fall on me.

12-14-94 I did 4 miles on the airstrip. It is ready for planes. I've burnt some garbage & done things around here waiting for the mail.

The plane came very late, with skis. Lots of mail & presents.

12-15-94 Laundry day & time to clean the Taylor cabin chimney. What a choke it is to wash clothes in sub-zero weather. ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) (sub-freezing).

12-16-94 Finished laundry (another load) & worked around here — rodent patrol etc. Tomorrow, I'll pick up toys & trash.

12-17-94
GM

Today I helped Gray haul back the rustacks. [It wasn't bad at all, it was very warm. We saw nearly 60 elk on the benches before we left. Gray showed me how to operate the equipment when he goes out this spring for 2-3 weeks.

12-19-94
GM

I took a day off to hike to the Middle Fork after the weather & a few chores around here. I saw huge cougar tracks, a golden eagle & a large water dipper.

12-20-94

Getting the place ready for my trip out. However, the pressure got low due to the low spring box. It will take time to build it back up as the blow valve won't turn. Slush in the batteries on the lab. They are inside & warming up.

Last night Gray told me about a ruckus between two cougars. I saw the tracks but saw no blood. I did see signs of a struggle, however.

It's getting cold again, the air is crisp. Mornings are foggy & nights clear. The moon is bright, a couple nights beyond full, waning later in the East.

12-28-94
GM

I flew in today, a day late. Yesterday was very cloudy & foggy. Water still works, but I need to check out the lab floor. Something has warped it. That will be for tomorrow. I'll spend a couple of days checking everything.

12-30-94

Well, I spent the day making sure the H₂O was running. It's been cold & the spring box for Taylor has a hard time filling up. I put some garbage sacks in the spring box to prevent leaks.

Ray flew in with more propane & two more barrels of aviation fuel. I've been keeping a fire in the Conyer cabin.

It's 7:15 and already it is near 10°. Tonight, it may break zero. What a time for the H₂O pressure to drop! The past few days have been warm, 40° & 30° (the days I was gone). Hopefully, a warm spell will allow ~~me~~ me to fix everything.

I've been warming up H₂O for the battery boxes. I hope it will be enough to prevent any more slush.

Elk & bighorn sheep on the 3rd bench. The snow is largely gone from the winter range.

12-31-94

G.M.

New Year's Eve! And it's colder than hell. It was 2° this morning. The H₂O is still running, but the pressure is low because it is hard to fill the spring box. I turned off the H₂O to Conyer. Even with keeping a fire in there, it got too cold. The pipes are drained. Guy returns on Wednesday so I'll turn it back on then.

The Taylor spring box may have a leak. Water is running out of it (on the side) & it is slow to fill. I keep adjusting the garbage sacks.

I saw elk & big horns today. Something big was below the Taylor cabin this morning. I heard it but couldn't see it. I went looking for it but couldn't follow any tracks. The snow is too crusty & hard to tell what kind of ~~and~~ animal it was.

It's 6:45 pm & 7° outside. I'm betting on a sub-zero night. Brrrr, but I like the cold (except the hassles with H₂O & batteries). Good riddance to '94, Hello '95!

1-1-95
GM
Happy new year! '94, thankfelly, is over - one of the worst years on record.

It was -2° last night. The high was 11° . H₂O pressure in Taylor Cabin is way low. It is hard keeping enough H₂O in the spring box, when the creek freezes over, even with the extension pipes. The flow is greatly diminished & all under ice. If we don't have a warm spell in the next few days, I'll turn off the H₂O.

I turned off Gays rustracks today. Between that, the H₂O system & keeping battery boxes warm, it was a full day.

I saw 10 elk & 8 sheep while turning off the rustracks. The elk were skittish & frightened, the sheep didn't move. Of course, they were further away to begin with.

-2-95
GM
Well, the creek is almost frozen solid. -40°

This morning, even the piping I put in place to carry H₂O to the spring box froze. Anchor ice, or so it seems. No H₂O. I'll work on it tomorrow.

I spent time chopping ice today. The runway got iced over. I can't remove the headgates as they are under several inches of ice. I understood I was to leave them in place, but Jeff said it was okay to remove them last week when I spoke with him while I was in Pullman. I must have mis understood.

Elk & sheep are still on the 3rd bench. Its clear & very cold. 9° was the high temperature yesterday.

1-3-99
GM

Chop chop. Ft's icy. -5° & 7°. Elk, sheep & deer are on 3rd bench. Ft's icy.

1-11-95
GM

Well, an otter played in Big Creek while I chopped ice on the runway. The sheep were very close on the slopes of 1st bench, almost down to the Big Creek trail.

The mail plane came in with Guy. I like him a lot. It is cold -5° & 7° again. At 8:00 it was 0°.

Guy saw a cougar over Christmas stalking sheep. It was unsuccessful.

1-5-95
GM

Well, the spring box is dry for Cougar as well as Taylor, too much ice. It has frozen the creek. The running channel is not where the intake pipe is. I've got a lot of chopping to do the next few days.

6-95
GM

Ice chopping & refrigerator repair. The refrigerator is working, the ice still is thick. If it stays warm (it got up to 20+° this afternoon), I may be able to get H₂O back into the cabins. ~~At~~ Pioneer Creek has a minimum of 6" of ice over the top, in places it goes all the way down, & though there is a channel of running water somewhere in the creek bed.

I spent time fixing the refrigerator, cleaning the parts & fiddling with the mechanisms. It is working well now.

Today Guy saw a cougar by Horse Mtn. I would like to see one.

7-95

Chopped ice & brought in the propane tank for the Taylor cabin. It is used in the snow but Guy helped. I also worked on replacing mail heads & checked the buildings. It was warmer today up to 20° & it snowed.

9-95

Chopping ice again. But I got water into

the Taylor Spring box. I'll wait till tomorrow before I turn on the water. I want it to fill up first.

Coyne Cabin is another story. I'll have to jerry-rig a feed into the box. It is impossible to get water to flow in the intake pipe/flexible hose as it is solid ice.

It has been raining lightly today - very foggy as well. Bobcat tracks are on the bridge over Proves Creek.

The ice creaks & moans on Big Creek. The water, where it can be seen, is perfectly clear. Winter is here, but not much snow. Only the sub-zero nights of the past week indicate winter's strong presence. And, of course, the ice. The flows on Big Creek remind me of the flows on the St. Lawrence - much smaller and intimate, though.

Pine Grosbeaks (?) are around. I need to replenish the feeder. The winter range is clear of snow, for the most part, and with the rut being over, the sheep have scattered. Only a few are staying around beneath ~~some~~ any one time. It's a game of musical chairs.

1-10-95 Warm & rain. I've spent the day chopping ice, again. Tomorrow, Taylor should have water. By tomorrow, Coyne may as well. But, it may take more time.

1-11-95
am

I've been a regular fool fixing fool. That

and an ice chopper. Water is back in the Taylor spring box but I'm getting no flow in to the cabin. Oh well, hauling water isn't too bad.

I've been replacing tool handles while waiting for the mail plane. It takes longer than expected.

Guy saw no sheep on the benches today. They're all headed east, around the corner. They'll be back in a few days I suspect.

1-13-95

Jim Peck didn't come in yesterday. He had tentatively scheduled to fly in. I've been doing more work on the M+O systems & collecting stuff for ISU. The stream gathering of benthic & periphyton samples, however, is impossible. The ice is 6" to over a foot thick on all streams but Cliff Creek. There is ice in most (not all) places ~~is~~ in Cliff Creek.

No rodent signs in the upper cabins. I'll start concentrating on the lower cabins again next week.

It's raining tonight, I hope it doesn't freeze. It makes it impossible to walk on the trails, the ice is too treacherous.

It was a gray day, but Dave Lewis Peak was visible. Big Creek is alive & well with

Hiring fishers in the infrequent open spots.

1-14-95

GM

Rain, & more rain. Feels like Seattle or Portland, except there is no fancy coffee here & no bands like Mudkay, ~~or~~ Pond or Hole. It has been raining off & on all day long. It started last night. This morning, there was 11/100th of an inch of moisture. I'll bet it has rained at least a half an inch today.

The trails are slick. I've spent the day chopping ice to make them passable. The packed snow turns to ice & melting is impossible. A sunny day would solve the ice problem on trails but so far, no luck.

It's also foggy. I would prefer snow, it would make it easier to get around and work outside. Tomorrow, I'll check all the buildings once again to make sure they're all water tight. Much to my surprise, these tin roofs seem to work better than any other kind (tar shingles, shakes & even tile) I've dealt with.

But it is fun listening to the raindrops ping against the metal roof, secure in the knowledge that all is well and dry. At least, I sure as hell hope so!

1-15-95

GM

Today I cleaned out Guy's chimney & did more work on the H₂O system. Tomorrow, Guy may have water. Taylor doesn't, and won't, unless it stays warm. I'll try putting warm H₂O down the blow hole, but I don't expect much.

The benches are clear & the big houses have scattered, at least for now. Snow is still on the ground, at the ranch, however. The elevation at which snow fell is about 5,000 feet though.

Big Creek is clearing a bit. It runs at night, a nice sound. The ice of the past few weeks muffled the sound of running water.

1-16-95
GM

I spent the morning trying to fix the propane smell in the Conyer cabin. I hope I've been successful.

In the afternoon, I did a tour of upper buildings - all looks well & checked out the H₂O systems. Maybe tomorrow I can get H₂O in Conyer Spring box.

1-17-95
GM

I hope my writing is legible. Guy asked me to help him pick up a rustack today. I did, it took a while but we saw sheep.

Guy sprained his knee yesterday & needed some help. He wore a brace but I don't know if he is okay. He indicated the sprain wasn't too bad.

Last night, some snow fell - about 1/2 inch. It has been a bit colder the past two days.

1-18-95 No mail plane today, the weather here wasn't too
GM bad, a high overcast. But I guess there were
problems in Cascade. We did get a few
flakes of snow. I suppose it will only
amount to a trace of moisture.

1-19-95 The mail plane came late today. I took off the
home made spark arrester on Guy's cabin as it wasn't
allowing smoke through. I'll try to clean it &
put it back.

1-20-95 Several sheep, elk & deer on the benches. Guy
GM went up there today. I spent some time trying to
(Fri.) get water back in the lower cabin. Too much
of the flexible hose, however, is frozen. I'm
thawing it out.

1-22-95 I've felt bad the past couple of days - sore throat &
GM sniffles, headache etc. But no fever, at least not yet.
(Sun.) I don't think it is anything serious, just the chills
from staying out too long after running on 1-20-95.

Highs have been in the 20's, lows about 10. I've
been heating H₂O for the battery boxes again. It
seems to work well.

Several sheep & deer on the benches today.
Guy went up there, bad knee and all. He
flks out on Wednesday to get it looked at.

1-23-95 Feeling a bit better. I worked on the H₂O systems
GM again. I think I'll have H₂O back into conyer
tomorrow, if all goes well. Since Guy is leaving, I

may hold off until he returns.

Sheep are still on the benches. It's been cool, low was 80 & the high was 23°. We had a bit of snow today in the morning.

The sky is clear, now, and brilliant blue. The stars are bright at night, but the clouds come in during the early morning. This strange pattern has been repeating itself the past several days.

1-21-95

I helped Guy pack a Mustang to Rush Creek Point. It was a nice trip - we saw deer, looked for sheep & got a good signal for one of Guy's collared sheep.

I learned this morning that Brian & Mike (Schlage, I Fla) may come in this weekend & start sheep. Not a lot of advance warning from them.

1-25-95

The mail plane came, Brian & Mike are coming, according to Jett, at least probably. ~~Jim~~ Jim Peck is also due in. I'll be busy the next few days putting people up.

I spent the day organizing the Taylor cabin, it was quite a bit of work. H&O will be in Conyer soon, or so I hope. We'll see

1-26-95

I spent the day getting ready for the rush of people - Mike Schlage, Brian Holbrook, Jim Peck & an assistant. Jim Peck & the assistant are scheduled

for tomorrow morning. I don't know about Mike & Brian. I've gotten no firm word.

It snowed & rained all day today. It is in the 30's, slushy & overcast.

1-27-95

GM

Dr. Jim Keck flew in today. He is a very nice & friendly person. He is very entertaining & a wealth of knowledge as well. He did plots on the benches. I turned off Guy's restrack, put in new paper & started it up again. Then I joined him.

He came over here for dinner. We had an enjoyable conversation.

1-28-95

GM

I waited for Brian & Mike & saw Jim Keck off. There was a message at Arnold's that Brian & Mike (from Guy) would be here "soon." But they didn't fly in yesterday or today.

1-29-95

GM

(Sun)

Big Horns are at the lick. They are using the benches again. Brian & Mike didn't fly in today, it's Sunday. I don't know when/it to expect them.

1-31-95

I spent the day doing paperwork - stuff for Jeff & compiling the monthly weather report. Elk were on the benches, the first in some time.

No Brian or Mike. The weather hasn't been good for flying.

The coyotes sang for 1/2 hour last night! Maybe

it's their way of doing a "swan song" now that the wolves have arrived. We've seen ~~none~~ no sign of wolves here, they were dropped off several miles from here.

2-1-95

No mail plane. The rain didn't stop for long. I did a bit of ISU stream stuff today & waited for the plane.

The wildlife on the benches have huddled. The rain etc. makes spotting them difficult.

2-2-95

Brian & Guy flew in today. The rain stopped but it didn't melt all the ice. Some trails are slick. Ashes help.

Both Sheep & Elk are on the benches. The sky is blue.

2-3-95

GM

I did H₂O temperature & conductivity in Pioneer Creek for ISU & checked out Rust & Cliff creeks as well. Pioneer still has a layer of ice over it. Thus periphyton & periphyton samples are impossible. But I'll be able ~~to~~ to do the other two creeks.

2-5-95

Laundry Day today. It has been sunny, but it clouded over. That's typical for a laundry day.

2-6-95

Today, I did stream survey work for ISU, did the rodent patrol & searched for white gas for Brian's lantern. It clouded

over again today though the moving was clear.

Most sheep are around the benches, more than ever. All except one of the radio collared ones ~~is~~ are there. Brian went downstream today to try & locate that one who was out in the lake. The availability of the animals makes data gathering easier for Guy & Brian.

2-7-95

GM

The same weather pattern - high 40° & low about 25° . But the ice doesn't melt. It is too shady & cool. It is very slick & hazardous. Ashes help.

All the sheep seem to be staying around here for the time being, though it looks like a group is ready to move.

Big Creek is nearly free of ice. And the water is clear! I suppose even in spring runoff, the water quality is fairly high.

I did more stream survey stuff today, I'm still not done. I'm running a couple of days behind on it.

2-8-95

A busy day. First, Mike Davis flew in part of the week. Then we were informed Beck, Guy's tree falling friend, was coming in. He came with the mail.

Lots to do in the coming week. I took down

the fence. Tomorrow the tree will come down & the rest of the weir will come in.

2-9-95

The fish weirs came in today, two loads worth, they are very heavy & extremely awkward. Mike Davis flew in with a twin engine plane called an Islander. He landed without a hitch, twice, and took off.

I was surprised the plane made it. However, I've been told he is a great backcountry pilot like Ray.

Beck & Guy "felled" the tree next to the lounge cabin without a problem. Absolutely nothing was damaged!! I helped whip a crosscut for a while to help out once the tree was down.

The rest of the stream stuff will have to wait till tomorrow as today was very busy & tiring.

New sheep were spotted just west of the benches in the talus. However, darting them will be impossible because there is no more drugs. It was all used by the FFlt on the wolves.

Guy & Brian, justifiably, are a bit upset at DFG's foot-dragging. Only 6 or so sheep have been collared. They need more to do their work & Guy needs to complete darting training, which has been postponed several times.

2-10-95

Today I finished the stream work on Cliff Creek. Tomorrow I'll finish Kask Creek and be done for another month.

I have a sore back from lifting the weirs yesterday out of the airplane. I've done my stretching exercises and it helps. But bending over in streams doesn't.

Over the next few weeks, we'll need to clean up the fire & stack the wood for Guy. It is a lot of work.

Wen Sheep again today, or so I understand. Guy & Beck saw a 7/8 curd ram they hadn't seen before.

We had quite a wind this afternoon. It roared in from the northwest, carrying clouds in its wake. But no moisture fell, at least not at Taylor Ranch. The benches got a couple of snow flakes.

2-11-95

Guy was sick this morning. I helped him get wood ready. Actually, I helped Beck as Guy was on his back. Stomach flu.

There were a couple of flakes this afternoon & this morning, then were enough to be considered a trace. It's been windy & cold. The high was about freezing. But it has been nice. I like the wind. It reminds me of Utah, my home.

Today, I took a tumble on the ice & banged up

my elbow. With the frozen ground & the rain of the past couple of weeks, nothing can be done. We've spread ashes on the worst spots, but I don't expect the ice to leave for at least a month & a half, at a minimum.

Brian found new sheep today, up Big Creek.

-12-95

It was windy today, and cold. High was in the 20's, the low was 14. I like the wind, but it has made the ice patches extremely treacherous.

I spent the day looking at the lower buildrags & checking up and sharpening the 2-man crosscut saw. Beck helped out on that project. It took us 5 hours, quite a chore.

But it was interesting. We used it, it works better!

No sheep today. There was a shift of snow on the benches, only a trace was recorded here.

-13-95

Windy, cold & snowy. I spent a good portion of the day chopping ice from the trails to make them ~~safer~~ safer & dumping ashes. The snow today will register as more than a trace, I believe.

Guy & I also diverted water back into the creek from an irrigation ditch. It was making walking hazardous near the weather station. Surprisingly,

it was the same one I had removed this fall. When it gets cold, even if the headgates are removed, ice builds up and water finds its way into a ditch. That happens even if the ditch is blocked off.

I've tried to get water back into the copper cabin's spring box - it is impossible. To do so I would have to get water to run uphill.

I helped Guy with wood today as well. He is feeling better.

I also did the usual chores for cold weather - heated water for the battery boxes, checked the buildings for problems etc.

Deer are on the benches, no sheep today. Guy & Brian saw a bald eagle fly down Big Creek.

2-14-95 - A cold day again. 0.1" moisture and 12" of new snow. The trails are treacherous. Brian reports the trail up Big Creek is impassable, a sheet of ice.

I spent more time on cold weather chores & trying to make the trails safe. This afternoon I went down to Rush Creek to do the FSL stream work. Nolech, Rush Creek is frozen over again. However, if it gets a bit warmer, I suspect I can do it in the next couple of days. It will be a bit late, but that's better than not doing it at all. Pioneer Creek is still frozen over.

The sheep are back on the benches. However, Guy

went to turn off his Rustack on the benches earlier today. 8° , 12° , & 19° today. Tomorrow should be warmer

-15-95 No mail plane today. We waited for the whole day. Storms were prolific to the west.

We did see the big horns walk down to the lick by the creek, the natural lick. It was fascinating

2-16-95 Well, the big horns came down again, but this time they approached Big Creek. It was a bit icy so they didn't drink from the creek.

Ray came later this afternoon. It was starting to cloud over again. It has been unseasonably warm, nearly 50° .

Guy Brian & Bech left on the plane with Ray. I'm here alone till next week.

2-17-95 Late last night I heard an owl. I've no idea what kind it was as the sound didn't fit any of the descriptions in the book.

Today it rained, a lot. The trails are treacherous again. I hiked up to the Rustack on Rush Point & changed the paper. The data logger doesn't seem to be working well, however.

I spent last evening looking at taxes. I'll do

so again tonight. What a chore.

2-18-95

I spent the day chopping ice from trails. It has been quite warm.

A Bald Eagle flew over Cliff Creek. It looked as if it was searching for terrestrial prey.

2-20-95

I replaced the gasket in stove, did some work around the shop & checked out the lab today. Everything seems to be fine.

It was sunny today. The temperature was 50°. Amazing for February. Still, the ice hasn't melted from the trails and there is a bit of snow on the ground. Of course, south facing slopes are bare all the way up to 6000' in elevation.

2-21-95

The bighorns came down to the lick, the natural one on Big Creek's cutbank. They spent most of the day around the area.

I saw them eating a small forb, it looks like an *Eriogonum*, but I'm not sure. I didn't go across the creek to check on the plant so I'm not certain. I don't recall seeing any *Eriogonum*s around here, but I suspect there are several of them.

I chopped a lot of wood; actually I saved the knot ends. There is a large stack of them on the wood pile that can't be split

and are too large for the stove.

I also used the sauna. It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. I've an aversion to overheating so saunas & hot tubs are not my favorite diversions. Actually, this was the first time I've ever tried a sauna.

Guy & Brian are due in tomorrow. The sky has been fairly clear so I don't expect any problems.

-22-95 Brian came in today with the mail plane. Guy didn't. The big boxes were down again at the low lichen on Big Creek.

I chopped wood & ice, waiting for mail plane, and a few other odd jobs around the place. The weather has been very warm, almost too warm.

-23-95 I went up to Rush Creek point to put a new battery in Guy's instrack. However, the data logger either isn't working properly or the sheep are not easily accessible. The signal wasn't strong enough.

Brian told me the sheep were near Lobanec so the signal should be strong. I fiddled with it for nearly one hour. A bad connection? There has been this trouble before.

I saw another fisher on Big Creek & playing on the ice as I went to Rush Creek. A coyote crossed the river upstream from the other about

100 yards. I watched them with binoculars. Of course, I ran out of film taking big horn pictures the past couple of days. The other was close enough for a great photo.

2-24-95

I took a day off and hiked to Cabin Creek. Brian had heard from IFG folks that two-three wolves were there. I saw possible wolf signs, more likely coyote or cougar however.

It was a nice day. The riparian area around Cabin Creek is trashed. Horses are kept there year-round.

2-25-95

I worked around the ranch today getting the place ready for the IFG folks due in on Monday. Small repair jobs, plugging possible rodent holes, etc. occupied my time.

2-26-95

I watched the sheep as I worked around the ranch doing the regular upkeep chores. It is starting to get warmer so I can do more things outside. I'll start cleaning & organizing the shop tomorrow. It is a big task.

2-27-95

I worked around the shop today, trying to pick up and organize the place. It's been getting colder, however.

No IFG. I expected them today, perhaps tomorrow.

The radio has been bad in the morning.

2-28-95

No word from IFG. Radio problems again this morning. I've had the plans ready for them when they come.

There is a lot to do to get ready for summer. It has been colder, so work is slow.

3-1-95

The mail plane came early. No Gray. A message for Brian that the IFG would be here Friday or Saturday.

3-2-95

Gray

I started on Pioneer Creek & picked up around the stop. It may be possible to do Pioneer Creek if the warm weather keeps up.

3-3-95

Sheep everywhere on the benches. I did ISO stream stuff on Kush Creek. It took most of the day. A trace of snow this morning.

I ran down to Cougar Creek & back in the evening. A big Cougar track was in the mud. Brian finally found one of the radio collared ewes he was looking for quite a ways down the creek, almost to the Middle Fork.

3-4-95

It poured late last night & turned to snow early this morning. .5" of snow & .54" of total precipitation. It looks like IFG won't be ~~here~~ here till tomorrow on account of the weather.

There was a message IFG fisheries folks will be here to install the weir on Tuesday.

I did ISU stream staff for Clift Creek today. It was very cold & miserable, overcast & snowing with winds. But at least it's done. It's an all day chore.

Sheep from Lobauer have moved on the benches. About 50 sheep are spending time in the ~~the~~ makogay cliffs just east of first bench. Brian remarked that Holly Aterson discovered the sheep move there during snow storms.

The snow melted off up to third bench. More fell earlier this evening.

3-5-95

Snow, snow & more snow. It snowed all day, non stop, till 5:00 PM. It quit for a while, then started again.

There is a new layer of white, 4" deep everywhere.

I caught up on paper work today. Took a hike with Brian to Lobauer ~ 5:30 PM. we saw deer & either a beaver or otter.

3-6-95

Snow again, but it quit by 10:00 AM. I walked up to the lick just east of the property boundary. There is a kill site. wolves? coyotes? (most likely) cougar? It is a fawn.

The IFG census crew flew in today. The lab wood burning stove wasn't working well, so I

moved them to the cookhouse. They invited Brian & myself for dinner. A good evening of conversation was had by all.

I replaced the bad mantels so now I need to purchase more.

3-7-95 Fish weirs - a real problem. No maps, no nothing from IFG Fishery folks. All of us were put out. And, the first two pieces landed in the wilderness? I told the pilot they had to be moved.

A long & frustrating day.

3-8-95 Well, the fish weir business got solved. But it took numerous helicopter lifts. 7 lifts today to replace the weir pieces in the appropriate location. The two pieces were moved.

3-9-95 Three flights today, counting the flight to Fairbanks. I'm glad it's nearly over. The fish weirs are solved. A few units are left. They'll fly them tomorrow.

I spent time working on the aviation fuel with Kevin Primrose. Kevin Primrose, Jim Vope & Mike Schlegel stayed in the cookhouse.

3-10-95 The last day - 3 flights. The last one was the one to leave. Kinky weather.

Brian helped clean up around here. That was nice of him.

3-11-95

A very foggy day. I helped Guy by going and getting his Rustrack, the one on Rush Point. It has been having some problems.

The ticks are now out. I found one on me today.

3-12-95

I spent the day working around the Taylor Cabin, a bit of clearing, etc. I also wrote some letters this evening. 2.09" of rain the past day. A hard rain fell in the afternoon. A bald eagle came by.

3-13-95

G.M.

Well, I've got H₂O back to the lower cabin spring box. It will be a matter of time before it opens to the cabins. Probably tomorrow as I suspect a small ice block from the pipes.

I repaired the propane light in the Cook house and put some rodent / weather stripping on the Tack shed. I was rather busy today.

The sheep are back. In fact, Guy put a Rustrack on the property.

Yesterday, McCall Air picked up the IFG stuff. It is now all out of here. (Actually, it was Saturday, just after I'd returned from picking up the Rustrack).

3-15-95

Well, it rained most of the day. The mail plane came late to pick up Brian. His wife was having tests in the hospital.

I got some clearing done in the Taylor Cabin.

3-16-95 1.18" of rain yesterday. I started on the shop & some duties around the cabins. However, I got sick to my stomach & had to rest for a bit. I didn't feel well the rest of the day.

3-17-95 I worked in the shop today, fixing a few small items & getting tools ready for summer. It is a slow process, but it needs to be done.

It was sunny today, a nice day. The sheep are coming back. This evening, male deer played on the hill, chasing sheep. and vice versa. The deer had a great time & so did some of the younger sheep.

3-18-95 It rained today, a lot. I did more work in the shop, some chores around Taylor & looked in the MRO situation. The water should start flowing any time to the Conyer cabin. I still need to turn Taylor's MRO on. The box has been plugged so it should be working well.

lots of sheep on the mountain. 3 groups. A goshawk killed a bird right by Conyer cabin while Gray & I were talking this evening.

3-19-95 Gray flew out today. The weather looks bad so his wife left a message to come out. I retrieved his data logger from Brad bench once we got the message.

it was time to go. As I was descending a plane landed at Taylor Ranch. I thought Ray Arnold had come 2 hrs. early.

The plane turned out to be Terry Holybete & Brian Lett from JFC's Histories. They had relayed messages to Arnolds. I didn't get them till after-the-fact.

They flew out & are expected back sometime this next week to finish the work.

3-20-95

I spent much of the day getting stuff for JSU organized. I still need to hear from Jett about mailing costs. The box will cost a bit.

Routine maintenance staff also took some of my time. 59 individual sheep on the mountain! Elk & deer too!

3-21-95

Wash day & B-day, 38. Christ, I feel old. 13/100ths of an inch of rain this morning & a few ice pellets on the ground.

More elk on third bench. The sheep are in the timber next to the benches. Male deer are just north of the Big Creek / Rush Creek confluence.

I had a lot of laundry & didn't get it all done, maybe I'll finish tomorrow, if the weather holds.

I also did a few odd chores around the place. Several little repair jobs & other spring clean-up items.

-22-95 Mail day today. Terry Holubetz & Brian Lett flew in with Ray & the mail. It was a nice sunny day, off & on. They will do the fish weir work.

I did some chores around here - swapping batteries from the lab to Taylor cabin (still little light on the Lab's panel), shop work & small repair items. I kept very busy with that ~~the~~ work.

-23-95 Mike Larkin & Sam Mudd flew in from Selkirk with Mike Davis. They will help out on fish weir work.

I did more laundry, worked on the H₂O systems - still no water, damn - for the two cabins & finished working on the solar panel systems. All seems to be fine now.

Elk, deer & sheep on the benches today. We got snow at 4:30 PM & it hasn't quit as of 7:20 PM. The snow is wet & only 1/2" has accumulated.

The IFG fishing folk are nice & friendly. They're not as outgoing as the IFG wildlife census team.

3-24-95 Well, it snowed most of the day. I kept busy between the radio & a few odd jobs around here. Amazingly, both Ray & Mike flew in between 5 &

5:30 PM to pick up the fishery crew. The
came in between clouds.

lots of elk, deer & sheep on the benches. This
evening the sun peeked through and lit up the
benches. As I was giving a tour of Taylor
Ranch to the IFG folks - about 4:00 PM - a bald
eagle flew over head.

3-25-95

Snow again today. I checked on Guy's vustrack.
However, I felt sick today. Headache & stomach
problems & a sore throat. I may have a cold, having
been around people the past 2 or 3 days. It
really knocked me out.

Elk, deer & sheep are again on the benches.
A varied thrush appeared a while ago - at least
that's what I think it was.

3-26-95

I felt a bit better today. I did some odd chores
around here. The day was blustery with a lot
of overcast and some snow.

The big horns came down to the lick on Big
Creek today. The signal for 4 of them is
strong. I'm running a vustrack for Guy
by his cabin.

3-27-95

Another cold day. 20° was the low. And some
snow again. I took one vustrack to the ridge
east of the lounge cabin as the signal for all

sheep was getting near. When I got on the ridge I could only get 730's signal. I wiped up the benches & turned off the pasture all there. Actually, the battery had run out a few days ago. I thought the battery was good for a couple of weeks.

Anyway, the only signal I can get is from 730. The benches were full of wildlife - 50 elk, 30 male deer & 16 sheep. A nice sunset up there, framed by a cold sky.

3-28-95

Clean up. I worked on Taylor cabins today & did some odd jobs around the place. It was cold & cloudy part of the day.

I can't get signals from any other sheep except 730.

3-29-95

Mail day & I got some paperwork done. Jim & Holly Atkinson flew in on the mail plane with Ray on their way to Running Creek.

Today was clear & cold. No precipitation.

3-30-95

I concentrated on the rodent patrol for the lower cabins, assessing the firewood situation & doing the remaining laundry. I finally was able to get a signal from another sheep. Tomorrow I'll spend some

time helping Guy. I've been writing down observations for he & Brian but spend most of my time on upkeep chores. It is finally warm enough to begin spring upkeep.

3-31-95

What a day. It started out well, a call from Jeff Yeo about some items. I started doing some work in the shop & cleaning up around here.

Guess what! I checked the conger cabin (I do it once a day) to see if the H₂O was back. It was, and the floor was wet. I took up the carpet - again! - & I'm drying out the cabin. It looks like I caught it in time.

I don't know if pressure burst the joints, the water was drained from the pipes, or what. Anyway, it is another task I need to take care of. It's a real head ache. That's how my day was spent - mopping, & cleaning up.

4-1-95

Well, I did ISU stream work on Pioneer Creek. It was a rainy day & miserable in the water. But it wasn't as bad as doing it in the winter.

There was an elk kill site up Pioneer Creek a ways. Sometime this winter, a cougar had killed the elk. It probably wasn't too old, a month at the most.

4-2-95

"02" of rain. Today is looking better. I did Cliff Creek for ISU. It was fairly warm today but quite windy.

Elk & deer have been feeding each night on the landing strip and in the pastures. This morning, the sheep came down to the lick, I think. I heard rocks rolling as I walked to Clift Creek but didn't see the sheep.

4-3-95 A very nice & windy day. I bet it got to nearly 70°. I did some work around here, returned the carpets to the Conyer Cabin - they are dry now - and finished up on Res & Creek for FSU. I caught a sculpin & released it.

I saw some small ducks, possibly mallards? I didn't get very close, they were playing in the rough water on Big Creek.

There were 32 sheep by the first bench this afternoon. 3 young rams were frolicking and butting heads. The crack could be heard all the way down here.

Birds are returning. The juncos are fighting over the feeder & a towhee is trying to attract a mate.

4-4-95 I walked up to Guy's ranch today behind Conyer Cabin. No luck in getting any signal except 730.

I laid the carpets in Conyer, boxed the moving parts & got all the stuff ready to send to FSU.

4-5-95

Brian flew back in today. It was cloudy & the radio air was bad. This is the only time I've seen, or heard, bad radio air on a cloudy day.

I got some clues done around here. Water is on at Arlo Cabin. No problems thus far.

4-6-95

I went up to Guy's 3rd bench airstack. I put it on 730, 786, 825 & 1076 came in very weak. Brian is going to be up stream tomorrow to see if they are there. He collected fecal samples & did observations on the benches.

I worked on getting the pipes ready for Conyer Cabin. Yesterday, Ray brought in plumbing supplies.

4-7-95

I spent the day fixing the Conyer Cabin plumbing. It is PVC pipe & needs to cure a day or so before I turn the H₂O back on. It was cramped messy work.

Rain again today, off & on. The bighorns are still up on the benches, but way up there.

4-8-95

A lot of rain today. I spent time checking Guy's airstack & doing odd jobs around here.

1-9-95 Snow this morning & bad radio air. It has been bad for the past few days. A good day to clean around Taylor cabin.

lots of wildlife this evening on the benches. Elk, deer & sheep. Tomorrow, IFE is due in here to work on sheep darting, if all goes well. The weather has been very uncooperative - .14" today, .37 yesterday.

1-10-95 Mike Schlegel (IFE) & Steve Capps (an IFE volunteer) came in to dart sheep today for Brian & Guy. They were short handed so I helped out.

Two sheep were darted, one this side of the bauer & the other on first bench at the lick. The bauer sheep went down but the other was darted near the stomach so the drug dissipated. We couldn't collar that sheep.

.01" of rain this morning. Bad radio air again. But I was able to get the weather called in later in the afternoon during afternoon radio hour.

-11-95 No sheep were darted today. We went down to Snake Creek & saw none. The benches sheep were too jumpy.

It was a nice day. Overcast but not too hot.

4-12-95

Mail day. I worked here while the 3 folks from I F G, counting boxes, went up the creek. They started two sheep.

Today was windy. RC came in with the mail, the first time he's been back from a winter break. The helicopter flew in veirs today as well. The helicopter scared the sheep just when they were ready to dart on the benches.

Mike Schlegel & Steve Capps left late this afternoon, early evening actually. Ray came in at 7:00 to pick them up.

4-13-95

I spent the day cleaning up around the tree that was taken down. There's still is quite a bit more to do. I should finish in a few days.

Mike Poy's flew in with more veir parts today. I helped him unload at the other end of the runway. I expect Terry Holzbetz & Brian Leth will be here tomorrow. They planned on arriving this afternoon but the weather has been bad. It's 7:00 PM and raining.

I checked on one of Guy's rastrochs today. It is still going strong. I may need to move it tomorrow, however. The sheep are travelling up stream.

4-14-95

Bad news, one of the radio collared sheep died. One they got on Wednesday, 4-12-95. I

went with Brian in the morning to dart sheep by the lick. None were there. I climbed up to Guy's rustrack on 3rd bench to do some work on it. It is working fine though it was very snowy.

We had 4/10" of snow this morning. I spent the rest of the day clearing around the tree & shop. It is a big job but I'm making progress. Brian has helped out.

1-15-95 well, Terry Holubetz flew in today with Brian Lett. The new pieces didn't fit correctly. I manufactured some bolts from the shop but the pieces still wouldn't work correctly. Terry was pretty philosophical about it though he was right to be angry because they hadn't designed it the way he had instructed.

I spent some time around the ranch fixing things. Brian Holbrook wasn't feeling well so he rested a day then he got out & found the dead sheep. He did a quick necropsy & found no obvious reason she had died.

1-16-95
Sunday Easter today. I helped Brian dart old 1301, the sheep they wanted to dart to replace the collar. All seems well with her.

My grandfather died last night. I just found out about it this morning. He was nearly 100, 4 months shy of his birthday. There is no way

I can make it to the funeral, logistics are too complex.

4-17-95

Matt O'Connell, IF6, flew in today to help Brian dart sheep. He came in with Rod from McCall Air. Later in the day, Terry Holubetz & an assistant flew in to take out the defective weir parts. They may come back in the next couple of days to replace the parts. They flew in with KC from Arundel's Aviation. They only spent 1/2 hour here.

The weather was bad today. It started out sunny so I did laundry. It figures.

More help may come for darting, provided the weather holds. Both KC & Rod were able to come in and out but most of the day was bad.

Two collars remain to be placed for Guy & Brian. It is not an easy task, especially darting sheep from different groups. Hopefully, the darting can be completed soon. Sheep were at the lick this afternoon but Brian & Matt were unable to dart them. They were spooked by the wind or an eagle.

4-18-95

I was surprised by the weather again. It was very rainy. Sammi Holbrook (Brian's wife) flew in today to help him with darting. Ray will be flying the mail on Thursday instead of Wednesday to give her & Matt an extra day to help dart

the sheep. Ray came in with Sardi in a storm; he flew well. He took out 4 empty propane bottles. As could be expected, the propane all ran out this past week.

There are a lot of elk on the mountain. Brian & Matt ran into sheep at the lick downstream of Taylor Ranch, just around the corner. However, they were unable to get any.

I cleaned the Taylor cabin chimney & began the last part of the tree cleanup. Hopefully, I will finish it tomorrow or the next day. It is a lot of work.

Brian, Sardi & Matt went to the Lobster bench this ~~afternoon~~ afternoon. They saw no sheep down low. They hiked almost to Cabin Creek & returned in the late evening.

It is late so I better go to bed.

11-19-85 I spent the day on the tree cleanup & a few other odd jobs. It is nearly complete, except for sawing the few remaining rounds.

Brian, Sardi & Matt went to Goat Creek. They saw sheep, but they were not in a safe area for darting.

This morning there was 1.28" of rain. It rained a lot today as well. The first Golden Mantle ground squirrel of the season.

4-20-95

Matt & Sardi flew out on the mail plane today. Yesterday was bad weather so the mail didn't come & Ray came a day late to give me starting time.

.01" of rain was all, but it was windy all day, overcast & rainy.

We saw two snow geese on the runway. They flew away when Ray landed but returned later.

4-21-95

I spent the day fixing the fence & finishing wood hauling. There is just a bit left to do. Terry Holubetz & Brian left flew in to finish the weir. They are staying tonight at the cook house.

Brian Holbrook helped me with the fence & wood cleanup. It is a huge task.

The snow geese returned today. At sunset, the rays finally reached earth & the landing meadow was lit up as I walked back from Rush Creek amid a herd of deer crossing Big Creek.

4-22-95

It was a cloudy day. I went with Brian & he darted a sheep at Goat Creek. One more collar to go. We saw two Steelheads at Goat Creek.

I checked the weir for fish & cleaning at 5:30 PM. There were no fish in the weir. None were below the

weir either.

1-23-95 I checked the weir at 8:30 AM & 6:00 PM. All was okay but no fish. At 6:00 PM, the gauge was at 33.5.

Today I felt sick. My throat was very sore. I went up to the lick with Brian to see if we could get the last sheep collar placed. No luck.

I did a bit around here & went to bed. I am feeling a bit better as of 8:00 PM.

Today, a lost pilot landed here looking for Cabin Creek. He was confused as his navigational chart showed Cabin Creek was the 2nd airstrip up from the mouth of Big Creek. His chart omitted Soldier Bar. The plane's # was N 1854W. He apologized and took off upstream.

1-24-95 I went to the lick this morning with Brian to see if we could see any sheep. None were there. I continued up to 3rd bench & changed Greg's pasture. In the afternoon I worked on the stop & clean up.

The weir had trapped a cutthroat from upstream, going down. It was dead. The gauge was 34 at 6:00 PM. No steelhead.

1-25-95 We had a terrific storm last night & this morning. 70/100^{hrs} of precipitation - rain mixed with snow. I worked on cleaning the 60 & 6

fixing the wood stoves & discovered a major problem, a wet floor. Apparently, the warped floor I discovered last winter was caused by the hot water heater leaking. I recall draining it last October so either I did something wrong or an obstruction prevented it from properly draining. Anyway, it is a mess and I'm frustrated.

Another cutthroat was dead in the weir this evening, going up stream from downstream. The gauge was 36.5. No steelhead.

I'm bothered my last week here is a mess with the lab problem.

4-24-95

Mail day. A letter from Guy needing more work to be done. Today, I pulled up & washed the tile & got the stove going. It took all day but the lab bedroom will dry out.

No Steelhead in the weir. The 6:00 PM gauge was 36.5. However, a large fish was above the weir. It was lively & looked like a steelhead. I didn't get a good glimpse but it had a pink stripe on its lateral line & was green!

4-27-95

I spent the day finally plugging all the leaks in the Conyer Cabin. Wow, I thought it was done but no! I also worked on keeping the lab warm, clean up & running Guy's

rustack.

No stalkhead in the weir. The 6:00 PM reading was 37.5 in the rain.

I saw a pair of cinnamon teal, an otter & a merganser on my second visit to the weir.

I spoke with Jett about the tub problem. He will bring in some glue. He is a very organized & decent person.

1-28-95 Rain, rain, rain. I checked the weir 3 times today. Rush Creek was high & swift. I fell down; it started a cussing fit.

Anyway, no stalkhead. The weir at 6:00 PM was quite debris clogged as it was this morning. The 6:00 PM gauge was 41, a high stream.

I did a few odd jobs around the ranch. Another busy day.

Brian found a dead big horn. She had apparently died from two stab wounds, horn width apart. It certainly looked like she had been stabbed by another one. He did a necropsy & found a huge hemorrhage.

1-29-95 More rain. This morning I went with Brian to gather samples for Gray on 2nd & 1st benches. No sheep, however.

This afternoon I started on the 1st floor. It should be done tomorrow. The glue was the right kind.

More teal by the weir. No fish but high water & lots of debris. It's becoming difficult to cross Rush Creek. I wouldn't dare ford Big Creek now.

The gauge read 42.5 this evening at 6:00 P.M.

4-30-95

More rain! Nearly 2" this past week! Today I did some laundry & finished the 1st floor. That was quite a chore. I still need to replace the molding but that shouldn't take long. I finished at 7:30 P.M.

The water is getting higher each day. No fish in the weir either AM or PM but the gauge was at 43.5. Terry Holubetz is supposed to come in tomorrow some time.

Deer are feeding in the pasture. The grouse is still drumming & a rufous-sided towhee is building a nest nearby.

5-1-95

A bit of rain; a fairly nice day. I spent the day getting ready to leave - lots of little repair jobs on doors, fences etc. It's been a long day.

No fish in the weir, however. The 6:00 P.M. gauge read 43.5. Rush Creek is high. There is quite a bit of debris in the stream.

The bogwoms finally showed themselves. They are moving. Kingfishers are on Big Creek again. The sky was visible for the first time in days. April had 2.75" of precipitation.

This is a great place. I'll take my time packing out.

2-2-95
Jeff in, Brian out. Gary showed me around: reported on conditions

3-95
Gary hiked out - going up Goat Creek over Stoddart to Corn Creek. With the amount of snow at high elevations I won't be surprised if he returns in a few days. Terry Holubetz (IDFG) & Scott Patrick flew in the fish weir catwalk in afternoon. He bolted it together & bolted the walk across the weir. Two ♀ steelhead above weir, apparently already spawned. Deer, elk, & sheep all over today - on airstrip, trail, benches, pasture.

4-95
Planted the garden & worked on met. station. Problem with storage module (I think). Appears that there is no readable data for entire winter. May need to replace storage module. Trail crew (2 people) running lower Big Creek with rakes. Two hunters came from upstream, then went up Cliff Creek. Heard 2 shots about an hour later. Gary Macfarlane returned. Two treachures on Stoddart trail so he'll head out Big Creek to Yellowpine.

5-5 → 5-7

Sheep apparently have moved up Rush cr. - saw sixteen (w/ collared ewe in lead) heading up to mouth of Rush cr yesterday. ~~Heavy rains~~ Few sheep & elk seen since hunter went up Cliff cr. Heavy rains began Friday night (5/5) and continued through to Sunday morning. Big creek & Rush Creek rose quickly. By Sunday morning, weir was clogged with large logs & debris. I was unable to clear enough before Rush cr. channelled around east end of weir. Worked all day on weir Saturday but couldn't keep up with debris. 4-5 foot head building behind weir with 30 foot logs jammed against panels. Paul started bucking on Saturday. By Sunday morning 2 panels had buckled. I used the "come along" to wrench out another panel but the rope broke & the panel buckled. Finally wrenched the large logs off weir & pushed around east end. Terry Holubetz & Dave Parrish (DD-6) few in in late afternoon Sunday. Worked until 6:00 p.m. removing 4 panels. They'll come back in a few days if stream levels recede & lay down entire weir.

5-8-95

Steve Zittel came through w/ bear hunters - up Pioneer Creek about 1100 & out again about 1900. At least 5 sheep on 1st bench, 1 with collar - earlier saw sheep on third bench ~ 1700. Suddenly new birds are arriving, maybe coming in on high pressure system that arrived yesterday. Quite a few new songs to listen to.

5-9 → 5-14

U.S.F.S. trail crew came through w/ 4 pack stock. I let them pitch camp by the cougar pens. Also, another fellow w/ 2 others will be stationed all summer at Cabin Creek. Reportedly, they'll not replace the foot

5/31-5/7 Chuck Peterson, David Elliot & Jason Kari in to do
 herp work - Jason staying thru 7/2. Pioneer Ck.
 extremely high took out water system to cook house. Other
 systems down during high water. Septic troubles at Conroy
 Cabin. Work to replace water heater at lab
 bridge across Cabin Ca on the Big Creek trail. And
 U.S.F.S is considering removing the cabin in Coxe Creek.
 Rain and cool most of the week. Finally, today it's
 sunny. Ranch Ca has dropped 6" & Big Creek is
 down & starting to clear. A few sheep & elk still
 hanging around the benches. Deer are still plentiful
 in the pasture in the morning & evening.

6/10/95 Jette & Matthias in. yellow warblers,
 black headed gros beaks, lazuli buntings
 siskins, tanagers around Taylor Cabin
 Garden is up. Creeks running high.
 Lilacs still blooming. Lori and Aaron
 out with telemetry gear to get sheep signals.

6/11/95 Jason continuing herps survey. Jeff
 organizing his research.

6/12/95 Jeff started bird & butterfly work.
 Aaron irrigating. Pioneer Ck. has changed
 course after high water

6/13/95 Jason off to survey Canyon, Conroy, and
 maybe Doe Creeks - will be back Thurs.

6/15/95 Jeff saw a full grown probably young
 female cougar this morning above the Taylor
 Cabin and air strip part way to Bush Ck.
 bench. He was sitting doing bird survey
 when she stood up near him, looked
 at him, looked around and strolled
 away, apparently unconcerned. He also
 had a pregnant cow^{elk} bark at him in
 the game area. Creeks still running high.

6/17-18 Aaron & Lauri took horses to mile high. Saw
 a black bear, moose (bulls & cows), elk. We
 hiked to Dancer Ck. Jeff continues with his bird, butterfly
 inventories. Has been experimenting with
 cow plots near the field station (see original d.t.)

Pin
 cultural
 site work
 longshore
 for summer
 internship

Mike
 Bozola
 out.

tracking plates for small mammals so won't have to use traps. We saw a group of 5 Kayakers below the Gorge. (Water is still high and has been up into the cave; a rock slide has covered the trail right before the cave. When we came back 5 more Kayakers were leaving the Gorge on foot after checking it out. We followed them all the way back to the lower pasture where they were camped. This is the 3rd group trying to camp on Taylor R. already this season (2 Kayaker parties and 1 horse party). After the problems the past years we thought the Taylor Ranch Field Station signs at both ends of the property would give people the message, but they don't. These Kayakers walked right past the sign, camped near Jeff's study plot in full view of the MET station and the bridge (pitched 5 tents and hung up all of their clothes). They were angry about being asked to move around the bend. Unfortunately, the time has come to post "No camping" signs. These fellows were talking about some Kayakers' guidebook that describes Big Ck. I think we'll need signs that can be seen from the river, one on the MET station and one on the spur trail leading down

to the pasture across from the airstrip.

6.21.95

Summer Solstice. A young bull moose strolled thru the field sta. We first saw him across Big Ck., then he crossed the river and walked down the airstrip stepped over the fence and came into the garden. Tim barked, but didn't chase him and the moose continued down Big Ck., stopping to munch a few plants at Pioneer Ck. More Kayakers camped in lower pasture. Said that Patty Swinn at Big Ck. told them to camp there. They were nice people from the Seattle area - men and women probably in their 40s. Received many articles about the Tukudepa and related info. from Mark Smith in the mail as well as a bibliography. Rained all day. Jason had planned to head up Cliff Ck. after the mail plane arrived, but stayed to enter data on computer. Aaron & Lori finished building a new log bridge between the orchard & shop - good job. Letter from Jim Peck says Guy hurt his Achilles tendon during therapy sessions for his knee and may not be able to monitor sheep this summer. Guy is so conscientious and hard-working that this must be very hard on him. Such a shame for the study to be missing this spring and summer data. Gushan is energetically putting together

Center
right in
study area

a nutrition study at the Caine Research Center that is part of Guy's proposal, so that will help. She has given us instructions for collecting plants. Aaron & Lori preparing to work on small mammal surveying. Aaron will try to do some red track monitoring of Guy's study sheep.

6/30/95 Jason has been up Cliff Ck & Waterfall Ck. Ran into snow at 8000 ft. going up Cliff Ck. Ran into snow before Terrace Lakes going up Waterfall. He took a fall in Waterfall Ck. on 6/26, losing his glasses and bruising his leg. Lauri & Aaron have been working on small mammal trapping & track plates. They caught deer mice and the first chipmunk. Aaron reported seeing a jumping mouse. Jeff & Jette have been doing the butterfly monitoring. Jette and Mathias saw 70 elk cows & calves at Cabin Ck. (and one bull) (6/27). Wayne Minshall's crew won't be in until the end of July due to high water and Profile Summit is still closed. Water is still high and flowers are blooming later this year. Many grouse broods about and the sandpiper at the end of the run way hatched his brood.

also butterfly

Jeff also continues to herd deer

Calves still in spots

(A couple with a string of mules (Tom Nicks? & wife) lost their dog between

here a Goat Ck - a border collie. We've been watching for him, but no sign.

7/5/95 - 6 ewes & 3 lambs (young-looking lambs) on 1st bench salt lick. No collars. Jason flew out on July 2. May have trouble getting into the Crags to work w/ so much snow. Profile is still snowed in. Jeff may have to have Ray shuttle students from Johnson Ck to Big Ck trailhead. Cathy Gillihan says there's still a mile of snow over Profile w/ some 2 ft. drifts. Aaron accidentally caught a raccoon in a trap he had set for pack rats under the Cony's Cabin. He & Jeff were able to free it - no more traps will be set outside. The raccoon was beautiful. The 1st one I've seen here. 3 men riding horses leading 2 packed rode by downriver. They had a nice looking border collie w/ a bobbed tail. We're eating snow peas and strawberries from the garden. Elk are coming down the benches regularly in the evening now with their new calves. Jeff & interns worked on the waterline to the cookhouse. The high water ripped it up & convoluted some of the hose. The outside faucet is running now, but not enough pressure for the cookhouse sink. Will let the faucet run to clear air from the line & hope the pressure will come up. The solar system on the lab is still not charging despite many tests & hours of work - frustrating. The horses crossed Big Ck for the 1st time this season - the water is high. Grouse

broods are everywhere. Some w/ very young chicks - others w/ flying chicks. A few mornings ago a newly fledged family of Nashville warblers were flying awkwardly around the lawn. Around June 25 the sandpiper eggs at the end of the airstrip hatched (all but 3 of the 4). The parent is very good at protecting the chicks. A rufous male hummingbird is frequenting the area around the Taylor Cabin - may have a nest near the Suringa edging the garden.

Aug 16

Lorrie left from summer duty. Her parents from Alabama (who stayed three days) loved it here. Aaron stayed to show Lynnette (me) the ins and outs of the Ranch.

A cinnamon bear with a blonde stripe down its back came across the "Big Creek" bridge and passed by the horses. No-one became excited.

Lots of rain and some hail today.

Aug 17

Nothing too far from ordinary except for the black bear that came a calling at Aaron's cabin. ~~She~~ got away before a picture could be taken however, bummer! She no longer had her cub with her, must have kicked him out of the den. Both are black with the same shaped white patch on their chests.

Aug 18

Aaron left for home, well to Chali to drive Jeff's pickup home. KC stopped back by and picked up the empty propane tanks (4).

Something came falling on the Taylor cabin ~~last~~ this night, caused a great racket. But upon inspection nothing seems hurt or disturbed. Something must have fell on the tin roof.

Aug 19

Remembered Aaron saying there was a lot of bear scat behind his cabin so I looked. Found there really is between the cabin and the wood pile (about 4 ft space), the bear seems to use it often and goes right up next to the cabin. (Cover Cabin)

Elk were spotted above the 3rd bench.

A walked the escape ditch where all the water runs when not irrigating the runway. And it just runs down the side of the runway. If another hard pipe was put across the span between the ditch + the runway we could irrigate more of the runway. HOWEVER, the spot that we be the best location is near a den in the rock. Now I saw some dog type do-dos (assuming coyote) there also so it would say it is in use.

Forego the runway, not that desprite.

Besides the top + bottom of the runway are still green. The only problem we have are the grasshoppers. Lots + lots of grasshoppers.

Aug 20 Nothing new, still green & full of grasshoppers. There is a hummingbird or two visiting the red feeder outside the Taylor cabin.

Saw two does w/ one fawn each in the salt lake at 8:45 pm. Plus, I believe, a golden eagle.

Aug 21 Monday

Well, this little bear followed me around the lower pasture so I returned. Then I dug out two more ditches. Then I went to check the dam on pioneer creek and found a bear out & then I fell in the creek. S.O.B! Then when I got it fixed I came back to dry off and take a nap. Then I got really awoken by a thumpus. The little Black cub was playing with my shoes & pants in the sprinkler. He's nice cute but what a pain!

Aug 22 Well it's 6:30 in the evening and I had another visit from the cub. I fired at him twice he finally retreated but I really don't think I scared him. I may have hurt him though, I fired at the ground in front of him & shot a little where. He didn't scream so I must not have hit him.

Upon closer inspection of the lawn I obviously hit the ground about 2-3 ft in

food of where he was standing. I feel
nerved much better I suppose this.

Aug 23 11:05 and got another visit from the
sub. He & she did run this time may-be
he's getting the point.

7:45 a bull moose went through the
main pasture headed west.

Aug 24 6:00 pm and Creep came back. He does run
from the sound of the gun, but he doesn't
run far. I think this den is on the ranch - if
not than close enough to it. The ranch
definitely sets inside his territory, I've seen
some marked trees.

Aug 25 11:00 am 8 Big Horn Sheep Rams were on
the bench that lies across the river
behind the corral. One may have had a
full curl - but only one. Don't recall if
any had radio collars for Guy Wagner's
study.

1920 and the bear was here again. This
time feeding on the bush to the right
of the bridge. Feist eating - nothing else.

Found two piles of feathers ^{Both} appear to
be blue grouse - Only feathers left
nothing else. Except a partial red band
apparently one was one of Kerry Keeser's study.

Aug 26 Creep was here from 12:30 - 12:45 as he passed
through one way & then the other. He even

stopped to climb a large DF part way up. -
the berries on the bush next to it were too
high otherwise.

Then this afternoon a brown phase
black bear cub came passed the corral &
scared a fawn enjoying the salt lick.
Haven't seen him since though. Bears everywhere!

Aug 28

Dave Orkey was here this morning from
Chelis to shoe the horses. Came at 7 and
caught me unprepared. Thought no-one
came before 8 - guess I thought wrong. The
only problem we (he) had was with Miss
Tink - she didn't want him messing with
her right hind foot. But he convinced her
and she then let him do it. Not before
inflicting a little pain on him though - she
struggled against him, using the stand &
knocked in over into Dave's knee. He says
he's going to buy thicker chaps to wear to
hopefully lessen the blows.

Two hikers stopped by to tell us
they had just passed a bear. Didn't
stay long.

Aug 29

A couple of hunters passed through en-route
to destination some 3+ miles up Pioneer Creek.
One had the gun and the sheep dog the
other the video camera.

5 minutes after they went through
a moose also crossed the main pasture.
Too bad they missed him. He was a young

moose and he loped across the pasture like he was afraid of the horses.

Creep's name is now Sneaky because he is no longer a creep but he is still very sneaky. At two o'clock he fell out of a chokecherry bush, but at 4 he was up a DF. He let me get within 10 feet of the tree before he whimpered, guess when he wiggle I should also check the trees for bears.

Aug 31 Nothing out of the ordinary went on today. Found a wind sock in the shop so changed the main pasture sock. The old one was ripped completely in to.

Horses are still breaking gates so led them to the small pasture across Big Creek from the airstrip. They seem to be happy. I may continue to do that - give the main pasture a break.

at 1 Fixed the gates at the lab, hope the horses don't rub them again. The little bear came to the bushes near the lab while we were fixing the gates. Just looked at us - kept eating.

1500 hr and Stinker was here at the Taylor cabin playing with a lawn chair. He saw the gun - tried to hide - fired anyway - he ran off.

Sept 2 Went for a trip to Soldier Bar saw a brown w/ blonde mid-section cub on hill beside lower pasture and a bald eagle about 3/4 of the way home on the return trip.

Was sunny this morning now overcast and humid.

Coyotes came around last night. Cuddled us to sleep with their pretty voices.

Sept 3 Not much in the form of news except Stinker was here all day eating berries and a rain storm blew over us. So far leaving only the wind & a few rain drops.

Sept 4 3:15pm or so and finally fired at Stinker. Had enough distance that actually hit him with the pellets. He did run off, so ~~loosely~~ he learned that he's not a dog and can not hang out with people.

Sept 5 Stinker was back eating berries but ran when we crossed the bridge after a hike up to the third bench. Didn't see any wildlife.

Sept 6 Paul left on the mail plane. Now I am here alone again. No-one should be here alone. Saw a kestrel eating a young ruffed grouse down behind the Cook's cabin. And I saw the bear, Stinker, again but he ran off.

Two sheep hunters stopped by for information or directions to Soldier Bar and during conversation

they said they had seen two different kinds of ewes and lambs and that one ewe in each band was radio collared. Well buy two of your ewes are still around.

Saw a helicopter fly over today appeared to be scanning both sides of Big Creek the way it flew from side to side.

Sept 7 Spent all morning trying to put hoppers on the bases, This tank was full of vinegar.

12 noon and called Cascade about smoke fittings in. This shows nothing but someone else called and said there is a large fire to the east where Big Creek flows into the Salmon River.

Jeff called to say the FS is battling the blaze I called to tell him about & that it is relatively small.

Sept 9 No smoke yesterday or today so they must have gotten the fire out.

Getting cold at night - last night 39°F ., but staying comfortable during the day - 70's - 80's.

Moon was so bright last night it seemed like it was in your face. Still didn't see what was making all the racket & nothing seems disturbed.

Sept 10 Had a doe wily near the Taylor Cabin this morning. And about 0930 a red-white helicopter circled the ranch.

Don't know who or why. Just circled and left.

It rained today - now it's getting chilly. Wish to see some rain.

Sept 11 Received news from Cascade that Jeff is tentatively set to relieve me on the 20th of this month. Hope so.

Irrigated more today - nothing new.

Sept 12 With the help of some aerial brushing the irrigation pipe into the ditch last night, the runway was flooded. Tried to drain it today - took most of day. It should be ok for the mail plane tomorrow.

A large bear passed across the ranch last night. The large pile of scat it left on the airstrip compares, in size, to that left by the horses. However, the scat was purple & full of berry seeds.

Sept. 24 Reed & I are now the caretakers - Jeff left this morning.

Sept. 26 Saw 18 sheep grazing on the west side of the second bunch this morning. Our first sheep sighting looked like so many tufts of grass.

Sept. 30 Reed cleaned chimneys at Taylor cabin & lab. The Taylor tent stove was easily the dirtiest; will probably require other brushing-outs this winter.

Must buy Aaron Foster a bear the next time we're in Moscow. He left the wood shed fully stocked with beautiful wood. Maybe two bears - micro bears.

Oct. 1 Did my first laundry today. A very handy little machine! And, good upper body workout, though I have decided there were entirely too many dirty clothes for me larger than we've been here.

were they REALLY that dirty, or do we just thoughtlessly change clothes?! new perspectives. Good for people.

Oct. 3 Rain showing us wet, we decided to hike up to the third bench. Nice views, but no wildlife to speak of. Saw one sheep further up, under a tree. Binoculars not quite powerful enough, but looked to be a ram.

Looking forward to end of hunting season: colder weather when we hope to see more wildlife. It has been pretty sparse. Haven't even seen Lynnette's boys, though that's okay.

Oct. 5 The sun came out this afternoon, so we decided to walk up the Big Creek trail a ways. The juncos were acting like they were on holiday. Everything appears more lively when the sun comes back out after so many cloudy days.

Reed became absorbed in looking at the rocks, so I headed back to start pizza dough for dinner. First encountered a large muleshoe on the trail, just before the ranch boundary, then a lone sheep ewe. She seemed more curious than concerned about me; we looked at each other a couple minutes. It seemed odd to me that she was alone.

Oct. 6 My birthday, so Reed cooked & washed all the dishes. We also fixed up the sauna for the first time. Memories flooded in from my grandparents' farm in Minnesota. They immigrated from Finland in their late teens. A sauna is one of the first buildings to go up on a Finnish homestead. Such an efficient way to bathe... easy to heat the little water we need.

A most pleasant day.

Oct. 7 Reed & I gave each other haircuts, then he bottled his first batch of TEX MARTIN DARK. It tasted pretty good for sweet, flat beer, so in another six weeks we should be happy campers. The name is in honor of the Prohibitionist bootlegger who was the caretaker here in the early 40's. Unlike Tex, however, we don't plan to invite the outfitters over.

Oct. 9 Made an elderberry/apple pie. Have decided that elderberries make better syrup. Figure that the difference between us is all the beans is that we see the pie is little knuckleberry lights turn on. The beans obviously enjoy elderberries, but then they're not expecting them to have the taste & texture of knuckleberries. Elderberry seeds are crunchy, and crunchy pies, though they may be tasty, require a certain amount of adjustment.

Oct. 10 Reed's first Taylor Ranch sourdough bread, most tasty. Beginning to realize that between bread & sourdough pancakes w/ry other morning or so, we're going to need quite a lot of flour.

Oct. 12 Reed harvested more carrots. Although small, they're much sweeter than those from the grocery store.

He's readying the garden for a load of compost. I had added quite a few yard clippings to the compost barrel, then Reed added some nitrogen that he found in the cellar. It has been working up pretty well, and though it could maybe stand to work a little longer, the barrel is full... and so is our cabin compost bucket. If worked into the soil, the compost should be fine. I find the ranch set-up for dealing with garbage very satisfying. While Reed & I have always tried to recycle, that which we could, one's awareness is heightened here. Hope to give product packaging more weight in my decision of what to buy in the future. Have discovered that Reed's Swiss army knife & heavy hiking boots are great compactors for those things that can't be recycled, burned or composted.

Big Creek was running white again. A wash out upstream someplace. Reed is anxious to go check it out.

Oct. 14 Guess it's time to catch the journal up again.

Reed & I hiked up the Cliff Creek trail to the highest ridge one can see from the cabin... an elevation gain of about 3000'. Since I'm not in the best of shape, we were out the better part of the day. Nice views though. Saw a plane pier some fella's up at Soldier's Bar. The Bighorn Crags look like they have snow for the winter.

Oct. 15 Reed finally caught some whitefish (4), so it appears that his resurrection of the smelter was not premature after all. Got them where Rush Creek comes in.

Discovered that all three cylinders of propane were empty after our lights went out in the living room. Also discovered that Reed's rechargeable flashlight doesn't hold a charge very long.

Oct. 16 Reed caught his third pair rat since we've been here... two upstairs in the lab, and this last one cozying up to the Taylor cabin outhouse. Said to kill them, but they do tend to trash a place out.

The Taylor bunny finally reappeared after an absence of a few days. Guess I was having a hormonal sort of day... was so relieved to see the bunny, my eyes teared up. Was beginning to think it had become just another bird in the food chain. A fine wilderness woman I make, eh?

Oct. 18 Reed couldn't stand to wait any longer, so we tried one of the Sex Martin doves. Still on the sweet side, but carbonation's surprisingly far along. Not bad! Sex would be proud.

Oct. 19 We hiked up the ridge on the east side of Pioneer Creek... only about a 2000' elevation gain, so back in time to fire up the sauna, do laundry, ³ bake an apple pie. A pretty ridge, but not a lot in the way of views.

Hang the wash in the sauna and by the time we were ready to bathe, about two hours later, the clothes were dry enough to hang on the rail in our cabin.

Oct. 21 Our second pair of sheep hunters were through today; the first went through October 6th. I was flossing my teeth at the bedroom window, scanning the benches for mountain sheep, when the first guy SHEEPISHLY walked across the yard in front of me. He didn't show any sign of stopping, but when the second guy showed up in the pasture ³ I didn't know where Reed might be tracking down Chuck's rattlesnakes, I went out ³ intercepted him. A pleasant sort. He had already talked to Reed, but I expressed my concern over stray bullets anyway. Later, watching the two of them walk up to the second bench,

I couldn't help but wonder how any of these guys catch up to a sheep... they were two specks moving awy so slowly across a vast landscape.

Oct. 23 We hiked to the Middle Fork today. The walking was easy, but the accumulation of miles was not. Was the most hunting I've been yet. Saw a couple elk cows & the most beautiful little winter wren. Oh, and our two sheep hunters, returning to Soldier Ben from a little hike to the traps.

Oct. 24 Was sitting at the table writing a letter when suddenly there was a knock at the door! Amazing how quickly a context can establish itself in which a simple knock at the door leaves me in a quandary as to what to do. I laughed. It was my old sheep hunters, laden with surplus supplies that they didn't want to pay 20¢/pound to fly back out. They're leaving tomorrow morning.

Oct. 25 Our first clearly identified ram was posturing at the edge of the second bench. The ewes showed no sign of being impressed, despite his flare for the dramatic.

Oct. 27 We hiked up the ridge behind the cabin until we hit the saddle where the Pioneer Creek trail crosses awy, then back down the trail. An elevation gain of about 2700', but not too bad. Good views, especially of Dave Lewis Peak. Saw six mule deer & one sheep ram. There were a lot of planes out & about. Between them & their echos, Reed & I felt like we were in a WWII movie... resistance fighters being sought out by a squadron of German fighter bombers. In the movies the resistance fighters aren't fighting for greater things.

Oct. 29 Glad to see daylight savings time end. Thought we were going to have to read the temperatures with a flashlight pretty soon! May still have to... December 21st is a long way away.

Oct. 31 The cactus flowers have started to open.

Reed is still having difficulty downloading the weather data across the river. Appears to be a problem with our computers. June for a letter to Jeff.

The two rattlesnakes that Reed has been monitoring have apparently hibernated up to the winter. The rakes, however, still likes to take the sun on warmer days.

Nov. 1 My brother, Clint, arrived on the mail plane. Reed & I took him up to the third bench, then over toward Cliff Creek to check out the scenery.

Nov. 2 A noticeable increase of ice in Pioneer Creek and our lowest temperature yet ... 13°. Feeling cold until heard that Cascade was 2°!

Reed & Clint walked down to the deep hole just before the gorge to try fishing, but found the hole iced over. Amazing how quickly the ice comes.

Nov. 3 We all hiked to the Rush Creek look out. Trail had been worked on & was in excellent condition. Good day. ~ 10 miles, 3400' elevation gain.

Nov. 4 Started warming up again. Ice melting and so an opportunity to re-examine winter preparations. Reed is going to put out more of the twigs above his water gathering platform. Ice had built up on the twigs and was advancing toward the platform at an alarming rate.

There were two bunnies in the yard today. Cleaning up the apples.

Nov. 6 Our first snowfall, about half an inch, lasted until mid-day. At this point, it puts me in a holiday mood.

Had sauna. For those who have no experience with saunas, this is the way we did it at my grandparents'. Heat the sauna two to three hours before bathing. It provides a more even heat & there's nothing quite like the scent of hot wood. Have a bucket of cold water on hand as well as the bucket that heated in the stove. How long one sweats is up to the individual. My grandfather used to sometimes worry his children by staying in several hours, but Reed & I usually only stay about half an hour. When ready to wash, ladle hot & cold water into a wash basin until the desired temperature. I use one of these to wet down and then pour over my hair to rinse out the shampoo, and another to rinse the soap off my body. So cool down & my off, either step out onto the porch or open the door. Jumping in

the trick of rolling in the snow is optional. The only one of my relatives, that I know of, who rolled in the snow, only did it once. Apparently the snow had a crust on it, so my cousin ended up with small cuts over his entire body.

Nov. 8

The mail plane didn't make it in today. It sounded like the hunter traffic had Arnold Aviation out straight. So, Clint gets to stay one more night.

A couple deer hunters, who we had noted earlier, stopped by late afternoon. Nice guys. They have visited with previous caretakers, and were going to give me fellow some venison, but he was leaving to get married soon. So, they gave us some venison! One never knows what will happen out here. This is good though, as Reed has not been harvesting any great quantities of whitetails... and he did put all that time into revitalizing the smokers. Now he can try his hand at venison jerky.

Nov. 9

The mailplane finally made it in this morning, so Clint was able to be on his way. Must make a note to remind Arnold Aviation folks of anything out of the ordinary. R.C. had not been told that he would be picking someone up here. Clint said it had been written down, so apparently there is a communication gap at the office.

Nov. 11

About an inch of snow on the ground when we got up, but rained off as all day, so soon gone. Haven't seen any wildlife in several days although did finally hear a couple this evening.

Nov. 12

Kyle fired up the smokers & made venison jerky. VERY tasty! Soaked the meat the night before in a marinade of $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon water, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup soy sauce, pepper & garlic salt. Fed the fire from about 9:00 am to 8:00 pm with panned branches from the cherry & apple trees, and then finished off with a couple hours in the oven at 140° , the door propped open with a spoon.

Nov. 13

He also made sandwiches. Bulgur bread today. What a guy! It appears that there are three (3) brownies! Littlest, medium & large. But, have only seen any two at one time. Don't appear to

Reed ends other or be inclined to change - that management, except for the middle-sized one... a frustrated extrovert.

Reed smoked a second batch of jerky: cleaned the chimney of the Taylor cabin heat stove again.

I did a laundry: fixed up the sauna. Am now running a hose from the faucets in the storage room to the washing machine, which is still outside.

Nov. 15

Sent an apple pie out with R.C. for the folks at Arnold Aviation.

Nov. 16

Still not a lot of animal life around. The sheep appear on the benches, now ewes: nam/nams, for a few days and then are gone again. Reed did see a couple rams butting heads on the right side of the first bench today. They weren't at it long though, because by the time he got from the lab to the Taylor cabin, and told me about them, they were gone.

Have witnessed a fair amount of "sniff: run" meeting ritual among the sheep. The ram sniffs: the ewe runs. Assume that they eventually get beyond that!

Reed started a batch of BIG CREEK AMBER. He says it's to be a strongly hopped beer.

Nov. 17

We burned some of the brush that's been accumulating in piles here: type.

Nov. 18

Reed: I walked to the Cabin Creek landing strip just to see more of the country. A light rain most of the way over, but sun out when we got back to Taylor. View much like the openness of the Cabin Creek valley though. At least this time of year. Grand Central Station with deer: see season ending tomorrow though. Multiple planes on the ground: others either coming or going the 30-60 minutes we were there. Mounds of gear: maybe a dozen men milling about. One fellow in a big black, floppy cowboy hat had three hounds: a mean shiner. Going out after lawyer tomorrow. Reed: I decided against asking him how he got the black eye. With three exceptions, I would not characterize them as a particularly friendly crowd. Maybe

asked how Matthews was getting along. If Jim Lee and Ben in to the mine. A colorful looking character, Gilman; wish we could have talked with him longer.

Nov. 19 It was the rain. Maybe I looked too pesky, and this annoyed them. ~~He~~
Jest again for the first morning in quite a while. Still green leaves
in the apple tree in the yard. Truly amazing as all others have been
gone for quite a while.

Nov. 20 Several pack strings going up & down the river. Three men on
horseback, with the three hounds we saw at Cabin Creek, rode up
the Cliff Creek trail. A forester led their supply animals on down
the river.

Reed worked more on cleaning up the Corral shed. Boxed up chewed,
unintended & spit upon pieces of foam to be sent out with the garbage.
He caught a prairie dog & fixed what looked like the entryway.

I staked more brush to be burned.

Late afternoon Reed & I were sitting at the table when we suddenly
noticed a HUGE white bird flying from the river toward the cabin.
A lone whistling swan! It got over Pinner Creek, then turned
west.

Nov. 21 Deeds fattening up on the creek again.

Reed hired over & above Cliff Creek from the third bunch. Uncovering
out a nose contact that was bothering him. Problem resolved.

Scuma, but no laundry. The dry heat seemed hotter.

Nov. 22 Reed's birthday, so we decided to have our Frank's giving feast
a day early. Lounge around & eat leftovers, tamarod.

Reed worked on a mountain mahogany *Spirulina* most of the
day & finished his part. Now it's my turn to do the sanding.

Ray Arnold was in with the mail and had Shawna, from the
Polly Beamis, with him. They came up to the cabin for coffee
& a visit. Shawna seems very nice. Fun to meet one of the
"radio voices". Said that those folks still out later in the winter
got on the radio evenings & visit with each other. Reed & I will
have to try tuning in.

Nov. 23 Reed caught another prairie dog in an outhouse. Cas malties to date, five.

Nov. 25 Reed bottled his second batch of beer. It is definitely hopped, so
the name has been changed to BIG CREEK BITTER.

Nov. 27 Woke up to about an inch of snow on the ground and a cold enough temperature that there's still snow on all the bushes & trees. A winter whodisland.

Reed put in second section of milking from Doyle's cabin to Pioneer Creek. Any excuse to use the drawknife! Actually, should the paths ice up as in previous winters, we'll be covered at least part of the way. And, it's such a nicely curved piece of wood!

Nov. 29 No mail plane, no two-week interim caretakers, no flight to Cascade for Reed & me. Also no disasters, but am glad this is our only planned trip out for the winter. If there're no expectations, there's no disappointment. (Sounds like the premise for a country western song.) Have gotten better at restraining the mail plane expectations, but a trip out was just too much to think about. Will be glad to have our business taken care of and be back in for the long haul.

Think I'll make a bowl of popcorn.

Reed went out to the second bench for one more check on the rattlesnake den, only to find that the lowlife had slithered to a spot about forty feet down the hill! Must have been all those days we had in the mid-fifties.

Nov. 30 Huge flock of common noddies through, feeding on the alder catkins. Most activity we've seen in days! Many days! Weather 2, caretakers 0. Fine here, but cloudy sooted in.

Dec. 1 HELLO TAYLOR RANCH! WE FINALLY MADE IT! THE CLOUDS IN CASCADE LIFTED ALLOWING US TO FLY. AND WHAT A FLIGHT! JERRY HAD A BIT OF TROUBLE DURING THE BUMPS. WE'VE BOTH COMMENTED ON THE AWESTRUCK FEELINGS WE'VE HAD AT SEEING THIS PLACE FOR THE FIRST TIME. INCREDIBLE! WE TOOK A WALK AROUND THE GROUNDS TO ACQUAINT OURSELVES AFTER REED AND KAREN LEFT. THE OVERCAST SKIES BROKE SHOWING US OUR FIRST BLUE SKIES FOR A WEEK ALONG WITH A GOLDEN SUNSET. GOOD TO BE HERE..

Dec. 2 AWOKE TO CLEAR SKIES. 1ST TIME FOR WEATHER WENT WITHOUT A HITCH. PANCAKES FOR BREAKFAST AND WE WERE OFF TO EXPLORE THE BENCHES. 3 ♀ ELK AND 15+ BIGHORNS SPOTTED

ON THIRD BENCH EARLIER. 30+ SHEEP SPOTTED ON THE WAY UP TO THE TOP INCLUDING 4 LARGE RAMS AND ONE RADIO-TRANSMITTED EWE. THE TOP AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE HIKE ADDED QUITE A PERSPECTIVE OVER THE AREA. WERE FINDING THE RANCH VERY STIMULATING AND STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL. THE SALINA ADDED A REFRESHING CLOSE TO THE DAY.

DEC 3 THE DAY BEGAN SLIGHTLY COLDER AND CLOUDIER THAN YESTERDAY. TRYING TO SPOT ANIMALS ON THE BENCHES AGAIN BUT NOT SO SUCCESSFUL. 1 BIG RAM AND A FEW EWES SEEN. A SHORT HIKE TO THE NEXT BAR DOWNSTREAM ON THE SOUTH SIDE REVEALED 2 GROUSE AND 6 BIGHORNS (4♀, 2♂). THE EVENING WAS SPENT BAKING BREADS AND COOKING JERRY'S FAMOUS STEW.

DEC 4. Woke to a dusting of snow on and above the third bench. Skies were cloudy north of the creek and clear to the south. The wind picked up at 9:00 and the clouds closed in. From 10:30-11:15 the snow came down steadily, but it cleared partially again before noon. Sourdough PANCAKES FOR BREAKFAST WERE DELICIOUSLY FILLING. THE SKY CLEARED COMPLETELY IN THE AFTERNOON. SPENT THE LATER PART OF THE DAY ADMIRING UNIQUE ROCKS ON THE BAR AT THE FIRST BEND DOWNSTREAM; THEN BAKING CINNAMON ROLLS (MY FIRST). OUR BELLIES ARE IN HEAVEN. NO ANIMALS TODAY BUT BEAUTIFUL SNOW DIPPED SCENERY!

DEC 5-12 TOMMOROW (13th), WEATHER PERMITTING, JERRY AND I WILL FINISH OUR SHORT STINT HERE AND HAND THE REINS BACK TO REED AND KAREN. CONSIDERING THIS, WE DECIDED TO CATCH UP THE JOURNAL WITH THE SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR EVENTFUL STAY HERE. OUR STAY HAS BEEN SO REFRESHING AND EXCITING THAT WE FIND OURSELVES HALF PRAYING FOR THE RAIN TO CONTINUE JUST SO WE CAN STAY ANOTHER DAY; MAYBE RELIVE SOME OF THE MOMENTS OR EXPLORE YET ONE MORE STREAM OR TRAIL. ON THE FIFTH WE TACKLED THE HIKE TO CABIN CREEK. THE DAY

TURNED SNOWY HALF WAY THERE BUT WE PUSHED ON. WE ADDED TWO EXTRA MILES HIKING THE BAR AND UP TO THE AIRSTRIP. IT KEPT SNOWING ALL THE WAY HOME AMOUNTING TO ABOUT AN INCH. WEDNESDAY IT HAD CLEARED UP, CERTAIN THE MAIL PLANE WOULD COME WE HUNG AROUND COOKING AND WORKING SOME CRAFTS IN THE SHOP. WE WERE BOTH FLABBERGASTED TO HEAR THE SUDDEN SOUND OF A PLANE THROTTLING UP FOR TAKE-OFF! WE REACHED THE AIRSTRIP JUST IN TIME TO SEE RAY DISAPPEAR UP RUSH CREEK. HE MUST HAVE COME STRAIGHT DOWN RUSH CREEK WITHOUT BUZZING THE RANCH. ONE WOULDN'T THINK THAT AN AIR PLANE COULD BE SO SNEAKY BUT WE NOW KNOW DIFFERENT. THURSDAY WE CONCENTRATED MORE ON THE SMALL SCALE BEAUTY OF THE AREA LOOKING AT STRIKING ROCKS AND DRIFT WOOD ON THE BANKS. WE FOUND AN AREA WHERE A BEAR HAD OVERTURNED 20+ BASKETBALL SIZE ROCKS LOOKING FOR A MEAL OF SOME SORT. FRIDAY (8th), AMONG OTHER THINGS WE HIKED DOWN TO GOAT CREEK IN THE AFTERNOON. WE FOLLOWED A SET OF COUGAR TRACKS THAT MEANDERED BETWEEN THE TRAIL AND THE RIVERS EDGE FOR ALMOST A MILE CROSSING THE CREEK A NUMBER OF TIMES. SATURDAY WE EXPLORED UP RUSH CREEK A SHORT WAY CROSSING THE STREAM ON A LOG AND A FROZEN BEAVER DAM. THE COLDER TEMPS. HAD BEEN TRYING TO FREEZE PIONEER CREEK AT THE SPRING BOX BUT OUR FREQUENT CHECKS KEPT THE DIVERSION CHANNEL FLOWING THOUGH WEAKLY. I CAN SEE NOW HOW TRULY COLD WEATHER CAN EASILY CUT OFF THE WATER SUPPLY. SUNDAY WE VENTURED BACK UP THE BENCHES TO FIND ALMOST 50 SHEEP SPREAD ABOUT IN GROUPS. I SPOTTED THREE EWES WITH RADIO-TRANSMITTERS. ONE WAS DISTINCTLY SOLID YELLOW THE OTHERS, IF THEY HAD COLOR MARKINGS, WERE INDISTINCT. ONE RAM, ONE OF THE LARGEST WE HAVE SEEN, APPEARED SUDDENLY 30-40 M ABOVE US OVER THE WEST EDGE OF THE SECOND BENCH. HE PAID LITTLE IF ANY ATTENTION TO US AND LAYED DOWN RIGHT THERE JUST OUT OF SIGHT. JERRY STALKED UP NEAR HIM AND TOOK SOME CLOSE-UP PICTURES. AS HE WALKED OFF HIS UNEVEN GAIT GAVE US

A CLUE TO HIS AGE AND WE WONDERED IF THIS MIGHT NOT BE HIS FINAL WINTER. THE SHEEP ON THE BENCHES HAVE BEEN OUR CONSTANT COMPANIONS DURING OUR STAY. JERRY AND I HAVE SAT FULLY CONTENT FOR HOURS IN TOTAL JUST WATCHING THEIR MOVEMENTS AND BEHAVIOR. WE'RE JEALOUS OF GUY'S UPCOMING NEW ASSISTANT; WE JUST PRAY THAT HIS KNEES CAN WITHSTAND THESE MOUNTAIN SLOPES AS WELL AS THAT OLD RAM'S HAVE. ENJOY! MONDAY AS PLANNED WE STARTED OFF ASAP FOR THE MIDDLE FORK KNOWING THAT THE 14+ MILES WOULD BE AN ALL DAY AFFAIR. THE HIKE WAS WELL WORTH THE EFFORT. IN THE GORGE WE SAW A SMALL GROUP OF SHEEP THAT INCLUDED TWO RADIO-TRANSMITTED EWES. ONE HAD A YELLOW-BLACK-YELLOW COLOR PATTERN ON THE TRANSMITTER. SHORTLY THEREAFTER WE STOPPED TO ADMIRE THE PICTOGRAPHS ON THE FAR WALL AND THE OTHER SIGNS OF EARLIER INHABITANTS OF BIG CREEK. WE TRACKED ELK AND BOBCAT TRACKS THROUGH THE DISAPPEARING SNOW ON THE TRAIL. NEAR THE MIDDLE FORK WE SNIFFED OUT TWO DEAD DEER ON A CLIFF SHELF AND PONDERED THE EXACT CAUSE OF DEATH UNSUCCESSFULLY (THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE VERY STRANGE). WE TOOK IN LUNCH AT THE MIDDLE FORK AND HOBBLER BACK UPSTREAM ON OUR SORE BONES; PHYSICALLY TIRED BUT MENTALLY REFRESHED FROM THE BEAUTY OF THE LAND. TUESDAY WE HIKE UP THE RIDGE ABOVE THE TAYLOR CABIN TO GAIN A VIEWPOINT THROUGH THE HANGING FOG, THEN PREPARATIONS FOR THE FLIGHT OUT. OUR BETS HUNG ON NO MAIL PLANE UNTIL A FEW STARS MADE SHORT APPEARANCES DRIVING US TO WITHDRAW OUR WAGERS. ONE NEVER CAN TELL ANYWAY; ESPECIALLY DURING THIS UNUSUAL SEASON.

WE'D LIKE TO EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO DR. YED FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THIS INSPIRING PLACE. ALSO TO KAREN AND REED FOR THEIR WARM WELCOME AND DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS WHICH MADE OUR TRANSITION

MUCH SMOOTHER THAN IT MAY HAVE BEEN. YOUR HIKING RECOMMENDATIONS HEADED US ON BEAUTIFUL SOJOURNS THROUGH SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PARTS OF THIS LAND. YOUR OFFER OF USE OF YOUR FOOD STORES WAS TAKEN UP WHOLE HEARTEDLY AND YIELDED SOULGA DOUGH BREAD AND PANCAKES, CINNAMON ROLLS, BROWNIE PUDDING AND AN APPLE PIE, ALL MY FIRST AND SOMEHOW ALL MAGICALLY DELICIOUS. THANK YOU FOR IT ALL, IT HAS MADE OUR STAY FEEL MORE TREE AND ENRICHING. IF WE HAVE ANY CHOICE AT ALL IN THE MATTER WE WILL RETURN HERE.

DEC. 13 WELL, NO MAIL PLANE TODAY. OUR WEATHER WAS FLYABLE BUT CASCADE WAS SOCKED IN WITH A SNOW STORM. WE CERTAINLY DON'T MIND WAITING ON THE WEATHER. WE DO WONDER ABOUT REED AND KAREN. THEY WERE SCHEDULED TO COME BACK TODAY BUT HAVEN'T CONTACTED ARNOLD AVIATION. WE HOPE THAT THEY HAVEN'T RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE. THEY'RE LIKELY JUST WISE ENOUGH TO THE WEATHER TO KNOW THERE WOULD BE NO FLIGHT. WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OUR MAIL PLANE VIGIL IN A NUMBER OF WAYS. WE FINISHED OUR GIN RUMMY TOURNAMENT; JERRY WON THUS BECOMING "RULER OF THE TREE WORLD". MY FIRST DUTY AS HIS SUBJECT WAS TO BAKE PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES. JERRY'S A FAIRLY BENIGN RULER. WE BAKED SOME FISH AND POTATOES FOR DINNER. NO ANIMALS TODAY ON THE BENCHES. WE'LL KEEP OUR FINGERS CROSSED FOR A FLIGHT TOMORROW.

C. 14 JUST HEARD FROM CAROL AT ARNOLD THAT THE PLANE IS A GO AND REED AND KAREN ARE IN TOWN. WE'LL BE LEAVING VERY SOON. THE REALITY OF OUR DEPARTURE LEAVES US LONGING TO STAY. WE WILL MISS THE SCENERY, THE WILDLIFE, THE RIVERS AND PLANTS AND THE WILDNESS OF IT ALL. IT HAS ENRICHED BOTH OUR LIVES.

WELCOME BACK REED & KAREN!

It's good to be back, though a little hard to believe. Guess the main Salmon was still fogged in.

Yes, when we woke up at the Mountain View Motel Wednesday

morning. Saw the snow coming down, we figured it didn't look good for the day's flight. Tried calling Arnold's a couple times, but no answers, not even during the scheduled radio hour. So, we went to breakfast. Got through to Arnold's late morning. Let them know we were in town.

I never expected two guys to be such neat housekeepers, but the cabin was in great shape! They even left us a couple pieces of Jim's first-year apple pie and some peanut butter cookies. Very tasty and much appreciated. Am glad they enjoyed their stay.

Reed. I had a good two weeks out... productive. We were pleased to know all the while that we would be coming back to the ranch things. It amused me that in returning, the loss of certain outside options nagged at me a little, even though there wasn't any of them I particularly wanted to take advantage of!

Now we are back in the fold. Must slowly shake outside concerns. Jim. Jay had to hook up new propane tanks (the one that runs all but the refrigerator) either Tuesday or Wednesday. The old tanks made it almost two months.

Dec. 16

There were a lot of sheep in the benches.

Reed. I cut each other's hair.

Reed made another batch of venison jerky. Have decided that we like it much better that way than as roasts, although the stewing pieces do make a fine goulash with bacon & garlic.

Dec. 17

The sheep were out again and since it was such a beautiful, sunny day, we decided to walk up to the second bench and see if we could get some pictures. Reed went up the trail, had a full frame shot of two rams, and his camera jammed.

I walked further up Cliff Creek, then started scrambling up some talus, slipped, put my camera out of joint, fixed it, shot the last picture as the roll and then the auto rewind spooked the sheep. Another day, I guess.

Walked on down Big Creek, then up to Goat Creek Basin.

Pretty little spot, created, Reed says, by the quartzite ridge

on the southern edge of the basin. Contains the granodiorite, thus keeping it from washing on down to Big Creek.

Saw a luxuriantly coated coyote and its faithful companion magpie, and four elk. Had to laugh because we're so used to seeing only sheep, the elk looked ENORMOUS.

The apples are still holding up in our bedroom closet. Made another pie.

Counted six rams in one of the two groups of sheep on the benches.

Dec. 19 Reed saw 15 elk up by the water box. Find it odd that they seem to prefer the more heavily wooded and/or north facing slopes. Still wary of humans, so they want to keep to the shadows? Their first choice food grows in those conditions?

Reed did the last check of the three snakes he's been following, and all were down the same holes as last time.

Sams.

Dec. 20 Got most of our Christmas letters off, and received far more mail than expected! Folks must pity our isolation. Little do they know, eh? There is a calm & pace of life out here that is difficult to beat.

Dec. 22 Saw our first elk on the benches! Looked like the group Reed saw up Pioneer Creek. The sheep were next to them and suddenly seemed less statuesque, the rams more silly. HEH

Last night something ate the birdseed but left the pieces of apple that I had put on the table under the apple tree. No droppings or other indications, so am curious. Am beginning to despair of drawing any birds in. May put a platform feeder along Pioneer Creek down at the head of the airstrip.

Occasionally see juncos in the bushes there.

Bad radio air for the first time since early October. Didn't get through until about eleven.

Reed caught parent #6. This makes the third one in the attic of the lab. Must try to find out where they're getting in.

I made the rounds of the buildings again, but couldn't get the doors to the storage \approx tack sheds unlocked. They're pretty open to the west, so were maybe frozen? Looked through the windows and all appeared fine. Found mouse droppings in the duplex.

Dec. 23

Swept them up, put out D-can and will keep a closer eye on it. Doesn't look good for a white Christmas. The last few mornings have looked promising... overcast, occasional flakes, then it clears \approx is sunny by afternoon.

Reed \approx I started work on cleaning the Pioneer Creek trail. He's still hoping to do some geologic mapping up that way next summer, and would like to have horses take in supplies for a tent camp. The water was markedly higher in Pioneer Creek today despite a new low for us of 11° last night. Now, what do you suppose? Good flow to the water box.

Dec. 24

Two snows \approx two eyes just above \approx to the right of the bridge across Big Creek today. The one that seemed to excite the most interest had a red collar. Fun to see them so close.

Also four elk in the pasture this morning. Two were in the corral sampling the wet hick. Certainly a cautious animal, and yet willing to come w/ closer to the ranch than the sheep.

Water in Pioneer Creek yet higher, and our new record low of 10° last night. It's going to flow over Reed's winter gathering platform at this rate! Just below it now. Previously the water level has dropped as the ice has grown. Have had no precipitation of late.

Sun hits the cabins about 11:40 and departs about 1:40 these days. Noting a little clear-cut wouldn't improve upon. Just kidding! Actually, it would take some bull-dozing too.

Dec. 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Reed \approx I had told folks that all we needed for Christmas this year was food. Worked out so well that we think we'll do that every year!

Hiked up to the ridge above the third bench this afternoon. Reed

wanted to be in some snow. Found about 3" on top. Saw several deer, a nice buck among them. Also saw two ewes with three smaller sheep, one I thought quite young, coming from the main group.

Dec. 26

It took about 45 minutes to get a word in edgewise on the radio this morning!! MUMBLE MUMBLE GRUMBLE

Couldn't put it off any longer... had to do a laundry today. Still have the machine outside, under covers, because the drain-pant leaks and I don't like the idea of dealing with a mess in the storage room. But, I learned something about washing in low 20° weather. Water can freeze in hoses pretty fast. Probably best to take all hoses back into the storage room between loads.

Also learned today that if the sauna is filling up with smoke, the screen on the outside chimney cap is probably clogged up & needs cleaning. Simple lessons, these, but it took me nearly 4½ hours to do two loads of wash. SIGH

Dec. 28

Had a message that one of the outfitters had lost three mules & a horse in the Cabin Creek area, and if we saw them to give Carol a call. So, Red & I decided to walk up Big Creek a ways to see if there was any sign. We were out approximately a mile and a half when we ran into a guy looking for them. Turned out to be the Conger hunting guide with the mean shiner that we saw that day we hiked to Cabin Creek! Small world, eh? HEH He was much friendlier today, so we invited him up to the cabin for coffee. Came to find out that he shoes horses, one of which gave him the black eye. This is his first year guiding in this area for Jerry Jepsen. Had been out ten days before Christmas waiting for a party that never showed. His take for that was \$100. Not my idea of a good time. Of course, shooting congers in trees isn't my idea of a good time either.

Had about an inch of snow this morning. I had been admiring the whitened ice extending quite far in places out into Big Creek as we were walking along. Then, about mid-afternoon, something

must have let go upstream, because Big Creek was suddenly a torrent. Large, dense chunks of ice & substantial logs went clipping by. Red was most impressed.

Dec. 29 Red burned brush by the orchard bridge.

Dec. 30 Five inches of snow on the ground when we got up! I walked all around taking photos. Red went X-country skiing.

Both sheep & elk on the benches. One large group of sheep at the mouth of Luff Creek. Appeared to be the group with six rams.

Red cleared the Taylor chimney again.

Dec. 31 Rain... Still snow, though down to 3 1/2".

Jan. 1, 1996 HAPPY NEW YEAR! As usual, Red & I slept through the midnight hour. Did turn the radio on at one point in the evening to see if there was any chatter, but all quiet.

Elk & sheep still on benches. A lone elk ♀ came to the corral.

Jan. 3 There were eight elk in the pasture this morning! Some younger ones bedded down. Hated to go do the weather because I knew it would spook them. It did. Poor things even crossed the river to get away from us.

Mail plane made it in today though we didn't think it would. Snow squall blew through just before Ray. Find it confounding that of the four times people have either been coming or going here (my brother, then us & the interim caretakers), three of these times have been the only days the mail plane didn't make it on the scheduled Wednesday!! HEH

Jan. 4 Some elk bedded down in the pasture when we went to bed. Nice moon.

Jan. 5 At least 30 elk were scattered across the lower benches. Saw three bulls... two older, one young.

Jan. 7 Red suggested that I shoot one of the juncoes, then prop it up on the feeding table as a decoy. Now, THERE'S an idea, eh? HEH Five days came down via the Langes cabin to the corral. A mother & child were bounding along like Pope le Pieu.

Jan. 8 Red saw elk tracks, around the woodshed & on the path way

out the kitchen window. Would love to have seen that, but appears that they passed through at night.

The magpie was back to the bench under the apple tree for more apple cores. Apples from the orchard still budding up well in the bedroom closet.

Jan. 9

Jim Peck & Aaron Jester were due in today, but, true to form, the weather prohibited flying. After Jim learned how much snow we had, he decided to go back to Moscow. Aaron got to spend the night at a motel. He's coming in to work in Guy Wagner's sheep study.

Saw a bald eagle fly up Big Creek.

Jan. 10

Aaron made it in on the mail plane.

Saw two raptors at the duplex.

Left the radio on during flying hours yesterday & today until Aaron made it. Seems to run it down a bit. Reed got 11V on the voltage meter. Anyway, I ended up listening to folks' calls most of two days. Still feel like I'm knees dropping, but heard that Newt & Gram's (Yellowpine Ben, 356) calamari order from the Hi-Cities was more than they bargained for and Carol was going to be sending some of it back. I had been thinking about that calamari (they also ordered shrimp) ever since I had heard Newt place the order, so jumped on the radio & told Carol that I would take 5#. Well, that sort of triggered a calamari frenzy... two other women called in, then Carol decided to try a box. All sold in a few minutes time. Great fun, though I'm still a little embarrassed at how fast I got in the radio, and prefer those days when the radio is off.

Jan. 11

Am becoming quite the radio user. Called Larry at Running Creek to inquire after a letter of ours that the post office had mistakenly put in his mail bag two weeks ago. He had been nice enough to call & let us know it was there. Learned that he doesn't have weekly mail service, so it was still at Running Creek. Into the wrong bag, and we'll

be lucky to get it three weeks later! Oh well... I guess we're lucky to have mail service at all.

Had sauna.

Jan. 12 Two loads of laundry went smoothly by putting the hoses back in the cabin after each tub filling. JOSE 2½ hours from start to finish.

Jan. 13 Unable to get through on the radio today. Couldn't even hear anyone else trying.

Reed went with Arnan to the third bench to set up the Rustole.

They saw a few deer & sheep, but none with collars.

Jan. 14 No radio contact again today until about 5:00 PM.

Arnan came over for breakfast & to learn how to make sandwiches & pancakes. Reed gave him some starter.

Reed made bread & started a second batch of Jay Martin's.

Jan. 17 Windplane / Ray came in earlier than we expected... about 10:30.

Arnan went out with the rest of Guy Wagner's things. Arnan is coming back next week. Light snow squall moved in as they were leaving. Glad I wasn't on the plane!

Naturally, about 30 sheep came back to the area after Arnan left. Saw 3 ♂ & 2 ♀, with one tan collar; then saw four more ewes, one with a dark tan collar. Don't think Arnan is

interested in the tan collar things. All were on the cliff

across from the landing strip, then moved to the bench on the west side of Cliff Creek & over, down toward Cliff Creek?

Jan. 18 Saw a beautiful ram chasing three ewes, from the west, across Cliff Creek & then up onto the first bench. One plain collar didn't look to have a transmitter.

Jan. 20 Counted 29 sheep on the east side & top of the first bench. Early afternoon. Thought I saw a blue collar. Reed was able to pick up a signal for frequency 730, so maybe this will count toward one of Arnan's twenty sightings of that sheep?

Jan. 21 Woke up to 4" of new snow. Another winter wonderland! Hedge rabbit was moving like a snow plow, pushing its

nose through the new snow looking for apple wedges.

Stayed up late last night finishing a book I very much enjoyed.

Animal Dreams by Ian McEwan. There was a passage pertaining to something I've thought about out here.

"Sometimes I still have American dreams. I mean literally.

I see microwave ovens and exercise machines and grocery-store shelves with twinkly brands of stimpoo, and I look at these things oddly, in my dream. I stand and I think, 'What is all this for? What is the hunger that drives this need?' I think it's fear. Codi, I hope you won't be hurt by this but I don't think I'll ever be going back. I don't think I can."

One can "just say no" to the excesses within our society, but I find the excessiveness an omnipresence that wears upon me. Winter here has been an affirmation.... I keep thinking, "the way it's supposed to be."

Reed hiked up to the third bench to replace the Rustler's battery for Avaras, only to find that his replacement was dead.

Jan. 22 Reed declared a SNOW DAY, so we had a change of pace from the usual work day activities. Reed skied instead of working on a geology manuscript in his "office" in the kitchen of the lab. And, I finished tramping down the landing strip instead of putting four hours in painting. Felt a little guilty, but it was a nice day.

Jan. 23 Saw about 33 sheep on this side of the Cliff Creek westside bench. One blue & one yellow/black collars. No mature rams.

Jan. 24 The mailplane made it in with Avaras about 5:00 PM! Ray was considering one other stop, and that was it for the day.

Jan. 25 Sums.
Avaras camp over for dinner.

Jan. 26 New record low of 5°. We still have running water though!

Jan. 27 It snowed lightly most of the day.
Reed bottled his second batch of Jax Martin's Bunt & made some nye bread.

Jan. 28

Red & I logged our way up to Cabin Creek. A rather stupid idea; it was mine. Thought it would be nice to see that beautiful Cabin Creek valley with snow on it. Was so weary by the time we got there that I immediately turned around & headed back to the ranch. The boots are big, heavy & clumsy. As Red says, probably the last trip we make to Cabin Creek this winter. Saw three coyotes in the valley though. Had been following their tracks for a mile or so. Also saw three dippers on the river. One was sitting on the edge of the ice, singing its heart out, watching the slush & water flow by. I didn't know they could sing like that - kind of a medley of top forty bird tunes. A couple winter wrens greeted us & five mallard ducks took off from the mouth of a little thermal spring that empties into Big Creek. It started snowing again from about noon on.

Jan. 29

Some sheep returned to the benches yesterday. Watched a mungie perch on the backs of a couple this morning.

Saw something that looked to be squawking near the top of the first bench. Thought Gasm might be gathering sheep pellets for his study, but got out the binoculars & it was a golden eagle! They're HUGE.

Jan. 30

A new low of 3° . Have moved beyond the "just freeze & get it over with" to a glimmer of hope that we might make it through the winter with running water. Not that we use it THAT much, but it's sure nice when we do. Have been heating dish water on the living room stove.

Jan. 31

Woke up to 40° in the cabin & 10° outside. The low last night was -5° . Also woke up to six horses in the pasture! You know I thought I heard voices last night, but out here?! Surely must have been imagining them, but sure enough... two guys on their way to Cabin Creek saw Gasm's lights, and asked if they could spend the night. An outfitter & his friend on their way to ready the Cabin Creek camp for a party of cougar hunters next week. Left early this morning.

Red had been saying that when the temperature dropped below zero,

he was going to fire up the kitchen wood stove. It throws off good heat, but with such a small fire box, is a pain to keep stoking.

Repaired the propane cannisters for the refrigerator. Hadn't looked in the freezer lately, so didn't even realize the tank was empty until we got to thinking about the little puddle of water behind the frig.

Smelled a little propane one day, but not like last fall.

Did a laundry. Fifteen degrees outside, but the sun was shining, and who knows? May lose water any time. Plus, the laundry did need to be done. Have become less picky about feeding our seals at a time through the windows. Also becoming quite adept at fishing them out of the water with the pole!

Summary.

Feb. 1 Woke up to 38° in the cabin $\approx -3^{\circ}$ outside. New records daily. Got down to -8° last night.

Heard a coyote, maybe at the mouth of Cliff Creek, before we got out of bed this morning.

Feb. 2 Forty-seven degrees in the cabin and -2° outside. A low of -9° last night. Almost a full moon. Bright nights.

Arvon hiked up to Cabin Creek. Spending the night with those two guys through the other day, then back here tomorrow.

Saw eleven elk in or around the corral at dusk. One bull with a nice set of antlers. Spending of which, we had spent much time eating an old antler by the hay shed. Arvon had seen this group on the airstrip last night.

Feb. 3 Got down to -11° last night! And we still have running water.

Closing in on the record of February 5th set by Greensens in 1988.

Am loathe to raise the window quite a morning, though am even more loathe to sitting in the dark when the sun is shining outside.

The lights were worth the investment of time \approx money, and with spring-loaded rods, reasonably adaptable.

With the low temperatures, Reed has had difficulty with the output pipe of the water box nearly freezing closed. Fortunately it stays open just enough to keep the system going until he can get there in the

morning: remove the ice.

Reed: I snow shod around to the sage flat, then back via Rush

Creek: the landing strip.

Feb. 4

Starting to warm up... only 8° when we got up this morning.

Reed: I was sitting at the table, staring out the window in our usual after dinner stupor, when a grouse flew in from the east: glanced off the western most window. Give Reed, who was sitting at that end of the table, quite a start. Not such a start as the grouse received, however. It did a neat face plant in the snow, stumbled a couple steps, then flew off.

Feb. 5

We did it! Longest period of running water. Had a celebratory meal. Hasan came over.

Feb. 6

REALLY warming up... wore up to 33° outside, 51° in. Okay by me.

Water pressure started dropping for the second evening recently. Jammed the cold water spigot on full blast in the bath tub: let it run about half an hour, took care of the problem. The bleed-off valve under the cedar tree has been frozen for quite a while.

Feb. 7

Five elk (♀) were headed up the ridge behind the Canyon cabin this morning.

No mail plane for anyone today.

Feb. 8

Everyone got their mail but us. Got very left out listening to the radio as folks teased each other for fudge, etc. that they had exchanged! Oh well, we've been first on occasion.

Feb. 9

Carol again told me to not hold my breath. Ray would head our way on the first nice day. So, when conditions started looking pretty good here, I called Cascade to report: see how it looked there. Carol said not too bad, but there was no pilot. Ray had driven some mail to Yellowknife, maybe Saturday or Sunday. HEAVY SIGH. Thought I had the grocery/mail fixation lifted, but there it was, lifting its ugly head. Must be hormones.

Then, about six o'clock, as I was preparing dinner, what should appear, but Ray, Carol, a little white & black dog and ski plane that roared in your ear! HO HO HO

Feb. 10 Reed cleaned our chimney again. Piling wood has really been feeding it. Aaron over for pumpkin pie in the evening.

Feb. 11 Reed & I walked down Big Creek a mile or so. Pretty icy. Saw a WOLF'S tracks troughs! Huge. Aaron had gone down as far as Goat Creek to which the tracks still ran. He saw a little black bear in one of them.

Feb. 12 Switched to new propane tanks for lights/stove/hot water heater. The last switch was by Jan & Jerry, so about two months again.

Feb. 14 Mailplane made it in about 5:30 PM. Aaron went out for a walk. Chipped away at ice on pathways.

Feb. 16 I hiked up to the third bench with Reed. He then continued on up & over the ridge to the east, and back down the other side, doing geology. Saw a couple robins.

Feb. 18 Reed finished putting together a lumber storage area behind the shop. Couldn't find anything to use as a roof, so put up plastic temporarily.

Feb. 19 Elle on third bench.

Started piling brush around the cookhouse. LOT of dead stuff around.

Feb. 20 Saw 13 elle on slope east of third bench. no antlers in the group, yet one animal that looked larger than the others, so maybe trophy been dropped?

Sheep were on the slope north of the third bench.

Feb. 21 Our's may have been the only mailstop today. Weather fine here, but barometer dropped & quite gusty up above.

Aaron back in with Wyatt, his new black lab puppy, 8 1/2 weeks old. LOVE little guy!

A bald eagle flew over the pasture.

Aaron & Wyatt over for pizza dinner.

Feb. 22 The seven mule deer on the benches west of Cliff Creek appeared

to be quite unions about the thirteen elk on the first benches east of Cliff Creek. Saw three sheep on the first benches also, with a larger grouping (14) on the slope east of the third benches.

Feb. 23

Snowing again! lightly, off & on, all day, then more heavily about dinner time and in througns until we went to bed. And we were just starting to make good progress clearing the pathways of ice! Still the snow is pretty thongh.

Feb. 24

Woke up to 8" of new snow! Good quiet. Winter, round two. Red shoveled our main-use pathways so the snow wouldn't get compacted down to a thick layer of ice again. Guess he felt a little silly, shoveling a pathway in the wilderness, but any reduction in ice will be worth it... especially from the non-shoveler's perspective, eh?

Feb. 25

Saw 24 sheep = 14 elk on the slope east of the third benches. Red, Aaron & I worked on compacting the landing strip. Red showed Aaron how to start a batch of beer. Aaron out for dinner.

Feb. 26

Sanna.
Saw a couple rams on the second benches.

Feb. 27

James are coming to the hedge & the shrub under the living room window for seed now. THAT'S why they weren't coming to the feeders... they like to eat on the ground, particularly under cover. Better late than never. Can sure they appreciate it now that the snow has covered everything up again.

Watched the 14 elk, and their two sheep groupies, feeding on the southwest side of the first benches. They later crossed Cliff Creek & headed up Big Creek. Sorry to see them go. Seems like the wildlife has been in the area for a few days, then gone for a couple weeks, all winter.

Feb. 28

A couple outfitters from Cabin Creek passed through on their way to the Flying B. Good to see new faces. Apparently Lon helped Inlow Lewis put the water line into the Canyon cabins. Had a lot of trouble hitting rock, so guess the line is pretty unsmooth.

learned that Onlow Lewis died in here. Had been a prisoner for outlaws until finding a "home" at Hughes Ranch. Was into his booze & tobacco. Died at the age of 46.

I think we were the first stop on Ray's mail route today. Invited him up for dunkies coffee & scones. Don't think he was too taken with the coffee.

Mar. 1 Saw 13 deer on the nose of the third bands.

Mar. 2 The juncos chased off a robin. Don't think the hedge bunny appreciates its new neighbors. It's been hanging out at the wood shed more.

Mar. 3 SNOWING again... and, after we made such fine progress with the melting yesterday. Finally started warming up again; got up to 40°. Still not as cold today as those days following the second coming. February whitt out with a bang... 5°, 0° & 1° lows.

Have heard others saying on the radio that they still have running water, but don't know why. Red & I feel most fortunate to have had both a full wood shed & running water for so long. Makes life in here pretty easy.

Mar. 4 Glimpsed an otter on the other side of Big Creek, west of the bridge. Big bitters! Grabbed the binoculars & ran down by the tree & storage sheds to the river. Worked my way to the bridge, but no otter. Tracks in the snow showed where it had gone back in the water.

Red & I bottled his second bottles of Big Creek Bitters.

Mar. 5 It snowed again! but rained later, so no build up.

Mar. 6 Put our last full apple out for the hedge bunny. Haven't seen it around much since the juncos took over things, so suspect that something else has been eating the apples.

Ray showed up around 11:00. Didn't get the word that Aaron was going out, so had to come back later. Had a full load, towing Janet, Jerry's two-wheeler replacement at Running Creek, in. Met Jerry on Ray's next pass through; looks like he sounds on the radio.

Twenty-four sheep on third & eleven deer on second.

Reed finished pruning the apple tree in the yard.

Mar. 7

A plane landed about 10:15 AM, parked at the far end of the runway, fence guys got out, went their separate ways to relieve themselves, then proceeded toward Rush Creek. We had our usual late breakfast started, so went back up to the cabin & ate. About thirty minutes passed, we heard the plane start up, get stuck at this end for a while, then take off. Assume they were fish & game folks?

Reed pruned the pear tree.

Mar. 9

Reed gathered & burned brush down by the outhouse.

I did a laundry & hung it on the line for the first time in quite a while. Clouded up shortly after that, but didn't rain. Clothes didn't get dry either, so finished them off on the rack in the cabin.

Mar. 10

Reed mended fence while I burned & gathered brush down by the trail & storage sheds. EVERYWHERE I look, there's dead stuff that should be burned. Hopeless.

Five sheep & four deer on second. Four elk on third.

Mar. 11

A pair of red-breasted nuthatches appear to be putting a nest in an aspen snag cavity not too far from the cabin.

Hope to see more birds in the near month. Song sparrow is wonderful to hear.

Mar. 13

Garson over for dinner.

Mar. 14

Beautiful afternoon! Reed put his geology office work aside and worked on the fence. I put in my four hours painting, then collected dead brush from the hillside between the cabin & Pioneer Creek.

Mar. 15

Nine deer in the corral. Sheep, deer & elk on third bands.

Mar. 16

Eighteen elk & 14 sheep on first bands when we got up. Great to be seeing more animals again.

Reed, Garson, Wyatt & I hiked up Dance Creek looking for an old Indian Cave. Found it on our way out, a little east of the

drainage \rightarrow up the hill. A couple stick figures in the wall \rightarrow a canyon
wren. Interesting that there's an old trail up Duncie Creek. Not
on the map.

Mar. 17 Reed's \rightarrow my twelfth anniversary. Had a bottle of wine with dinner \rightarrow
chocolate sundae topped with pecan nuts for dessert.

Mar. 18 Jim Pezz came in a little after 8:00 AM. Earliest we've seen Ray
outside of the M:M Restaurant in Cascade.

thirty-four elk on third bench; 29+ sheep; and six dogs.

Sun now in the pasture before eight. Hits the cottonwoods about

7:30! All Right, Sun! Had never noted the degree of change
in the earth's axis as much as here. Sky change is significant...

and just in time. Couldn't have handled many more waves of cold,
blue shade, especially when across the river all way light \rightarrow warmth;
felt like I was being punished for something.

Ann \rightarrow Jim out for dinner. Discussed that neither of them does
much for pickled beets, the vegetable du jour. Ah well.

Mar. 19 It got up to 65° today!

Jim left.

Ray brought in a couple fish \rightarrow game guys who dropped off some
gear \rightarrow spent about an hour on Ruck Creek. They'll be back in a
week or so to do work with the weirs. Sky wore the hats who
fly in March 7th but never came near the cabin. (Jerry Holmertz \rightarrow Brian)

Ray also brought in the remainder of the fire extinguishers, less
two that were so old they couldn't be re-certified. So, the bunk
house \rightarrow shop do not now have extinguishers. The landing strip
shed, cookhouse, Taylor Cabin, lab, duplex, Orlov Cabin \rightarrow Canyon
Cabin all have newly certified extinguishers.

Since Ray has a heavy schedule tomorrow, he brought our mail
in today. Told Reed \rightarrow me that we had an hour to respond to
any mail, since the fish \rightarrow game guys would be doing their
thing, and then proceeded to talk the full hour. I knew better
than to even try writing something, but Reed got off a short
note to his folks.

- Mar. 20 Rufous-sided towhee in hedge.
- Mar. 21 Six deer in the corral \approx pasture this morning \approx evening. Deer are coming through of an evening pretty regularly now. Nice to see.
- Mar. 23 It was SNOWING this morning! And, STICKING!! No, no, no...
Pretty much gone by afternoon though.
Reed burned a huge pile of brush down by the landing sled.
- Mar. 24 A cold, high 20's \approx low 30's, gusty wind out of the east today.
Sun \approx snow flurries leap-frogged through the afternoon.
About 25 elk, 18 deer \approx 14 sheep on the grassy slope above the trail benches.
Two golden eagles appeared to be playing in the gusts east of Cliff Creek.
And, a flock of 15-20 mountain blue birds passed through, stopping in the pasture a while. Seemed such a brilliant blue against the dead grass.
- Mar. 26 Reed did an all-day traverse almost over the top of Horse Mountain.
One tied puppy. First tie of season.
- Mar. 27 Good mail day. Ann's friend, Mark, came in to spend the week.
Reed \approx I kids found a tie on ourselves. Great.
Dinner out at Ann's. Really nice!!
- Mar. 28 Woke up to a dusting of snow everywhere.
About 45 elk \approx some sheep on the trail benches. Nine deer in the corral/pasture.
- Mar. 29 Spring is definitely the time for wild life in here. This morning there were about 50 elk, 13+ deer and 30+ sheep on the benches.
- Mar. 30 Ray brought a couple fish \approx game guys (Jeff Rohman \approx Larry) in for the sheep count. Jim Pope came in later with the helicopter.
Ann's mare hiked down to the middle fork \approx camped.
Still a lot of elk on the benches.
- Mar. 31 Had Jeff, Jim \approx Larry out for breakfast. They've seen about 15 rams \approx figure there are still about 7 lambs/100 ewes that have made it. Didn't seem too pleased to report that 10 mountain

bins had been taken out of the Big Creek drainage this last season. Ray had to fly extra fuel in for them; Reed said he wasn't in the best of humors.

Jeff left the rest of their food with us. It's sort of like Christmas, even if we can't use it. Really enjoyed the sliced, smoked deli turkey & provolone!

Ann & Mark over for dinner.

April 1 Saw an Audubon's warbler & some ruby-crowned kinglets! A hairy woodpecker keeps putting its head in the methadone hole. The methadone raised a major ruckus about it this morning. Junco seemed to support them in this effort.

April 2 There were 22 all in the corral, pasture, around the COE house & in the pasture across the river this morning.

Ann & Mark came over to play a game of "Outside" this evening.

Jun. Sorry to see Mark go. A nice guy & company for Ann.

April 3 There were 22 all in the pasture this morning with others on third and those beyond east of third & second.

Jerry Holmbeck & Brian came in with Diana (Jim Pope's daughter), her car, Junco, & Jeez, Brian's dog. Quite the plane load.

John delivered the mail today. Ann & Mark went out. Ann said that some water was finally coming down the line to the Cuyes Cabin. He shut all the lines off & will deal with it when he comes back in.

April 4 Reed did another traverse up the east side of Brown's Basin & back down to this end of the Cabin Creek meadow. Again, one fixed puppy.

Jerry, Diana & Junco out. Brian & Jeez staying in.

April 5 Brian came over for dinner, bringing much appreciated steak. I'm starting to empty our larder in preparation for the move out, so supplies are low, especially between our very other weekly grocery deliveries.

Reed got water running into the COE house. There were apparently a lot of air pockets in the line, so he ran a hose from Taylor

Cabin to the air vent on the water box, with added tape on the end of the hose for a tighter fit, and the intake valve shut, there was enough water pressure to force the air pockets out.

Watched bats plucking moths off the living room window again.
New evening's entertainment.

April 7

Reed & I hiked to Soldier Pass. As Big Creek got near the top of my waders, was struck with a desperate desire to turn around & go back, but any change in direction seemed more risky yet. Not my idea of a good time. But, the trail up to the landing strip was beautiful and both Reed & I thought the views were some of the nicest in the immediate area.

Laughed that we both had the feeling we weren't supposed to be there, must have been the river crossing. Saw both elk & sheep on the hike, including three nice rams just around the corner from the last end of the ranch.

Beautiful weather: up to 75°.

April 8

Brian came over for breakfast & a shower.

Back on daylight savings time.

Reed planted some radishes.

Got up to 78°! We've been working outside a lot.

April 9

Due to a slow adjustment to daylight savings, Reed & I were still in bed at 7:30 AM when Brian knocked on the back door. He nearly lost the weir last night. Rush Creek is up to the trail. Someone will have to be there 24 hours/day, so he asked if we would put a call through to Jerry for help.

Reed helped him set up a camp over there & dismantle the remaining upper portions of a beaver's dam about a quarter mile upstream. Jerry flew in with Jeff about 4:00 PM.

April 10

Woke up about 5:00 AM to an incredible thunder/lightening/rain storm. Needless to say, no mail plane today. Aaron & Pedro, a U.I. geology graduate student who is coming back in this summer to map some granites, had to load their heads in Cascade.

Heard Jerry Wright, ops at Running Creek, trying to reach Jerry via radio to get help for the wires there. He had been on it 36 hours straight. I let him know Jerry was here; apparently the secretary at Nampa, who is just filling in for the regular one, didn't know this. Jerry couldn't get anyone else in there, so when the weather broke slightly around 6:00 PM, he took off to try & make it. About 9:30 PM, Brian knocked on the door. Impending disaster again. He & Jeff were exhausted. Had to pull three panels on the wires because they couldn't keep up with the debris. He needed flashlight batteries. Reed went out & spelled them until midnight. Once the panels were pulled, it was under control. Such are the tools of men versus mother nature.

April 11

Relieved to hear that Jerry made it and all is well at Running Creek.

Ray made it in with Geron & Pedro. Pedro had never been in a small plane before and was quite excited.

I looked up some food for Brian & Jeff.

Since Pedro will be leaving Monday, he & Reed went on a traverse. Needs to familiarize himself with the rock types since he'll be on his own this summer. Reed says he's green, but enthusiastic.

April 12

Snowing this morning, but not looking like it will last.

Reed & Pedro out on another traverse. This is good for Reed.

He's been really thumping at the bit.

The BIG excitement of the evening was a cougar in the pasture.

Earlier in the day I had noticed a gray mound between the hay barn & the bridge. Didn't remember its being there

before, but seems that I am always "discovering" something that's been around for all time. The lighting may be different,

whatever. Figured this gray mound for just another rock,

but it's a deer, one of "our" deer, that the cougar apparently killed last night. It spit out fur & ate for quite a while, then carefully buried it, cleaned its face & paws,

checked out the canal & headed east, just like the movies.
An amazing sight.

April 13 Reed & Pedro did a traverse up around Cabin Creek.

Cougar moved its banquet into the trees last night.

April 14 Just, and probably last, Skyles Ranch Cougar fest & Bus Josting party. Ann, Pedro, Brian, Jeff, Reed & I in attendance.
BBQ'd some burgers & had chipotle beans, pasta salad, pumpkin pie & coffee.

April 15 the most peopled day we've had out here.

John flew in with Reed's folks, Aunt & Uncle. Joe & Jeff?
Pedro out... first Jeff to Stonebreaker, then Pedro on to Cascade.
Had just been talking the evening before about what a gravelly landing strip Stonebreaker is.

Then Jerry Holmbetz flew in with Clark, the new attendant of the weir, and later flew out to Stonebreaker with Brian.

April 17 Touch & go whether John would make it in with the mail & take Reed's folks, et al out. Weather not good, but he made it in about 4:00 PM. Ann having everyone here, but both Reed & I relieved to see them go. Seemed that I spent most of my time in the kitchen, and Reed was getting house from being so social.

April 21 Jerry in to get Clark. Dan now manning the weir.

April 23 Packing is nearly complete though the weather doesn't hold a lot of promise for my getting out tomorrow. I have business that must be attended to, so am leaving a week earlier than Reed. We've both been trying to wrap up projects.
It will be sad leaving Skyles ranch, but am looking forward to the next activity.

Wanted to note some things:

- We never did lose the water! Reed will go into that further.
- Our coldest night was Feb. 3rd when it hit -11° . Only five nights below zero the entire winter though.
- Our highest daytime temperature was 78° on April 8th.

- o The most snow we had on the ground was 12" on Feb. 25th. The first decent snowfall came Dec. 30th, with snow on the ground then until the middle of March.
- o We used to rough about 150# of flour over the winter... used primarily to feed the sourdough starter for pancakes.
- o Made our last pie from apples we picked at the dryer orchard Feb. 5th.
- o The mail plane didn't make it in on Wednesday five out of 29 times. Pretty good, eh?! We'll see what happens tomorrow.

April 24
 Karen made it out at a 4:00 today. Didn't look good for flying this morning but it cleared enough that B.C. was able to get in. Strong winds though, and probably a rough flight. I'll be in here another week, and then it is on to new adventures. Had Dan Baber from IF6 over for dinner. Still no steelhead in the weir. I guess they only saw 2 last year, and they were coming downstream.

April 25
 I spent most of the day burning brush in pile south of the shop. Had to keep the hose nearby as things are not as wet as they were a month ago. The large apple tree at S end of orchard is mostly dead, so I cut off much of it and burned it as well. As I was sitting eating dinner about 18 elk and 6 deer meandered down from the Conger Cabin area and are now working over the lush grass in the pasture. I am always surprised how large they are, particularly when you get to see them close by. Terry Holobete brought in a replacement for watching the weir. Bob —. Still no steelhead.

April 26
 Lots of wind today but at least no rain. Rebuilt the gate on north side of lab and hauled wood

from orchard to our wood shed. Also roughed out one last mountain mahogany spoon. Wood was badly checked and full of wormholes, but I managed to find one solid piece. Radishes are coming up, but some bird(?) is eating them as they do.

April 27

Spent morning showing up the corral fence, then took hike down to Cougar Creek to check some geological contacts one last time. Several snow squalls came through during the day accompanied by high winds. Was a good day for flying. 18 elk in pasture again in the evening. The past week we have heard a mouse at night in the cabin - the first this year. Well, it was apparently female, as three baby mice crawled out from behind the hot water tank. Where mom went I have no idea, but the three little ones were put outside to fend for themselves. I probably should have killed them outright, but didn't.

April 28

Beautiful spring day. Hiked up Pioneer Creek trail and then up to ridge E of Pioneer Creek. Still lots of snow over 7000'. Trail is really starting to fill in with brush and needs work.

April 29

Worked around the ranch on some final chores. Patched up fence between lab and cougar cages and got water to the lab. Apparently no leaks, which is surprising. Left the filter out of the trap on Aaron's suggestion. Apparently until water clears up all you do is clog up filters. More F & G activity today. Terry Holubetz brought in another guy to man the weir. Brian is on his way out from Chamberlain and all three are spending the

might here. Just: final dinner for the bunch,
and will finish off the part of the Big
Creek litter. Sad to see it gone.

April 30 Final chores around the ranch. Patched up the fence on the
other side of Big Creek as best I could, but
without adequate poles it is more or less hopeless.
It may not matter anyway, as the University
has gotten out of the horse business here, having
sold the last four horses last fall. Still, it
would be handy to have a fenced in pasture if
one came in with some horses to do some work.
May 1 Sounds like the mail plane is on its way. It's
been a great winter. Cheers!

7/2 The Lewis's have returned to civilization, so that leaves
me in charge of this journal. First, I believe a note about
Reed + Karen's hard work as caretakers is in order. Through
fence building + other maintenance, beyond that considered
"routine" the ranch looks in top shape. A truly exceptional
couple of people.

Now for my news of the day: May 2nd was fairly
eventful for my pup Wyatt + I. On our routine
trek to check "Rustraks" on Rush Cr. Ridge we spotted
our first moose of the year, a young bull. Then we
were introduced to the sounds of a Cougar fight
further up Rush Cr., incredible! On our return trip
we stopped to check the weir for Kevin, who had
taken the day to hike to the middle fork. Since there
were no fish in the trap Wyatt took it upon himself
to liven things up by falling off the weir on the
up-stream side. Thus, I was forced to conduct a
rescue mission, which thoroughly soaked me from
the waist down.