

ED KRUMPE

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO WILDERNESS RESEARCH CENTER - 1976

I. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Wilderness Research Center is to foster research and educational activities which will lead to a broader understanding of the structure and function of natural ecosystems, man's relationship to them, and their perpetual protection in the wilderness ^{1/} context.

II. General Objectives

Research

Interdisciplinary research concerning the wilderness resource, and wilderness users, will be encouraged.

Examples of biophysical research encouraged by the Center include:

- a. research that promotes insight into longterm natural phenomena and ecosystem dynamics
- b. inventory and descriptive studies, including those of a "baseline" or "benchmark" nature
- c. innovative approaches to comparative and experimental investigation that allow these studies to be conducted within the confines of wilderness

Examples of social research ^o encouraged by the Center include:

- a. research to measure impacts and define limits of man's use of wilderness
- b. methodology for the reduction of human impact through effective management practices
- c. studies to further understand man's psychological relationship to nature, including the areas of morality and esthetics

Philosophy

^{1/} The Center's working definition of "wilderness" is taken from The Wilderness Act of 1964 but is not limited to areas within the National Wilderness Preservation System. In addition, both federal and non-federal areas that have characteristics satisfying the Act's definition are considered appropriate for Center activities.

Education

Educational objectives of the Center include promoting understanding of:

- a. the phenomena and dynamic processes associated with natural ecosystems
- b. man's ecological and social role as a member of the natural world
- c. the proper use and management of wilderness
- d. the many social and psychological values of the wilderness resource

Undergraduate and graduate students, on-site users, agency personnel and the general public are considered appropriate audiences for the Center's educational activities.

III. Specific Activities of the Center

1. Coordinate wilderness-related research projects at the University of Idaho and compile annual report of activities and findings.
2. Sponsor undergraduate summer research projects and review written reports which will be incorporated into a special section of the annual report.
3. Sponsor at least one annual graduate assistantship for wilderness-related research or other scholarly activity.
4. Conduct an annual Wilderness ^{DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP} ~~Seminar~~ Series.
5. Inform potential financial contributors of Center goals and activities through publication of a high quality brochure.
6. Inform present and potential contributors and other interested individuals of current Center activities through publication of an illustrated, quarterly newsletter.
7. As requested, assist the mass media, organizations or individuals, and units of the university with wilderness-related projects of an educational nature.

IV. Organization

Administration of the Wilderness Research Center is ultimately the responsibility of the Director. He is assisted in the daily administration of

the Center's programs and activities by an Assistant Director. Policy formulation is the joint responsibility of the Director, Assistant Director and Technical Board.

Responsibilities of the Technical Board are ~~limited~~ to:

may include the following

- a. recommendations of research needs and the review of completed projects
- b. review wilderness-related research and educational projects to assure conformity with The Wilderness Act and similar legislation or policies
- c. assistance with the preparation of proposals for outside funding
- d. as requested, assist the Director with liaison between the university and various agencies in wilderness-related matters
- e. review and select successful proposals from university students and faculty for Center-sponsored activities
- f. assist with administration of the Center when requested by the Director or Assistant Director
- g. advising the director on management policies for the Taylor Ranch Field Station

~~TAYLOR RANCH IS NOT A PART OF THE WRC~~

h. set policy for the WRC