

**WILDERNESS RESEARCH
CENTER**



**ANNUAL REPORT
1982**



University of Idaho

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Wilderness and wildland areas have become an increasingly valued resource in recent decades. People value these natural areas for their fish and wildlife resources, for opportunities for solitude, escape, and primitive recreation, for the minerals they contain, for the provision of livelihood through outfitting, guiding, tourist supply and support services, and for many other benefits associated with large expanses of pristine land. This range of values generates inherent conflicts concerning use, management, and future status of these areas. In addition, much is yet to be learned about the structures and functions of the natural ecosystems characteristic of wilderness and wildlands.

Because the finite supply of pristine wildlands is dwindling, today, as never before, research is needed to help us understand natural ecosystem dynamics and their relationship to the often conflicting human values placed upon wilderness resources.

It is, therefore, the mission of the University of Idaho Wilderness Research Center to play a key role in coordinating and focusing interdisciplinary research and education concerning wilderness.



PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Wilderness Research Center is to encourage research and educational programs which lead to a better understanding of the structure and function of natural ecosystems, man's relationship to them, and their perpetual protection in the wilderness context.

The center was founded in 1972 to unify and coordinate research disciplines among the University of Idaho and cooperating organizations and to support a major thrust in the area of wilderness research.

Research and Educational Objectives

- The absence of artificial disturbances underlies the wilderness concept; therefore, research into long-term natural phenomena and ecosystem dynamics as well as baseline inventory and descriptive studies will be promoted.
- Many lessons can be learned from directly comparing naturally functioning ecosystems with man-altered environments. Thus, comparative and experimental investigations yielding information useful to the management of man-altered environments will be pursued.
- Specific criteria defining the limits of man's many wilderness associated activities are urgently needed. Accordingly, re-research to define impacts and limits to wilderness use will also be sought.
- Aesthetic and cultural values associated with the relationship of people to the natural world are complex. Therefore, studies to further our understanding of the human dimensions of wilderness will be pursued.

● A major function of the Wilderness Research Center, second only to research, is to develop educational programs to disseminate research findings and promote a broader understanding of wilderness resources among the general public, government agencies, user groups, and scientists. The center, therefore, will seek to provide educational programs that explain:

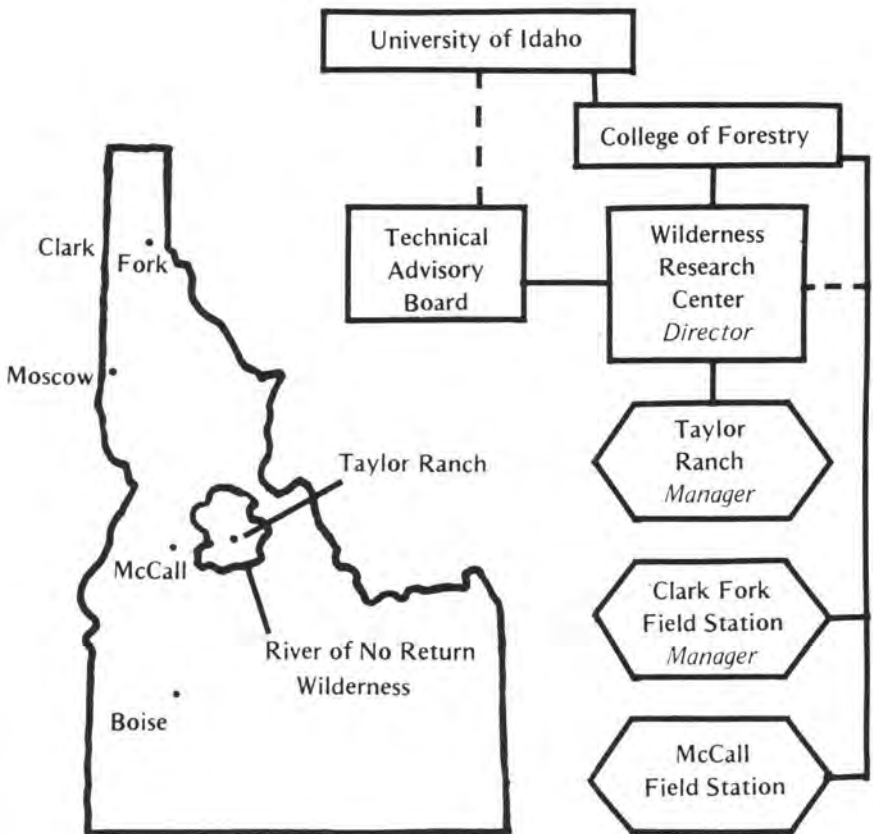
- 1) the dynamic processes of natural ecosystems,
- 2) the value of comparing natural systems to conservation and management of manipulated environments,
- 3) the proper uses of wilderness in keeping with its continued existence in an unaltered state, and
- 4) man's ecological and social role as a member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

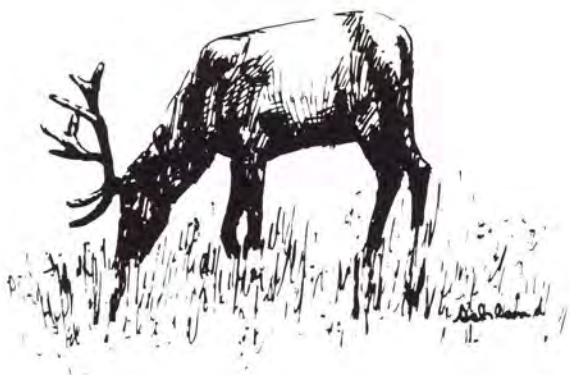


THE ORGANIZATION

Idaho—with the largest amount of wilderness in the lower 48 states (3.8 million acres)—is a fitting location for a major wilderness research effort. The Wilderness Research Center is headquartered in the University of Idaho College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences and maintains a field station, the 65-acre Taylor Ranch, in the heart of the River of No Return Wilderness. The center also has access to field stations at McCall and Clark Fork, Idaho. Yet, the scope of the center's activities is not limited to Idaho's wildland areas.

The Wilderness Research Center's administrative offices are housed within the College of Forestry where it can take advantage of the interdisciplinary expertise and resources of the college and the university.





THE YEAR IN REVIEW

1982 was a period of activity and growth for the University of Idaho Wilderness Research Center. Several steps were taken to strengthen the center and its research and education programs.

Due to reorganization in the College of Forestry, Dr. Ernest Ables, center director for the past two years, became Head of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and relinquished the Wilderness Research Center Directorship. The new director is Dr. Edwin E. Krumpe, an assistant professor in the Department of Wildland Recreation Management. Krumpe, a specialist in wilderness management, has conducted research in wildland settings such as the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wildernesses, Yellowstone and Glacier National parks, several wild and scenic rivers, and Admiralty Island National Monument Wilderness in Alaska.

In an effort to improve the research capabilities of the Taylor Ranch Field Station, the caretaker position has been upgraded to that of manager. The new position has been filled by Jim and Holly Akenson on a job-share basis. Both Jim and Holly have degrees and broad experience in the biological sciences, and Jim has a graduate degree in geography and planning. They have worked on several wilderness and wildlife research projects, and Jim was recently employed as a wilderness planner for the Bureau of Land Management. Having managers with professional training and experience will be useful to all researchers conducting projects at the Taylor Ranch.

The center continued its tradition of sponsoring the Wilderness Resource Distinguished Lectureships. This year's speaker was Michael Frome, a noted author and conservationist. His books include: *Whose Woods These Are: The Story of the National Forests*, *Strangers in High Places: The Story of the Great Smokey Mountains*, *The National Parks*, and *Battle for the Wilderness*. Mr. Frome presented his lecture—"Battle for the Wilderness: Our Forever Conflict?"—to a large audience in the University of Idaho's Law School auditorium. As with past lectureships, Mr. Frome's remarks will be printed in a collector's booklet for public distribution.

To further our educational objectives, the Wilderness Research Center has established, through the University of Idaho Foundation, the Michael Frome Scholarship for Excellence in Conservation Writing. This scholarship, supported by tax-deductible donations from the public, will be awarded to undergraduate or graduate students who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to writing and communicating with the public about natural resource issues.

One goal of the new director is to seek increased funding for research projects. Last year, two proposals for \$20,000 each were submitted to the National Park Service and the Association for the Humanities in Idaho. The center was awarded the contract to assess the science program of Glacier National Park to identify strengths and weaknesses and to prioritize research needs for the future. The other proposal was to secure financing to enable Michael Frome to conduct interviews and produce a symposium on humanist values of wilderness in Idaho and the Northwest. The contract has not been awarded as of this date.

A final area of activity this year has been to identify the direction the center's research program should take and the most appropriate means of communicating with the potential clients of the center. The director and graduate student Sara Baldwin are working on this project. Faculty and other researchers are being surveyed. Input is being sought from a wide variety of disciplines to assist the director and the advisory board in setting a future policy direction.

In summary, 1982 has been an active and productive year and 1983 promises to be the same. A review of research accomplishments and educational programs follows.



RESEARCH

Ongoing Projects

- A study of radio-collared bobcats in the River of No Return Wilderness is currently headquartered at the Taylor Ranch and directed by Dr. Maurice Hornocker and Research Associate Gary Kohler.

- A study to assess and evaluate the information base and science activities at Glacier National Park is being conducted by Drs. Ed Krumpe and James Peek, assisted by graduate student Pat Hayward.

- A study of the archeological evidence of early man in the Big Creek drainage of the River of No Return Wilderness has begun. Drs. Frank Leonhardy and Ed Krumpe are the investigators; the study will be headquartered at the Taylor Ranch.

- Habitat partitioning of the big game winter range on Big Creek at the Taylor Ranch is the subject of a study being done by Jim and Holly Akenson.

Completed Projects

- "Owls of the Idaho Primitive Area"

This study addressed the differences in niches and habitats of seven species of owls along Big Creek and in the Chamberlain Basin. A possible breeding population of Boreal Owls (*Aegolius funeვენus*) was discovered in the Chamberlain Basin. This species had not previously been reported to breed in Idaho and is extremely rare in the lower 48 states (E. O. Garton and Greg Hayward).

- "Bird Study in the Idaho Primitive Area"

Almost no information is available on the winter ecology of smaller nongame birds. This study addressed winter habitat use, resource partitioning, foraging patterns and behavior of a species complex of small birds in the River of No Return Wilderness. Results provided baseline data useful for comparison with man-altered systems (W. Kessler and Susan Tank).

- "Pack Creek Bear Management Study"

Pack Creek Bear Reserve on Admiralty Island, Alaska, has become popular for observing and photographing brown bears. Because of the potential for conflicts between bears and people, this study examined human and bear movements, activities, and interactions. Scan sampling was used to observe visitors and bears and to map their behavior and movements to test for interactions (Ken Post and Ed Krumpke).

- "A Comparison between Wilderness and Nonwilderness Visitors on Desired Recreation Experiences and Their Social Values"

This study was conducted at the Lostine Canyon entrance to the Eagle Cap Wilderness, Oregon. It explored the social values that wilderness vs. nonwilderness users place on recreational experiences (W. J. McLaughlin and Nick Sanyal).

- "Wilderness Evaluation Approaches of the BLM and USFS: A Survey Research Comparison"

This project examined the different approaches that the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service used in evaluating roadless areas for wilderness potential (Martin Sharp and Ed Krumpke).

- "Recreational Impacts on the Flathead Wild and Scenic River System"

This two-part study was concerned with characteristics, preferences and attitudes of recreationists who use the Flathead Wild and Scenic River System, and with the impacts of users on the associated riparian environment (Ed Krumpe, Rich Converse, and Meg Weesner)



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- The annual Distinguished Wilderness Resource Lectureship has continued for the sixth year. The program is designed to bring a speaker of national prominence to the Idaho campus for a public lecture and discussion and interaction with students and faculty. Copies of the lecture are printed in collector's booklets for nationwide distribution to researchers, libraries, wilderness organizations, legislators, and others.

- A Wilderness Skills Course, conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, has been held on the Idaho campus for three years. This course is an outdoor workshop, open to the public, that emphasizes wilderness ethics and low impact camping skills.

- Dr. Krumpe, the center director, has guest lectured on wilderness management to different classes in forestry and landscape architecture, and has presented two papers on research on the Flathead Wild and Scenic River System Study at the research symposium of the National Recreation and Parks Association conference.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

An immediate project of the Wilderness Research Center is the definition of an overall research direction and a prioritized list of research needs. This will be done through a survey of faculty and researchers in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest. The center will seek input from a wide variety of disciplines.

Improvements to the Taylor Ranch, intended to make it a more complete facility for supporting research projects in a remote setting, are already underway. These will include developing a herbarium and small mammal collections and establishing a weather station and a small field laboratory.

Other management and policy changes have taken place recently at the Taylor Ranch; therefore, a comprehensive policy statement concerning the uses and regulations of the ranch will be prepared by summer 1983.

The tradition of instructive dialogue provided by the center in the annual Wilderness Resource Distinguished Lectureship will continue. Each year, the number of requests for reprints of the lectures has increased. Reprints of Michael Frome's lecture—"Battle for the Wilderness: Our Forever Conflict?"—will be available April 1983.

In the coming year, the center will again be seeking financial support to continue the development of a comprehensive wilderness bibliography. The bibliography will be linked to a nationwide library system and will benefit researchers and educators in many fields.

To fulfill its educational role, the center will seek support for the newly established Michael Frome Scholarship for Excellence in Conservation Writing. The center will also place a high priority in 1983 on seeking the necessary funds and supervision for the re-establishment of an undergraduate summer research program.

The compilation of all of the past research projects associated with the Wilderness Research Center is underway and will be available in the summer of 1983.

The director looks forward to hearing from fellow wilderness researchers and others interested in wilderness issues. By being good listeners, the center personnel hope to identify and understand issues and to clarify research priorities. The center will reach its maximum effectiveness by serving others through its educational programs, by coordinating future research, by reviewing proposals, by aiding in the solicitation of funds, and by provision of the facilities of the Taylor Ranch.

Let us hear from you! Please address any questions, comments, or requests for further information to:

Dr. Edwin E. Krumpe, Director
Wilderness Research Center
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843
(208) 885-7911



Previous Distinguished Lecturers:

Senator Frank Church - 1977

Dr. Roderick Nash - 1978

Sec. of Interior Cecil Andrus - 1979

Mr. Patrick F. Noonan - 1980

National Parks Director Russell E. Dickensen - 1981

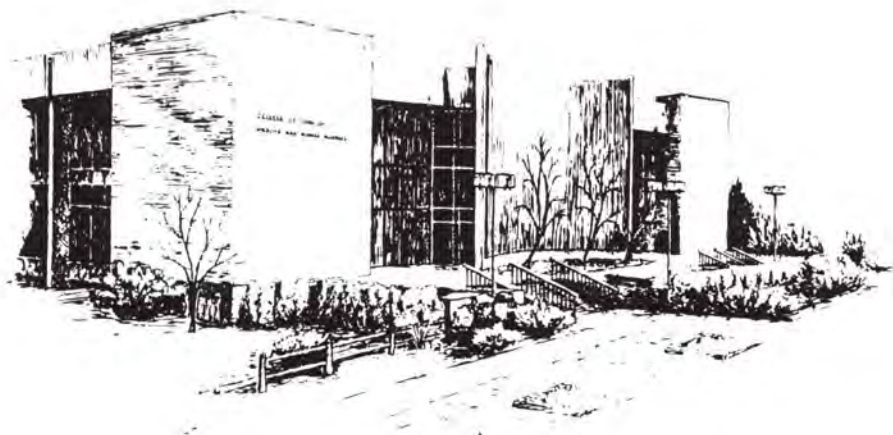
Mr. Michael Frome - 1982

Reprints of these lectures are available for \$.25 from:

The Wilderness Research Center

University of Idaho

Moscow, Idaho 83843



The majority of the Wilderness Research Center's activities must rely on private contributions. Your tax deductible contributions will be greatly appreciated for:

- The Michael Frome Scholarship for Excellence in Conservation Writing
- The undergraduate summer research program
- The wilderness bibliography project
- Wilderness and wildlife research projects
- Research on wilderness use impacts

Make checks payable to:

The Wilderness Research Center
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