

Wilderness Research Center
bi-annual report
1983-84



University of Idaho



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

In 1983 and 1984, the Wilderness Research Center significantly expanded its education and outreach activities. Major accomplishments included conducting a national workshop on wilderness management, directing a national steering committee in developing a five-year wilderness management action program, and publishing the book *Issues in Wilderness Management*, the proceedings of the workshop.

While these new undertakings have challenged the WRC to stretch almost beyond its means, we have endeavored to continue traditional programs. Research—our other driving purpose—was by no means shortchanged. An archeological study funded by the National Geographic Society and the U.S. Forest Service continued at the Taylor Ranch; an assessment of Glacier National Park's science program, funded by UNESCO and the National Park Service, was completed; two new studies, evaluating indicators to monitor wilderness conditions and investigating bighorn sheep's use of winter range, were initiated. The center also continued to submit research proposals for funding from other sources. The center sponsored the annual Wilderness Resource Distinguished Lectureship and the annual Wilderness Skills Trail.

In summary, the past two years have been years of activity, outreach, and growth. The following pages offer more detailed information about these activities. As in the past, the WRC welcomes any questions or comments about its programs from concerned wilderness scholars and users. Let us hear from you!

Erl Krumpal

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Wilderness Research Center's purpose is to promote research and educational programs leading to a holistic understanding of natural ecosystems and the means to protect them in perpetuity. The center strives to focus and coordinate efforts of scientists at the University of Idaho and cooperating organizations to support an ongoing program of wilderness research. Our five specific objectives are:

To promote research into long-term natural phenomena and ecosystem dynamics.

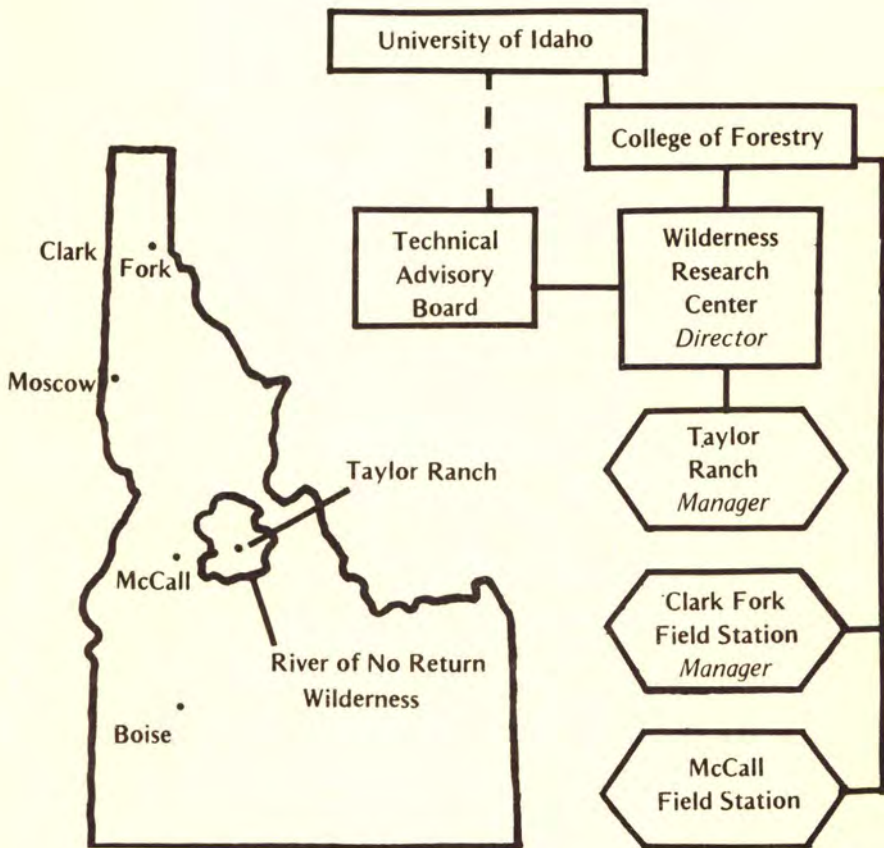
To pursue comparative and experimental investigations yielding information useful to the management of man-altered environments.

To promote research to define wilderness impacts and use limits.

To pursue studies of human perceptions and values of wilderness.

To provide educational programs that explain:

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



The First National Wilderness Management Workshop

October 11 - 13, 1983

"Taking care of what we've got"

The Wilderness Research Center sponsored this workshop to direct concern to the protection and proper use of established wilderness areas. The workshop brought together decision makers and resource managers with wilderness responsibility representing the Bureau of Land Management; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the U.S. Forest Service; the National Park Service; state fish and wildlife officials; state tourism agencies; user groups involved in mining, grazing, outfitting and recreation; and citizen groups concerned with environmental protection. Key issues and problems implicit in managing wilderness were deliberated, to collect and synthesize the best available ideas.

Conservationist and author Michael Frome opened the conference; the directors of the four federal land management agencies delivered talks, and Idaho's senior senator, James McClure, gave a keynote luncheon speech. The 400 participants from across the nation represented a great diversity of viewpoints and experience but shared a unifying commitment to managing wilderness.

Some of the viewpoints expressed at the conference include . . .

“At this workshop we are pulling together what we know about wilderness at this time. I think this will be the beginning of several years of dialogue.”

Max Peterson, Chief, USDA Forest Service

“The notion of management of the wilderness versus management of use deserves attention, too. The preponderance of our efforts should be involved in managing use, but let’s not lose sight of substantial biological issues and problems with which we have to deal—issues that don’t, except in an indirect way, involve use.”

Robert Barbee, Superintendent,
Yellowstone National Park

“More trails and more access, not less, in our opinion, would provide better distribution of hunting and fishing pressure and really ease impacts overall.”

Jerry Conley, Idaho Department of Wildlife

“I don’t think there is any substitute today or in the future for concerned public opinion. People who visit parks universally come away impressed with their patrimony; they want to protect and save it and to pass it along to future generations. From the standpoint of wilderness, the most important lesson of all may be to continue to educate, inform and depend upon public support to carry us through.”

Russell Dickenson, Director,
National Park Service

“Without question, we need consistent principles faithful to the Wilderness Act, but consistent principles, however, may not lead to identical practices.”

Max Peterson, Chief, USDA Forest Service

The workshop undoubtedly met its stated goal—to bring together people with diverse viewpoints to establish a dialogue focused on managing wilderness. It also has had lasting effects. The deliberation helped to define wilderness management as an emerging profession requiring a great sensitivity to both resources and people. On a more tangible level, the conference inspired several ongoing outreach projects to use the knowledge base that emerged from its workshop sessions. These projects, the action plan, the book, and the videotapes, are detailed on the following pages.

SPECIAL OUTREACH PROJECTS

Five-year Wilderness Management Action Program

On the last day of the workshop, USDA Forest Service Chief Max Peterson called on the other federal agencies to join with representatives of user groups to develop an action program based on the wealth of ideas generated at the conference. The director of the Wilderness Research Center was asked to chair the national steering committee formed to undertake this task. Public input was sought from across the nation. From this input, the committee developed a priority list of 23 recommendations for addressing major issues confronting wilderness management in the next five years. Published in booklet form, the Five-Year Wilderness Management Action Program is being distributed nationally by the agencies, conservation groups, and the Wilderness Research Center.

Issues in Wilderness Management

Based on the proceedings of the workshop, this recently published book complements the impacts of the workshop and the action plan. The book, edited by conservation author Michael Frome, contains additional material on management issues as well as position statements by agencies and conservation and other user groups. It distills diverse viewpoints and establishes a dialogue in print which should serve as an important contribution to the growing field of wilderness management. The 225-page book was published by Westview Press and is available through bookstores or from the publisher at 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, Colorado, 80301.

Workshop Videotapes

These full-color video tapes provide a complete record of the conference. They contain speeches, panel discussions and pertinent questions and answers from the many resource managers who participated. The tapes are offered for use by schools, conservation groups, and agency training programs as a useful tool for understanding the implications and applications of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The thirteen video tapes are available both for sale or rent. For complete descriptions and prices, contact the Wilderness Research Center.



RESEARCH NOTES

- The boreal owl is one of the least studied owls in North America. Formerly, its range was thought to be limited to northern Canada and Alaska, but researchers found a breeding population in central Idaho and in Colorado during 1981. Thus, a study was undertaken by Gregory Hayward and Dr. E.O. Garton (assisted by Patricia Hayward) titled "Habitat Requirements and Distribution of the Boreal Owl in Central Idaho." The study has shown that boreal owls are the most common predatory bird in the Chamberlain Basin, and the researchers seek to learn more about the population, its habitat needs, the distribution of suitable habitat, and potential effects of man's activities on the bird. Co-sponsors of this project are the U.S. Forest Service, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the North American Bluebird Society, and the Wilderness Research Center.

- A surprising number of archeological sites lie along the major rivers of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area, yet archeological research in the area remains characterized by what is not known. "Settlement-subsistence in the River of No Return Wilderness Area: Developing a model for prehistoric survival" is a project pursued by Dr. Frank Leonhardy and graduate student Fred Thomas of the University of Idaho Laboratory of Anthropology. This project, a long-term study funded by the National Geographic Society, uses the Taylor Ranch as a base for summer field research. Initial work discovered the remains of a prehistoric settlement $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the Taylor Ranch. Later excavations at this site and others in the area suggest that the ancient inhabitants adapted closely to the area's resources, resulting in a fairly unique subsistence pattern. It appears likely that, during the winters, the prehistoric inhabitants survived on big horn sheep.

- Monitoring wilderness conditions is crucial to management; little information exists on how to select indicators that will yield the most appropriate knowledge on soil, water, wildlife, vegetation, and social conditions. A study titled "Evaluation of Indicators of Wilderness Resource Conditions" conducted by Linda Merigliano under the direction of Dr. Ed Krumpke focuses on identifying and objectively evaluating the usefulness of potential indicators. The study is co-sponsored by the McIntire-Stennis Program and the Wilderness Research Center.

- Some 500 documented research studies have occurred within Glacier National Park. The "Glacier National Park Science Assessment" synthesizes scientific information about the Glacier National Park Biosphere Reserve and provides a basic reference guide to completed studies. The study report consists of two volumes: the first describes the various studies; the second indexes, abstracts, and summarizes the studies. The study was funded by the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) through the National Park Service; additional funding was contributed by the Wilderness Research Center.

- In the past, most researchers working in the Big Creek drainage have had to spend great effort collecting and identifying plant species. To assist in these efforts, Holly Akenson, manager of the Wilderness Research Center's Taylor Ranch has begun an extensive herbarium collection of plants indigenous to the drainage. The collection, which will take several summers to complete, will be housed at the University of Idaho herbarium. A duplicate copy will be housed at the Taylor Ranch field laboratory, and both collections will be made available to scientists working in the area.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

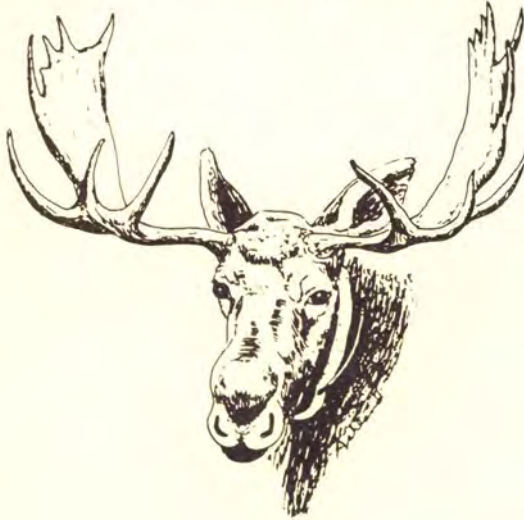
- The Center sponsored the eighth annual Wilderness Resource Distinguished Lecture in November 1984. Brock Evans, a well known Northwest environmental leader and former vice president of the National Audobon Society, was the speaker. Evans' successful legal and administrative career has made him one of the most effective conservation advocates in the Capitol and led him to run for Congress representing the Washington State 1st district (Seattle).

Evans gave a heartfelt and personal speech, drawing analogy between his recent election battle and the many wilderness preservation battles in which he has participated. He illustrated the processes of effort and organization by which famous preservation causes rise from the dreams of everyday people. Emphasizing the rewards of wilderness preservation, he urged the audience not to fear the struggles.

- On April 13, 1984, the Center sponsored its third annual "Wilderness Skills Trail" in cooperation with the staff of the Eagle Cap Wilderness. This on-campus, outdoor program draws participants along a short "trail" where they are quizzed at 15 stops on their knowledge of wilderness management and low impact camping. The program was open to students, faculty, and the public; about 350 people participated.

- Twenty-eight students and teachers from the Nampa High School Science Club hiked in to the Taylor Ranch in March of 1984 and learned about the center's research program from Jim and Holly Akenson, the Taylor Ranch Managers, and about radiotracking mountain lions and bobcats from Gary Koehler, a University of Idaho Ph.D. candidate. The students were on an extended educational trip in the River of No Return Wilderness.

• The Center has continued to solicit donations for the Michael Frome Scholarship for Excellence in Conservation Writing, established in 1982 in cooperation with the University of Idaho Foundation. Proceeds from the sale of *Issues in Wilderness Management* will go directly to the scholarship, which will be awarded to students who demonstrate a sincere commitment and talent for environmental writing. Competition for the award will be announced during the Fall of 1985.



TAYLOR RANCH UPDATE

The oldest cabin at the Taylor Ranch, built at the turn of the century by homesteader Dave Lewis, is being converted to a field laboratory to support current and future research projects. The project should be completed during the summer of 1985.

A team of mules was added to the Taylor Ranch staff in an effort to make the ranch more self-sustaining and harmonious with the wilderness environment. Jim and Holly Akenson, managers, use the mules for mowing hay, hauling firewood, and maintaining the field station's airstrip.

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

The First National Wilderness Management
Workshop - 1983

Mr. Brock Evans - 1984

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
- Wilderness and wildlife research projects
- Research on wilderness use impacts

Make checks payable to:

The Wilderness Research Center
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843



Ashland '79