

20 June '86

Jim & Holly,

Well, I know how you're countin' on me to do most of the work when hayin' time hits next month. Well, I'm not going to make it. No, no, don't worry - I've signed up the National Guard unit here in Moscow to take my place. No problem...

So, what's happenin' in the back-country? I suspect you saw us flying for cougar locations 2 weeks ago. We were waiting for you to get out there and squeegee the strip off so we could land, but obviously you had other plans. I hope the strip has recovered by now and things are back to normal 'cause I know how Ray would be pissed-off if he couldn't come in on the scheduled day.

We had a great flight that day and found **everybody**. It was great! Howard Hash is an exceptional radio-tracking pilot. Gary flew along also and we tried a new system with him listening with a boosted whip antenna and myself tracking with the directional antennas. It is **the** way to go back there. The study animals have spread out all over the country, so if you're hearing any cat screams at Taylor it isn't from any of ours.

Two things:

A biologist working on the Florida "panther" is coming to visit us in July. I'm trying to set it up so that H.H. can fly he and I and Gary in on the 24th to stay over night at Taylor, radio-track, and fly out on the 25th. How's that sit with plans back there? Any chance of gettin' a place to stay?

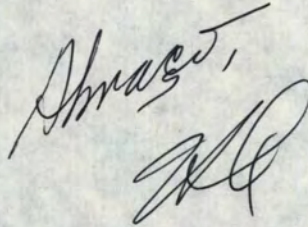
Second, I'll most likely try to make the recaptures on the 2 needed cougars that following week. Most likely, also, I won't need to usurp Tony from you for it. If he wants to though, one capture may take place at Cabin Cr. and it would be convenient (and desirable) for him to come up. Most of the plan depends on where the cats are at that time, but right now one is at the mouth of Cabin and one near the strip at Chamberlain. I may just fly directly into Cabin and from there go to Chamberlain. We'll see...

I ran across a few things that I thought you 2 might be interested in. There's a publication called "Forest Habitat Types of Central Idaho" by Steele, Pfister, Ryker, and Kittams that might be nice for Taylor to have a copy of. (Intermountain Forest & Range Exper. Sta., Gen. Technical Report INT-114, Sept. '81, no charge! Write to: Interm. Research Station - Attn. publications, 324 25th St., Ogden, UT, 84401.) It's in a nice, bound format and **even** comes with a poster! It shows all the types in picture form to make it easy! I've also enclosed the notice on the '86 Audubon Wildlife Report. If it's as good as the '85, it's worth the \$.

You can probably guess what the other large objects are. I finally found a bandage as big as the one you gave me when my knees were so bad. Now you have another to replace it - sorry it

took me so long. Maybe you'll need it for haying time. Or maybe I'll need one (or both!) next winter.

Hope all is goin' well back there. Say hi to Tony for me. I'll try to write him soon. The dissertation is going well, but I've given up on setting deadlines for myself. They're "estimates" now. Well, summer's just got too many other fun things to do (like the Rouge trip I'm taking next week...). Let me know about the July dates.

Handwritten signature "Shrago," followed by initials "JL" in cursive.

P.S. Ya' know, with my unscheduled departure from Taylor in March, and not seeing you 2 together when you were out, I never got the chance to thank you for all the help you gave us last winter. Thank you. You made the project and myself feel more than welcome. Now if you could just let me win at cribbage and make the weather cooperate, it wouldn't be a bad place...