



bc: Oz Garton  
Bill McLaughlin  
Leon Neuenschwander  
Dick Bottger  
Jim and Holly Akenson

December 20, 1988

Office of the Dean

TO: Vice President Bell  
Vice President Geiger

SUBJECT: Restoration of \$5,000 to Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station Maintenance Budget

College of Forestry,  
Wildlife and Range Sciences  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, Idaho  
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208-885-6441

TEACHING  
RESEARCH  
SERVICE

The attached letter from Dr. Oz Garton, Acting Director of the Wilderness Research Center (WRC), explains the crisis created by the \$5,000 maintenance budget reduction combined with other circumstances. I had hoped to precede this request by sending you the recently completed strategic plan for WRC and the 1988 annual report, both of which document the exciting direction and progress in WRC programs at Taylor Ranch. Those documents will be forwarded in mid-February. But, because of the severity of the situation I'm sending the budget request now. Taylor Ranch money is so tight that we can only fly out our resident managers, Jim and Holly Akenson, once this winter--an insufficient number of breaks to ward off cabin fever.

Your help with this budget crisis will be appreciated. We need about \$1,000 by February 1 and the remainder by April when spring and summer field work can begin. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John C. Hendee  
Dean

JCH/mp

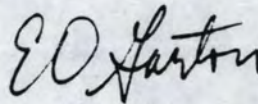
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO  
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
885-6434

Memorandum

DATE: 14 December, 1988

TO: Dean John Hendee

FROM: E. O. Garton  
Acting Director  
Wilderness Research Center



SUBJECT: Taylor Ranch Maintenance Budget, U01-X007

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I must request your assistance in restoring \$5,000 to the maintenance budget of the Taylor Ranch Field Station. This money was removed from the budget when it was transferred to our College at the beginning of the fiscal year. This constituted a one-third reduction, leaving only \$10,000 to maintain this facility for the year. This has created a crisis situation as we have already exhausted this entire budget before completing even half of the year. It is also doubly serious because it impacts a number of areas involving human safety and comes at a time when we are moving forward with initiatives that will bring substantial benefits to the Taylor Ranch Facility, the Wilderness Research Center and the University of Idaho.

The primary reason we could not reduce our expenditures this year is that Big Creek has been undercutting the airstrip at Taylor Ranch and reducing its length by 15 to 20 feet per year for the past few years. We applied for and received a permit to install 200 feet of gabions along the most highly erodible section. Obtaining the permit took almost 2 years and required the construction be completed in 180 days. Thus, we were forced to carry out the project in spite of the budget reduction. The engineer has told us that we may have to extend the gabions for another 100 feet if the undercutting continues this winter in the portions of the airstrip not protected this year. We will have no money to do this.

This summer Taylor Ranch was threatened by the massive Golden Creek Fire. The fire came over the ridge at a time when there were no fire-fighting crews in the area. We were extremely fortunate that the winds changed and the rate of fire spread slowed long enough for the U.S. Forest Service to mobilize staff to protect the ranch. In addition, we have realized that we have a potential fire danger during the winter when the running water freezes up and all heating is supplied with wood-burning stoves. A chimney fire could ignite a log cabin which would be difficult to extinguish with fire

extinguishers alone. The lesson is that we must equip Taylor Ranch with a couple of pumps and other basic fire-fighting equipment.

I have worked with General Manning, Adjutant General of the Idaho National Guard and Sonny Lasalle, Supervisor of the Payette National Forest to obtain an additional research building at Taylor Ranch. The National Guard is currently developing a plan to move one of the cabins from the Forest Service's facilities at Cabin Creek to Taylor Ranch. If they take this on as a training exercise, they will disassemble the cabin, air-lift it to Taylor Ranch, construct a new foundation and reassemble it at Taylor. The University will obtain a building worth at least \$50,000 at very little expense. This will go a long way toward relieving our acute space shortage at Taylor during the summer. Without any maintenance budget it will be very difficult for me to continue developing this cooperation because our operating budget of only \$14,000 does not even have slack for an extra trip or two.

Finally, I would mention our extremely successful student intern program supported by the maintenance budget. We hire students half-time to work on maintenance projects during the summer. The other half of their time consists of an unpaid internship in which they assist with ongoing research projects at Taylor Ranch. We have successfully completed a number of major maintenance projects at minimal expense in this manner. The facilities at Taylor are in the best condition in years. The students have a super experience and contribute to our research program, too. Since we have no budget remaining for the 1988-89 fiscal year, we will not be able to pay students for the first six weeks of the summer. It would be a shame to lose this valuable program because of the budget cut.

I know that the University does not have extra money for maintenance expenses at this time, but a one-third reduction in this budget has created a crisis for my operation. I would appreciate your efforts to restore this money.

cc: McLaughlin, Neuenschwander, Bottger, Akenson