

Department of Wildland Recreation Management

TEACHING/RESEARCH/SERVICE

- Management/Planning
- Interpretation/Communication
- Wilderness Management
- Natural Resource Tourism
- Outdoor Recreation Leadership



University of Idaho

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August 4, 1987

Jim and Holly Akenson
Taylor Ranch Research Field Station
Air Route
Cascade, ID 83611

Dear Jim and Holly:

Jim, enclosed is my response to your consulting request. So how are you two doing? I trust that you had another outstanding year living at and managing Taylor Ranch.

Deb, Julien and I have returned to Moscow revitalized and looking forward to a productive year. One of the things we learned was how lucky we are in Idaho and the U.S. to have wilderness. No matter where you seem to go in the Wilds of Europe, one always encounters a road, building, or other evidence of man's heavy-handed imprint on nature. And to think you two have the privilege of living in the wilderness--we're envious.

This year is going to be a banner one for the Wilderness Research Center and Taylor Ranch. It is about time we get your plan reviewed, adopted, and get on with doing what we are proposing. From what I am hearing, the dean's backing and energy should help move us forward. It looks like an endowment for Taylor Ranch will be one of eleven university-wide Centennial projects. Not bad! And Ed is being released from his heavy teaching load to have more time to devote to wilderness research. I hope these changes and others will get things moving. This is really my first year to actively oversee the center and Taylor Ranch since the reorganization by the dean. I hope that we, working together, can make this your most rewarding year to date.

I have asked Ed to arrange for me to visit the ranch. At that time, I hope to get reacquainted and to be educated by you on your needs and desires.

It seems to me that one or both of you should be attending this upcoming World Wilderness Congress. Are either of you interested? If so, please let Ed know immediately.

I look forward to working with you this year. Please contact me if I can aid you as you pursue this year's work plan.

Sincerely,

William J. McLaughlin
Department Head

WJM:ps
cc: Dean Hendee
Ed Krumpe

