

Arnold Finklin
Intermountain Fire Sci. Lab.
Missoula, MT 59807

(Feb. 2)
Jan. 31, 1987

Dear Mr. Finklin:

I have just completed reviewing your manuscript, "Climate of the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness Area, Central Idaho." The manuscript is well done and will be useable baseline data for our wildlife and archeology research projects.

I will have to answer your questions pertaining to wind conditions in general terms as we have no wind monitoring devices in operation at this time.

During the winter there is a definite absence of wind as you suggested might be the case. An exception is when a moist pacific front passes through. The initial warm front brings gusty winds (10-15 mph) which prevail from the west or southwest. This windy period is always short in duration, maybe an hour or so.

The transitional seasons of spring and late fall seem to produce the highest wind speeds. These two squally periods also have winds of less predictable direction. We will occasionally experience high winds during summer in association with thunderstorms. In the 4 1/2 years I've been here I would say the months of April and May have tended to be the most windy. We are currently expanding our weather monitoring capabilities and will monitor wind characteristics. It will be interesting to see if these observations are consistent with actual documentation!

Generally, the Taylor Ranch does not experience much wind most of the year, probably due to its sheltered canyon bottom location. The wind characteristics of Taylor Ranch are further complicated by its juxtaposition at the mouth of three converging tributary drainages. It is not uncommon for our wind socks at either end of the airstrip to be blowing in opposite directions!, particularly

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in the spring.

I recently have submitted a proposal for a portable automated weather station for the Taylor Ranch. My research interests related to climate are with big game utilization of canyon micro-climates. This automated station idea has received positive support from the university "purse holders." If this becomes a reality perhaps we could gather weather data useable to you folks?

I look forward to seeing the final copy of your report, it will be a valuable addition to the reference library here at Taylor Ranch.

Sincerely,
Jim Atkinson, Manager
Taylor Ranch Field Station
Cascade, Idaho 83611