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 **University of Idaho**
College of Forestry, Wildlife
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Moscow, Idaho 83844-1138 U.S.A.

October 16, 1996

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Idaho State Legislature
304 North 8th Street, Room 338
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Senator Kempthorne:

The following information is in response to your letter of October 10, 1996 questioning McCall and Wilderness Air access to the Taylor Ranch Field Station air strip.

Because spring 1996 flood damage closed the Cabin Creek air strip, the University of Idaho, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences' Wilderness Research Center granted permission this year only to the USDA, Forest Service to use the relatively nearby Taylor Ranch Field Station air strip to access the Cabin Creek area. This action helped them efficiently and effectively discharge their wilderness management responsibilities. Permission was also extended this year only to three legally permitted outfitters that normally use Cabin Creek air strip. That permission has not changed field station policy but it did allow these three outfitters an opportunity to transport supplies to Taylor Ranch that they needed to establish their base camps.

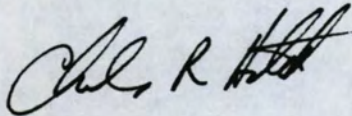
It is important to note that our permission to the USDA, Forest Service and outfitters did not waive field station visitor policies. We have not allowed hunting from the field station nor are we allowing fish or game to be flown from the field station (policy attached). The legally permitted outfitters will need to use Soldier Bar, other air strips, or other means to transport game from the area. Therefore, with the exception of air transporting supplies to Taylor Ranch to establish base camps, the legally permitted outfitters have not been given Taylor Ranch Field Station air strip privileges that are different from the public at large.

The Taylor Ranch Field Station is used to undertake research on and educational study of Idaho's wild and natural ecosystems. The air strip has not been nor is it intended to be a public landing area for recreational users. Permission granted to the USDA, Forest Service and legally permitted outfitters that was brought about by the temporary closure of Cabin Creek air strip has not changed our intent.

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I hope this clarifies use of the Taylor Ranch Field Station air strip. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Hatch
Dean

CRH/nm
Kempthorne

Enclosure

bc: John Hendee
Dave Duncan