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Moscow, Idaho 83844-1131 U.S.A.

June 8, 1994

Ms. Mary Faurot, Fisheries Biologist  
USDA Forest Service  
Krassell Ranger District  
Payette National Forest  
McCall, ID 83638

Subject: Use of the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station Air Strip

Dear Mary:

This letter summarizes our conversations June 6 and 7 for the benefit of others who are interested or need to know, i.e. Jeff Yeo, scientist/manager at Taylor Ranch; Ed Krumpe, professor of recreation resources; and members of the UI Wilderness Research Center Advisory Committee.

You called me to request permission to use the Taylor Ranch air field June 24 to fly out from your week's activities in the Big Creek Drainage with: Dave Burns, Payette National Forest fish biologist; Jan Wurster, Krassell Ranger District geologist; and John Gebbards, Krassell Ranger District fish habitat biotechnician. You will be hiking that week from Big Creek to below Taylor Ranch carrying out the following activities:

- Assessing outfitter camp and trail crossings—potential impacts on fish habitat;
- looking at the Golden Bear Mine which has renewed their request to develop the road down Big Creek and up to their mine;
- reviewing the sites from the fish habitat survey in the 1930s in preparation for replicating the study next year to assess changes over time in Big Creek fish habitat; and
- reviewing Wayne Minchell's study sites below Taylor Ranch, which are part of the Taylor Ranch research program funded by the Payette National Forest.

You would be coordinating with Jeff Yeo, especially in the review of Wayne Minchell's research. We would appreciate the opportunity for involvement of the university in next year's fish habitat survey to assess change since the 1930s and perhaps one of our faculty could enhance the effort. We would also appreciate a copy of your reports on the assessment



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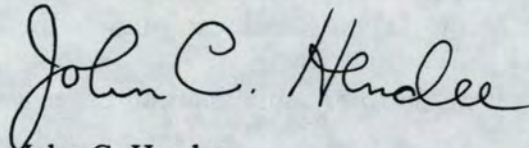
of outfitter camps and trail crossing impacts on fish habitat and the review of Wayne Minchell's research.

You may be interested that, July 18-22 we will be conducting a campsite inventory and measurement of all the campsites from Big Creek to the Middle Fork. This inventory will be completed to a "research standard," with measurement of campsite denuded areas and other impacts, which is a little different from the site inventory conducted by the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) task force. The LAC inventory will document sites but only campsites, not specific measures of impacts. Of course, the two inventories should compliment one another. We anticipate that our campsite inventory of sites along Big Creek will be very useful in assessing the impacts of use over time, thus adding meaning to the LAC data there and on adjacent trails.

During our telephone conversation, we also discussed the meeting June 17 at Taylor Ranch to plan installation of the weir on Rush Creek by Idaho Fish and Game to assess anadromous fish return. Even though the proposed site is on university land, we want to be sure we have input from the Forest Service so we can help IFG make it the best study possible while minimizing intrusion on the wilderness. It should be a good meeting. I'm sorry I won't be able to be there but Jeff Yeo will be representing the university.

Thank you very much for your contact. The use of the Taylor Ranch air field seems appropriate since your activity is directly involved in our research program.

Sincerely,



John C. Hendee  
Dean

JCH/nm  
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c: Jeff Yeo, Scientist/Manager, Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station  
WRC Advisory Committee  
Dave Alexander, Supervisor, Payette National Forest