

TEACHING/RESEARCH/SERVICE
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May 4, 1994

CONFIDENTIAL

To: Wilderness Research Center Advisory Committee

Dear Colleagues:

Would you please review the attached request from Penny Morgan to hold a meeting at Taylor Ranch. I have not yet talked with Penny and would like to get your reaction to my proposed response before sending it.

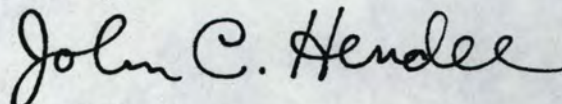
I lean toward declining this request. My reasoning is that there is no real essential reason for holding the meeting at the ranch. It would be a highly visible event with persons arriving with ten horses, two planes bringing regional foresters and perhaps another group arriving by raft down the Middle Fork and hiking to the ranch. It is not likely to result in needed resources to support the research and education program at the center. I'm afraid it would confirm the worst fears and accusations of the wilderness community who are just looking for things for which they can criticize the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station and our use of it.

Having stated my views about this request, would you complete the attached response and advise me by return mail.

Please call me at work (885-6442) or home (883-4729) if you want to discuss this. I hope in the future we will have a clear policy that would cover such requests. Perhaps the chance for all of us to respond to this request will help us in that policy development.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John C. Hendee
Dean, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range
Sciences and Director, University of Idaho
Wilderness Research Center

JCH/nm
letters\5-3wrc.ltr

Enclosures

c: Jeff Yeo, Scientist/Manager, Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station
Ed Krump, Principal Scientist for Wilderness Management, UI Wilderness Research
Center

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

Inter-office memorandum

College of Forestry, Wildlife,
and Range Sciences

Department of Forest Resources

TO: Jeff Yeo
FROM: Penny Morgan *PM/M*
SUBJECT: Ecosystem Science Committee
DATE: April 25, 1994

*John - Just got
this. Let me know
what you think.
Jeff*

Jeff, I would like to reserve Taylor Ranch for a meeting of the Ecosystem Science Committee for the dates of September 5-9, 1994. This group meets regularly to direct the ecosystem characterization, assessment, and analysis to support ecosystem management within the USDA Forest Service. Taylor Ranch will provide a secluded setting for the intensive meetings. More importantly, however, we will be discussing the role of large wilderness area in ecosystem characterization and assessment.

We anticipate having 10 members of the Ecosystem Science Committee from September 5-9, 1994. They will have with them up to 10 head of horses.

Also, we anticipate inviting Regional foresters and Ecosystem Management Coordinators from USDA Forest Service regions 1 and 4 to meet with the committee on September 7 or 8.

If possible, we'd like to get Wayne Minshall and you to meet with the Ecosystem Science Committee. They would like to hear about the watershed studies and ecosystem monitoring work that you are doing in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

We are still coordinating our means of transportation into and out of Taylor Ranch. I anticipate that most of the Ecosystem Science Committee will arrive by horseback. However, depending on the water level in the Middle Fork, some may wish to raft in; it seems to me that in September this year that's likely to be slow or impossible. Many may choose to fly out. The people from the regional offices will fly in and out.

People involved

Wendel Hann	Roger Hungerford	Al Harvey
Kevin Ryan	Ceci McNicoll	Penny Morgan
Bob Keane	Steve Running	Janet Johnson
	Ray Hunt	

1. opportunity to promote use of wilderness as reference ecosystem for ecosystem mgmt.
2. agree no essential reason but believe no essential need for Wild Foundation or many other "cultivation"
- open to criticism that field station open for Henderson's wants but not other faculty.
3. we want to expand knowledge of opportunities of field station - this group an important group to do that
4. agree not essential but an opportunity equal to others we've approved

intense scrutiny by the WRC advisors but John Hendee's proposed meeting of the WILD Foundation Board of Directors does not. This type of criticism is one that you have mentioned to me many times as a significant concern.

So what's my response to whether Penny's request is an appropriate use of the field station or not? I don't know. I know that I would like this group to be well-informed of our efforts at wilderness monitoring and the potential of the field station to support research and collaborative studies. I think that could be accomplished only if they spent some time on the ground seeing what we're doing. Also I'm sure that if our proposed monitoring information system is to be successful, that we will need the expertise of this group. I recognize that the main intention of this meeting is not focused on Taylor Ranch but I believe Penny's purpose is to enhance WRC's role in future ecosystem research and management.

Please feel free to share my memo with other advisors.

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May 24, 1994

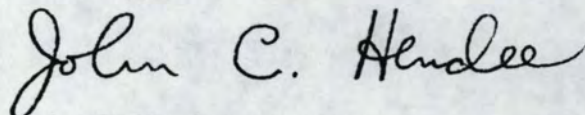
Penny Morgan
Department of Forest Resources

Dear Penny:

Per our recent conversations, and the opinions from seven WRC advisors, I must decline your request to host the Ecosystem Science Committee at Taylor Ranch. My opinion, and that of the responding advisors, is that it is inappropriate to use Taylor Ranch for intensive meetings where the location is not essential. However, as I mentioned to you last week, we would be very supportive of you visiting the ranch with a small subcommittee to assess surrounding locations for ecosystem research opportunities. One of the goals of the WRC is to facilitate wilderness studies that will contribute data for an integrated wilderness monitoring system.

I'm sorry to decline your original request, Penny, but I would look forward to helping arrange a wilderness research reconnaissance visit by you and a subcommittee. The use of wilderness as a land laboratory for baseline studies of ecosystem processes is a major goal of the Wilderness Research Center.

Sincerely,



John C. Hendee
Dean

JCH/nm
letters/penny.ltr

c: Jeff Yeo
Ed Krumpe
WRC Advisory Committee