TEACHING/RESEARCH/SERVICE Office of the Dean 208-885-6441 FAX: 208-885-6226 FORDEAN@IDUI1



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 <u>essential</u> 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,

In C. Hendee

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 Krumpe, 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

> John - Junt got this. Let me know what you think.

TO:Jeff YeoFROM:Penny Morgan PuiltSUBJECT:Ecosystem Science CommitteeDATE:April 25, 1994

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. <u>Many may choose to fly out</u>. The people from the regional offices will fly in and out.

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

People involved

1. apportunity to remote un of wildeness os reference ecosylen for ecosystem mynts 2 agree no essential reason but libering no essential need for Wild Foundation on many other cultivations " - open to cuticium that field station open for Hendelle 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 other we've approved

Taylor Ranch Field Station Wilderness Research Center University of Idaho HC 83 Cascade, ID 83611 208-382-4336

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MEMORANDUM

TO: John Hendee FROM: Jeff Yeo SUBJECT: Ecosystem Science Committee request to use Taylor Ranch CC: file DATE: May 19, 1994

I agree with you that there is no <u>essential</u> reason for holding this meeting at the field station. But I also think there is no <u>essential</u> reason for having, for a example, a board meeting of the WILD Foundation at the field station either, as you're planning to do this summer. In both cases, the field station provides a pleasant, inspiring background for activities that could be conducted elsewhere. We've stated repeatedly that the field station should not entertain executive retreats yet we're walking a very fine line between simply catering to our own immediate interest to obtain funding or political support within UI, and serving as a facility that supports wilderness-dependent research and education functions for UI and the region.

The Ecosystem Science Committee is instrumental to the Forest Service's ecosystem management program. WRC should be an important component of that program providing research of naturally-functioning ecosystems as reference to intensively managed landscapes. Holding the meeting at Taylor Ranch gives us the opportunity to inform this group about our monitoring and research which likely will benefit WRC and the field station with future research contracts and collaborative studies.

I do not want the field station taken over by groups that are here simply to discuss possibilities and potentials. In my view, the field station should be used in support of scientists and students <u>actively</u> engaged in wilderness-dependent research and education. But at the same time I recognize that we can become too protective and stymie the use of the field station by scientists other than by a small select group, which has been Taylor Ranch's history. We must make sure that our policy towards use of the field station welcomes appropriate research and educational activities within its physical and ecological limits yet clearly delineates when proposed uses are inappropriate. With the current situation, I think Penny would be justified for criticizing us in that her proposal receives 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.

TEACHING/RESEARCH/SERVICE Office of the Dean 208-885-6441 FAX: 208-885-6226 FORDEAN@IDUI1



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

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,

in C. Hendee

John C. Hendee Dean

JCH/nm letters\penny.ltr

Jeff Yeo C: Ed Krumpe WRC Advisory Committee