

Dr. Erickson: These are first impressions & rough ideas which should be discussed in some detail.

A REPORT OF IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ON VISIT TO THE TAYLOR RANCH APRIL 27, 1971

The general appearance of the Taylor Ranch was good; it was well policed. While there, I reviewed Arlow's ideas on what could be done with the area. I met Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Jack and Sue Siedensticker, and Dick Welch, Biologist for the Big Creek Ranger District. I did notice the Fish and Game Department does have a drop net set up at the salt lick to catch sheep. It is my understanding that they haven't caught any as of yet. Incidentally, the fellow who was doing this trapping through the month of March left all of his stuff in a tent owned by the Unit. It was a mess, with his equipment scattered and garbage in the tent.

As I see it, the major problems that we have at the Taylor Ranch are (1) sewage, (2) water, (3) power. Of these water is probably the least important. The only thing we have to worry about is getting water from one building to the other and making sure it doesn't freeze in the winter-time. Water to the buildings in the winter should be considered in our future plans.

Regarding sewage, right now I understand that we only have cesspools and seep lines and these need be only shallow because of the gravel soil. As we get more and more people in there, we are going to have to consider the effects of increased use on Big Creek and the surrounding area. We should plan adequate sewage treatment facilities for the future.

We have a problem as far as power source goes. You are probably aware of the wood supply for the wood stoves is very low. You have to range up the hillside to get any wood. To carry it back in any quantity would take pack animals and quite a few man hours to get wood that would be necessary. The alternatives to this is to have in more gas and propane or to build an electrical plant. It would be my opinion that we could put an electrical plant up the creek with a paddle wheel or impeller of some sort and generate enough ~~lights for~~ ^{for lights and} electricity ~~in~~ some of our scientific equipment. However, Dr. Hornocker is of the opinion that we couldn't generate enough electricity to heat the buildings in the wintertime as would be desirable. I will have to investigate the feasibility with one of the EE people.

There has been some talk about a new building with a shower, wash room, and indoor toilet facilities to be used all winter long. I think this is almost a necessary part of the operation. It could incorporate some scientific lab facilities as necessary. Gas, hot water, distilled water plant, enough electricity to run some instruments could be included in this lab. Winter quarters could be included in this building.

We are going to need to find some poles for fences. I think the present fences generally are acceptable from the Forest Service standpoint.

We would either fly the poles in or drag them off the hill which would require a permit to cut in the Wilderness Area which would take a little bit of doing.

The number of horses we have will depend on the carrying capacity in this area. It is Arlow's opinion that if we do not graze the horses on the same meadows, we can get enough hay to feed six horses through the winter. Of course, this would decrease if we grazed our horses in the same meadows that we are going to take hay off next fall. I think the obvious solution is to get a grazing permit from the U.S. Forest Service for these horses for the summer back of Rush Creek. As the operations become more complex, we will have to restrict use of horses to where they are necessary.

Inspection of the hunting camp revealed that they had not cleaned it up at all. All their gear is still there. I understand from Daphne that we did write Mr. Potts instructing him to clean the area up.

I was disturbed by the Fish and Game sheep trap at the salt lick. It has not been used since March and should be removed rather than leaving it up and disrupting the sheep *Movements*.

We should make a master plan of this area which would include plans for different buildings that should be built, rules for the area, and emergency procedures that should be taken in situations at the Taylor Ranch.

Attempts to make this a show place for VIP's should not interfere with the attempts of present and future researchers to gather scientific data in this area. In other words, some of the VIP's movements should be restricted. I think this would impress the type of of VIP that we would really want in that they would see that any research would be conducted without harassment and without the type of thing we have down in Antarctica with the Seal Grant project with all the newspaper reporters coming around.

To appeal to the right type of VIP, we should also consider that the grounds not be policed completely where every weed is picked up. I don't think our intention is to make a city park type facility. Similarly, consideration should be given to people that are to be working there. If it is apparent to the VIP's that physical facilities are adequate and that general rules, strictly enforced, result in a harmonious living and working atmosphere, the VIP's would be more inclined to commit funds and researchers.

We should consider getting a first aid kit in there. I don't think anyone in there really has one except for their own personal use and it should include some snake anti-venom for rattlesnake bite. We should also be thinking about inventory this summer. We should go out there with Dr. Hornocker to inventory the entire ranch.

Jim