

TEACHING/RESEARCH/SERVICE
Wilderness Research Center
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Dear Ken:

This letter is to give you something to ruminate on over the holidays in addition to turkey, stuffing, and too much of everything else. We discussed this idea briefly last summer during the LAC visit at the field station.

There is a tremendous wealth of information that's been gathered or is now being gathered each year within the Frank. This information is virtually everything we know about conditions and trends of the resources of the Frank and would provide a tremendous benefit to wilderness managers, planners, scientists, and public officials if readily available. But the data are scattered among individuals and agencies, and in most cases, are available only internally to a particular agency or gather dust. There are also theses and publications that aren't easily obtainable or even known to many.

I propose that we institute an annual summary of monitoring and research in FC-RONR. The report would summarize the data that has been gathered each year and, combined with previous years data, put information in perspective. Some examples of information to be included: Idaho Fish & Game annual fish & wildlife surveys, USFS Experiment Station surveys of stream morphology, University of Idaho and Idaho State University monitoring and research, archeological findings, campsite inventories and monitoring - any wilderness resource data gathering activities. Presentation would be in simple graphs and tables with short summaries and listing of contact people for the particular data. Through time we could accumulate in one place all the information gathered concerning ecological and recreational condition, trends, and relationships of the Frank. I envision the document to grow in successive years as we discover and have the time to incorporate historical records into our knowledge of the Frank.

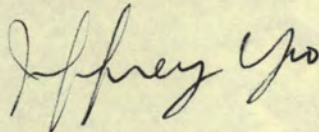
A research and monitoring summary report would not be redundant with the annual report of activities now produced

for the Frank. Nor would the report replace other publication outlets for research findings, such as scientific journals or USFS technical reports, or attempt to interpret research data prematurely. However, I believe a report like this is essential to competent management of the Frank and will set the standard for management of other wilderness areas.

So here's what I'm proposing: I volunteer to take the lead on producing the report, i.e. summarize, synthesize, chart, graph, etc. all the data and to write the initial draft for review by everyone who's contributed. In exchange, Forest Service covers my production costs (phone, xerox, paper, etc.) and prints and distributes the final report. I don't see this entailing much expense. Also, you help me with obtaining data and make sure we're incorporating all the research and monitoring that's being done.

Let me know what you think. I'll be gone over the holidays so I'll give you a call in early January.

Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey Yeo".

Jeffrey J. Yeo
Scientist/Manager