

ne Activities of the Center

undergraduate wilderness-related intern-

graduate wilderness assistantships.

an annual Distinguished Wilderness Lecture

research results in a "Wilderness Series" in
n with the Forest, Wildlife and Range
t Station.

a "Wilderness Library" in cooperation with
sity of Idaho main library.

short courses, seminars, workshops and
inuing education activities.

s in teaching a regular academic course in
s Management."

ulty and graduate students in obtaining
wilderness research.

recipient of contributions to The Wilderness

Wilderness Fund

ess Fund has been established within the
daho Foundation. Contributions in any
ted. Proceeds from this fund are used to
students, and educators in forwarding
bjectives of the Wilderness Research Center.
eductible.

Boulder Mountains, Idaho; E. Krump photo

ditional Information Write To:

Director

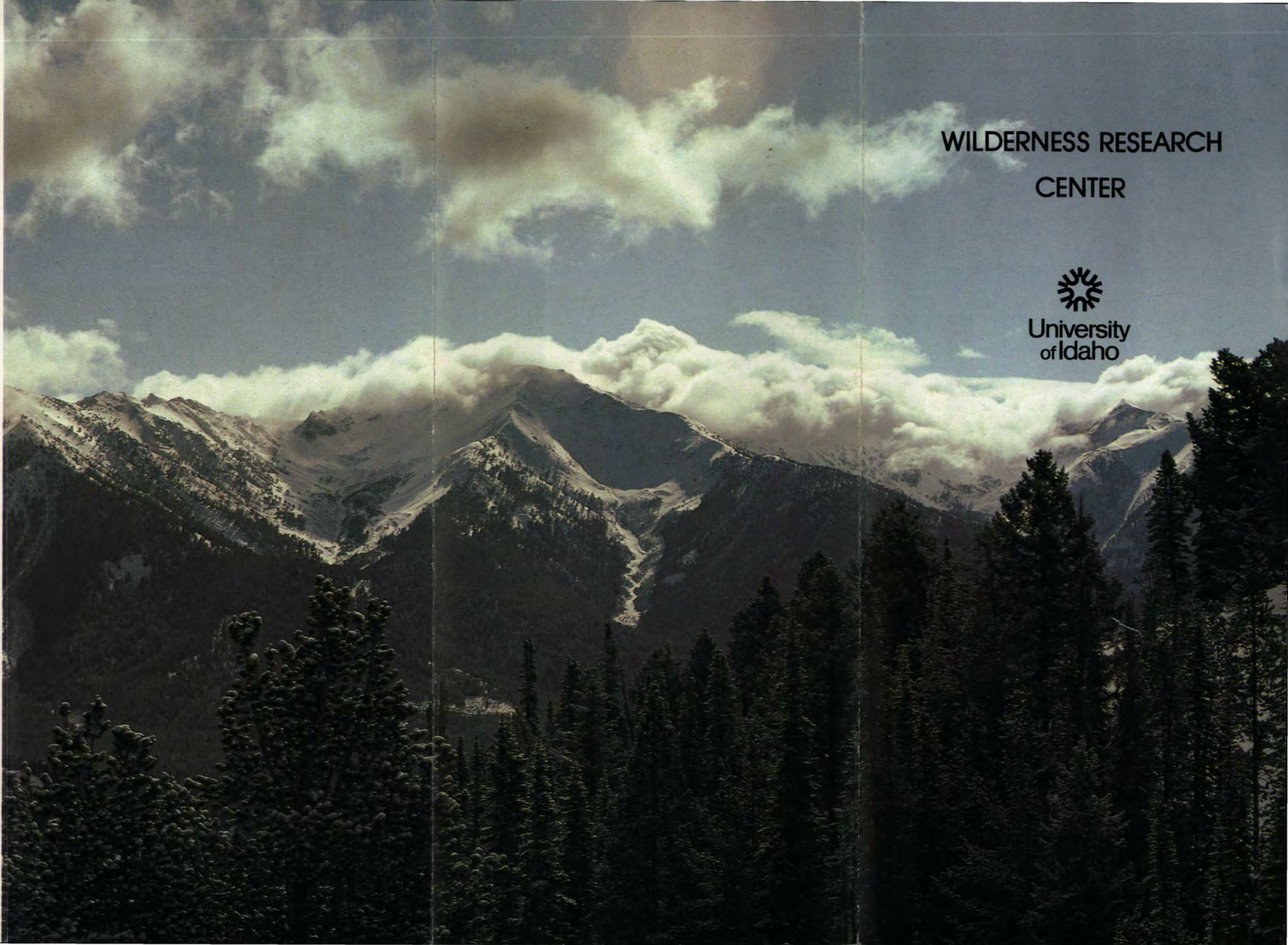
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Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

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WILDERNESS RESEARCH CENTER



University
of Idaho



Introduction

Founded in 1972 and coordinated by the University's College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, the Wilderness Research Center is unique among institutions of higher learning. Its resources extend far beyond the Moscow campus to include a field station (Taylor Ranch) on Big Creek, a tributary of the famed Middle Fork of the Salmon River in the River of No Return Wilderness Area; a field station on Payette Lake at McCall, Idaho (Forestry Summer Camp); and a field station in extreme northern Idaho (Clark Fork Ranger Station). Moreover, the Center has obtained cooperation from both state and federal land management agencies for use of various administrative and research facilities in Idaho and surrounding states. Idaho not only contains more designated wilderness than any state except Alaska, but is also surrounded by other major wilderness areas and national parks of the West. Accordingly, the Wilderness Research Center offers a unique opportunity to contribute national and international leadership in wilderness research and education.

In addition to the physical resources at its disposal, the Wilderness Research Center is supported by faculty in all disciplines of the College (fisheries, forest products, forestry, range, wildlife, and wildland recreation). Excellent cooperation from other units and disciplines



Middle Fork of Salmon River; E. Ables photo

within the University of Idaho, and from other universities lends the multidisciplinary breadth and depth essential for comprehensive studies of wilderness. The expertise available to the Center is unsurpassed by any institution in the West.



Engelmann Spruce in Central Idaho; E. Ables photo

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Wilderness Research Center is to foster research and educational activities which will lead to a broader understanding of the structure and function of natural ecosystems and of man's relationship to them. The role of the Center is not one of advocacy, but rather one of gathering and disseminating knowledge of the wilderness resource and its values.

General Research Objectives

Implicit within the wilderness concept is the absence of artificial disturbance; therefore, research which promotes insight into long-term natural phenomena and ecosystem dynamics is a guiding principle. Certainly, inventory and descriptive studies are also important. However, emphasis will be placed on comparative and experimental investigations that will yield information useful and valuable to the management of man-altered environments.

At the same time, specific criteria defining the limits of man's multiple activities compatible with wilderness are urgently needed; accordingly, research to define impacts and limits to use of wilderness is encouraged. Wilderness also involves aesthetical concepts associated with the relationship of people to the natural world, and studies designed to further our understanding of aesthetical and philosophical attitudes toward nature will be promoted.



Terrace Lakes in Bighorn Crags; J. Fazio photo

Specific Research Directions

Wildlife: natural population regulation, competitive relationships, ecology of rare and endangered species.

Fire: chronological history, impacts, plant successional responses, animal responses.

Mountain Lakes and Streams: natural dynamics, including limnology and aquatic life.

Forests: dynamics of forest stands, including the role of natural disturbances.

Grasslands: ecology of mountain meadows, ecological succession and concept of steady state.

Genetic Resources: comparative studies of genetic resources in unmanaged and managed plants and animals.

Wilderness Use: research to measure human impacts, define limits of use and to develop management practices for reducing impact through management practices.

Social Research: studies to further understand the psychological relationship to wilderness in the areas of philosophy and aesthetics.

Educational Objectives

Educational objectives involve promoting a better understanding of: (1) the dynamic processes of natural ecosystems, (2) the value of natural resources, conservation and management of natural resources, (3) the proper use of wilderness and its continued existence in an unaltered state. The ecological and social role as a member of the wilderness community. Educational opportunities associated with wilderness are best attained in a field setting. Consequently, emphasis is placed on undergraduate and graduate field studies in wilderness environments, and on continuing education for on-site users and the general public. Seminars, workshops, and seminars conducted in wilderness areas will explore the mechanisms for achieving some of these objectives.



In the Bridger Wilderness; J. Fazio photo