

Stephen P. Healey
705 East 5th St.
Moscow, Idaho 83843



A VIEW OF the Taylor Ranch shows the end of the airstrip at the right with parked plane. The ranch was established by Jesse Taylor, Boise, who first visited the area on a pack

trip in 1934. The ranch was purchased by the University in 1969 as a wildlife research center.



THE MOUNTAIN LION, such as this one shown at the Research Center, has been the main focus of study with Dr.

Maurice Hornocker, unit leader, Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Idaho, directing the program.

Center Studies Wildlife

To find a place where man has not left his impact on the wilderness, the University of Idaho went to the Idaho Primitive Area and Big Creek.

There they obtained the 65-acre Taylor Ranch where nature has been little disturbed.

There the University has established the University of

ness classification and tools for wilderness management.

One of the major studies carried out at the center has been mountain lion research by Dr. Maurice G. Hornocker, unit leader, Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Idaho.

Cooperating in that study are

environment than the fire itself does.

The center hopefully will involve people from many disciplines at the University, social sciences, as well as natural sciences.

Dr. Hartung noted that "the great problem is that we have practically no ecological records

THE RECORDER-HERALD

Official Newspaper of Lemhi County and the City of Salmon

ESTABLISHED 1886

SALMON, LEMHI COUNTY, IDAHO, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1972

NUMBER 3

PRICE 15c

wildlife research center.

The Center seeks to determine the ecology of the area, untouched so to speak by man, so that it can conduct research on the impact of man upon the wilderness environment.

At Big Creek, as Dr. Ernest W. Hartung, president of the University says, you can go back in time in terms of primitive ecology.

"Once you get back to a primitive situation you can work from there to determine what man has done to the wilderness."

Dr. Hartung noted that the Big Creek site is one of the very few places in the 50 states where such a situation can be found.

The center was established under the University to serve for basic and applied interdisciplinary scientific research in the wilderness aspects of wildlife, forestry, range, botany, soils, geology, anthropology, sociology and psychology.

Three areas of major concern for the center are the development of a wilderness philosophy, a methodology for wilder-

the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Idaho, Idaho Fish and Game Department and Wildlife Management Institute.

Dr. Hornocker now is overseeing the operation of the entire center until a new director is appointed. Dr. Al Erickson, who was named center director last year, has resigned.

Dr. Hornocker also is undertaking an analysis of the big game winter range in the Big Creek drainage.

His mountain lion research project is to terminate this fall.

Although the mountain lion research has been the main function at the center to date other types of projects the center might undertake deal with the human impact on wilderness; study of endangered species of plants and animals; establishment of base line data for air and water quality.

The management of wilderness also needs to be studied in terms of carrying capacity of human beings and pack animals. Fire control also needs to be studied to see if fire fighting has more impact on an en-

vironment before the white man. Outside of putting up hay, the Taylor ranch area has never seen the incursion of man.

"If we are going to put together meaningful ecological studies this is such a place to do it. Here you can set up controlled studies where you can get conditions as they were in the beginning and can compare with other areas you want to restore.

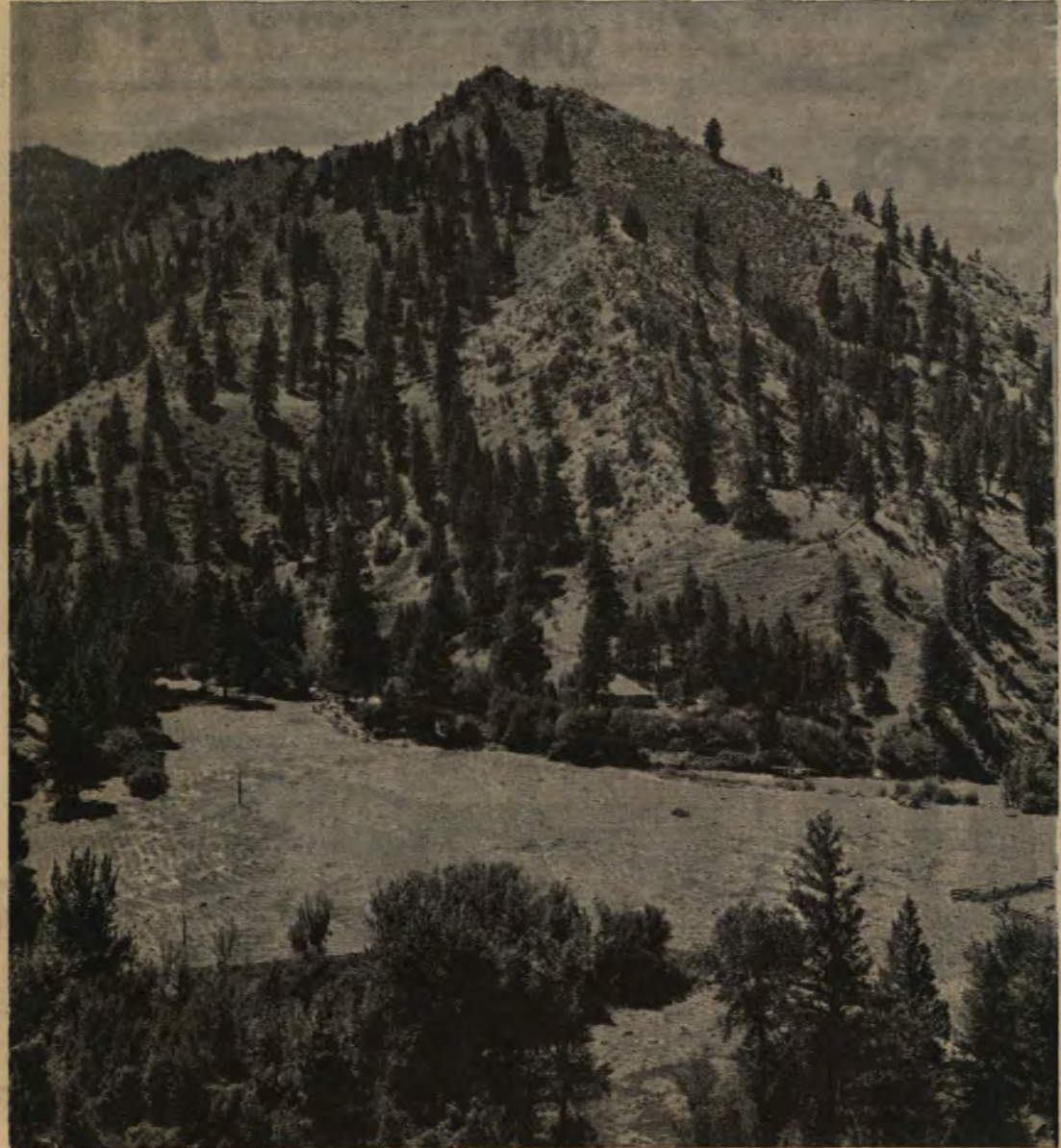
"This area has not been disturbed in terms of plowing, logging, burning. The ecology of the area is essentially as it was when Lewis and Clark came across."

Dr. Hartung said the University has had an expression of interest from other agencies and universities in joining in the studies.

He said the center could become a real national center for wilderness research.

The area has all the large mammals found in Idaho such as sheep, elk, deer, bear, mountain lion.

Dr. Hartung said that if man does not have some place like (Continued on Page Five)



THE TAYLOR RANCH on Big Creek in the Idaho Primitive Area is the location for the University of Idaho's Wildlife Research Cen-

ter. Access to the ranch is by aircraft with a landing strip in a hay field along Big Creek. The area has been little disturbed by man.