

Ranch brings recognition

By Erik Simpson
Staff Writer

A UI official may be responsible for bringing the university more research dollars and a higher student enrollment in the near future due to his recent achievements.

Jim Wood, broadcast specialist of the UI News Bureau, recently received an award given by the National Science Foundation and the General Motors Research Laboratory for bringing science and technology to the public's attention through his videotaped segment.

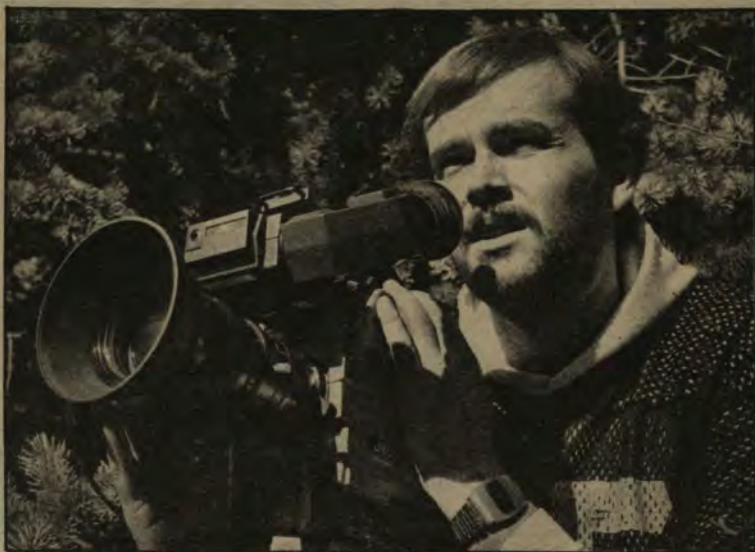
Wood's segment spotlighted research being conducted at Taylor Ranch, the UI College of Forestry and Range Sciences research station located in the Frank Church Wilderness Area in central Idaho.

Wood sent the videotape segment to all major networks so a news program would air the story to give the UI national recognition.

The "How About" program, a nationwide syndication of news stories, decided to air Wood's segment. However, out of the 180 stations airing the program, the closest is in Missoula. The segment will be broadcast on the program in mid-April.

Moscow residents may get to view the segment in the near future if PBS decides to air the videotape, Wood said.

He said he sent the video to news programs because he



Cinematographer Jim Wood received special recognition for a news piece he photographed in the the Frank Church Wilderness Area that aired nationally.

Argonaut Photo Staff/Randy Hayes.

knows of no other university in the world that has a research center in the middle of a large wilderness area.

The UI purchased Taylor Ranch in 1969 for \$105,000. The ranch was used by a private owner to house big-game hunters before the UI bought it.

It is now used as a research station to monitor wildlife, natural ecosystems, water purity, snow depth and historical and archeological studies.

Taylor Ranch is unique because it is 50 miles from the nearest road and 100 miles

from the nearest town. Researchers must ride in on horseback or fly in on a single engine airplane. "As far as wilderness centers are involved, the less human influence, the better the research," Wood said.

Wood also said that a second videotape segment that he completed will be shown on the "How About" program.

The segment deals with Veterinary Science professor Erik Stauber's research on bird of prey toe-printing and will be shown on the program later in the year.