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**THE GOD**

Idahoian/Palouse Empire News  
Tuesday, January 24, 1984

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## Wilderness stay will test couple

Greg and Pat Hayward leave Moscow Friday for Idaho's River of No Return wilderness area. Wildlife scientists as well as husband and wife, they will spend the next four months living in one-room cabins, studying owl habitat and talking to no other people but each other and an occasional pilot.

In many respects I envy them. They will be doing what they enjoy with the person in the world they enjoy above all others. And they will have no distractions. I am simultaneously concerned for them, for as idyllic as it sounds to spend months alone with your spouse, we all know that there can



**LOIS MELINA**  
Local comment

be too much contact, too much dependence on each other, and too much sharing of activities.

Pat and Greg, married just one year, are a little apprehensive themselves as they find that the stress of last minute preparations sometimes leaves them a little short-tempered. But they are optimistic that everything will work out, and they have reason to be.

Pat and Greg began their relationship studying owls in Idaho's wilderness. Back in the summer of 1981, Greg was studying the boreal owl, a bird

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National temperature extremes Sunday  
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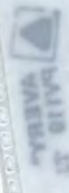
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Commentary

# Mending a rift at the Taylor Ranch

**J**ust for a few minutes this morning, let's set aside the important news, hop aboard a slow-flying airplane and drift back into the heart of Idaho's wilderness country to a place called the Taylor Ranch.  
I haven't been there for more than 12 years. But it's a good place to mend an old rift and look constructively to tomorrow.  
The ranch is owned by the University of Idaho. Its history dates back 60 or more years. And around the future of the Taylor Ranch, the UI College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences hopes to build a world-recognized wilderness research facility.  
A pipe dream?  
Perhaps. After all, the university has been mostly ruminating over the idea for the better part of two decades.  
But the plan is still viable. And the ranch deserves another look, if for no other reason than that it is truly unique and represents an opportunity for Idaho to become a voice of understanding and reason amid the continuing debate over wilderness. The continuing debate is social, political, economic and ecological.

surrounding wilderness.  
So pull the pucker string! We're about 50 miles east of McCall and beginning to descend into the middle of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area ... dipping within at Creek's rugged canyon walls, looking down at the Taylor Ranch, hoping the landing is uneventful.  
Hang on. Full flaps. The runway looks unfamiliar. No pulling out now. The stall warning buzzers sound. The wheels touch, then touch again. The plane rumbles along, slows and finally jerks to a halt.  
All is silent as the propeller stops perpendicularly to the sky and the engine shuts down with a gasp. Take a breath. We've arrived at the Taylor Ranch.  
This is federally-classified wilderness (the largest in the lower 48 states) at its best. The ranch, a 65-acre oasis, is surrounded by 2.3 million acres of virtually untouched backcountry that epitomizes the word "pristine." Along the spectrum of inhabited America, the Taylor Ranch is at one end, New York City at the other. Now, for those readers who didn't bail out

## UP FRONT

David Johnson

Johnson is the Tribune's roving regional reporter.



before we landed, I'm going to expose a skeleton that's been rattling around in my professional closet for more than a decade. Introducing how bones is important so you can determine throughout many sour grapes might be planted throughout the rest of this column.  
In the spring of 1975, I was fired as an information specialist at the UI forestry college. I had the job of writing news releases for the college. And suffice it to say, I had a falling out with my bosses over the Taylor Ranch.  
Those were bitter days at the forestry college of UI had hired Floyd Newby, former director of

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