U. of I. student works in primitive area

MOSCOW — While some 7,200 University of Idaho students are attending fall semester on the Moscow campus, Jim Bennett will be continuing his studies where he is—in the heart of the Idaho Primitive Area.

Bennett, a graduate student working toward a doctoral degree in wildlife ecology, has spent the summer hiking the mountain country of the Big Creek drainage tracking bands of bighorn sheep. Eventually he will be capturing individual sheep in order to equip the animals with transmitter collars.

He then will be able to follow individual bands to study bighorn sheep behavior, find lambing grounds and determine the importance of the dominant rams in the bands.

The Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep is a potentially endangered species, according to Bennett, who indicated several theories have been proposed for the recent decline in sheep numbers. One theory suggests the decline is the result of cattle summer grazing the mountain pastures which are used by the wild sheep in the winter.

Bennett indicated his work is based on the ideas of Valerius Geist, a faculty member at the University of Calgary and author of "Mountain Sheep." Geist suggests that current hunting regulations provide for removal of trophy animals—the old dominant rams who may be the ones who teach the bands migration routes and maintain stability of the bands.

For the next two years—summer and winter—Jim and his wife, Carol will be living in the primitive area, headquartered at the Taylor Ranch on Big Creek, a tributary of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

Purchased by the University of Idaho in 1969 from Jess and Dorothy Taylor, the ranch is now a field station for the UI's Wilderness Research Center. The ranch also served as headquarters for the well-known cougar or mountain lion studies of Maurice Hornocker, leader of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit housed in the UI College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Science.

During his two years in the Big Creek drainage, Bennett will be gathering baseline data on bighorn sheep that will be used by other researchers who will complete a six-year study of the bighorns. They tentatively plan to live trap and remove several dominant rams, and then monitor the behavior of the bands to determine the effects removal of the leaders has on migration patterns, social stability and reproductive success. Bennett is working under the guidance of Dr. Jerran T. Flinders, associate professor of wildlife resources.

Interviewed after several days living out on the trail, Bennett said, "You really have to care about the animals you are studying. You spend hours developing a research proposal and writing study methods. Then you go out in the field and things don't work as you had them planned. It can be very frustrating."

Jim and Carol are living in the original cabin built on the ranch by Cougar Davis Lewis, who came into the Big Creek country around 1870

JIM BENNETT, a graduate student in the UI College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Science, discusses his research on bighorn sheep with his major professor, Dr. Jerran Flinders. Bennett is living in the Idaho Primitive Area for two years — summer and winter — studying the ecology of the bighorns which he calls a potentially endangered species. His headquarters is the Taylor Ranch on Big Creek, a field station for the UI Wilderness Research Center. Mail and supplies arrive weekly at the field station by airplane.

form tents.

Calling a big tent home this past summer were four undergraduate students whose research proposals earned them a chance to spend a summer doing wildlife studies in the primitive area as well as receive a $600 honorarium. A total of 15 students submitted proposals this spring.

Steve Anderson, a senior wildlife management major from Rockford, Ill., studied the wilderness ecology of pocket gophers. According to the undergraduate researcher, pocket gophers are the number one cause of damage to young trees in tree plantations in the Northwest. The gophers tunnel underground eating roots, or tunnel under the snow and strip the bark of young trees, he said.

"But there isn't much information on pocket gophers in the wilderness," Anderson said, noting his aim was to determine the population density and how the animals spread out in a natural area.

Chuck Elliott, a sophomore wildlife major from Katzmiller, Md., also spent the summer studying small animals. Every day he hiked up part of Cliff Creek trail to his series of small animal traps where he caught primarily deer mice. Throughout the summer, he set his traps at increasingly higher elevations along the three-mile trail.

"There is a theory that litter size for small mammals increases at higher elevations but few individuals live to maturity, possibly because of the extremes of conditions at higher elevations," Elliott said.

His summer work appeared to confirm these theories, he said.

Allen Steuter, a senior wildlife major from West Point, Neb., studied the brood ecology of blue grouse. He captured and banded females with broods of chicks in order to observe the relationships between the broods.

"Some herbivores including deer don't have any territoriality as they are too busy just keeping ahead of predation. The blue grouse is a bird herbivore and may not have any territoriality," Steuter said, noting that he hoped, however, to find some evidence of defense of territory among the females with chicks.

The fourth undergraduate student, John LeVesque, studied the spotting pattern of cutthroat trout. LeVesque is a junior wildlife-fisheries resources major from Buffalo, N. Y.

The student's reports on their research are due to their advising faculty members this fall in order to qualify their projects for academic credit.

While the four undergraduate students will be back on campus soon pursuing their classes, Jim and Carol are preparing for a season of tracking bighorn sheep and living through their first wilderness winter.

You never know when a good feature will "surface"! This was released in September, and the Salmon paper finally had room.

BP

little agreement as to what form this involvement should take.

Sponsored by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the panel discussion was moderated by Max Fletcher of the economics department.

Members of the panel representing student opinion were ASUI President David

discussion by describing collective bargaining, noting, "Most any statute on collective bargaining will state that it involves bargaining and reaching an agreement over such factors as salaries, fringe benefits and working conditions."

He argued that the student role in the process should focus on just one of these three factors.

law of industrial labor relations at Harvard, was most critical of the student's role in the bargaining process.

After issuing his disclaimer, he presented background material with specific reference to the National Labor Relations Act. This act, according to Eckhardt, is of limited value for higher education.

"The National Labor Relations Act only provides an analogy and is not a good

involvement should form of students sitt an independent grou either side of the table.

"As far as makin actual party to the ag think that is unaccep number of reasons,"

The fact that stu no continuing interest four-year stay plus th

Summer Grants Available for Wilderness Research

A proposal for a wilderness research project could be the ticket for an expense-paid summer in the Idaho Primitive Area.

However, the 10 weeks will not be all fun and games, as the students selected for the experience will be conducting independent, wilderness-related research of their choosing.

Students in any discipline at the University of Idaho have been invited by the UI Wilderness Research Center to submit proposals for wilderness study, according to Jim Fazio, assistant professor of wildland recreation management. The proposal may cover any area of ecology, natural resource management or understanding of wilderness resources.

The proposals will be judged by the technical board of the UI Wilderness Research Center on a competitive basis and winners will be announced by April 30. Deadline for submitting a proposal is April 2, Fazio said.

In exchange for a winning proposal, a student will receive university credit, food and housing at the Taylor Ranch Field Station and an honorarium of $600. The Taylor Ranch is located in the middle of the Idaho Primitive Area, about 100 miles east of McCall. Preferably, the research should be based at the ranch, but proposals for other areas will be considered, Fazio noted.

"This is an unusual opportunity for an undergraduate student to plan and conduct a research project," he said, noting that such research opportunities are usually available only for graduate students.

This is the second year for the Student Wilderness Study Program. Last year's research was very successful, according to Fazio, with research being done on the ecology of pocket gophers, evaluation of small mammal populations, the spotting patterns of cutthroat trout, and the summer ecology of blue grouse.

Interested students should contact Dr. Paul D. Dalke, acting assistant director, at UI Wilderness Research Center, in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences.

Bryan W. Samuels

Upward

Bryan W

Bryan W. Sa 24-year-old member Perce tribe, has be associate director Bound at the Uni Idaho, according to Bond, program Samuel's appoint made Feb. 1.

A December 197 of the university, S. begun work on degree in physical He is the son of Phy

NICHE Schedules Management Series

The behavioral aspects of management for health care professionals is the subject of six weekly seminars being held now through March 9 at the University of Idaho Student Union Building.

Conducted by the North Idaho Consortium for Health Education (NICHE) in conjunction with the Center for Business Development and Research, the Tuesday evening sessions are designed to help hospital administrative personnel develop their supervisory and management skills, according to Eugene F. Golis, management program coordinator with the UI center.

College of FWR Repres University at Nebraska

Nine members of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences represented the University of Idaho in Omaha, Neb., this week during the annual meeting of the Society for Range Management.

Early in the week, four students under the direction of Kenneth Sanders, assistant professor of range resources, competed in range plant identification contests against teams from other universities. As many as 20 schools were expected to take part in the competition.

Dean John Ehrenreich met with representatives from Oregon and Washington to work toward forming state commissions, similar to the Idaho Rangeland Committee, and a future regional commission for the Pacific Northwest.

Minoru Hironaka, professor of range management, presented a paper before a general session

of the society. Semi were presented by Godfrey, associate pr agriculture and economics, and science graduate William J. Summers.

Godfrey's paper, Use Decisions an Programming – Weak Suggested Improv suggested range alloc food and game ani paper was part of a s methodology and mo range ecosystems. Joi for Godfrey's paper agriculture graduate Tillak Persuad.

Summers, a maste candidate, offered a "Cattle Distribution of Mixed Owner Douglas-fir in the Rockies" during management seminar. is co-authored by Mitchell, assistant pr range management.

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